

Ministry of
Small Business and Red Tape Reduction
and Responsible for the
Liquor Distribution Branch

2015/16
Annual Service Plan Report



For more information on the British Columbia Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch see the Ministry's contact information on page 13 or contact:

Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch

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Published by the Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch

Minister's Message and Accountability Statement



Continuing to grow our strong economy in British Columbia depends on a healthy and diverse small business sector.

Over the past year we have continued our focus on supporting small businesses by expanding BizPal to 129 communities and making Mobile Business Licenses available in 73 communities. Our ministry also launched a new toolkit to help people starting a restaurant, in consultation with industry. To support the sector, we continued to implement the Small Business Accord and worked closely with the Small Business Roundtable to ensure entrepreneurs are aware of the tools and resources available to help them grow.

We also continue to build support for small business growth and diversification in non-resource based sectors, such as technology. This sector has seen the fastest regional growth of any non-traditional sector, with over 1,250 new technology businesses started in B.C. over the past five years. More than 95 per cent of businesses in our technology sector are small businesses and 69 per cent have less than four employees.

Our government knows that one of the best ways to support small businesses and connect citizens with the services they need is to reduce red tape. That's why in the fall of 2015 we held a six-week online public engagement that drew more than 5,900 participants and resulted in more than 400 ideas on reducing red tape. We listened to what British Columbians had to say and committed to over 60 actions, based on their ideas, to improve service delivery in 2016/17. We also launched a suggestion button on the Province's homepage so British Columbians can share their ideas to help cut red tape all year long.

In 2015 we announced that the first Wednesday in March each year would be officially known as Red Tape Reduction Day, a day that enshrines our commitment to regulatory reform and improving the lives of British Columbians. Our first celebration was a great success, with the repeal of more than 30 items that lowered the regulatory count by over 200. For the fifth year in a row we've been recognized as national leaders for our regulatory reform efforts by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

We are also continuing to improve customer choice and convenience by updating the province's liquor laws to better reflect British Columbia's modern society. We have already implemented more than half of the 73 recommendations from the liquor policy review, including the introduction of B.C. wine in grocery stores, permitting liquor sales at artisan markets and extending hotel room service for liquor to 24/7. As we move forward, we remain focused on our commitment to make common-sense changes that improve consumer convenience and encourage economic growth while safeguarding public health and safety.

As a new ministry, I'm proud of the work we've achieved over this past year to reduce red tape in order to improve services for citizens and small businesses and to support our liquor industry.

The Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch 2015/16 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected

results identified in the 2015/16 – 2017/18 service plans of the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and the Ministry of Justice. I am accountable for those results as reported.



*Honourable Coralee Oakes
Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction
And Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch*

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Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch](#) was established in July 2015 to align key government portfolios to better support B.C.'s small businesses and citizens. The Ministry supports increased small business growth, the development of a modern regulatory environment for citizens and businesses, and a balanced approach to protecting public health and safety, providing more convenience for consumers, and streamlining regulations for the liquor industry.

The Ministry also supports government's economic strategy, *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, by providing access to tools and resources that support the growth of small businesses and by leading cross-government efforts to reduce red tape that hinders economic development and makes it difficult for citizens and businesses to interact with government. The Ministry collaborates with government, industry and communities to ensure simplified processes for businesses, easy access to services for citizens, and a more competitive climate for B.C.

The effective delivery of the Ministry's mandate relies on key legislation, including: the *Regulatory Reporting Act*; the *Red Tape Reduction Day Act*; the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*; and the *Liquor Distribution Act*. The Ministry is responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch.¹

Strategic Direction and Context

Established in July 2015, the Ministry's strategic direction for 2015/16 year included:

- **Premier Christy Clark's June 10, 2014 mandate letters** to Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business Naomi Yamamoto and Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton, which preceded the creation of the Ministry, but included direction relating to the small business, regulatory reform and the liquor portfolios for the 2015/16 fiscal year.
- **Premier Clark's July 30, 2015 mandate letter** to Honourable Coralee Oakes, which included direction to: balance the ministry budget; implement the Small Business Awareness Strategy; work with the provincial Small Business Roundtable to grow small business; reduce red tape for British Columbians; explore ways to increase small business exports; and implement the recommendations of the *B.C. Liquor Policy Review: Final Report*.

More information on these mandate letters can be found in Appendix D of this report. In 2015/16 the Ministry also worked with the Liquor Distribution Branch to ensure that the Taxpayer Accountability Principles were reflected in their operations and communications.

