

**Ministry of
Attorney General**

**REVISED 2011/12 – 2013/14
SERVICE PLAN**

May 2011



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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



It is my honour to introduce the *Ministry of Attorney General Revised 2011/12 – 2013/14 Service Plan*. This plan reflects the current work of the ministry, the achievements of the past year and the strategies to build on those achievements. This is an exciting time of change for British Columbia with a new focus on three key government priorities: families, jobs and open government.

An effective justice system is foundational to job creation, strong families, and healthy communities. Each goal, objective and strategy outlined in the plan is based on our commitment to enhance public confidence in the justice system and support communities and families.

To support this commitment, the ministry has continued with our agenda to reform the justice system. Criminal justice projects underway to support this commitment include the Vancouver Downtown Community Court, the Prolific Offender Management Project and bail reform. The aim of these projects is to reduce the criminal behaviour of offenders, through either incarceration or treatment for the underlying issues driving that behaviour. The effectiveness of these projects is being evaluated and the results of the evaluations will be used to inform our ongoing work.

The ministry continues to support British Columbia's fight against gang and gun violence. A specialized team of senior Crown counsel continue to work with police and other investigative agencies on major gang cases, focusing especially on providing legal guidance at critical stages of investigations to ensure cases can be prosecuted successfully.

New Supreme Court civil and family rules came into effect July 1, 2010. These new rules support British Columbians' access to justice by reducing the time, cost and complexity of litigation in British Columbia. The rules represent a great deal of work by ministry staff in collaboration with the Judiciary and the legal profession.

The Nanaimo Justice Access Centre, which provides people with assessment, information, advice, referral and other services to help solve their family and civil justice problems, continues to operate. Building on its success, a range of family justice services are now available at the Vancouver Justice Access Centre.

We are also taking steps to make government and the justice system more open and accessible to the people it serves, and I am pleased to announce that we have recently launched the [JusticeBC](#) website. This website which is a joint project with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Ministry of Children and Family Development, provides criminal justice system information, as well as links to other resources and services. The ultimate goal of the ministry's work is to make the justice system accessible, affordable, fair and responsive.

The *Ministry of Attorney General 2011/12 – 2013/14 Revised Service Plan* was prepared under my direction, in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as of April 26, 2011, have been considered in preparing the plan and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in the plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Penner". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "B" and "P".

Barry Penner, Q.C.
Attorney General
April 26, 2011

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Attorney General is the law officer for the Crown in British Columbia and has a legal duty to see that public affairs are administered in accordance with the law. The ministry works closely with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in the planning and delivery of services within the justice system.

The ministry is responsible for legal services in two separate and distinct areas – the independent prosecution of criminal matters and the provision of legal services to government.

Prosecutions are conducted by Crown counsel who, following an investigation by police or other investigative agencies, independently consider whether there is substantial likelihood of a conviction based on the available evidence, and whether the public interest requires a prosecution.

What we do:

- *Prosecute criminal matters.*
- *Provide services for the operation of the courts.*
- *Give legal advice to government.*
- *Represent government before courts and tribunals.*
- *Oversee court administration and justice reform.*
- *Fund legal aid and family maintenance enforcement.*
- *Provide family justice services such as mediation.*
- *Develop justice policy and draft legislation.*
- *Fund the human rights system.*

What we don't do:

- *Give legal advice to, or represent individuals or groups outside government.*
- *Pay directly for individuals or groups to have legal representation.*

The ministry provides civil legal services to Cabinet, ministries and certain public agencies to assist them in fulfilling their business objectives in accordance with the rule of law.

The ministry provides and funds justice services that enable disputes to be settled out of court. In consultation with the Legal Services Society, we manage the provincial funding of legal aid. The Family Maintenance Enforcement Program assists in the collection of child and spousal maintenance from spouses who have not honoured their support payment obligations.

The ministry leads criminal, civil, family and administrative justice reform to promote timely and better solutions to legal problems, making the justice system more effective. Our responsibilities also include the province's human rights system and policy support for government's democratic reform priorities.

The ministry also provides court services, such as registry services and security, to British Columbia courts: the British Columbia Court of Appeal (in four locations), the British Columbia Supreme Court (in 26 locations) and the Provincial Court of British Columbia (in 89 locations). Ninety-eight per cent of British Columbians live within one hour of travel time to a court.

Strategic Context

The justice system is a vital component of a democratic society and the foundation of a just and prosperous province.

