

Ministry of Environment and Parks

2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2026



For more information on the Ministry of Environment and Parks please contact us at:

PO BOX 9335

STN PROV GOVT

VICTORIA, B.C.

V8W 9M1

1-800-663-7867

Or visit our website at: gov.bc.ca/env

Published by the Ministry of Environment and Parks

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Environment and Parks 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 that reads "Tamara Davidson".

Honourable Tamara Davidson
Minister of Environment and Parks
July 29, 2026

Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement	3
Letter from the Minister	5
Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report	6
Strategic Direction.....	6
Purpose of the Ministry.....	6
Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results	7
Financial Report.....	17
Appendix A: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities.....	19

Letter from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment and Parks 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report. Over the past fiscal year, the ministry has continued working to protect British Columbia's lands and waters, while supporting people through a period of global uncertainty. All the while, we are making steady progress on the key environmental priorities that serve British Columbia.

The work of the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) continues to support the government's goal of a balanced approach to development that strengthens environmental protection while supporting a resilient economy. This includes working with other regulators to improve the efficiency of permitting and authorization processes for major projects, without compromising consultation obligations or environmental protections. In January, following a historic consent-based decision agreement with the Tahltan Central Government, the EAO, Tahltan, our ministry and the Ministry of Mining and Critical minerals provided approvals for the Eskay Creek revitalization project to proceed. This project is expected to deliver almost 2,000 jobs and \$1.2 billion for people in British Columbia—and Eskay Creek is just one of many new projects in B.C. that will generate positive economic benefits for First Nations and local communities, advance reconciliation and support responsible mining.

Improving access to recreation spaces remains a key priority as our BC Parks are more popular than ever. Across the province, BC Parks continues to welcome visitors from around the world, seeing increased visitation. While staff are working to deliver upgrades to campgrounds, trails and day-use areas to ensure more people can get out and connect with nature and each other.

Accessibility is central to this work and is reflected in a number of recent capital projects, including the replacement of the Helmcken Falls and Spahats Falls viewing platforms in Wells Gray Park upgrades to the day-use area at Myra-Bellevue Park and the opening of a new beginner-friendly adaptive mountain biking trail at Alice Lake Park.

The ministry also continues the work of reducing waste and advancing a circular economy across British Columbia—so that less plastic enters the environment, ensuring it is better protected. In 2025/26, almost \$4 million was awarded for new CleanBC Plastics Action Fund projects across the province that reduce plastic waste, support reuse and recycling and create good, clean jobs. These community-led projects are helping prevent waste and build innovative solutions for a more sustainable future.

These examples illustrate the meaningful progress made over the 2025/26 fiscal year. British Columbia's natural environment is central to our provincial identity and quality of life. I am proud of and inspired by this work, and I am looking forward to continuing along the path the ministry is on, ensuring comprehensive protections for the natural environment that sustains us.

Honourable Tamara Davidson
Minister of Environment and Parks
July 29, 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 [Minister Tamara Davidson's 2025 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [Ministry of Environment and Parks 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

Under the [Ministry of Environment Act](#), the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) has responsibilities for the protection, management, and conservation of British Columbia's (B.C.) water, land, air, and living resources. Other ministries in the natural resource sector also have responsibilities in these areas in accordance with their own legislation and mandates.

The ministry delivers its mandate through several other key pieces of legislation including the [Environmental Management Act](#), the [Integrated Pest Management Act](#), the [Park Act](#), the [Protected Areas of British Columbia Act](#), and the [Environmental Assessment Act](#). A full list of provincial legislation can be found on the [BC Laws](#) website.

The ministry administers the province's parks and protected areas, and recreation sites and trails; monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations; manages discharge to the environment from human activities; and protects B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species, and natural habitats in parks and protected areas. It acquires, manages, and analyzes environmental and climate data to provide a robust platform for decision-making across the province. It administers the provincial environmental assessment process through the [Environmental Assessment Office](#).

The ministry delivers services directly through staff, based in regional offices across the province, as well as through partnerships and agreements with First Nations, local governments, the federal government, and stakeholder groups.

