

Office of the
Premier

2015/16
Annual Service Plan Report



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Premier's Message and Accountability Statement



It is my pleasure to present the 2015/2016 Annual Service Plan Report for the Office of the Premier.

My team and I remain focused on ensuring British Columbia's long-term prosperity by continuing to grow our strong, diverse economy through the BC Jobs Plan. Since it was introduced in 2011, British Columbia has seen the largest reduction in unemployment in Canada.

That work begins with four consecutive balanced budgets, while maintaining some of Canada's lowest taxes. This achievement requires us to control spending across the public sector. That is why we have set out clear, direct Taxpayer Accountability Principles for the public sector – to ensure Crown corporations and other public entities live up to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility.

We have also seen the success of the Economic Stability Mandate, which gives public servants a stake in growing the economy, reaching affordable collective agreements with more than 80 per cent of all unionized employees in British Columbia.

We have a responsibility to lift up the most vulnerable in our society. Through the Single Parents Employment Initiative, increased earning exemptions for those living on income assistance, and a reasonable and predictable formula for minimum wage increases, we are helping more British Columbians get off social assistance, move up the income ladder, and build the lives they want.

One of the most significant factors in people's lives is the home they grow up in. Your government set an ambitious target to place 600 children in care into adoptive homes – and exceeded it, finding permanent, loving homes for 644.

Your government continues to invest in the Skills for Jobs Blueprint – getting more British Columbians trained, ready, and first in line for the one million job openings expected by 2022, with a particular focus on new opportunities for Aboriginal and First Nations communities.

British Columbians take seriously our obligation to leave this province to future generations as magnificent as we found it. That's why your government reached a landmark agreement to protect the Great Bear Rainforest, and will continue to set a global standard with Climate Action Plan 2.0, building on the success of our revenue-neutral carbon tax, which shifts taxes onto pollution and enables government to reduce taxes on investment, business, and families.

And, by getting to yes on liquefied natural gas (LNG), we will make an immense contribution to reducing global emissions by replacing less clean fuel sources in fast-growing Asian economies.

We will keep working to help ensure British Columbia is poised to lead Canada like never before.

The *Office of the Premier 2015/2016 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in *2015/16 – 2017/18 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christy Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

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Purpose of the Office of the Premier

The Premier serves as the President of the Executive Council (Cabinet) of the Government of British Columbia. The Office of the Premier assists the Premier in overseeing and leading the government as a whole. In addition, it supports the Cabinet decision-making process. As a central agency, the Office facilitates effective policy coordination across the public service and ensures a strategic and corporate level approach is undertaken on the development and implementation of key priorities. The Premier is advised by the Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service on matters of public policy, and management and operational issues.

Strategic Direction and Context

Led by the Office of the Premier, this government's strategic objective is to grow BC's strong, diverse economy through the BC Jobs Plan – creating opportunities for communities across the province, and ensuring a bright future for generations to come.

Steadfastly committed to protecting taxpayers and ensuring the sustainability of quality public services, this government will continue to control spending and maintain a balanced budget. Our commitment to cost consciousness and accountability is reflected in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles for all public entities, and in the Economic Stability Mandate for public sector workers.

Recognizing that new jobs should be created by the private sector, this government will build on the success of the BC Jobs Plan – strengthening our trade relationships with key markets in the Asia-Pacific and around the world, and working to support success in key sectors of our economy.

This government will continue to implement the Skills for Jobs Blueprint, to ensure that British Columbians are trained, ready, and first in line for new jobs, in LNG and throughout a growing economy.

Recognizing that British Columbia works best when we work together, the Office of the Premier will spearhead the continued development of stronger relationships with business, labour, First Nations, and other levels of government.

Only by growing the economy can government continue to invest in the public services and infrastructure on which British Columbians depend. The Office of the Premier will continue to work with Ministers and their staff to ensure the achievement of the objectives in their mandate.

Report on Performance

The goals of the Office of the Premier are in accordance with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles (TAP) announced by the Government in June 2014. The principles of cost consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity are central to the Premier's work in leading the work of the government as a whole and ensuring effective policy coordination and a strategic and corporate approach across the public service.

