

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2026



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction 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 blue ink, consisting of stylized initials 'SM' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty
July 29, 2026

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Letter from the Minister

We all want people in British Columbia to have the supports they need to move out of poverty and build a good life. The increasingly high cost of living, job disruptions from unjust tariffs, the unemployment rate and continuing global economic uncertainty have made life harder for many people - especially those most vulnerable and already struggling. That's why our government is strengthening fairness for couples with disabilities, supporting people to gain skills and good jobs, delivering services that meet people where they are, and improving food security.

British Columbia met its legislated target to reduce overall poverty by 25 per cent by 2024. In 2025/26, we strengthened how we measure progress by expanding indicators to include food security, housing, community connection, and Indigenous-identified measures, reflecting what people told us matters in their lives.

In 2025/26, B.C. exempted the Canada Disability Benefit, meaning people receiving disability assistance can keep every dollar of this new federal benefit, up to \$2,400 per year.

We also ended the clawback for couples receiving disability assistance, allowing couples to receive the same support allowance they would receive as two single people. More than 6,500 families in B.C. benefit directly from this change. This reflects our commitment to fairness and to helping people with disabilities live with greater security and independence.

Helping people find and keep good work is important to reducing poverty and strengthening communities. In 2025/26, WorkBC supported nearly 90,000 people across the province, including over 25,000 who accessed skills training. Of those completing occupational training, 77 per cent secured employment. More than 31,000 people received support through their first year of work, improving job retention and stability.

Services reached tens of thousands facing systemic barriers, including youth, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and newcomers, through community-based and employer-connected programs that provided hands-on training and pathways into high-demand sectors.

Our ministry also responded quickly to economic disruptions, supporting more than 450 forestry workers affected by tariff-related layoffs with targeted employment services—resulting in early success as many transitioned into new occupations—demonstrating a commitment to helping people and communities adapt and build long-term resilience.

Our ministry continues to modernize access to income and disability assistance by expanding digital services, strengthening system integrity, and improving service delivery—helping ensure supports are delivered more consistently, accurately, and reliably while building long-term resilience. Sixty-three per cent of clients now use My Self Serve, exceeding our target and enabling faster access, fewer delays, and greater self-management. Eighty-eight per cent receive payments through direct deposit, ensuring faster, more dependable access to funds. Service quality remains strong, with nearly 90 per cent of callers reporting respectful treatment, reflecting the dedication of ministry staff to people-centred service.

Community Integration Specialists help people who face barriers accessing services in traditional ways, including those sheltering outdoors. Over the year, we expanded the program, serving close to 38,000 people, completing over 106,000 financial assistance requests and making thousands of connections to programs and cross-sector services. Six mobile offices operated across the province, expanding access in rural and remote communities and strengthening our ability to respond during emergencies.

We're helping people access food and community supports across the province while continuing to invest directly in communities. In 2025/26, partners distributed over \$28 million in previous SDPR multi-year funding to support poverty reduction and food security initiatives, improving access to healthy, culturally appropriate food and supporting Nation-led projects and frontline services. Thank you to the non-profits and Indigenous partners delivering this work in their communities.

Reconciliation and accessibility remain integral to our work. The ministry expanded Indigenous Partnership Program agreements, supporting Indigenous-led service delivery that improves cultural safety and community control. We also continued implementing the Accessible BC Act, embedding accessibility across public services and reinforcing accountability through ongoing progress reporting.

We will keep working so everyone can participate fully in their communities and build a good life. Together, we are building a province where people can access the services and supports they need to live well and support their families.



Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
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 Sheila Malcolmson's [2025 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures, and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction [2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) is focused on reducing poverty, creating opportunities, and increasing inclusion. The purpose of the ministry is to provide quality services for British Columbians in need, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in their community and to reach their full potential.