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: Effective protection of the environment

The ministry is responsible for the effective protection of B.C.'s water, land, and air. The ministry works with First Nations partners to advance this goal. The ministry also seeks opportunities to continually improve the systems that govern natural resource decision-making.

Objective 1.1: Strong environmental regulation, compliance, and enforcement

The ministry strives to protect the environment by managing risks to B.C.'s water, land, and air. It does this by setting robust regulatory requirements, verifying compliance, taking enforcement action where required, and evaluating environmental quality through air and water monitoring and assessment. It also promotes shared environmental stewardship and collaborative partnerships with First Nations.

Key results

- In the fall and winter of 2025, ENV and the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) developed and piloted a single [online application platform](#) for major mine permits and authorizations, that was officially launched in May 2026.
- In April 2025, a refreshed and digital application process began being piloted through [FrontCounter BC](#) for the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of recreation trails and facilities authorizations on Crown land.
- Between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, 140 Administrative Monetary Penalties were issued for non-compliances under the Environmental Management Act and Integrated Pest Management Act totalling over \$5.6 million, in parallel with investigation of complex files through enforcement and Crown processes.
- In July 2025, four air quality indicators (fine particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and sulphur dioxide) were completed under the ministry's [State of the Environment Reporting](#) program.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

In 2025/26, the ministry continued to advance its mission to protect the environment through robust regulatory requirements, verifying compliance, taking enforcement action where

required, and evaluating environmental quality through air and water monitoring and assessment.

Across government, permitting and authorization processes are being improved to make decisions faster and more predictable by reducing duplication. Work undertaken in 2025/26 supported economic growth while maintaining strong environmental protections and advancing reconciliation with First Nations. Streamlining processes has not altered or compromised the government's environmental standards, nor reduced any consultation or engagement obligations.

In fiscal year 2025/26, the ministry received targeted funding to support faster permitting across the natural resource sector. Funding has supported managing caseloads, advancing priority projects and modernizing permitting approaches, including use of digital services. ENV, MCM, and the EAO coordinated on a single application package and review process for the [Mount Milligan Mine expansion](#), reducing timelines by up to 40 percent.

The Forest Recreation Regulations were updated in January 2026 to enable section 52 (1) (e) (i) of the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#). This change allows people authorized under section 57 of the Act to cut, damage, or destroy Crown timber when constructing, rehabilitating, or maintaining a trail or other recreation facility on Crown land. It reduces the number of permits applicants need and streamlines the authorization process.

In July 2025, the Minister of Environment and Parks approved an amendment to the [Elk Valley Area Based Management Plan](#), the first since it came into effect in 2014. The updated plan strengthens the Province's regulatory role and provides a clear framework for decisions affecting water quality in the watershed.

In fiscal year 2025/26, environmental protection officers completed 662 risk-based compliance inspections under the Environmental Management Act and the Integrated Pest Management Act. First Nations accompanied compliance officers for 11 inspections. Job action by unionized government staff in fall 2025 reduced inspection volumes during that period.

In March 2026, the ministry launched the [Environmental Monitoring Data System](#) as its main database for environmental monitoring data. This secure, scalable cloud platform replaced a legacy system from the 1990s. New data stewardship policies were introduced to improve consistency, reliability, and governance of environmental data.

Objective 1.2: Advance circular economy and clean communities

In a circular economy, resources are never disposed of, but instead are reused, recycled and reintroduced as new products. Circular approaches help eliminate waste for a cleaner, healthier future. The ministry advances a circular, clean economy through strong environmental leadership, innovative and future-focused policy and regulatory frameworks, targeted funding programs, and robust environmental monitoring, reporting, and enforcement.

Key results

- In October 2025, the Province amended the [Recycling Regulation](#), delivering on the [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\) Five-Year Action Plan](#) commitments to better support communities and recycling businesses, enhance worker safety, and increase efficiency for waste management across B.C.
- In March 2026, the ministry awarded \$2.02 million under the [CleanBC – Organics Funding Program](#) to four projects, including two Indigenous-led projects, to support expansion of organic processing infrastructure and residential organic waste collection services, reduce landfill waste, and support green jobs.
- The [CleanBC Plastics Action Fund](#) continued to support innovative projects aimed at reducing plastic waste. In 2025/26, the third phase of funding supported 19 new projects, providing nearly \$4 million to B.C.-based projects that provide solutions to recycle and reuse plastic, including 13 projects led by First Nations communities and businesses.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

Efforts to reduce solid waste across the province remained a priority, with initiatives focused on single-use plastics, plastic reuse and recycling, and organic waste processing.