Rule of Law

The rule of law is a fundamental principle in a free and democratic society. It means that only laws properly made or created can affect or limit our freedom. No person is above the law, and we are all protected by the law and its process.

Significant external factors influence the ministry's operations and its ability to attain its goals. The ministry is only one of many participants in the justice system and does not, and should not, have full control or authority. Other participants, such as the judiciary and the Bar, must act and make decisions independently and free from

interference. The result of this independence is that many of the demands on the justice system are outside of the ministry's control, and it is within this context that the ministry works to attain its goals.

The Changing Nature of Crime

Organized crime now crosses community, provincial and national boundaries. The justice system is seeing organized crime expand into all forms of criminal activity, including illicit drug production and trafficking, identity theft, payment card fraud, money laundering, cybercrime and firearms smuggling. Organized crime undermines legitimate economies and market integrity which directly and indirectly affects all British Columbians. With over 130 identifiable organized crime groups in British Columbia, the scope and magnitude of organized crime is significant.



Vancouver Courthouse

Cost, Delay and Complexity

Cost, delay and complexity continue to impact the functioning of the civil, family and criminal justice system.

In the area of civil justice, an average Supreme Court trial lasts five days in court with legal costs of well over \$60,000 (the median after-tax annual income for an average British Columbia household)¹. This is an increase of 250 per cent in the last 10 years. Technology has also substantially increased the availability and number of records in civil and criminal matters.

Criminal trials are increasingly expensive, lengthy and complicated. For example, in 1996, the average impaired driving trial lasted 2.5 hours, whereas now the same trial can run up to three days. Also, in 1996, the average length for a criminal case at Vancouver Law Courts was 12.9 hours; in 2006, the average length had increased to 27.4 hours per case.

The time required to schedule both civil and criminal matters in Provincial Court has increased.

¹ Statistics Canada, 2006 Median after tax income by selected family types — British Columbia.

Province-wide, it now takes approximately seven months to schedule a criminal trial; this is an increase of one month over the past five years. In 2006/07, the median time it took a small claims case to reach trial was 296 days; despite the ministry's reforms, in 2009/10 the median time was 341 days, an increase of 15 per cent.²

Since 2005/06, the average number of court appearances per concluded case has significantly increased in Provincial Court. In small claims matters, the number of appearances rose by 15 per cent and in family matters by 73 per cent. In adult and youth criminal proceedings, the average number of court appearances per concluded case has increased by five per cent.

Although declining from its peak in the early 1990's, British Columbia still has one of the higher crime rates in Canada. In 2008, the crime rate was 95.8 *Criminal Code* offences per 1,000 people, a decrease of eight per cent from 2007, and the lowest it has been in three decades.³ Despite the decrease in the crime rate, case complexity continues to increase. Organized crime, gangs and white collar prosecutions are also increasing; additionally, police are focusing their efforts on more serious cases such as murder, assault and weapons offences.

Large criminal trials that consume a disproportionate amount of justice system resources are becoming more common. This is partially due to the presence of organized crime in British Columbia. Organized crime prosecutions are very resource-intensive, and the number of large trials is expected to continue to increase.

Trial procedures are becoming more complicated as a result of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, changes in the law of evidence and the implementation of amendments to the *Criminal Code* of Canada and other criminal legislation. All of these changes have occurred in the past 30 years. Further, technology has greatly expanded the complexity of the information available (e.g. expert DNA evidence) and increased the volume of materials to be considered in many criminal prosecutions. The result is more resource-intensive prosecutions. On average, the amount of work required by Crown counsel to prosecute a criminal case has risen by about 10.6 per cent since 2003.

Social, Demographic and Economic Trends

British Columbia's population is projected to continue to increase, with the majority of the growth coming from international migration (75 per cent) and interprovincial migration (25 per cent)⁴. Immigrants to British Columbia will increasingly come from China and South Asia.⁵ When involved with the justice system, immigrants frequently require language services and may be unfamiliar with the system's structure and principles.

² This timeline begins upon the opening of the file.

³ Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2008.

⁴ BCStats, British Columbia Population Projections, July 2008.

⁵ Ibid.

