

Ministry of  
Public Safety and Solicitor General

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2008/09  
Annual Service Plan Report

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***Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General***

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## Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to introduce the *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2008/09 Annual Service Plan Report*. The report provides an update on the Ministry's activities and performance during the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2009. Through its wide range of programs and services, the Ministry continues to work toward the goals of increased safety for individuals and communities throughout the province, and increased public confidence in British Columbia's justice and regulatory systems.

The Ministry's responsibilities include: law enforcement and correctional services; crime prevention and restorative justice programs; prevention of human trafficking; victim assistance and protective programs; road safety; provincial emergency management and emergency social services; fire safety and prevention; consumer protection policy; the BC Coroners Service; and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia.

Many accomplishments were made throughout the Ministry during 2008/09:

- More police officers are now dedicated to tackling gang violence, and we are cracking down on illegal guns while supporting community efforts to combat youth violence.
- Dedicated, intelligence-led traffic enforcement by Integrated Road Safety Units and programs like the Ignition Interlock Program are contributing to safer roads in British Columbia.
- Vehicle thefts continue to decline dramatically in the province, demonstrating the success of the Integrated Municipal Auto Crime Team and strategies such as bait cars and automated licence plate recognition.
- Provincial hazard mitigation efforts have been strengthened through flood protection initiatives in all areas of the province.

The *Annual Service Plan Report* outlines these and the many other significant achievements that continue to build upon our vision of working in partnership to help British Columbians stay safe. The report compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's *2008/09 - 2010/11 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kash Heed'.

Honourable Kash Heed  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

July 27, 2009

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# Highlights of the Year

## Targeting Gangs and Gun Violence

The Province announced a comprehensive plan to support ongoing efforts to tackle gang violence that includes: more police officers; more prosecutors; more jails and secure courts; tougher laws; a crackdown on illegal guns; outlawing armoured vehicles and body armour; youth education programs; and implementation of a gang hotline and rewards program. One hundred and sixty-eight new police officers will focus on gangs over the next two years. Of those, 131 will be put in place immediately. That nearly doubles the number of dedicated officers working on gangs and organized crime to 368, including 16-member units for Kelowna and Prince George.

The Province also released an independent report, *The Illegal Movement of Firearms in British Columbia*, and committed to implementing all of its recommendations, including: establishing a new provincial weapons enforcement unit with an aggressive approach to investigating crimes and incidents involving illegal guns; working to transfer responsibility for administering the Canadian Firearms Program from the federal to the provincial government; reviewing current firearms licensing, auditing and inspection procedures; and working with the federal government to ensure the Chief Firearm Officer reflects British Columbia's priorities by providing sufficient staff to combat illegal guns, including more rigorous and timely investigations.

An additional \$1 million was provided to develop prevention strategies and resources, and enhance community efforts to address youth gang violence issues, for a total of \$3 million since 2006.

## Enhancing Law Enforcement Technologies

British Columbia achieved a North American milestone in police intelligence-gathering and information-sharing, completing province-wide implementation of the Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME-BC), an online data-sharing system that allows instant access and updating by officers across the province. The \$40-million system has contributed to rapid arrests of suspects wanted on charges ranging from theft to criminal negligence causing death.

The Province launched a second crime-fighting helicopter to build on the success of Air One, which has contributed to nearly 1,300 arrests for everything from weapons offences to robbery to street racing since it took flight in July 2006. Air Two provides aerial support to 17 Lower Mainland municipalities and, like Air One, the new helicopter is equipped with specialized technology, including high-powered lights and infra-red cameras for tracking suspects at night.

The Province contributed \$1 million to Vancouver, Surrey, Kelowna and Williams Lake to implement closed circuit television cameras in high crime areas. Through this pilot program, the Province is working with local governments, law enforcement agencies and the Information and

Privacy Commissioner to identify high crime locations for use of the cameras, the best technologies to employ, how the program can be coordinated with existing public safety measures and how to ensure adherence to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

### **Reducing Drinking and Driving**

In February 2009, the Ministry expanded British Columbia's user-pay Ignition Interlock Program and made participation mandatory for drinking and driving offenders. This is now one of the most comprehensive programs in Canada designed specifically to reduce drinking and driving. Up to 4,000 more British Columbians will now be forced to provide breath samples every time they operate their vehicle and, if they have been drinking, the ignition interlock device will prevent their vehicle from being started. The program is mandatory for a one-year term for: all drivers convicted under the *Criminal Code* for alcohol-related driving offences; drivers who receive two administrative driving prohibitions; drivers who receive three 24-hour roadside prohibitions; and drivers who receive one administrative driving prohibition and two 24-hour roadside prohibitions. The length of time that drivers must use the ignition interlock device increases with each additional alcohol-related driving offence.

### **Strengthening Road Safety Enforcement**

The Enhanced Traffic Enforcement Initiative brings together RCMP and independent municipal police officers in Integrated Road Safety Units and uses targeted, data-driven, intelligence-led enforcement to identify and apprehend dangerous drivers. Since introduction of the Integrated Road Safety Unit model, and its 110 dedicated traffic enforcement officers, provincial traffic fatalities and injuries have steadily declined. Municipal police in British Columbia report that fatalities dropped to about 350 in 2008 compared to 467 in 2002. Results from 2007 to 2008 for some traffic enforcement priorities include: alcohol-related deaths were down 15 per cent, according to the BC Coroners Service; deaths of unbelted vehicle occupants were down 40 percent; and aggressive driving at intersections was down 26 per cent. It is estimated that for every dollar spent on Integrated Road Safety Units, more than two dollars and sixty cents are realized in savings to taxpayers. The Integrated Road Safety Unit initiative won a silver award in the partnership category of the 2008/09 Premier's Awards.