In August 2025, ministry staff completed a preliminary review of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) authorizations over the past two years as part of the internal 2025 MSW Effectiveness Evaluation Review, identifying 16 actionable items. The report provides important context on current landfill conditions and upcoming challenges and will help guide priorities.

Ministry staff continued to work closely with local governments to support solid waste management planning, with a focus on the five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recovery, and Residuals Management). This included the beneficial use of organic waste to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and supporting new approaches for managing biosolids.

The October 2025 amendments to the Recycling Regulation enable expanded recycling programs, starting in 2027, to cover more moderate risk products. These include single-use compressed canisters, refillable propane and spray foam tanks, fire extinguishers, automotive containers, medical sharps, and consumer products that contain batteries. The ministry prioritized products to be brought under EPR programs based on consultation, industry readiness, and the significant waste management costs currently borne by local governments and First Nations. As work is ongoing, the ministry remains committed to the principle that producers should take responsibility for the products they sell.

Ongoing implementation of the [Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation](#) through 2025/26, including public education, supported a reduction in waste and pollution from single-use plastic items. Further prohibitions on film wrap and polystyrene foam meat trays will come into effect July 1, 2028, and July 1, 2030, respectively.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
1.1 Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person) ^{1,2}	506	471 ³	470	TBD ^{4,5}

Data source: Ministry of Environment and Parks, manually compiled.

¹ Performance Measure 1.1 targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 460 and 450, respectively

² Kilogram (kg) per person data is based on the calendar year, so 2024/25 actual is based on calendar year 2024, 2025/26 target is based on calendar year 2025, etc.

³ In the 2024/2025 Ministry of Environment and Parks Annual Service Plan Report, 480 kg was reported as a forecast, and has been updated to 471 kg from the actual data reported.

⁴ Figures for 2025/26 will be confirmed in May 2027 and published in the 2026/27 Ministry of Environment and Parks Annual Service Plan Report.

⁵ For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2026/27 – 2028/29, please see the latest service plan on the BC Budget website.

The data for this performance measure is made available from regional districts one year after the annual publication of this Annual Service Plan Report (ASPR). The per capita municipal solid waste disposal rate is an estimate of how many kilograms of municipal solid waste one person sends to a landfill or other disposal site (e.g., an incinerator) in a given calendar year. Figures for the current ASPR year (in this case, calendar year 2025) are estimated; actual results will be confirmed in May of the year after next (2027) and then published in the subsequent ASPR.

For calendar year 2024, the overall provincial disposal rate was 471 kg per person, a decrease of 10 kg per person from the previous year (2023), and below the target disposal rate of 480 kg per person. In 2024, some regional districts reported decreased waste generation due to initiation of organics diversion and recycling programs in some of their municipalities. Some other regional districts reported the completion of large construction projects in their region as the reason for the decrease in the disposal tonnages.

Goal 2: Sound management of protected areas system, recreation site and trail networks

The ministry is responsible for the effective management and conservation of B.C.'s recreation sites, trails, and parks. B.C.'s protected areas system consists of over 14 million hectares, or 14 percent of the provincial land base. Many of these areas are important for the conservation of the province's environment and biodiversity. The ministry also promotes shared environmental stewardship and collaborative partnerships with First Nations.

Objective 2.1: Provide high-quality responsible recreation experiences through sound management of the protected areas system, recreation sites and trail networks.

BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC are among the principal providers of outdoor recreation opportunities for British Columbians. They protect and manage a wide variety of

outstanding parks and recreation areas, ensuring these natural spaces and diverse environments are preserved for future generations.