Goal 1: Government's priorities are implemented

Objective 1.1: Ministries and Crown Agency activities are integrated and aligned with government's priorities

Strategies

- Lead and support the Executive Council in the successful development and implementation of the Government Strategic Plan.
- Clearly articulate priorities of government in the Strategic Plan and assist all ministries to develop strategies to achieve the goals and priorities established in the Strategic Plan.
- Administer government's accountability framework by supporting ministries and Crown agencies in developing service plans and annual service plan reports to ensure they advance Government's Strategic Plan.
- Guide the successful delivery of ministry and Crown agency mandates by providing direction and resolving issues requiring senior government input.
- Address priority issues on behalf of Executive Council and manage issues that arise in the delivery of programs and services.

Performance Measure 1: Performance targets in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers

Performance Measure	2013/2014 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Performance targets in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers	100%	100%	100%	100% Achieved	100%	100%

Data Source: BC Public Service Agency

Discussion of Results

Within government's accountability framework there are strategies in place for all government staff, from front line workers to Deputy Ministers. The Office of the Premier is administratively responsible for the performance targets that are in place for Deputy Ministers.

There are multiple interlinking layers to government's accountability framework. The Government Strategic Plan sets out the overall priorities and goals that illustrate the Province's vision for the future. Ministry service plans have goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures with targets to accomplish those goals for the upcoming three-year period. These plans are tabled in the legislature with the budget in February of each year. In June, government, ministries and Crown agencies report on their achievements of the previous fiscal year in their service plan annual report.

Goal 2: The public service is well positioned to deliver government programs for British Columbians

Objective 2.1: BC Public Service Corporate Human Resource Plan *Being the Best* goals are realized

Strategies

- Continue to develop *Being the Best*, the Corporate Human Resource Plan for BC Public Service.
- Build new strategies and update *Being the Best* annually based on feedback and results.

Performance Measure 2: BC Public Service is recognized as a top employer

Performance Measure	2013/2014 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
BC Public Service is recognized as a top employer in British Columbia	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

Data Source: BC Public Service Agency

Discussion

In 2006, the Corporate Human Resource Plan, *Being the Best*, was developed by the Deputy Ministers' Council, led by the Deputy Minister to the Premier. The Council is committed to achieving the status of the BC Government as a top employer through ongoing implementation of the plan and its companion strategies with the involvement of the BC Public Service.

Recent recognitions for the BC Public Service include: Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2016, BC's Top Employers for 2016, Canada's Top Family Friendly Employers for 2016, Canada's Greenest Employers for 2016 and Top Employers for Canadians over 40 for 2016.

Goal 3: Cabinet and Cabinet Committees are able to make timely and well-informed decisions

Objective 3.1: Cabinet and its Committees are supported with timely and effective advice

Strategies

- Support Cabinet and its Committees by ensuring they have appropriate advice on key policy, program and legislative initiatives, which align with government priorities, including an ability to measure the success of the initiatives.
- Effectively provide necessary and the appropriate logistical support for the operations and decision-making process of Cabinet and its Committees.
- Continue to use technologies and tools to improve efficiencies in the logistical support of Cabinet and its Committees.

Performance Measure 3: Cabinet receives timely advice on all key policy recommendations and plans

Performance Measure	2013/2014 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target²	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Cabinet receives timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans	100%	100%	100%	100% ACHIEVED	100%	100%

Data Source: Cabinet Operations

Discussion of Results

All major policies, programs and initiatives are reviewed by Cabinet or a Cabinet Committee to ensure alignment with government strategic priorities. There are currently nine Cabinet Committees and Cabinet working groups, each making recommendations to Cabinet on specific programs and initiatives within their respective mandates. For example, the Environment and Land Use Committee reviews issues affecting the province's land base and ensures that both economic and environmental considerations are balanced.

Cabinet Committees and ministries provided prompt and effective advice enabling timely and well-informed Cabinet decisions benefiting British Columbians.

Goal 4: Government is successful in achieving its intergovernmental relations objectives

Objective 4.1: British Columbia’s priorities are advanced through leadership in intergovernmental, bilateral and multilateral partnerships and international relations.