### **Combating Human Trafficking**

In October 2008, the Ministry's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons held their first international conference at Simon Fraser University's Wosk Centre for Dialogue. The conference was attended by over 150 people representing law enforcement, education, healthcare and community agencies, and achieved its objectives of raising awareness of human trafficking locally and globally, and building key partnerships across sectors.

### **Supporting Victims of Crime**

Overall provincial funding increased by \$5.2 million to support existing victim services and enable the development of new services for victims, including enhanced support through the criminal justice system. British Columbia's 156 police-based and community-based victim service programs received an average funding increase of 22 per cent (totalling \$12.5 million) to address their service pressures and enhance services.

### **Removing the Profit Motive from Crime**

Since British Columbia's *Civil Forfeiture Act* came into force in April 2006, the Province has seen 65 cases completed, \$5.6 million forfeited and more than \$1.3 million made available for crime prevention and remediation programs. A two-year report on the success of the Civil Forfeiture Program is available online at [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/publications](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/publications). In 2008, the Province expanded the law to make property used for unlawful activity that is likely to cause serious bodily harm, such as drunk driving and street racing, or likely to generate profit, such as marijuana cultivation, subject to civil forfeiture proceedings.

### **Enhancing Emergency Preparedness**

Communities in all regions of British Columbia are benefiting from a variety of flood protection initiatives cost shared by the governments of Canada and British Columbia. British Columbia's funding contribution comes from the Province's \$100 million, 10-year Flood Protection Program. Projects for 2008/09 were selected based on local government applications that offered the highest level of flood protection in areas of greatest risk. Since 2007, \$59 million in federal and provincial funding has supported 153 flood protection projects in communities across the province.

### **Reducing Auto Theft**

British Columbia's car theft rate has declined dramatically, falling 45 per cent across the province and 54 per cent in the Lower Mainland from 2003 levels. Through the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT), strategies such as bait cars, automated licence plate recognition, the Stolen Vehicle Enforcement Team, the Air One and Air Two traffic helicopters, and other crime prevention activities are being credited with reducing the number of car thefts across British Columbia to 6,700 in the first six months of 2008, from 12,100 in the first six months of 2003. The Province's Integrated Road Safety Units also work to prevent and reduce auto crime, and ICBC is working with police through IMPACT to offer immobilizing devices to owners of Ford F-series trucks to reduce theft.

### **Broadening Consumer Protection**

British Columbia became the first Canadian jurisdiction to regulate home inspectors to better protect home buyers. Home inspectors must now be licensed to provide services in the province, and must have liability insurance and undergo a criminal record check. The Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority is responsible for licensing home inspectors, for receiving



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and responding to consumer complaints, and for monitoring compliance through inspections and enforcement.

New regulations banning expiry dates and fees on most gift cards sold in British Columbia also better protect consumers' interests. Individuals or businesses that do not comply with the new regulations can be subject to penalties, and customers are entitled to a refund if they are charged fees that are prohibited.

## **Purpose of Ministry**

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General works to maintain and enhance public safety in every community across the province. The Ministry's portfolio includes: crime prevention; restorative justice; law enforcement; adult custody and community corrections; victim services; coroners service; road safety; emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery; fire prevention, life safety and property protection; and consumer protection policy.<sup>1</sup> The Ministry is also responsible for the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia.

The Ministry's stakeholders are the citizens of British Columbia and their representatives at all levels of government, community groups, schools, service organizations, businesses and industry associations. Key to the Ministry's success is its ability to maintain strong, collaborative relationships with stakeholders and partner agencies.

***Working in partnership to help  
British Columbians stay safe***

Services and programs are delivered either directly by Ministry staff or through contracted professionals and agencies. In all cases, the Ministry ensures that mechanisms are in place to guarantee accountability for public funds, such as policies, legislation, funding agreements and reporting requirements.

The Ministry conducts its business in a manner that upholds government's values as identified in the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan*, and continues to focus on the priorities that will ensure the Ministry's success in meeting its goals.

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<sup>1</sup> In June 2008, responsibility for liquor and gaming management was transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, along with responsibility for the BC Lottery Corporation and the Liquor Distribution Branch.

# Strategic Context

Many external factors challenge the Ministry to seek innovative ways to increase public safety and continue to ensure a fair and efficient system of justice for all British Columbians.

**The prevalence of crime** in British Columbia is indicated by police-reported crime rates and self-reported victimization rates. Together, these measures provide context regarding the environment in which the justice system is operating.<sup>2</sup>

Although British Columbia has one of the higher crime rates in Canada, the rate has been generally declining in the province since peaking in 1991. Increases were reported for British Columbia for 2002 through 2004; however, since then the crime rate has returned to its downward trend. In 2007, the crime rate was 104.3 offences per 1,000 population, a decrease of eight per cent from 2006.