SDPR is guided by five pieces of legislation: the [Accessible British Columbia Act](#), the [Employment and Assistance Act](#), the [Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act](#), the [Poverty Reduction Strategy Act](#), and the [Community Living Authority Act](#). The Minister is responsible for [Community Living BC](#) (CLBC) and is supported by the Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits and the Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility. The ministry's key priorities (identified in the December 2022 mandate letters) include:

- Continuing to develop tools and approaches to prevent poverty and increase income, focusing first on youth growing up in families living in poverty;
- Working with the [Ministers of Health](#), [Finance](#), [Citizens' Services](#), and others to ensure low- and moderate-income British Columbians receive and retain the federal and provincial benefits they are eligible for, beginning with the Canada Disability Benefit;
- Leading government's work on accessibility initiatives;
- Supporting British Columbians struggling with the cost of food and unable to afford the basics by leading work on food security and finding opportunities to support BC farmers and food producers in this work;
- Working with the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety to ensure that initiatives identified by the committee are prioritized and delivered as required;
- Leading work, with support from the [Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills](#), to deliver skills and training initiatives for people facing multiple

complex barriers that will enable them to access opportunities and build a dignified life:

- Working with stakeholders, particularly people with lived experience, to support the development and implementation of government's work to make BC more accessible and inclusive for all people;
- Continuing to strengthen government's relationship with the non-profit sector and support the effectiveness of non-profit sector organizations, including through the [Social Services Sector Roundtable](#); and
- Working with the [Minister of Finance](#) to review all existing ministry programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, ensure safe and strong communities, and reduce poverty.

Further to the above, the following is a priority for the ministry (outside mandate letters):

- Leading collaborative engagement through the [Social Services Sector Roundtable](#) to help strengthen the important community social services that people count on every day; and
- Through [Community Living BC](#), continuing to work on the [Re-imagining Community Inclusion Initiative](#) and the [Re-imagining Community Inclusion Work Plan](#) to improve services for adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

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: Reduce Poverty in British Columbia

Objective 1.1: Implement the cross-government, province-wide Poverty-Reduction Strategy.

As the lead on British Columbia's Poverty Reduction Strategy, the ministry worked across government to ensure that the requirements and targets as set out in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Act are achieved.

Key results

- Continued to implement BC's updated Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Province's 10-year plan, released in July 2024, to break the cycle of poverty and improve well-being for people through cross-government action.
- Broadened BC's approach to annual progress reporting on poverty by including a more holistic set of indicators of well-being, including Indigenous-identified progress measures.
- Removed barriers for couples receiving disability assistance by providing the same support allowance as they would if they were two single people.
- Amended regulations to ensure people receiving provincial income assistance who are also eligible to receive the new federal Canada Disability Benefit will keep the entire benefit.
- Continued to implement strategic, multi-year investments in food security to help people get nutritious and affordable food, and strengthen food infrastructure and investments in non-profit and community organizations to support frontline delivery of poverty reduction initiatives

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

In 2025/26, the ministry continued to work with its partners across government to achieve BC's new 10-year targets to reduce the overall poverty rate by 60%, the child poverty rate by 75%, and a new measure to reduce the seniors' poverty rate by 50% by 2034. BC is making progress towards these targets; since 2016, B.C. has reduced the poverty rate for the overall population by 27%, children by 41.2% and seniors by 23.7%.

In addition to its focus on achieving legislated targets, the ministry broadened its framework for measuring progress to include a comprehensive set of well-being indicators including

housing stability, employment rates, food security, access to services, child apprehension rates, and high school completion rates. These indicators, shaped by engagement, including feedback from Indigenous Peoples, were incorporated into the first annual report of the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy, released in April 2025, and will continue to be reported on in future annual reports to monitor trends.

In June 2025, regulations were amended so people receiving provincial assistance can keep the full support they receive from the Canada Disability Benefit, a new federal program to reduce poverty and support financial security. This means an additional \$200 per month, or \$2,400 per year, for eligible people. In December 2025, the Province removed the spousal support allowance clawback for couples receiving disability assistance so couples receiving disability assistance now receive the same total support allowance as they would if they were two single people. More than 6,500 families benefited from this change. These key actions improved the income security of low-income people with disabilities in BC.