Small business drives job creation, productivity and economic growth. In 2015, there were approximately 380,000 small businesses operating in B.C., nearly 80 per cent of which have fewer than five employees. Together, small businesses employed over a million people in B.C., generated about 30 per cent of the province's GDP and made up approximately 85 per cent of all provincial exporters.

Regulatory reform streamlines the processes for complying with regulations and accessing government services. Since 2001, the province has reduced regulatory requirements by 47 per cent

¹ More information about the Liquor Distribution Branch, including its annual report, is available [online](#).

while streamlining programs and enhancing access to key services. This work continued in 2015/16, strengthening B.C.'s reputation as a national leader in regulatory reform.

In 2015/16 British Columbia's liquor industry was comprised mostly of small businesses, with 10,543 licensees, including: 5,946 restaurants; 2,279 pubs; bars and lounges; 671 private liquor stores; 814 agents; 501 liquor manufacturers such as wineries, breweries and distilleries; 34 catering licensees; 239 UBrew/UVins; and 59 wine stores. Based on the recommendations of the 2013 *B.C. Liquor Policy Review*, the Ministry continued to transform provincial liquor laws and policies over the past year to better reflect current lifestyles and removed barriers to growth, while ensuring public health and safety.

Report on Performance

Because the Ministry was created in July 2015—well into the 2015/16 fiscal year—the reference points for this year's annual reporting include:

1. Portions of the 2015/16 – 2017/18 service plans of the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and the Ministry of Justice which set the goals, strategies and performance targets for the 2015/16 year for the small business, regulatory reform and liquor portfolios. These service plans were published in February 2015 and were informed by the June 2014 mandate letters from Premier Clark.
2. The July 2015 mandate letter to Honourable Coralee Oakes, which provided additional direction, specific to the newly established Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch.

By the end of the 2015/16 fiscal year, two out of 10 of the relevant 2014 mandate letter deliverables (#1 above) had been fully completed, with the remaining eight being of an ongoing nature (see Appendix D for details). A preliminary report on progress towards the deliverables stemming from the July 2015 mandate letter (#2 above) can also be found in Appendix D. A final report will be provided in the Ministry's next annual service plan report in July 2017.

The Ministry worked to achieve the following goals during the past fiscal year:

- Goal 1: A thriving small business sector that powers the growth of the provincial economy
- Goal 2: Reduced red tape, to make it easier to interact with government and to foster economic growth
- Goal 3: Modern liquor laws for citizens, industry and small business

At the end of the fiscal year, out of the Ministry's two performance measure targets for the year, one was exceeded, and one was met.

The Ministry operates under the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles*, which strengthen accountability to the citizens of B.C. by providing a common platform of compensation and accountability across the public sector. The six principles—cost-consciousness (efficiency), accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity—are integrated into the Ministry's operations and reflected by the goals, objectives and measures of its service plans. In 2015/16 the Ministry also worked with the Liquor Distribution Branch to ensure that the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles* were reflected in their operations and communications.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: A thriving small business sector that powers the growth of the provincial economy

Objective 1.1: Make B.C. the most small business friendly jurisdiction in Canada

Strategies

Key strategies pursued in 2015/16 included:

- Leading and monitoring the implementation of the *B.C. Small Business Accord*, including new actions identified through consultations, the *B.C. Jobs Plan* and the B.C. Small Business Roundtable.
- Launching and implementing the *Small Business Awareness Strategy* to ensure small businesses are aware of the tools and resources available to them in order to grow their business.
- Continuing to provide and improve tools and resources to support the start-up and growth of small businesses, including BizPaL and the resources available on the Small Business BC website.
- Continuing to consult and work with local governments to expand the Mobile Business Licence Program to streamline and simplify the licensing process, making it easier to do business in B.C.
- Supporting the reduction of the small business tax rate from 2.5 to 1.5 per cent.
- Implementing government's commitment to increase procurement from small businesses by 20 per cent (approximately \$40 million).
- Providing clarity about government processes and regulatory requirements with the greatest impact on small businesses, including mapping the process and licenses required to start a restaurant, and providing a one-stop webpage for potential and current restaurateurs.
- Working with the Ministry of International Trade to explore ways to increase the ability of B.C.'s small businesses to export their products to new markets.
- Working with the Ministry of International Trade on ways to expand the LNG-Buy BC online tool to other sectors of the provincial economy.