While not directly comparable to the crime rates, victimization data indicate that crime is more frequent than is reported to police. The divergence of crime and victimization rates occurs largely in household/property crime. Police-reported property crime rates have been decreasing, whereas household victimization rates increased from 1999 to 2004.

**The nature of crime** is changing. Organized crime is crossing community, provincial and national boundaries and expanding into all forms of criminal activity. With technological advances, police are also seeing new types of crime, such as identity theft and Internet luring and fraud. Gang violence is increasing, particularly in the Lower Mainland, where gun violence is a significant concern. The number of large-scale investigations in the province has grown, consuming increasing proportions of available resources. While crime rates are somewhat indicative of police workloads, they cannot reflect the time and resources dedicated to investigating complex criminal activities, such as those involving serial offenders or organized crime groups.

**Rising Corrections caseloads** significantly impact Ministry operations. The current daily adult inmate population is around 2,750 to 2,850. This volume has reached critical capacity, with the Province's nine correctional centres operating at an average of 170 to 180 per cent of designed capacity. The increase in adults in custody has been largely driven by growth in the number of persons awaiting trial or sentencing. Ten years ago, remand inmates accounted for one-third of the provincial inmate population; now they account for one-half.

The number of people under community supervision has increased by approximately 4,000 over the past five years and currently stands at about 23,000. The growth in the number of offenders in custody and under supervision in the community is increasingly compromising community and staff safety.

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<sup>2</sup> For more information on crime and victimization rates, see pages 23 and 24.

**Managing multi-needs offenders** has become more challenging. The proportion of violent, high-risk and/or multi-needs offenders under Corrections supervision has resource implications and affects staff training, security, program development and delivery, and custodial and community supervision.

**Mental health and substance use issues** are of concern, with a disproportionate number of individuals in the criminal justice system affected by substance abuse, addiction, persistent mental illness and/or concurrent disorders.

**Over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system** impacts the work of the Ministry and its partners. Aboriginal people comprise just four per cent of British Columbia's population, but make up 22 per cent of the prison population and 17 per cent of people supervised by Community Corrections. Research indicates that Aboriginal offenders are considered to be at a higher risk to re-offend and score higher on all needs dimensions, such as substance abuse and unstable employment.

**Trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and forced labour** is a prolific area of international criminal activity and a leading source of profits for organized crime. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80 per cent of whom are women and up to half are minors. Vancouver has been identified as a port of significant concern, as both a destination point and a transit point for trafficking activities.

**Safety of all road users** remains a top priority in British Columbia. Predictable and preventable motor vehicle collisions continue to be the leading cause of accidental death or serious injury for persons under age 25 and a leading cause of death for those over 25. These deaths and injuries create enormous social and financial burdens on society. Increasingly, road crash fatalities and injuries are viewed as a significant public health issue, where the numbers of people negatively impacted can be significantly reduced through a combination of programs, policies and traffic enforcement. British Columbia is emerging as a leader in road safety through its innovative policy approaches and integrated strategic traffic enforcement.

**Emergencies and disasters** require co-ordinated mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts to minimize loss of life and suffering; protect health, property, infrastructure and the environment; limit economic loss; and reduce social impacts. Climate change contributes to the number and severity of interface fires, landslides, severe weather, floods, ice jams and drought, challenging communities and all levels of government. The Province handled over 7,500 operational incidents in 2008/09. Examples of larger events include: unusually heavy rains combined with snowmelt, which caused flooding in some areas in the Fraser Valley and southwestern Vancouver Island, and resulted in the City of Chilliwack declaring a state of local emergency, with the evacuation of approximately 75 homes; landslides occurred along the Sea-to-Sky Highway and along Highway 97 between Kelowna and Penticton; and Prince George battled an industrial fire that resulted in lighted ash and debris throughout the city.

# Report on Performance

## Performance Plan Summary Table

Goal 1: Increased safety for individuals and communities throughout British Columbia	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual
<b>Goal 2: Public confidence in British Columbia's justice and regulatory systems</b>		
Percentage of British Columbians who have "a great deal of" or "quite a lot of" confidence in the justice system	49%	44% NOT ACHIEVED
Police-reported crime rates (per 1,000 persons)		
- Violent crime	11.1	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
- Property crime	49.2	
- Other	38.8	
- Total	99.1	
Self-reported victimization rates		
- Violent incidents (per 1,000 persons, 15 years and older)	< 108	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
- Household incidents (per 1,000 households)	< 376	
Percentage of offenders who do not re-offend for two years following release from custody or commencement of community supervision	> 67%	66% NOT ACHIEVED
Number of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population	9.4	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Number of traffic injuries per 100,000 population	585	DATA NOT AVAILABLE

## **Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results**

This section presents the goals and objectives that were included in the Ministry's 2008/09 - 2010/11 Service Plan and identifies strategies to achieve them.<sup>3</sup> Results for key performance measures are also discussed.<sup>4</sup>

### **Goal 1: Increased safety for individuals and communities throughout British Columbia**

### **Goal 2: Public confidence in British Columbia's justice and regulatory systems**

#### **Objective 1: Integrated justice reform**

#### **Strategies**

Throughout 2008/09, the Ministry continued to strengthen collaboration among criminal justice, health, housing and social service agencies.