The Justice System in British Columbia

*The **Criminal Justice System** works to stop crime from happening and address it quickly when it does occur; it brings offenders to justice with resolutions focused on reducing and addressing the causes of crime. The major components of the criminal justice system are: police, prosecution, defense counsel, legal aid, courts, judiciary and corrections.*

*Both the **Civil and Family Justice Systems** touch people in the province and help private parties solve legal problems and disputes. This may involve going to court or making use of other dispute resolution processes such as mediation.*

*The **Civil Justice System** handles issues such as negligence or personal injury, small claims, commercial and corporate disputes, and enforcement of rights.*

*The **Family Justice System** handles issues such as divorce and matters affecting children.*

*Through the **Administrative Justice System**, British Columbia's administrative tribunals help resolve disputes between private parties and also between individuals and government. They may decide matters ranging from individual liberty to property values. They regulate complex economic activities and resolve disputes about public affairs such as the environment and public safety.*

British Columbia's divorce rate is projected to remain at approximately 40 per cent, resulting in 10,000 divorces per year; and, combined with separations amongst cohabiting adults, over 30,000 applications will be submitted to family courts per year for custody, access, guardianship and maintenance.

Aboriginal people in British Columbia continue to be significantly over-represented in all aspects of the criminal justice system as both offenders and victims. A high youth population and difficult social conditions in Aboriginal communities contribute to this situation.

Risks to British Columbia's economic outlook include continued economic weakness in the US, the sovereign debt crisis in some European countries threatening the stability of global financial markets, a sudden weakening of the US dollar resulting in significant disruptions to global commodity and financial markets, slower

than anticipated global demand resulting in reduced demand for British Columbia's exports, and greater than anticipated moderation in the Canadian housing market.

Although British Columbia weathered the recession better than most jurisdictions, it has not completely escaped the global economic weakness. The resulting fiscal environment has created increased demands on the justice system. This demand, along with anticipated fiscal restraint in future fiscal years, has resulted in significant pressure on the justice system. To begin to deal with some of this pressure, the ministry is exploring more effective ways to provide individuals with access to justice solutions.

The ministry is also facing further retirements, potential new staff and supervisors, and integration of diversity in its programs. This, together with an ambitious transformation agenda, translates into high needs for strong workforce and succession planning, learning and knowledge sharing strategies, and change management work.



Legal Services Branch Staff

Legal Services

Litigation matters involving government continue to increase in complexity and cost; examples include tobacco litigation, Charter damages, the polygamy reference, aboriginal litigation and consultation. These cases frequently involve significant numbers of highly sensitive documents, including electronic records.

The need for legal advice for government's strategic and policy priorities is ongoing; however, client and ministry budget restrictions make it more difficult for appropriate legal services to be provided within current appropriations.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The Ministry of Attorney General is supporting and committed to the implementation of the provincial climate change adaptation strategy, which calls on government agencies to consider climate change and its impacts, where relevant, in planning, projects, policies, legislation, regulations and approvals, by assessing business risks and opportunities related to climate change.

Adaptation is a vital part of government's climate change plan. It means taking action now to prepare for a changing climate and its impacts on ecosystems, resources, businesses and communities.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

Justice System Key Outcome Indicator

Increasing the level of public confidence in the justice system is a key priority. The effective operation of the justice system relies on public confidence. The greater the public confidence in the system, the more effectively it is able to fulfill its role. Confidence in the justice system supports good government, the democratic process and the rule of law.

Performance Measure 1: Public Confidence in the Justice System

Performance Measure	Baseline 2003	Actual 2008	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target	2013/14 Target
Percentage of British Columbians who have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the justice system	50%	53%	Data will be available in 2013		53%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Social Engagement

Discussion

Public confidence in the justice system is an important indicator of its effectiveness. This performance measure supports all of the ministry's goals.

Past service plans have reported on public confidence using data from the BC Omnibus Survey; as this survey has been discontinued, data from the Statistics Canada General Social Survey is now used. The baseline from 2003 has been retained as the ministry is tracking long term trends in public confidence. Targets are not presented for 2011/12 - 2012/13 as surveys are conducted every five years by Statistics Canada as part of a general social survey on the activities and perceptions of Canadians. The target for 2013/14 reflects the expectation that work done to date and over the next two years will result in the maintenance of the current level of public confidence.

Goal 1: Justice Solutions are Accessible

Objectives

- 1.1 British Columbians are able to access affordable alternatives to court.**
- 1.2 Justice services are timely and innovative.**
- 1.3 Justice services are proportionate to the impact and complexity of the matter.**

Strategies

Justice Access Centres – The ministry continues to support its Justice Access Centres strategy to promote greater access to civil and family justice solutions. These centres provide front-end, accessible justice information and services including assessment, information, dispute resolution, legal advice, referral to services, and other services, to help solve family and civil justice problems.