Key results

- In fiscal year 2025/26, BC Parks invested \$31.7 million in infrastructure improvements; significant accomplishments include the rebuilding of the Spahats Viewing Platform at Wells Gray Park and a [recreation expansion project at China Beach](#) in Juan de Fuca Park that created 46 new campsites and accessible washrooms.
- BC Parks also invested \$1.2 million in [accessibility upgrades](#) at parks across the province in fiscal year 2025/26, including improvements to the day use areas at Jimsmith Park and redevelopment of service centres to [an accessible standard at Paul Lake Park](#).
- In 2025/26, Recreation Sites and Trails BC established 28 new recreation sites and 13 new recreation trails. Site establishments included campgrounds, staging and parking areas, cabins, and fire lookouts.
- In January 2026, BC Parks added 1,061 hectares of land to the protected areas system, consisting of [a 1,059-hectare addition](#) to West Twin Protected Area, and a three-hectare addition to Seven Sisters Protected Area.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

Demand for B.C.'s parks and recreation sites and trails continued to grow in 2025/26. The ministry undertook work to improve infrastructure and ensure provincial parks and recreation sites remain accessible and affordable for British Columbians.

Construction started on the redevelopment of the existing campground at Tribune Bay Park in the fall of 2025. A new, beginner-friendly [adaptive mountain biking trail](#) was opened in Alice Lake Park in April 2025, in partnership with the Squamish Off-Road Cycling Association. The trail was carefully designed to support adaptive mountain bike users with diverse mobility needs.

BC Parks and recreation sites and trails are also at the forefront of climate change with atmospheric rivers, wildfires, and other climate events causing serious damage. This has led to temporary closures at popular parks. In 2025, BC Parks fully reopened the [Berg Lake Trail in Mount Robson Park](#) after four years of phased restoration following the 2021 atmospheric river, which destroyed 90 percent of the trail's infrastructure.

In the 2025/26 fiscal year, work continued to advance BC Parks' approach to human-bear coexistence, including new bear-resistant food lockers, bear hazard assessments and campground bear-safety audits, development of educational bear awareness signage, and funding behavioural insights research to better understand what motivates campers to adopt bear-safe camping practices.

During the 2025 summer season, Recreation Sites and Trails BC's seasonal maintenance crew improved access, safety, and visitor experience across the province by building new trails, maintaining existing trails and recreation sites, and installing new visitor infrastructure.

Objective 2.2: Protect and steward the natural environment and advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

The B.C. protected areas system includes representative and special natural places that are set aside for world-class conservation, outdoor recreation, education, and scientific study. The Parks and Recreation Program partners with First Nations communities, local governments, community groups, non-profit organizations, academics, and many other partners on hundreds of projects that nurture our common interests in stewardship, management, and appreciation of these special places.

Key results

- In fiscal year 2025/26, approximately \$2.5 million was invested in projects to support ecological health, biodiversity and landscape connectivity.
- BC Parks undertook several projects to enable the [expression of First Nations' history and culture](#) through interpretative signage, cultural camps, website information, and cultural studies.
- In May 2025, 15 Guardians from eight First Nations completed the ten-day Park Ranger Training Program hosted in Manning Park.
- In 2025/26, BC Parks completed the final year of the Shared Compliance and Enforcement Pilot Project with the Nuxalk and Kitasoo Xai'xais First Nations.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry continued to focus on collaborative, sustainable, and accountable system and policy improvements that ensure safe and equitable access to outdoor spaces while respecting cultural values and supporting a parks and recreation system for everyone. The ministry funded projects in 2025/26 that support inventory and monitoring, invasive species management, ecosystem restoration, human-wildlife coexistence, and research partnerships for protected areas management.

BC Parks worked closely with First Nations communities across the province to enable the expression of First Nation Peoples' history and culture through interpretative signage, cultural camps, website information, and cultural studies. Several projects illustrate this partnership, including interpretative signage at Bowron Lake Park that highlight the history, traditions, and enduring stewardship of the land by the local First Nation communities; Tla'amin First Nation cultural monitoring and protection work; Skwllax archaeological and cultural investigations post-wildfire; and Tahltan Nation archaeological and cultural studies of ice patch sites in Mount Edziza volcanic complex. These are a selection of the many projects that BC Parks undertakes to support cultural expression in the park system.