Goal 2: Reduced red tape, to make it easier to interact with government and to foster economic growth

Objective 2.1: Reduce red tape for businesses and citizens

Strategies

Key strategies pursued in 2015/16 included:

- Extending government’s commitment to net zero increase in regulatory requirements to 2019, to support cross-government efforts to reduce red tape and maintain the Regulatory Requirements Count Database to measure progress.
- In line with recommendations of the Core Review process, contributing to streamlining government regulations, processes and services in support of increased economic development (e.g. through investigating options to further reduce red tape for key sectors of the economy).
- Updating the provincial regulatory reform policy and training materials to ensure inclusion of more qualitative performance measurement approaches to regulatory reform for the benefit of citizens and businesses.
- Publishing an *Annual Regulatory Reform Report*, as per the *Regulatory Reporting Act*.
- Consulting with British Columbians from October to December 2015 about simple fixes the B.C. government could introduce to help cut red tape for citizens and businesses.
- Introducing legislation for an honorary day focused on red tape reduction and celebrating the inaugural Red Tape Reduction Day in March 2016.
- Introducing franchise legislation that is consistent with the *Uniform Franchises Act* and legislation used in five other provinces. The *Franchises Act* will come into force when the regulations are complete and when the franchise and legal communities have had time to learn the new law.

Performance Measure 1: Net change in the number of government-wide regulatory requirements since 2004

| Performance Measure | 2013/2014 Actual | 2014/15 Actual | 2015/16 Target | 2015/16 Actual | 2016/17 Target | 2017/18 Target |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Net change in the number of government-wide regulatory requirements since 2004 | 206,566 -9.8% ¹ | 174,821 -11.4% ¹ | 0 net increase ² | 174,299 -11.6% ² | 0 net increase ² | 0 net increase ² |

Data Source: Small Business and Regulatory Reform Division, Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch.

¹ Restated from 204,826 as a result of the 2015/16 database verification project.

² From the 2004 baseline.

Discussion:

A modern, efficient regulatory environment is critical to the ability of businesses to invest and grow in this province. The net zero increase target reflects government’s continued commitment to reducing the regulatory burden placed on citizens and businesses. Government has exceeded the goal of zero net increase in regulatory requirements in 2015/16, achieving an 11.6 per cent reduction from the 2004 baseline count, for a total reduction of 47 per cent since 2001. The Ministry publishes regulatory count information on its website at www.gov.bc.ca/regulatoryreform.

Goal 3: Modern liquor laws for citizens, industry and small business

Strategies

Key strategies pursued in 2015/16 included:

- Continuing to implement the recommendations put forward in the *B.C. Liquor Policy Review Final Report*, which stemmed from extensive stakeholder consultations that were one of the Province’s most successful public engagements.
- Implementing 13 of the *B.C. Liquor Policy Review* recommendations, including:
 - In Oct 2015, changing the policy to broaden the definition of “markets” and permitting manufacturers to sell at artisan and annual holiday markets.
 - Permitting manufacturers in B.C. who have a lounge or special event area to serve other types of alcohol for customers to enjoy during their visit.
 - Making food primary policies more flexible for patrons and licensees.
- Bringing the Special Wine Store Licence Auction Act into force on February 18, 2016 in order to enable auctions that provide the opportunity to apply for a limited number of licences to sell 100 per cent B.C. wine on grocery store shelves.
- Working with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities on ways to streamline the liquor primary application process.

Performance Measure 2: Rate of liquor store compliance with ID-checking requirements

| Performance Measure | 2013/2014 Baseline | 2014/15 Actual | 2015/16 Target | 2015/16 Actual | 2016/17 Target | 2017/18 Target |
|---|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Percentage of inspections of liquor stores where the stores are found to be in compliance with ID-checking requirements | 79.6% | 68% ¹ | 82% | 82% | N/A ² | N/A ² |

Data Source: Liquor Control and Licensing Branch, Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch.

¹ This number was reported in error as “95%” in the *Ministry of Justice and Attorney General 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report*.

² In 2016/17, this measure was replaced by one that tracks compliance of a broader set of liquor establishments (e.g. grocery stores selling wine on their shelves, manufacturers with on-site stores and bars and restaurants) in addition to liquor stores. See the Ministry’s *2016/17 – 2018/19 Service Plan* for details on the new measure.