Child Protection Mediation – Building upon the success of the current child protection mediation program, the ministry, in co-operation with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, plans to continue to expand child protection mediation into Aboriginal communities and increase the number of qualified Aboriginal mediators on the Child Protection Mediation Roster.

Community Court – The ministry is continuing to operate the Downtown Community Court pilot project in Vancouver. This court brings together prosecution, defence, corrections, victim services, health, housing and social service agencies to help offenders break the cycle of crime while holding them accountable in a timely manner. Lessons learned from the community court pilot will be identified to develop best practices.

Early Resolution and Proportionate Justice System Response – The ministry supports the use of alternative measure programs where appropriate as a proportionate response to certain low-risk criminal behaviour. A risk assessment pilot has been implemented in conjunction with the Corrections Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide Crown counsel with more complete information regarding accused persons, and their level of risk, to assist in determining whether alternative measures are an appropriate sanction.

Prolific Offender Management Project – The ministry will continue to pilot and evaluate best practices in targeting prolific offenders to reduce their criminal behaviour through an integrated approach, including increased enforcement, and providing better information to the courts and support services. Enforcement agencies (police, corrections and Crown counsel) work with a range of health and social service partners to reduce the amount of crime committed by a small number of prolific offenders in six pilot communities.



*Mural Unveiling
Downtown Community Court*

Provincial Court Small Claims Reform – The ministry will continue to move appropriate cases to mediation and simplified trials, reducing the time between the filing of the case and its resolution, and decreasing the number of Provincial Court judges required for small claims.

Administrative Justice Reform – The ministry will continue to work with British Columbia's 26 administrative tribunals to support business innovation and best practices relating to early information sharing, dispute resolution and shared technology.

Performance Measure 2: Civil and Family Timeliness

Performance Measure	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Forecast	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target	2013/14 Target
Median time to first substantive small claims appearance	170 days	169 days	168 days	168 days	167 days
Median time to trial for civil small claims cases in Provincial Court	341 days	319 days	318 days	318 days	317 days
Median time for family cases to reach first order	93 days	93 days	92 days	91 days	90 days

Data Source: Courts Electronic Information System

Discussion

Timeliness in small claims and family cases is an indicator of an effective civil and family justice system and may contribute to public confidence in the justice system.

Median Time to First Substantive Small Claims Appearances:

This measure was previously reported as the median time to first Small Claims Settlement Conference. With the introduction of the Small Claims pilot project at Robson Square and Richmond, which has eliminated settlement conferences (approximately 25 per cent of the proportion of all settlement conferences), it has become necessary to develop this new more representative measure. The current measure calculates the time from the date a file is opened to the date of the first substantive appearance, which includes settlement conferences, summary trials, simplified trials or mediation. This methodology provides a more accurate picture of the speed and timeliness of the entire small claims process across the province regardless of whether traditional or transformative methods are used. In 2009/10, 56 per cent of all small claims cases reached their first substantive appearance within six months.

Median Time to Small Claims Trial:

This small claims measure reports the median timeline from file opening to reaching trial in Provincial Court.

Family Cases to First Order:

This measure reports the median time between the filing of an Application to Obtain an Order (or Application to Change/Cancel an Order) and the date the first corresponding order is granted.

Legal Services Objectives

1.4 Legal services to government are efficient, are proportionate to the level of risk and are sustainable for ministries.

1.5 Legal services are provided to client ministries through a variety of means optimizing use of technological opportunities.

Strategies

Electronic Access – The ministry is introducing technology to expand and improve access to its legal services offered to government, including a new intranet site for its clients. Future services will include client access to information and services specific to their operations, based on collaboration technology.

Client Relations and Service Delivery – This strategy involves reviewing the legal services cost recovery model with client ministries. The ministry has taken steps to enhance its planning process with client ministries, with earlier discussions and ongoing consultation to provide greater certainty regarding financial and service levels.



Legal Services Branch Library

Performance Measure 3: Satisfaction with Legal Services

Performance Measure	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Forecast	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target	2013/14 Target
Percentage of government ministry clients satisfied with quality, timeliness and consistency of services	89%	No survey planned	90%	No survey planned	91%

Data Source: Legal Services Branch Survey

Discussion

The ministry delivers legal services to government on the basis of service level agreements with each ministry and agency. These agreements set out the services that are to be delivered and the costs of the services. Client satisfaction with services is the performance measure used to determine the quality of legal services being provided.