B.C. has one of the largest protected areas systems in North America. In 2025/26, ENV managed and operated 1,048 parks, conservancies, ecological reserves, protected areas, and recreation areas. The ministry also supports the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship in implementing the Framework Agreement to advance government's commitment to protect at least 30 percent of terrestrial areas in B.C. by 2030, including considering candidate protected areas through modernized land use planning initiatives.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Goal 2 was new for 2025/26 after the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy became the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

The ministry is finalizing a new Goal 2 performance measure for Service Plan 2027/28. The performance measure will track the overall global satisfaction score from the BC Parks annual visitor satisfaction survey, which monitors the effectiveness of services provided in provincial park campgrounds and day-use areas. The [first survey](#) with this updated methodology is being conducted during the 2026 summer camping season from May to September. Data from that survey will be reported in the 2026/27 Annual Service Plan Report and will establish the baseline and targets for the performance measure for the 2027/28 Service Plan.

Goal 3: Protect the environment and support a sound economy and the well-being of B.C. communities and First Nations through environmental assessments

The EAO comprehensively reviews major development proposals to promote economic, environmental, and social well-being objectives, as outlined in the Environmental Assessment Act (the "Act"). These reviews include engaging with the public and seeking consensus with First Nations. The assessments inform decision-making on whether proposed projects should be approved to proceed, and if so, what measures are necessary to reduce or eliminate potential adverse effects. Once a project is approved, the EAO also ensures that the project maintains compliance with conditions and the required mitigation measures are in place.

Objective 3.1: Deliver predictable, timely, and effective environmental assessments according to the Act

Predictability and timeliness help government attract responsible resource projects and investments to B.C. The environmental assessment (EA) process requires extensive analysis of the environmental, health, cultural, social, and economic effects of a project to inform sound decisions. Effective EAs are the result of working in partnership with First Nations and various parties to identify which projects have unacceptable risks or impacts, which projects with benefits should move forward, and what conditions and requirements should be applied to project approvals to protect the environment and communities.

Key results

- In 2025/26, the EAO strengthened internal guidance materials resulting in clearer expectations for proponents and more complete project submissions earlier in the assessment process.
- The [EAO Project Information Centre](#) (EPIC) launched [EPIC.Submit](#) in July 2025 to streamline document submissions. Additional platform enhancements also improved public access to project information and supported participation, contributing to greater transparency and more timely engagement throughout environmental assessments.
- The EAO, MCM, and ENV streamlined environmental assessment and permitting through a coordinated technical review of applications, and shared consultation processes for four major projects.
- As part of the legislated five-year [review of the Environmental Assessment Act](#), the EAO advanced dispute resolution legislative amendments to address implementation challenges, increase predictability and support consensus seeking with First Nations. In March 2026, the EAO released [a discussion paper](#) on a proposed expedited EA process for projects under the [Infrastructure Projects Act](#).
- In January 2026, the EAO and the Tahltan Nation reached a historic milestone by jointly making regulatory decisions on the reopening of the Eskay Creek gold-silver mine through the first-ever Declaration Act Section 7 agreement.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

In 2025/26, the primary focus of the EAO was advancing the review of the Environmental Assessment Act. The Act came into force in December 2019 with a requirement for the Minister to initiate a review within five years.

The EAO is taking a sequenced approach to the review. In 2025/26, the near-term priorities were completed. These priorities focused on updating dispute resolution provisions and initiating the development of regulatory tools to support more streamlined and expedited EAs.

Dispute resolution reforms advanced through engagement completed in fall 2025 and early 2026 with First Nations, Indigenous governing bodies, industry, and project proponents, including 42 First Nations and four Indigenous governing bodies. This engagement informed legislative amendments completed in spring 2026 to improve clarity, effectiveness, and predictability in dispute resolution mechanisms. The amendments also introduced the Issue Resolution Protocol to support early resolution of issues.

Work on an expedited EA process advanced through the release of a discussion paper and initiation of engagement in March 2026 under the [Infrastructure Projects Act](#) framework. Engagement with First Nations, local governments, industry, and the public will inform regulatory design for a more efficient and streamlined assessment process for priority projects. EAO is currently reviewing feedback and will prepare a What We Heard report to support consultation and cooperation.