Discussion:

Preventing the sale of liquor to minors is a key public safety priority for government, given the potentially devastating consequences of underage drinking. It is also against the law to sell, serve or supply liquor to a minor. Under the authority of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, the Ministry

employs minors to test whether licensees and their staff are selling to minors. The Minors as Agents program is the most cost-effective way to monitor and increase compliance in this critical area.

The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch conducts both random inspections and intelligence based inspections. The compliance rate and inspection data indicates that the program is having a positive impact. At the same time, there is more work needed by industry and government to prevent the sale of liquor to minors at licensed establishments and liquor stores.

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

This Discussion of Results reports on the Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch financial results for the year ended March 31, 2016 and should be read in conjunction with the Financial Report Summary Table provided below.

Operations:

The Ministry was established during the 2015/16 fiscal year and its operations are comprised of the following core business areas: Small Business and Regulatory Reform, Liquor Control and Licensing and Executive and Support Services.

Financial Report Summary Table

| | Estimated | Other Authorizations ¹ | Total Estimated | Actual | Variance |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Operating Expenses (\$000) | | | | | |
| Small Business and Regulatory Reform | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,440 | (60) |
| Liquor Control and Licensing | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Executive and Support Services (Transfer from Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training) | 0 | 283 | 283 | 273 | (10) |
| Executive and Support Services (Transfer from Ministry of Justice) | 0 | 130 | 130 | 124 | (6) |
| Total | 0 | 2,914 | 2,914 | 2,838 | (76) |

¹ Other Authorizations:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Government Reorganization | \$2.914 M |
| Transfer from the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training | \$2.783 M |
| Transfer from the Ministry Justice | \$0.131 M |

Appendix A: Contact Information

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For more information about the Ministry and its services, see the [Ministry's website](#).

To contact a specific person or program in the Ministry, please refer to the [B.C. Government Directory](#).

Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

[Liquor Distribution Branch](#)

Appendix C: N/A

This appendix relates to significant independent or semi-independent operating segments. There are no such segments within the Ministry.

Appendix D: Minister’s Mandate and Actions Summary

The Premier’s June 10, 2014 mandate letters to the former Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business Naomi Yamamoto and Minister of Justice and Attorney General Suzanne Anton helped inform the Ministry’s priorities for the 2015/16 fiscal year. These priorities and the resulting actions are summarized below:

| Mandate Letter Direction to Hon. Naomi Yamamoto | Ministry’s Action (in 2015/16) |
|--|--|
| 1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia. | Completed - The Ministry has balanced its budget in 2015/16. This will be verified by Public Accounts, which will be released in Summer 2016. |
| 2. Work with the Buy BC LNG program to ensure BC small businesses have an opportunity to participate in delivering goods and services to LNG projects. | Ongoing - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with the Ministry of International Trade and Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training on building relationships with new sectors (e.g. aerospace and shipbuilding). • 100 BC companies were sponsored at the 2015 LNG in BC Conference in Vancouver. • The LNG-Buy BC Advocate, Gordon Wilson, spoke to dozens of communities, industry associations and hundreds of businesses—including small businesses—to promote program activities and deliver clear, factual information on LNG. • More than 1,250 companies had signed onto the tool by March 31, 2016. |
| 3. Ensure implementation of the Small Business Accord and monitor for effectiveness of initiatives. | Ongoing - The Ministry undertook numerous actions in this area. The most significant included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the <i>Small Business Awareness Strategy</i>. • Assisting the Small Business Roundtable in its work, including in conducting regional consultations that help create awareness of the Accord and aligned initiatives. • Evaluating the Business Owner Succession Strategies pilot program—a mobile training program on succession planning for rural communities. • Implementing a Welcome Package for new business registrants—in partnership with the OneStop Business Registry—which includes information on resources available to small businesses. More than 13,000 registrants received the package in 2015/16. |
| 4. Implement the 12 recommendations of the Small Business-Doing Business with Government Project. | Ongoing - As of March 31, 2016, five of the 12 recommendations had been implemented, five more were in progress and the remaining two were in the planning stages. Implementation of the majority of the |