Goal 2: Simplified Court Procedures

Objectives

- 2.1 Simplified court procedures are understandable and affordable.
- 2.2 Court processes are timely and efficient.

Strategies

Electronic Court – British Columbia is a leader in the area of automation and electronic courts processes. Over the next three years, the continuation of this work will result in improved service delivery for British Columbians.

Continue to implement wills, estates and succession law reform and reform in other areas of family and civil law.

Applying lessons learned from the **Bail Reform Project**, the ministry continues to expand opportunities for criminal court hearings and interviews by video conferencing technology.



Bail Reform Project Video Conferencing

Performance Measure 4: Average Number of Appearances

Performance Measure	2009/10 Baseline	2010/11 Forecast	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target	2013/14 Target
Average number of appearances per concluded case – Provincial Criminal (Adult and Youth)	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7

Data Source: Court Services Branch Criminal Management Information System (CORIN)

Discussion

This measure includes court appearances for each case from all criminal adult and youth Provincial Court cases. With more simplified court processes in place, we would expect this may contribute over time to a decrease in the average number of appearances on a concluded criminal case. Additionally, reducing the average number of court appearances needed to complete a court case should mean faster times to resolution, resulting in not only a lower financial cost per case, but may also bolster

public confidence in the justice system by demonstrating justice being served in an efficient and effective manner.

Goal 3: Improve Justice System Performance and Accountability

Objectives

- 3.1 Increase the availability and use of electronic information and documents throughout the justice process.
- 3.2 Court documents are processed electronically to increase timeliness and efficiency.
- 3.3 Public has knowledge of and understands the justice system.



Court Services Branch Staff

Strategies

Child Support Transformation – Provide on-line information and self-help dispute resolution tools for all Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders in year one, followed by expansion to support orders more generally in year two.

Establish Performance Standards – In order to increase accountability and performance, the ministry will develop a framework of performance standards.

Establish a Program of Performance Management Indicators and Business Intelligence Information – In order to better manage its caseload, determine current strategy performance and inform future strategy development, the ministry will establish a framework that uses business intelligence information that informs performance management indicators.

Performance Measure 5: Timeliness of Criminal Case Conclusion

Performance Measure	2009/10 Baseline	2010/11 Forecast	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target	2013/14 Target
Median time to conclude provincial criminal cases	78 days	78 days	77 days	77 days	76 days

Data Source: Court Services Branch Criminal Management Information System (CORIN)

Discussion

Timeliness in reaching case conclusion is an indicator of an effective criminal justice system and may contribute to public confidence in the justice system. This measure includes all criminal adult and youth provincial court cases completed in each fiscal year and reports on the median time it takes from the date the information is sworn to the date the case is completed. In the *2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan*, this measure was allocated to Goal 2 (Simplified Court Procedures). It has been moved to Goal 3 (Improve Justice System Performance and Accountability) as timeliness of criminal justice processes is related to the overall performance of the criminal justice system.

Goal 4: Combat Guns and Gangs

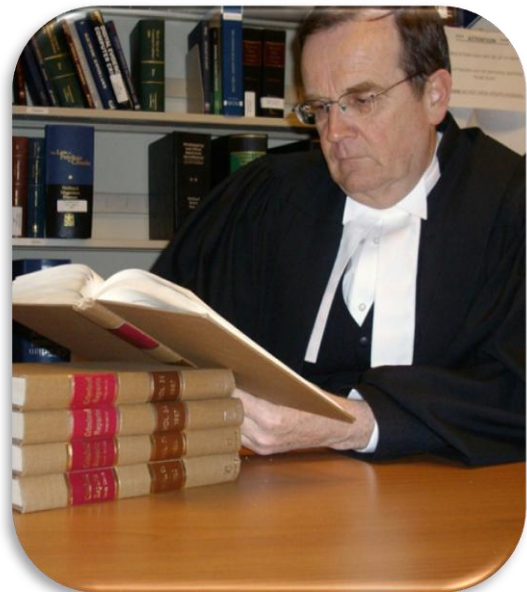
Objectives

- 4.1 Work effectively with justice system partners to bring offenders to justice.**
- 4.2 Maintain principled, efficient processes for charge assessments, prosecutions and appeals.**
- 4.3 Advocate for changes to federal legislation that will assist British Columbia’s police and Crown counsel in the fight against organized crime.**

Strategies

Strengthen fight against gun and gang violence – Maintain a highly effective unit of Crown counsel assisting the police with organized crime investigations.