Strategies

- Engage the federal government in achieving BC priorities.
- Strengthen partnerships with other provinces through bilateral and multilateral co-operation on shared priorities discussed at the Council of the Federation and other Premiers’ meetings.
- Positively influence the policies and programs of other governments that affect the interests of British Columbia through enhanced economic, cultural and diplomatic ties and programs.
- Establish regional leadership, shared economic and environmental priorities, such as action on jobs and border management, through joint Cabinet meetings with the State of Washington, the Pacific Coast Collaborative, and British Columbia's participation in the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER).

Performance Measure 4: Progress on Intergovernmental Relations key issues

Performance Measure	2013/2014 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target²	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Progress on key issues in Intergovernmental Relations Plan	Progress on key issues achieved	Progress on key issues achieved	Progress on key issues	Progress on key issues achieved	Progress on key issues achieved	Progress on key issues achieved

Data Source: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

Discussion of Results

Each year, the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) updates its service plan with multi-year key objectives and major projects. During 2015/16, IGRS has advanced B.C.’s intergovernmental priorities by working across government and with other partners to facilitate and build effective government-to-government partnerships with the federal government, other provinces and territories, the United States federal government and regional U.S. states, and other international partners, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

Results for 2015/16 include:

- **Bilateral inter-provincial cooperation:** British Columbia participated in productive bilateral Premier-to-Premier discussions throughout the year. The results included:
 - signature of an agreement to enhance workforce cooperation with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (July 2015);
 - signature of an agreement on trades training in the shipbuilding and industrial marine industry with the Government of Nova Scotia (July 2015);
 - signature of a letter of intent to collaborate on shared priorities with the Government of Yukon;
 - working meetings with other Premiers to discuss shared priorities and economic opportunities.

- **Multilateral inter-provincial cooperation:** British Columbia continues to play an important role in the work of the Council of the Federation and other meetings of Premiers. During 2015/16, Canada's Premiers agreed, among other things, to:
 - Work toward the completion of a comprehensive renewal of the Agreement on Internal Trade;
 - explore ways to improve processes for collecting Maintenance Enforcement Program payments when the payer and recipient live in different provinces or territories;
 - implement an apprenticeship mobility protocol;
 - implement the Canadian Energy Strategy.

Also, during 2015/16, Western Premiers met by teleconference to discuss ways to sustain economic growth in the West for the benefit of all Canadians. This included discussions of trade, transportation, infrastructure, labour mobility, climate action, disaster assistance and mitigation, Aboriginal children in care, and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

- **Cooperation with the federal government:** British Columbia engaged the federal government throughout the year on a range of issues important to the province, including softwood lumber, infrastructure, immigration and climate change.
 - Since the 2015 federal general election, British Columbia has communicated a consistent set of priorities to the new federal government in bilateral meetings and correspondence with the Prime Minister and with federal Ministers.
 - British Columbia also played an important role in the November 2015 and March 2016 First Ministers' Meetings, which resulted, among other things, in the Vancouver Declaration on Clean Growth and Climate Change.
 - Supporting Canada's national unity: By continuing to align the implementation of the Canada-British Columbia Official Languages Agreement on French-Language Services with our provincial priorities the Province is making a tangible contribution to the recognition of one of the fundamental characteristics of Canadian society.