- The Provincial Community Safety Steering Committee was established to set priorities for provincial crime prevention and reduction strategies for all agencies responsible for criminal justice, health and social service operations in British Columbia.
- Through the Prolific Offender Management Project, justice, health and social service agencies in six pilot communities are working together to test an integrated approach to managing the most prolific offenders in their communities. The key objective of the pilot is to reduce the criminal behaviour of these offenders, whether through incarceration or through treatment for the issues driving their offending.
- The Downtown Community Court is addressing crime issues in Vancouver's downtown core. The Community Court worked with about 1,100 offenders in the initial six months following its opening in September 2008. The Court brings together prosecution, defence, corrections,

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<sup>3</sup> The following three objectives associated with liquor and gaming management are now being reported in the *Ministry of Housing and Social Development 2008/09 Annual Service Plan Report*: reduced incidence of illegal gambling; responsible gambling practices; and reduced problems associated with liquor misuse in and around licensed establishments.

<sup>4</sup> The following three performance measures associated with liquor and gaming management are now being reported in the *Ministry of Housing and Social Development 2008/09 Annual Service Plan Report*: percentage of British Columbians who are satisfied with the regulation of gaming in British Columbia; percentage of British Columbians who are familiar with the Province's efforts to address problem gambling; and percentage of inspected/investigated liquor licensees in compliance.

victim services, health, housing and social service agencies to help offenders break the cycle of crime while holding them accountable in a timely manner.

- The Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver was designed as an alternative to the regular criminal court process for individuals charged with offences motivated by drug addictions. As a method of eliminating future criminal offending, the Court, prosecution, defence and Corrections work together with Vancouver Coastal Health to reduce participants' addiction to cocaine, heroin or crystal methamphetamine. When charged, eligible individuals have immediate access to treatment and a variety of health and social service supports.
- The Vancouver Intensive Supervision Unit is a specialized supervision team comprised of probation officers and mental health professionals, providing intensive interventions in the Downtown Eastside to reduce hospital and jail admissions.
- The Bail Reform Project aims to increase the efficiency of the criminal justice system. The project involves providing better access to information to improve decisions on bail, earlier access to counsel to expedite hearings, and using video-conference technology for the interview and hearing process to avoid the necessity of transporting an accused to a courthouse for a hearing. The project was launched in late 2008 in three communities in the Peace District, and in Surrey and Delta in early 2009.
- Community Corrections is involved in integration initiatives with ministries, agencies and community resources, such as the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, BC Housing, Health Authorities, and the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission. These partnerships enhance the delivery of mental health, addictions, housing and employment services, targeting individuals demonstrating high needs and utilizing services from multiple service providers.

## **Objective 2: Enhanced effectiveness of policing<sup>5</sup>**

### **Strategies**

The Ministry strives to increase the effectiveness of policing to respond to the changing nature of crime and better protect citizens and communities.

- The Ministry continues to support evidence-based policing, which is more effective than traditional response-to-call service and allows for the strategic deployment of resources where operations are targeted on the basis of concrete law enforcement information gathering. This approach is based on sophisticated knowledge of emerging developments (trends, etc.) likely to impact a community, and achieves maximum policing results using a minimum of resources. Information and communication technologies, such as PRIME-BC, as well as the training and employment of skilled crime analysts are crucial elements of this strategy.

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<sup>5</sup> The wording of this objective has been revised to better reflect the priorities of the Ministry.

- The Ministry is working with justice partners and other stakeholders to develop a holistic approach to reducing crime by focusing on root causes to help individuals get out of the "crime cycle."
- Policing is being restructured by integrating specialized and capital-intensive police services to better respond to the cross-jurisdictional, cross-border nature of organized crime.
- The Ministry is working with police agencies and municipalities to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure(s) is in place so that police have the modern technologies to help combat crime.

**Objective 3: Offenders are supervised and managed based on court orders and risk to re-offend**

**Strategies**

To effectively supervise offenders while they are under court orders, and to achieve reductions in re-offending behaviour over the long term, it is critical to understand the risk an offender poses to society, how that risk can best be addressed, and the need to target higher-risk offenders.

- More than 20 years of correctional research has resulted in the development of standardized, validated risk/needs assessment tools that are used by the Ministry to provide information on the rehabilitative needs of offenders and their risk to re-offend. Ministry policy allows a 60-day period during which risk/needs assessments of offenders serving a community order must be completed.

**Objective 4: Reduced re-offending behaviour**

**Strategies**

Correctional research confirms that offender case management, offender responsiveness to change, and rehabilitative programming can mitigate harm and reduce re-offending behaviour.

- Based on risk/needs assessments conducted on offenders serving a community order, case management plans are developed for offenders to guide program interventions on an individual basis.
- The Ministry delivers a range of correctional programming that assists offenders to remain offence free. This includes programs that: address risk factors known to contribute to criminality; promote the acquisition of cognitive skills necessary to bring about behavioural change; and increase foundational skills, such as life skills, employability and literacy.
- The Ministry continues to strengthen partnerships with social, health and justice agencies to deliver integrated services that provide basic living essentials to higher-need offenders with the aim of reducing re-offending.