Federal Criminal Justice Reform – The ministry will continue to provide focused and effective proposals to reform criminal law, creating a more effective and efficient criminal justice system. We are currently seeking amendments to the *Criminal Code* and related statutes addressing bail and lawful access to information, as well as developing procedures to better control the importation of firearms. We are also working with federal, provincial and territorial governments to develop a methodology for consistently identifying the financial and operational impacts of new criminal legislation on provinces and territories.



Criminal Justice Branch Crown Counsel

Performance Measure 6: Public Confidence in the Criminal Court System

Performance Measure	2004/05 Baseline	2010/11 Forecast	2011/12 Target	2012/13 Target	2013/14 Target
Percentage of British Columbians 15 years and older who perceive that the criminal courts do a good job of:				Data will be available in 2015	
Providing justice quickly	11%	Data will be available in 2011/12	12%		
Helping the victim	13%		14%		
Determining whether or not the accused is guilty	22%		23%		
Ensuring a fair trial for the accused	43%		44%		

Data Source: Statistics Canada, General Survey on Victimization (GSS) Cycle 18, 2004. These baseline results are specific to British Columbia. National averages for these measures are: providing justice quickly 15%, helping the victim 20%, determining whether an accused is guilty 27% and ensuring a fair trial 44%.

Discussion

Public perceptions of specific functions of the criminal courts are indicators of an effective criminal justice system and may contribute to understanding the sources of public confidence in the criminal justice system.

Previous service plans reported on public confidence using data from the BC Omnibus Survey; as this survey has been discontinued, data from the Statistics Canada General Social Survey will now be used. Targets are not presented for 2012/13 – 2013/14 as surveys are done only every five years. The targets for future plans will reflect the positive work done to date.



Court Services Branch Sheriff

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2010/11 Restated Estimates ¹	2011/12 Estimates	2012/13 Plan	2013/14 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Justice Services	104,266	104,327	104,351	104,351
Prosecution Services	112,600	106,856	107,203	107,203
Court Services	103,050	94,926	93,388	93,388
Legal Services	16,583	16,723	17,661	17,661
Agencies, Boards and Commissions	13,895	13,255	13,295	13,295
Executive and Support Services	15,907	15,591	15,768	15,768
Judiciary	67,740	67,025	67,041	67,041
<i>Crown Proceeding Act</i>	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
B.C. Utilities Commission	1	1	1	1
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	(903)	0	0	0
Total	457,639	443,204	443,208	443,208
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive Support Services	4,847	5,232	3,194	1,619
Judiciary	385	704	590	590
B.C. Utilities Commission	20	10	10	10
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	500	499	578	363
Total	5,752	6,445	4,372	2,582
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services				
Interest on Trusts and Deposits				
Receipts	(500)	(1,100)	(2,100)	(2,900)
Disbursements	500	1,100	2,100	2,900
Net Cash (Requirements)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000

¹ The amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with Schedule A of the 2011/12 *Revised Estimates*.

Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission Resource Summary Table

While the Board and the Commission operate independently from the Ministry of Attorney General, their budget vote is the responsibility of the ministry. Therefore, they are not considered one of the core business areas accountable to the Attorney General, but they are included in the Resource Summary of this Service Plan.

Core Business Area	2010/11 Restated Estimates ¹	2011/12 Estimates ²	2012/13 Plan	2013/14 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Administration and Support Services	1,318	1,305	1,305	1,305
Environmental Appeal Board	411	411	411	411
Forest Appeals Commission	359	359	359	359
Total	2,088	2,075	2,075	2,075

¹ The amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with Schedule A of the 2011/12 *Revised Estimates*.

Appendix

Ministry Contact Information

For more information on the British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General:

- visit our web site at: www.gov.bc.ca/ag/
- call or write the:
Ministry of Attorney General
Communications Branch
PO Box 9206 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J1
250-387-4965

Call the following headquarters numbers:

Court Services Branch	250-356-1550
Deputy Attorney General.....	250-356-0149
Criminal Justice Branch.....	250-387-3840

For other contact information, please call Enquiry BC at:

250-387-6121 in Victoria or Toll-Free at: 1-800-663-7867

Hyperlinks to Additional Information

Ministry of Attorney General Legislation:

www.ag.gov.bc.ca/legislation/AG-legislation.htm

Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions:

www.ag.gov.bc.ca/abc