- **Advocacy with the United States:** The United States is a key partner for Canada and B.C. Working with colleagues in other provincial and federal agencies, IGRS engages closely with states and the U.S. federal government to advance B.C.'s priorities and interests. Our approach is seen as a model for cooperative US-Canada relations. Examples of success from the past year include:
 - **Cooperation with Alaska** – Signed the *Memorandum of Understanding of Cooperation Between the State of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia* which reflects commitment to work together to enhance the protection of Transboundary rivers and watersheds along the border. The MOU also promotes cooperation and sharing of best practices in areas such as Workforce Development and Training; Marine Transportation Reliability and Safety; Emergency Management Mutual Aid Response; Tourism; Transportation, and other areas.
 - **PNWER** – British Columbia engaged with other governments and private sector members of PNWER to promote BC priorities such as keeping the Canada-US border open for legitimate trade and tourism and increasing economic opportunities for BC companies in areas such as clean energy. In recognition of BC's regional leadership, the Premier's designated lead was elected as Canadian Vice President for PNWER in July 2015.
 - **Pacific Coast Collaborative** – the Province leveraged the shared goals and objectives set out in British Columbia's agreements with the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska including the implementation of the regional jobs strategy and the action plan on climate and clean energy. The Province joined with Pacific Coast Collaborative leaders at the UN COP21 climate negotiations in Paris to promote our west coast model of regional climate leadership and cooperation, and leverage support for an ambitious outcome.
 - **Environment and Climate Change** – British Columbia worked with BC stakeholders, the federal government, and US federal and state agencies to facilitate the management of transboundary environmental and resource management concerns consistent with the Province's high environmental standards and climate action leadership.
- **International engagement:** The Province cultivates relations with foreign governments through direct bilateral relations and engagement with representatives of other governments:
 - **Trade and Investment Missions** – In 2015, IGRS supported the successful Premier's mission to China. The purpose of the mission was to affirm BC's commitment to strong sister-province relations with Guangdong Province and develop new export markets in China. While there, the Premier met with Guangdong Governor ZHU Xiaodan, HU Chunhua, member of China's Political Bureau, CPC Central Committee and Guangdong Province Party Secretary and other government and business leaders. Trade missions are an important part of British Columbia's international engagement strategy to support economic growth and job creation throughout the province.
 - **High Level Visits** – In April 2015, Premier Clark welcomed His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, who visited Vancouver as part of a three city Canadian tour. It was just the second time in history that an Indian Prime Minister has visited British Columbia. In May 2015, the Premier also met with His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines.

- **Engagement with the Consular Corps and Diplomatic Corps** – Priorities of the BC Government in Agriculture, Energy & Mines, Environment and Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation were advanced by:
 - Engaging the Consular and Diplomatic corps representing 29 countries in the November 2015 Consular Corps Ministerial Briefing;
 - Co-ordinating the involvement of 14 members of the Consular Corps in the Lieutenant Governor’s Awards for Excellence in BC Wines in July 2015; responding to more than 200 international visit enquiries and delivering 114 visits directly. Approximately 40 per cent of those visits were from Asian and South Asian countries including China.

- **Supporting citizen engagement:**
 - The Honours and Awards Secretariat processed and submitted 215 Order of British Columbia nominations for the OBC Advisory Council to review and evaluate in 2016, and 251 nominations in 2015. 16 new members were appointed in 2015 at an investiture ceremony held at Government House last June. Since its inception in 1989, 386 British Columbian’s have been appointed to the Order of British Columbia.
 - The Honours and Awards Secretariat processed and submitted 222 Medal of Good Citizenship nominations for the MGC Selection Committee to review and evaluate in 2016 for the inaugural year. As of May 5, 2016, six citizens had received the medal at regional ceremonies throughout the Province. Further announcements will be made before the end of June 2016.
 - Congratulatory messages from the Government to British Columbians: IGRS received and processed more than 2,000 birthday and anniversary greetings for official congratulatory messages to BC residents celebrating significant milestones in their lives.
 - Use of “B.C.” or “British Columbia” in a name: IGRS reviewed 272 applications, approving 232 and rejecting 40.

- **Technology:** British Columbia actively advanced the use of cost-effective telepresence technology in engagements with other governments, including BC’s domestic and international trade interests, approaches to Asia, and other intergovernmental priorities. IGRS also used telepresence extensively to manage cross-government coordination of BC’s intergovernmental priorities.

Financial Report

Financial Report Summary Table¹

Core Business Areas	15/16 Estimated	Other Authorizations ₁	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	2,463	0	2,463	2,441	22
Executive and Support Services	6,565	0	6,565	6,278	287
Sub Total - Operating Expenses	9,028	0	9,028	8,719	309
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9,028	0	9,028	8,719	309
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	1	0	1	0	1
Total	1	0	1	0	1
Capital Plan (\$000)					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0	0	0	0	0
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	0	0	0	0	0

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to 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.

Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Contact Information

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Hyperlinks to additional information

Office of the Premier: www.gov.bc.ca/premier/index.html