In 2025, SDPR continued distributing investments designed to be allocated over multiple years, providing resources to communities through secondary organizations to support poverty reduction and food security initiatives across BC. In total, over \$28 million was distributed in 2025. This included \$10 million delivered by partners to over 250 community organizations, improving access to healthy, culturally appropriate food for thousands of people. An additional \$6.6 million supported 40 Nation-led poverty reduction and food security projects through the First Nations Well-Being Fund, and over \$12 million supported non-profit organizations addressing poverty through the Stronger Community Services Fund.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Target ^{4,5}
[1a] Change in Total Poverty Rate from 2016 ¹	-28.1%	-27.0%	-25%
[1b] Change in Child Poverty Rate from 2016 ²	-35.6%	-41.2%	-50%
[1c] Change in Seniors Poverty Rate from 2016 ³	-17.6%	-23.7%	N/A

Data source: Statistics Canada Table 11-10-0135-01 Low-income statistics by age, sex and economic family type.

¹PM [1a] targets for 2023/24 and 2034 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as -25.0% and -60.0%, respectively.

²PM [1b] targets for 2023/24 and 2034 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as -50.0% and -75.0%, respectively.

³PM [1c] targets for 2023/24 and 2034 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as N/A and -50.0%, respectively. A senior's target was introduced in the 2024 revision to the Poverty Reduction Act. ⁴ Actuals for 2023 are based on the revised Market Basket Measure (2023 base). As a result of a delay in the federal reporting of poverty statistics and the time it takes for investments to impact poverty rates, there are no interim targets.

⁵The poverty statistics for 2025 calendar year will be released in early 2027.

The latest poverty statistics showed that the total number of people in poverty in BC increased by 33,600, raising the poverty rate from 12.8 to 13%. Despite the increase, BC still achieved its target to reduce the 2016 total poverty rate by 25% by 2024. The ambitious target to reduce the child poverty rate by 50% by 2024 was not achieved given ongoing affordability pressures. However, both the number of children and the number of seniors living in poverty decreased.

In 2024 (the latest available data), there were 9,400 fewer children and 3,000 fewer seniors in poverty compared to 2023.

Goal 2: British Columbians in need have services, supports and opportunities that make life better.

Objective 2.1: Deliver reliable, responsive, consistent, accessible and secure income and disability assistance services.

Delivering modern and consistent service with a focus on reliability, responsiveness, and relationship-building remains a key priority. The ministry continues to expand and improve online self-service options, which increases accessibility of services for clients regardless of their location in British Columbia.

Key results

- Continued uptake of Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) as a safe, convenient, and reliable payment method, resulting in 189,809 clients enrolled in direct deposit as of January 2026 and increase of 15,399 over the previous year.
- Ongoing technology improvements have streamlined the application intake process and automated monthly reporting and data processing, improving efficiency and enabling more timely access to services.
- Increased hiring of Community Integration Specialists has enhanced support for underserved populations and encampment response by improving connections to programs and cross-sector services.
- The continued growth of the Indigenous Partnership Program—with 3 new arrangements in place, bringing the total to 21 agreements
- The Community Integration Program deployed five additional mobile offices, improving access to services and infrastructure in rural and remote communities and enhancing the ministry's capacity to respond quickly during emergencies.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry made meaningful progress in improving service accessibility and strengthening client-focused service delivery.

Enhancements to digital service delivery and the continued expansion of self-service options as a result of ongoing technology improvements has improved timeliness and reduced administrative burden, allowing staff to focus more on direct client support.

The Community Integration Specialists program supported people - either directly or through community partners - who were homeless, precariously housed, or at risk of experiencing homelessness by connecting them with financial assistance and helped them navigate

essential community supports. Community Integration Specialists worked collaboratively with community partners, agencies and ministry partners, playing an important link connecting people with the government and community supports they need. Community Integration Specialists maintained a strong presence in encampments, making more than 6,600 connections with individuals sheltering outdoors.

Community Integration Specialists served 37,787 unique individuals and completed 106,227 requests for financial assistance, reflecting the scale and impact of the ministry's community-based and mobile service delivery model.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/2024 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
[2a] Percent of clients using My Self-Serve (MySS) ¹	54%	60%	60%	63%
[2b] Percent of clients receiving payments via Electronic Fund Transfer ²	85%	87%	87%	88%
[2c] Percent of callers that reported the ministry worker was respectful (via a voluntary phone survey) ^{3,4}	85%	88%	85%	89%

Data source: Service Delivery Division, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

¹PM [2a] targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 62%, respectively.