Alongside the Act review, the EAO also delivered improvements to EA processes to support more predictable, timely, and effective reviews. This included increased use of tools under the Act, such as relying on existing permitting processes and information where appropriate to reduce duplication and streamline assessments. Key examples include the [Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension Project](#) proceeding through a combined assessment and permitting approach (June 2025), the [Fraser River Tunnel Project](#) being authorized for preparatory works prior to the Environmental Assessment Certificate decision (July 2025), and the [Mt. Milligan copper-gold mine](#) and [Eskay Creek gold-silver mine](#) projects advancing through a coordinated assessment and permitting process (January 2026).

Objective 3.2: Ensure approved projects are built and maintained in compliance with their certificate

Maintaining a robust compliance and enforcement program, in coordination with relevant agencies and First Nation partners, ensures compliance with conditions and mitigation measures required of projects with potential for significant negative impacts, and monitors that positive outcomes are fostered for British Columbians.

Key results

- A new compliance agreement was developed throughout 2025/26 with the Citw Nlaka'pamux Assembly for the Highland Valley Copper Mine project. The agreement was signed in April 2026.
- In 2025/26, the EAO conducted 55 inspections and assessed compliance against 365 EA certificate requirements.
- In December 2025, the EAO joined the Province's coordinated administrative penalties office to support a consistent and independent approach to reviewing and determining administrative penalties.
- In January 2026, the EAO implemented improved tracking and management of inspections, investigations, enforcement orders, administrative penalties, and compliance agreements through development of digital tools.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

In 2025/26, the EAO continued to strengthen its compliance and enforcement program through enhanced partnerships with First Nations, improved coordination with regulatory partners, and modernization of compliance management tools. These efforts supported effective oversight of EA certificate requirements and improved consistency in compliance and enforcement activities.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
3.1 Legislative Timeline Compliance Rate ^{1,2} – Percentage of legislated timelines met within the environmental assessment processes, excluding proponent-requested delays. ^{1,2}	91%	90%	90%	67%

Data source: EPIC.track

¹ In accordance with the Interpretation Act, if a legislated timeline falls on a weekend or statutory holiday, it is deemed to be met if completed on the next business day.

² The Minister's decision is excluded from this Key Performance Indicator, as it falls outside the scope of action of the EAO.

The Legislative Timeline Compliance for 2025/26 is 67 percent, which is below the 90 percent established target. During the 2025/26 fiscal year, three out of nine legislated timelines were not completed within the required timeframe.

Two of the delays were attributable to the initiation of dispute resolution during the environmental assessment of two different projects. To date, dispute resolution processes have resulted in delays and have introduced uncertainty into EA timelines. Addressing these impacts has been a top priority for the EAO, with amendments to the Environmental Assessment Act passed in spring 2026. The third delay was to allow additional community engagement, coordination of assessments, and consensus-seeking on measures to address impacts to First Nations, including regulatory conditions.

For the 2026/27 Annual Service Plan Report, the EAO intends to refine this performance measure to improve its interpretability and statistical reliability. This includes considering adjustments to exclude legislated timelines impacted by dispute resolution processes, given their unique and variable impacts on assessment schedules. The EAO is also considering options to broaden the measurement approach to capture a larger number of data points over time, in recognition that the relatively small annual sample size of legislated timelines can result in significant year-over-year variability from single events.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Environmental Protection	32,480	33,886	66,366	64,766	(1,600)
Conservation and Recreation	101,180	9,423	110,603	108,429	(2,174)
Executive and Support Services	28,750	(1,010)	27,740	31,514	3,774
Park Enhancement Fund	13,033	6,644	19,677	19,677	0
Sustainable Environment Fund	28,690	0	28,690	27,680	(1,010)
Environmental Management Act (Neucel)	0	3,210	3,210	3,210	0
Sub-total	204,133	52,153	256,286	255,276	(1,010)
Environmental Assessment Office	17,343	2,232	19,575	19,575	0
Sub-total	17,343	2,232	19,575	19,575	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	(2,454)	(2,454)
Total	221,476	54,385	275,861	272,397	(3,464)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	32,556	3,940	36,496	36,586	90
Park Enhancement Fund	400	0	400	310	(90)
Total	32,956	3,940	36,896	36,896	0
Other Financing Transactions					
Park Enhancement Fund: BC Park Licence Plates					
Receipts	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Disbursements	0	1,370	1,370	1,370	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	0	1,370	1,370	1,370	0
Summary					
Total Receipts	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Total Disbursements	0	1,370	1,370	1,370	0