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| | recommendations rests largely with the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services and the Ministry of Finance. |
| 5. Continue to work with local governments to secure additional mobile business licence opportunities. | <p>Ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pilot Fraser Valley and Metro West Inter-municipal Business Licence Agreements became permanent agreements. • The Districts of Kent and Delta joined the Fraser Valley agreement. • A new mobile business licence agreement was launched in the Sunshine Coast and included the Town of Gibsons, the Sechelt Indian Government District and the District of Sechelt. This was the first mobile business licence to include a First Nations partner. |
| 6. Work with the Ministry of Finance to deliver the small business tax reduction as committed in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow. | <p>Ongoing - Continued to support the Ministry of Finance's work in this area. Government recently recommitted to reducing the small business tax from 2.5 to 1.5 per cent.</p> |
| 9. Continue to work with the Small Business Roundtable to provide options to government on how to improve small business opportunities to succeed in our province. | <p>Ongoing - Numerous meetings have been held with the Small Business Roundtable in 2015/16. The first regional small business consultation occurred on January 14, 2016 in Coquitlam, asking participants key questions around opportunities for growth for the sector, changes government can make to enhance the business environment and potential innovation opportunities.</p> |
| 10. Continue to support small business through red tape reduction initiatives. | <p>Ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) on ways to streamline the liquor primary application process and implemented other liquor policy reforms. • Worked with restaurant and food services sector to develop a checklist and a process map for starting a restaurant in B.C. • Established annual Red Tape Reduction Day in November and celebrated the first Red Tape Reduction Day in March 2016. • Included red tape reduction statement recommendations in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles for the economy sector. • Integrated red tape considerations in IM/IT capital investment criteria. • Extended government's commitment to a net zero increase in regulatory requirements to 2019. • Engaged with British Columbians on their ideas for reducing red tape. • Developed a refreshed Regulatory Reform Policy that |

| | <p>includes a more robust small business lens to help ensure that any new or amended statutes, regulations, and supporting policies and forms consider and mitigate their impact on small business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received an “A” grade in red tape reduction from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business for the fifth year in a row—the only province to have done so. |
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| Mandate Letter Direction to Hon. Suzanne Anton | Ministry’s Action (in 2015/16) |
| 2. Implement the recommendations of the report by Parliamentary Secretary John Yap on provincial liquor regulatory reform. | <p>Ongoing - Implemented 13 of the <i>B.C. Liquor Policy Review</i> recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed liquor policy to permit manufacturers to sell at artisan and annual holiday markets. Permitted manufacturers who have a lounge or special event area to serve other types of alcohol. Made food primary policies more flexible for patrons and licensees. <p>As of March 31, 2016, 41 of the 73 recommendations have been implemented.</p> |
| 3. Re-write the Liquor Control and Licensing Act for introduction in the Spring 2015 legislative session. | <p>Completed - The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch rewrote the <i>Liquor Control and Licensing Act</i>, which will provide legislative authority for many of the remaining recommendations. Regulations are currently being drafted to bring the new <i>Act</i> into force.</p> |

The following table provides a preliminary status report on the deliverables based on the July 30, 2015 mandate letter to Honourable Coralee Oakes. This was the first mandate letter to lay out direction specifically for the newly established Ministry of Small Business, Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch. A final status report will be provided in next year’s annual service plan report.

| Mandate Letter Direction to Coralee Oakes | Ministry’s Action (in 2015/16) |
|--|--|
| 1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia. | <p>Completed - The Ministry has balanced its budget in 2015/16. This will be verified by Public Accounts, which will be released in Summer 2016.</p> |
| 2. Complete the implementation of the recommendations of the report by Parliamentary Secretary John Yap to ensure British Columbian consumers continue to benefit from these reforms through enhanced competition and increased retail choice. | <p>Ongoing - Implemented 13 of the <i>B.C. Liquor Policy Review</i> recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed liquor policy to permit manufacturers to sell at artisan and annual holiday markets. Permitted manufacturers who have a lounge or special event area to serve other types of alcohol. Made food primary policies more flexible for patrons and licensees. <p>As of March 31, 2016, 41 of the 73 recommendations of the <i>Liquor Policy Review</i> have been implemented.</p> |