²PM [2b] targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 87%, respectively.

³PM [2c] targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 85%, respectively.

⁴ Client Phone Survey collected by the Service Delivery Division, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

The ministry showed steady improvement across key performance measures related to digital service use, payment delivery, and client experience. The ministry will continue to pursue technology and business process changes to further improve the timeliness and quality of services to the public.

The use of MySS, which provides an alternative service access option that is available 24/7, increased to 63%, exceeding the 60% target, supported by ongoing efforts to promote digital self-service and make online options easier for clients to use. Electronic Funds Transfer adoption reached 88%, surpassing the 87% target, driven by continued promotion of direct deposit as a safe, reliable, and convenient way to receive payments while reducing issues during cheque week.

Client experience remained strong, with 89% of callers reporting that ministry workers were respectful, exceeding the 85% target and reflecting the ministry's focus on consistent,

high-quality service delivery. The ministry continued to prioritize service quality by embedding client feedback into ongoing improvements.

Objective 2.2: Job seekers have access to high quality services and supports they need to find and keep meaningful employment

High quality employment services and supports are needed so BC is ready to meet the future demands of a skilled workforce and fill millions¹ of jobs over the next decade. These services support underrepresented groups and workers impacted by tariffs to participate fully in the labour market, while helping employers adapt to changing workforce and supply chain needs.

Key results

- WorkBC effectively supported priority populations, including approximately 16,900 people with disabilities, 7,300 Indigenous Peoples, and 34,000 immigrants. Youth remained a priority population, with more than 28,700 youth receiving employment services and supports.
- Skills training programs were delivered to more than 25,000 people, including 3,800 who completed occupational skills training, with 77% of participants securing employment following training. An additional 522 people participated in Community and Employer Partnership projects that combined targeted skills training with work experience.
- Forestry workers impacted by tariff-related layoffs received targeted employment supports through WorkBC, including proactive outreach in affected communities and extended service hours to improve access. As a result, more than 450 impacted forestry workers received employment services, with over 50 already transitioning to new occupations.
- Employability Planning Services (EPS) helped BCEA clients move from income assistance to employment by connecting them to training, employment programs, and community supports. The EPS team completed 4,896 client file reviews and initial assessments of needs and circumstances, identifying 2,774 people with expected to work obligations.
- Community-Based Employment Services provided pre-employment supports to 810 people with complex needs who were far removed from the labour market, including people experiencing homelessness, substance use, and mental health challenges.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

Significant progress was made in expanding the reach and impact of employment services across BC.

¹ [2025 BC Labour Market Outlook](#)

WorkBC continued to provide the core foundation of employment services, supporting nearly 90,000 people across the Province through 102 Centres and a strong online presence. More than 31,000 job seekers were supported through their first year of employment, helping improve employment stability.

Employment and skills training initiatives produced strong, measurable employment outcomes by closely aligning training with labour market demand. Training projects combined occupational and job-specific skills development with hands-on work experience, enabling participants to gain practical, recognized credentials and apply them directly in real-world settings. This approach resulted in high post-training employment rates and faster transitions into sustainable work, while connecting job seekers with employers in high-demand sectors across the Province.

At the same time, focused initiatives addressed the distinct needs of priority groups and communities facing economic disruption. Youth-focused programs supported career exploration, skills development, and long-term attachment to the labour market, helping young people build confidence, experience, and clearer career pathways. For workers affected by forestry tariffs, targeted retraining and employment supports helped people transition into new jobs, reducing economic impacts on workers and communities while supporting labour market adjustments in affected regions.

The ministry launched new employment programs specifically designed to help people experiencing multiple barriers to employment, improving access through more integrated, person-centered service approaches for early assessment and employment readiness. This customized programming aimed at meeting the needs of jobseekers also focused on improving client satisfaction.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
[2d] WorkBC Client Satisfaction Score ¹	72	74	74

Data source: Employment and Labour Market Services Division, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, WorkBC Employment Services Client Intake Survey, In-Progress Survey and Exit Survey.