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	0	1,370	1,370	1,370	0

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 [\$2.454] million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Tamara Davidson'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 Environment and Parks programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, grow the economy, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints.	• In progress • Ministry-wide efforts to manage costs within existing fiscal constraints include maintaining cost discipline in program delivery, deferring non-essential expenditures, risk-managing vacancies, prioritizing higher-risk activities while continuing to deliver core regulatory services. • The ministry is currently reviewing its operating model for delivering recreation services. This is the first time this has been conducted in over 40 years. As an initial step to address these challenges, the ministry introduced camping fee changes in January 2026, including introduction of a non-B.C. resident surcharge. • The ministry is conducting an Environmental Management Act (EMA) Fee review to ensure costs for EMA applications are commensurate with the services offered. • The ministry integrated BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC into a unified service delivery and financial model. This integration improves efficiency, responsiveness, and long-term sustainability amid increased visitor demands, climate impacts, and reconciliation commitments. • The Environmental Assessment Office improved efficiency through the Environmental Assessment Act review

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
	and an internal review. This included streamlining assessment processes, reducing duplication across agencies, improving early project guidance, and expanding digital tools. Together, these changes improved process effectiveness while supporting cost efficiency and maintaining strong environmental and Indigenous engagement outcomes.
Find ways to increase access for families to British Columbia's parks in a cost-efficient manner.	• In progress • BC Parks is investing \$1.2 million per year between 2023/24 and 2027/28 to build and upgrade accessible and universally designed facilities. This funding is targeted in priority parks with an emphasis on washrooms, parking facilities, and circulation routes to main park features in front country parks. • BC Parks works closely with the BC Parks Foundation to increase access to parks across the province, primarily through "Spark" grants, including inclusive interpretive programming and events in parks; interactive interpretive trails; and virtual resources and tours on discoverparks.ca • The Conservation and Recreation Division is establishing an adaptive recreation program focused on B.C. communities and families, delivering funding through the Park Enhancement Fund (revenue from the sales of BC Parks licence plates), enabling policy updates, events, equipment partnerships, and volunteer opportunities.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Work across ministries and with Indigenous leadership and business leaders to support work to recognize Indigenous rights and title, protect our precious environment for future generations, and support predictable and sustainable economic growth in our province to benefit all British Columbians.	• In progress • The ministry collaborates with the Ministries of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to advance active treaty, Land Use Planning and strategic agreement processes with First Nations. • The ministry works with First Nations through a range of projects and initiatives that support collaborative environmental management and stewardship. • Work is underway through the Environmental Assessment Act review, in collaboration with First Nations and engagement with industry and other partners. This work is part of the medium-term priorities of the review, with further development and implementation planned by 2027, and is intended to continue to uphold Indigenous rights and title while supporting more predictable decision-making processes.
Direct the Environmental Assessment Office to work with key permitting ministries to develop specific measures that will expedite authorizations and permitting for major projects. Bring proposed measures forward for Cabinet review within six months.	• In progress • In May 2025, Cabinet approved a package of measures developed by the Environmental Assessment Office to improve coordination and expedite environmental assessment, authorization, and permitting processes for major projects. The Environmental Assessment Office is actively implementing these measures through the Environmental Assessment Act review and processes improvements as detailed in Objective 3.1.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Support BC's energy transition and climate targets by directing the Environmental Assessment Office to proceed with the exemption of wind power from Environmental Assessment Act provisions. Further, exempt other relevant classes of projects from environmental assessment where the assessment is duplicative, delays projects with environmental advantages, or offers only limited value while impeding projects that will benefit the province as a whole.	• In progress • The Province advanced legislative and regulatory measures to streamline project review processes, including exempting land-based wind projects from Environmental Assessment Act requirements through the Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act and advancing work on an expedited environmental assessment process for provincially significant projects through the Infrastructure Projects Act.