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| <p>3. Work with the UBCM on ways to streamline the liquor primary application process</p> | <p>Ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive consultations were conducted, resulting in an agreement between the UBCM and the Province to process their respective portions of the liquor primary application in parallel, rather than sequentially. • Work was also conducted on the new application process, including work to update forms and systems to accommodate process changes and to draft new regulations. |
| <p>4. Provide an update to Cabinet on the impact of liquor reforms by December 31, 2015</p> | <p>Completed -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update was provided to the Planning and Priorities Committee in 2015/16. |
| <p>5. Continue to implement the Small Business Awareness Strategy to ensure small businesses are aware of the tools and resources available to them in order to grow their businesses.</p> | <p>Ongoing - The Ministry has delivered on a significant number of accomplishments in this area. Key examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching a Welcome Package for new business registrants—in partnership with the OneStop Business Registry—which includes information on resources available to small businesses. More than 13,000 registrants received the package in 2015/16. • In partnership with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, delivering a webinar to all regions of B.C. on Small Business BC and its services. • Participating in numerous trade show events including the BC Tech Summit and the Small Business Information Expo. • Successfully delivering the Small Business Month in October 2015. • Holding the first regional small business consultation, hosted by the Small Business Roundtable, in January 2016. |
| <p>6. In advance of the possible introduction of a Franchises Act in the province, undertake a consultation with the franchise community to determine if it is required and, if so, what elements they would like to see in such legislation.</p> | <p>Completed -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Franchises Act</i> received Royal Assent on November 17, 2015. • The Ministry conducted consultations with franchisees, franchisors and legal advisors who will assist in implementing new regulations. |
| <p>7. Work with the LNG-Buy BC program to ensure BC small businesses have an opportunity to participate in delivering goods and services to LNG projects</p> | <p>Ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with the Ministry of International Trade and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training on building relationships with new sectors (e.g. aerospace and shipbuilding). • 100 BC companies were sponsored at the 2015 LNG in BC Conference in Vancouver. • The LNG-Buy BC Advocate, Gordon Wilson, spoke to dozens of communities, industry associations and |

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| | <p>hundreds of businesses—including small businesses—to promote program activities and deliver clear, factual information regarding LNG.</p> |
| <p>8. Work with the provincial Small Business Roundtable to implement the recommendations they have made to grow small business and implement the Small Business Accord.</p> | <p>Ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked to develop the 2016 Open for Business Awards: Best Practices Guide, in order to celebrate initiatives that are helping establish BC as the most small business friendly jurisdiction in Canada. • Held numerous meetings with the Small Business Roundtable. • Held the first regional small business consultation, hosted by the Small Business Roundtable, to seek feedback about opportunities and challenges facing B.C. small businesses. |
| <p>9. Work with the Minister of International Trade to review and make options to Cabinet on ways to expand the LNG-Buy BC online tool to other sectors of the provincial economy.</p> | <p>Ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked across government to enhance the LNG-Buy BC tool to promote the visibility of over 850 BC small businesses to procurement opportunities. • Worked with Small Business BC to help promote the tool to small businesses. |
| <p>10. Work with the Minister of International Trade to explore ways to increase the ability of B.C.'s small businesses to export their products to new markets.</p> | <p>Ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with government partners on the development of a single-window export service delivery model that will identify all provincial, federal and municipal services available to help small businesses wanting to export to new markets. |
| <p>11. Make recommendations to Cabinet on ways to highlight regulatory reform and red tape reduction in British Columbia.</p> | <p>Ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through a public engagement process held between October 22nd and December 3, 2015, the Ministry heard directly from British Columbians on ways the B.C. government can save time and provide easier access to services. By March 2016, 65 actions stemming from that engagement were either underway or completed. • Launched a new suggestion button on government's main webpage so that citizens can share their ideas to cut red tape 24 hours a day, seven days a week. • Profiled regulatory reform and red tape reduction in B.C.'s <i>Annual Report</i> for regulatory reform, as well as during Red Tape Awareness Week and on the first annual Red Tape Reduction Day on March 2, 2016, when the repeal of 37 items resulted in 215 fewer regulatory requirements for citizens and businesses. |
| <p>12. Work with all ministries to identify opportunities to reduce or eliminate outdated regulation and reduce red tape for British Columbians. As part of this</p> | <p>Ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted the <i>Red Tape Reduction Day Act</i>, which establishes a clear statutory commitment to streamline |

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| <p>work, examine the current Regulatory Impact Assessment and consider changes to ensure regulatory impacts are identified and mitigated as early as possible in the development process.</p> | <p>and modernize the provincial regulatory framework, to highlight the efforts of red tape related initiatives underway, and to manage the risk of future regulatory creep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consulted with all ministries to develop a refreshed Regulatory Reform Policy, which now includes a new Regulatory Impact Assessment Questionnaire. This questionnaire helps ensure regulatory impacts to citizens and businesses are identified and mitigated as early as possible in the development process. |
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