¹WorkBC Client Satisfaction Score represents the overall client satisfaction with WorkBC services. Scores range from 0 to 100, with higher scores being considered better. The score represents the number of clients responding "satisfied" or "very satisfied" out of all survey respondents.

To measure progress towards Goal 2, the ministry has automated surveys in place to receive feedback directly from WorkBC clients on their experience and their overall satisfaction with the services received.

In 2025/26, the client satisfaction score was 74, achieving the target. Overall satisfaction improved by two points from the previous year. The improvement was seen across all age

groups, with clients 24-and-under achieving a score of 75 and clients 55-and-over reaching a score of 79. The ministry continues to see higher than average satisfaction for some marginalized client groups such as Refugees (75) and people with high school education or less (76). The score also improved across many groups facing barriers to employment, such as people with disabilities, immigrants, visible minority clients, and people with multiple barriers.

A customer satisfaction score between 65 and 80 is generally considered good. Overall provincial government services satisfaction in Canada was about 70% in 2023 and 67% in 2022². Scores can be expected to fluctuate between about 65% and 80% over time, in part driven by the labour market conditions and policy changes.

Goal 3: Individuals with disabilities live, work and participate in their communities on an equal basis with all British Columbians

Objective 3.1: Support a comprehensive and integrated system of supports and services for individuals with disabilities

Our communities are stronger when they include everyone. Removing the barriers that Persons with Disabilities currently experience ensures they are able to participate fully in their communities. Working in the spirit of “Nothing About Us Without Us,” the ministry will continue to advance programs and policies that support Persons with Disabilities in British Columbia to meaningfully participate in their communities.

Key results

- Supported an additional 2,500 persons with disabilities through access to disability assistance, which provides ongoing financial and health supports to those who need them. Increased the annual earnings exemption for couples on disability assistance where one partner has the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation, allowing them to keep more of the money they earn.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

Starting in January 2026, BC increased the annual earnings exemption for couples on disability assistance where one partner has the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation. This change allows them to keep more of the money they earn and benefited more than 4,300 families.

² [Angus Reid Institute, Satisfaction with Federal Government Services](#)

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
[3a] Total amount of earnings exemptions reported by Persons with Disabilities	\$180 million	\$185 million	\$210 million	\$193 million

Data source: Research, Innovation and Policy Division, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

¹PM [3a] targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as \$225 million and \$235 million, respectively.

To encourage clients to work, assistance clients with the PWD designation are eligible for an annual earnings exemption, which means that any income from employment will not impact their monthly benefits until they have reached the annual maximum. For a single person with the PWD designation, the annual exemption is \$16,200. Income earned beyond that amount is deducted from their monthly benefits.

Since the COVID pandemic, the employment rate of Persons with Disabilities has continued to significantly drop as the overall labour market weakened. Persons with Disabilities were at greater risk of job loss or having trouble finding employment during the slower economic periods. In 2025/26, 16% of Persons with Disabilities had reported income, down from 21% in 2019/20. Despite the lower employment rate, the total amount of income earned by Persons with Disabilities continues to increase, albeit at a slowed pace.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Income Assistance	3,892,899	-22,407	3,870,492	3,884,826	14,334
Employment	31,126	0	31,126	14,201	-16,925
Community Living Services	1,806,808	10,310	1,817,118	1,817,118	0
Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal	1,959	-12	1,947	1,428	-519
Executive and Support Services	14,324	-302	14,022	17,132	3,110
Sub-total	5,747,116	12,411	5,734,705	5,734,705	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	-286	-286
Total	5,747,116	12,411	5,734,705	5,734,419	-286
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	1,854	0	1,854	80	-1,774
Total	1,854	0	1,854	80	-1,774

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 \$286 thousand is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of July 29, 2026, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

Community Living BC

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) is a Crown agency that provides supports and services to meet the community inclusion-related needs of two groups of eligible individuals and their families in British Columbia:

- Adults with a diagnosis of developmental disability. Criteria include age of onset, intellectual functioning, and adaptive behavior; and
- Adults who have a diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder or autism spectrum disorder (also known as pervasive developmental disorder) and significant limitations in adaptive functioning.

Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal

The Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal is an administrative tribunal established under the authority of the Employment and Assistance Act to provide clients with an efficient and transparent appeal process that is independent from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The Tribunal hears appeals on decisions made by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to refuse, reduce, or discontinue certain benefits or supplements. The Tribunal also hears appeals on decisions made by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to refuse, reduce, or discontinue a subsidy under the [Child Care Subsidy Act](#).

Appendix B: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Sheila Malcolmson's [2025 Mandate Letter](#).

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, ensure safe and strong communities, and reduce poverty.	The ministry launched and implemented a Rapid Program Efficiency Review in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, including development and submission of expenditure management proposals, review and reprioritization of programs and spending, and initiation of Treasury Board-directed savings measures.
Continue to develop tools and approaches to prevent poverty and increase income, focusing first on youth growing up in families living in poverty, and work with the Ministers of Health, Finance, Citizens' Services, and others to ensure low- and moderate-income British Columbians receive and retain the federal and provincial benefits they are eligible for, beginning with the Canada Disability Benefit.	- The ministry invested in three new year-end grants to address youth unemployment and to support pathways to in-demand jobs in manufacturing, food systems, and digital fields. - The ministry amended regulations to ensure people receiving provincial income assistance who are also eligible to receive the new federal Canada Disability Benefit will keep the entire benefit. - The ministry expanded the Foundry Work & Education program (FWEP) to 19 centres across BC with virtual services also available, improving access to employment services for at-risk youth in the Province.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Lead government's work on accessibility initiatives.	Progress implementing the Accessible BC Act is reported annually in the Accessible BC Act progress report. The 2024/25 Accessible BC Act Progress Report was published in September 2025. The work for the 2025/26 Accessible BC Act Progress Report has begun for publication in September 2026.
Support British Columbians struggling with the cost of food and unable to afford the basics by leading work on food security and find opportunities to support BC farmers and food producers in this work.	- The ministry continued to work with key partners on the implementation of over \$50 million in multi-year funding provided in 2023 to ensure people in need have better access to healthy, fresh food. A key focus of the funding is building the capacity of local food organizations to meet rising demand through investments in critical food infrastructure. - The ministry engaged with food security partners to inform the Ministry of Finance-led review of the BC Farmers' Food Donation Tax Credit, which was made permanent in Budget 2026.
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.	- Subject to the direction of the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety and Cabinet/Treasury Board. ADM/DMs met with the CAO from multiple municipalities to discuss collaborated approaches to address public safety concerns. - Awaiting a report from Deloitte who led and facilitated the process.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Lead work, with support from the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, to deliver skills and training initiatives for people facing multiple complex barriers that will enable them to access opportunities and build a dignified life.	• Planning the transfer of 20 PSFS Skills Training and Employment (STE) contracts that support specialized populations with multiple complex needs and extending them for one year beginning April 1, 2026. • Planning for the April 2026 transfer of \$20M of PSFS's STE budget to SDPR to support WorkBC's new Employment Readiness services, and PSFS will assume an equivalent budget and take responsibility of WorkBC Apprentice Services.
Work with stakeholders, in particular with people with lived experience, to support the development and implementation of government's work to make BC more accessible and inclusive for all people.	• Progress implementing the Accessible BC Act is reported annually in the Accessible BC Act progress report. The 2024/25 Accessible BC Act Progress Report was published in September 2025. The work for the 2025/26 Accessible BC Act Progress Report has begun for publication in September 2026.
Work with the Attorney General to support engagement of the non-profit sector in the 2025 review of the Lobbyist Transparency Act.	• In fall 2025, key non-profit organizations provided written and verbal submissions to the Special Committee to Review the Lobbyists Transparency Act.
Continue to strengthen government's relationship with the non-profit sector by acting as the point of contact within government on key issues affecting the sector and supporting the effectiveness of non-profit sector organizations, including through the Social Services Sector Roundtable.	• Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-profits Joan Phillip continued to attend sector events and meet with key non-profits, including the Social Services Sector Roundtable, to strengthen the relationship between government and the sector and learn about current challenges and opportunities.