**Objective 5: Reduced over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system**

**Strategies**

The Ministry is working with other ministries, Aboriginal agencies and community representatives to address the root causes of Aboriginal criminality and victimization, engage communities in the management of offenders, and promote community healing.

- The Ministry sponsored cross-cultural training events hosted by First Nations and/or Aboriginal peoples to enhance the capacity, knowledge and sensitivity of justice system personnel throughout the province.
- The Ministry is supporting enhancement of Aboriginal programming in correctional centres and communities, and is working in partnership with Justice Canada to support 30 community-based Aboriginal Justice Programs and the Native Courtworker Program.
- The Ministry is supporting over 20 victim service programs which focus on providing services to Aboriginal victims, including VictimLINK, which provides 24/7 information, referral and support in 17 North American Aboriginal languages.

**Objective 6: Prevention of trafficking in persons<sup>6</sup>**

**Strategies**

The prevention of domestic and international trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and forced labour continues to be a priority of the Ministry.

- The Ministry promotes awareness of trafficking and works to increase identification of trafficked persons and traffickers through public education campaigns and training programs for law enforcement agencies, immigration and border officials, and front-line service providers.
- The Ministry is working with the Canada Border Services Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, provincial law enforcement agencies and Crown Counsel to prevent trafficking and contribute to successful prosecution of traffickers.
- Collaboration with community service organizations and all levels of government helps to ensure that trafficked persons in British Columbia are provided with the supports and services required to ensure their protection, aid in their recovery and reduce their risk of re-trafficking.

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<sup>6</sup>The wording of this objective has been revised for increased accuracy.

**Objective 7:           Effective protective programs for women and other vulnerable adults, youth and children<sup>7</sup>**

**Strategies**

Public safety is enhanced through effective protective programs.

- The Ministry maintains the Protection Order Registry, a confidential database containing all civil and criminal protection orders issued in British Columbia. The intent of the registry is to help reduce violence against women and other vulnerable adults, youth and children through support of the enforcement of protection orders.
- Under the *Criminal Records Review Act*, anyone who works with children or who has unsupervised access to children must submit to a criminal record check. The Criminal Record Review Program protects children from individuals whose criminal record indicates they pose a risk of physical or sexual abuse.
- Protective measures such as home alarms and relocation expenses are available through the Ministry's Crime Victim Assistance Program to address the safety concerns of victims of domestic violence and to prevent further abuse.
- The Ministry is enhancing victim support with over \$1 million in federal funding over three years to respond to the safety needs of newcomers to Canada who may be victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- In February 2009, the Domestic Violence Response Fund provided \$150,000 to eight communities to improve victim safety and enhance local responses to domestic violence.

**Objective 8:           Community crime prevention and restorative justice programs**

**Strategies**

Research indicates that communities can become safer if they actively engage in programs designed to reduce the incidence of crime and repair the harm caused by criminal behaviour.

- The Ministry continues to implement youth gang and sexual exploitation prevention strategies, and to support community-based crime prevention initiatives through the Safe Streets and Safe Schools Program, and through Civil Forfeiture Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention Grants. Programs include mentoring, job training, public awareness strategies, providing recreation programming at the community level, and the 24-hour Youth Against Violence multi-lingual phone line.
- The Ministry supports over 50 Community Accountability Programs that promote restorative justice approaches in local communities.

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<sup>7</sup>The wording of this objective has been revised to increase emphasis on violence against women.

**Objective 9: Timely information, assistance and support for victims of crime**

**Strategies**

Victim service programs aim to reduce the impact of crime through a range of supports and services.

- The Ministry supports 156 victim service programs which provide information, referrals and practical support to victims of crime and their families.
- Direct services to victims are provided by the Ministry through three program areas. The Crime Victim Assistance Program ensures that victims of violent crime and their families have access to financial assistance and other benefits. Located at the Vancouver Community Court and the Port Coquitlam Courthouse, the Court Support Program assists victims of crime through the justice process by providing information, accompaniment to court, and referrals to other justice and community services. The Victim Safety Unit provides victims with ongoing and timely updates about their case, and notification of changes to the custodial status of the offender in their case.

**Objective 10: Enhanced emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery<sup>8</sup>**

**Strategies**

Enhanced emergency management reduces the overall impact of any emergencies or disasters occurring in the province.

- The Ministry continues to work with local governments, First Nations, provincial ministries and agencies, federal departments, other jurisdictions, industries and volunteers to support the four main pillars of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Multi-agency plans are prepared and updated regularly to ensure effective strategies are in place to address many possible types of emergencies and disasters. The plans foster co-operation among the multiple organizations focusing on public safety, infrastructure and property protection, and managing the aftermath of events.

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<sup>8</sup> The wording of this objective has been revised to better reflect the full scope of the Ministry's work in the area of emergency management.

**Objective 11: Promotion of fire prevention, life safety and property protection programs**

**Strategies**

Effective fire safety and prevention requires strong working relationships with local governments, fire service organizations and other jurisdictions.

- The Ministry continues to strengthen its relationships with partner agencies and stakeholder groups, and enhance the support it provides to fire departments, local governments and the public.

**Objective 12: Improved community safety and quality of life through death investigations<sup>9</sup>**

**Strategies**

Coroners' cases must be completed in a timely manner and be based on current and consistent information.

- Operating within the Ministry, the BC Coroners Service is building on its use of investigative protocols, its more robust database, and its use of advanced technology and statistical surveillance measures.
- The BC Coroners Service continues to work with the Ministry of Health Services and other agencies to ensure the availability of timely pathology and toxicology services.

**Objective 13: Increased road safety**

**Strategies**

The Ministry continues to work with all road safety partners and stakeholders to reduce fatalities and serious injuries from preventable road crashes.

- To better protect emergency and other roadside workers, British Columbia amended the *Motor Vehicle Act* regulations to require drivers to slow down when passing emergency and other specified vehicles stopped at the side of the road, including police vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances, tow trucks, park rangers, conservation officers, passenger transportation inspectors and several types of commercial vehicle inspectors. If there is another lane going in the same direction, drivers must also move into that lane if it is safe to do so. The penalty for not slowing to the designated speed, not moving over, or both, is three penalty points on

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<sup>9</sup>This objective has been revised to better reflect Ministry priorities.

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the driver's licence and a fine of \$148. An existing penalty remains in place for failing to yield to moving emergency vehicles.

- In addition to Integrated Road Safety Units, other tools included in the Enhanced Traffic Enforcement Program are: Air One and Air Two traffic safety helicopters, the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team, Bait Cars, and the Automated Licence Plate Recognition Program, which maximizes officer efficiency and safety by using technology to automatically scan licence plates and detect unlicensed, uninsured and prohibited drivers as well as stolen vehicles.
- Curbing aggressive and distracted driving at intersections are policing priorities, as more than 40 per cent of injury or fatal crashes in British Columbia occur at intersections. The expanded Intersection Safety Camera Program will put digital cameras at 140 high-risk sites, enabling targeted enforcement at individual sites during periods when risk is greatest. The program currently deploys 30 cameras and, in 2008, issued 24,581 tickets to red-light runners, which generated more than \$3.2 million in fine revenue.
- In the fall of 2008, the RCMP refocused police resources on two priority issues by implementing the Impaired/Intersection Night-time Seatbelt Traffic Enforcement Project. Supplementing other approaches to drinking driving enforcement, such as the Ignition Interlock Program and CounterAttack, the project deploys officers in civilian clothes at key times and locations to observe vehicles for signs of impaired driving and unbelted occupants. These officers radio other officers down the road to intercept identified vehicles.

## **Performance Measure 1: Public Confidence in the Justice System**

Performance Measure	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual
Percentage of British Columbians who have "a great deal of" or "quite a lot of" confidence in the justice system	46.5%	41.8%	49%	44% NOT ACHIEVED

**Data Source:** The percentages reported are based on the responses of a random sample of British Columbians surveyed in the BC Omnibus Survey conducted by BC Statistics monthly from September through February each year. The BC Omnibus Survey uses a subset of survey questions from the Statistics Canada 2003 General Social Survey on Social Engagement (Cycle 17). Statistics Canada conducts surveys to measure confidence in public institutions in Canada roughly every five years.

### **Discussion of Results**

Long-term trends in public perceptions of the justice system are indicators of its effectiveness. Members of the public must have confidence in the justice system for it to function effectively and to ensure continued public participation and support. Public confidence in the justice system is also being tracked by the Ministry of Attorney General.

The target of 49 per cent established for 2008/09 was not met, with 44 per cent of British Columbians reporting that they have "a great deal of" or "quite a lot of" confidence in the justice system. This represents an increase of two percent from the previous year.

### **Ministry Response**

Confidence in public institutions is affected by many factors outside government control, and the the performance of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is only one of many influencing factors.

Results for this measure do reinforce the importance of the Ministry's commitment to integrated justice reform to promote earlier access to solutions and provide faster justice. Strengthened collaboration among criminal justice, health, housing and social service agencies continues to be a priority of the Ministry.

## Performance Measure 2: Police-reported BC Crime Rates

Performance Measure <sup>1</sup>	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Target	2008 Actual
Violent crime	12.2	11.7	11.1	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Property crime	56.7	51.8	49.2	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Other	45.0	40.8	38.8	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Total	113.9	104.3	99.1	DATA NOT AVAILABLE

**Data Source:** Police-reported crime rates are obtained through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Every police agency in British Columbia participates in this survey, which is managed nationally by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The data are reported by calendar year.

<sup>1</sup> The crime rate is the number of *Criminal Code* offences or crimes (excluding drug crimes and traffic-related offences) reported for every 1,000 persons. It is a better measure of trends in crime than the actual number of offences because it allows for population differences. Police-reported crime is divided into three major categories of *Criminal Code* offences: crimes against persons (violent crime); crimes against property (property crime); and other crime. Offences which are not violent or property related are classified as other crimes. These include counterfeit currency, vandalism and disturbing the peace, as well as miscellaneous offences relating to prostitution, offensive weapons and bail violations.

### Discussion of Results

The targets identified for 2008 represent a decrease of five per cent from 2007. It is anticipated that the 2008 police-reported crime rates for British Columbia will be available by August 2009.

### Performance Measure 3: Self-reported BC Victimization Rates

Performance Measure <sup>1</sup>	2004 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Target	2008 Actual
Violent incidents	108	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	< 108	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Household incidents	376	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	< 376	DATA NOT AVAILABLE

**Data Source:** Victimization data are obtained through the General Social Survey on Victimization, administered and maintained by Statistics Canada. The most recent reporting year from this source is 2004.

<sup>1</sup> The rate of violent incidents is the number of sexual assaults, physical assaults, robberies and robbery attempts per 1,000 population, 15 years and older. Incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault are included. The rate of household incidents is the number of household crimes per 1,000 households. To determine this rate, individuals were asked about four crimes that might have occurred to their household: break and enter, theft of household property, motor vehicle/parts thefts or attempts, and vandalism.

### Discussion of Results

Another General Social Survey on Victimization is being conducted by Statistics Canada in 2009.

Although not directly comparable to crime rates, victimization data indicate that crime is more frequent than is reported to police.<sup>10</sup> The divergence of crime and victimization rates occurs largely in household/property crime. Police-reported property crime rates have been decreasing, whereas household victimization rates have increased over the Statistics Canada victimization survey years of 1993, 1999 and 2004.

While police-reported violent crime rates have been relatively stable in British Columbia, violent victimization has dropped from the 1999 to the 2004 reporting cycles.

Establishing specific targets for reductions in crime rates and victimization rates is difficult, as both are affected by numerous factors, including demographic trends, technological change, police enforcement priorities and reporting practices, victim and social responses to crime, alcohol and drug consumption patterns, and socio-economic trends.

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<sup>10</sup> Caution should be used when considering the trends in relation to one another. The two data sources collect data from differing populations, on differing crime/victimization types, and report the data using differing scales.



## **Performance Measure 4: Rate of Non-re-offending**

Performance Measure	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual
Percentage of offenders who do not re-offend for two years following release from custody or commencement of community supervision <sup>1</sup>	68%	67%	> 67%	66% NOT ACHIEVED

**Data Source:** Data for this measure are drawn from the Corrections operational system and are very reliable. The methodology for calculating the measure uses a two-year tracking period. It is based on a rolling average of all offenders who have been sentenced for another offence within the two-year time frame tracked. Consequently, for any given year, the results reported are for two years prior.

<sup>1</sup> The wording of this measure has been revised for increased accuracy.

### **Discussion of Results**

The non-re-offending rate is the percentage of offenders who do not return to BC Corrections within two years of their release from custody or commencement of a community sentence. This overall rate is used by the Ministry as a baseline to indicate the effectiveness of programs, case management, specialized training and re-integration initiatives.

### **Ministry Response**

Criminal behaviour is a highly complex phenomenon involving a variety of individual and societal factors. Research demonstrates that changes in rates of re-offending are not directly attributable to the activities of any one component of the justice system. The effectiveness of particular programs is best assessed through evaluative research.

The Ministry continues to strengthen its evidence-based strategies to increase rates of non-re-offending. Projections indicate, however, that the resource demands associated with the growing volume and changing profile of offenders in custody and under community supervision negatively impacts these rates.

**Performance Measure 5: Traffic Fatalities and Injuries Rates**

Performance Measure	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Target	2008 Actual
Number of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population	9.6	9.7	9.4	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Number of traffic injuries per 100,000 population	651	603	585	DATA NOT AVAILABLE

**Data Source:** Data for these measures are collected from police-attended collisions involving injuries and/or fatalities. Collision data are collected by police and individual reports may be subject to error, depending on accuracy of completion. Collisions involving only property damage and collisions unattended by police are not included. As policing priorities do not allow officers to attend all collisions, it is estimated that police reports may not include up to 20 per cent of injuries. These data are reported by calendar year.

**Discussion of Results**

Key indicators of road user safety are rates of traffic fatalities and injuries. As well as resulting in loss of life, motor vehicle crashes significantly impact quality of life; incur legal, court and health care costs; and place demands on enforcement, insurance and municipal services.

Traffic fatality and injury rates for 2008 for British Columbia were not finalized at the time of publication. However, the numbers of serious injuries and fatalities reported by the RCMP and municipal police forces indicate that they are declining throughout the province. For both measures, yearly targets were set as reductions of at least three percent from the prior year.

**Ministry Response**

The Ministry continues to work in partnership with other ministries, including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, and the Ministry of Health Services, along with the BC Medical Association, the BC Automobile Association Traffic Safety Foundation, municipal police, the RCMP, ICBC and other key stakeholders to improve road safety performance.

# Report on Resources

## Resource Summary Table

	Estimated <sup>1</sup>	Other Authorizations <sup>2</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>					
Corrections	235,884	4,100	239,984	243,382	3,398 <sup>3</sup>
Policing and Community Safety	296,716	28,075	324,791	324,791	0
Emergency Management BC <sup>4</sup>	35,928	2,790	38,718	36,394	(2,324) <sup>5</sup>
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	7,201	645	7,846	7,917	71
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	Moved to Ministry of Housing and Social Development				
Liquor Control and Licensing	Moved to Ministry of Housing and Social Development				
Executive and Support Services	19,500	2,000	21,500	20,396	(1,104) <sup>6</sup>
<i>Emergency Program Act</i> <sup>7</sup>	15,630	12,967	28,597	28,597	0
Statutory Services <sup>8</sup>	13,851	(766)	13,085	13,044	(41)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0	0	0	(1,210)	(1,210)
<b>Total</b>	<b>624,710</b>	<b>49,811</b>	<b>674,521</b>	<b>673,311</b>	<b>(1,210)</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>					
Corrections	2,051	0	2,051	2,016	(35) <sup>9</sup>
Policing and Community Safety	184	0	184	172	(12) <sup>10</sup>
Emergency Management BC	189	0	189	199	10 <sup>11</sup>
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	68	0	68	71	3
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	Moved to Ministry of Housing and Social Development				
Liquor Control and Licensing	Moved to Ministry of Housing and Social Development				
Executive and Support Services	38	0	38	22	(16) <sup>12</sup>
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	0	0	0	10	10 <sup>13</sup>
Statutory Services	3	0	3	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,533</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,533</b>	<b>2,493</b>	<b>(40)</b>

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Corrections	3,393	0	3,393	4,147	(754) <sup>14</sup>
Policing and Community Safety	469	0	469	182	287 <sup>15</sup>
Emergency Management BC	637	0	637	540	97 <sup>16</sup>
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	313	0	313	19	294 <sup>17</sup>
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	Moved to Ministry of Housing and Social Development				
Liquor Control and Licensing	Moved to Ministry of Housing and Social Development				
Executive and Support Services	100	0	100	10	90 <sup>18</sup>
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	0	0	0	48	(48) <sup>19</sup>
Statutory Services	93	0	93	58	35 <sup>20</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,005</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,005</b>	<b>5,004</b>	<b>1</b>

<sup>1</sup> The "Estimated" amount corresponds to the *Estimates* as presented to the Legislative Assembly on February 19, 2008. Gaming Policy and Enforcement and Liquor Control and Licensing were moved to the Ministry of Housing and Social Development as a result of the Cabinet reorganization that took place in June 2008.

<sup>2</sup> "Other Authorizations" includes \$37.4 million from Contingencies (All Ministries) and New Programs and \$13.0 million from Statutory Appropriation - within vote.

<sup>3</sup> Corrections operating variance is primarily due to Major Asset Maintenance requirements and additional costs due to the increasing number of offenders in custody or supervised by Community Corrections.

<sup>4</sup> Emergency Management BC includes Integrated Planning and Mitigation, the Provincial Emergency Program, the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the BC Coroners Service.

<sup>5</sup> Emergency Management BC operating variance is primarily due to body transport and pathology and toxicology cost pressures within the BC Coroners Service.

<sup>6</sup> Executive and Support Services operating variance is primarily due to spending delays for committed projects in Corporate Services.

<sup>7</sup> The *Emergency Program Act* provides for response and recovery from emergencies and disasters, and for hazard mitigation initiatives.

<sup>8</sup> Statutory Services includes the *Civil Forfeiture Act*, the Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund, the Corrections Work Program and the *Victims of Crime Act*.

<sup>9</sup> Corrections FTE variance is primarily due to challenges in hiring additional correctional officers due to a competitive job market.

<sup>10</sup> Policing and Community Safety FTE variance is primarily due to staffing shortfalls in Victim Services for the Help Starts Here Program.

<sup>11</sup> Emergency Management BC FTE variance is primarily due to caseload volume within the BC Coroners Service.

<sup>12</sup> Executive and Support Services FTE variance is primarily due to hiring delays.

<sup>13</sup> *Emergency Program Act* FTE variance is primarily due to staffing requirements of Integrated Public Safety and the Emergency Management Information System.

<sup>14</sup> Corrections capital variance is primarily due to Mandatory Operating Equipment requirements.

<sup>15</sup> Policing and Community Safety capital variance is due to project capital costs coming in under budget.

<sup>16</sup> Emergency Management BC capital variance is primarily due to delays developing the Emergency Management Information System.

<sup>17</sup> Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles capital variance is primarily due to delays developing the Core Operating System.

<sup>18</sup> Executive and Support Services capital variance is due to deferred capital spending.

<sup>19</sup> *Emergency Program Act* capital variance is primarily due to acquisition of a telephone voice recorder for the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre.

<sup>20</sup> Statutory Services capital variance is primarily due to deferred capital spending in the Corrections Work Program.

# Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Communications Office  
PO Box 9282 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J7  
Phone: 250 387-0520  
Facsimile: 250 387-1753

**Call the following headquarters telephone numbers:**

BC Coroners Service.....	604 660-7745
Civil Forfeiture Office.....	250 356-1560
Corporate Policy and Planning Office.....	250 387-0306
Corrections Branch.....	250 387-5059
Deputy Solicitor General.....	250 356-0149
Emergency Management BC.....	250 953-4002
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General .....	250 356-7717
Office of the Fire Commissioner.....	250 356-9000
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles.....	250 387-7747
Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons.....	250 953-4970
Policing and Community Safety Branch .....	250 387-1100
Provincial Emergency Program.....	250 952-4913

**The Enquiry BC contact centre provides telephone access to government information:**

In Vancouver.....	604 660-2421
In Victoria.....	250 387-6121
Toll-free elsewhere in British Columbia.....	800 663-7867
Outside British Columbia.....	604 660-2421

**VictimLINK** provides help and information for victims of family and sexual violence and all other crimes.

Call toll-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week.....1 800 563-0808