

Office of the Premier

2022/23

Annual Service Plan Report

August 2023



For more information on the Office of the Premier, please contact us at:

PO BOX 9041

STN PROV GOVT

Victoria, B.C.

250-387-1715

Or visit our website at:

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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Office of the Premier 2022/23 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2022/23 - 2024/25 Service Plan published in 2022. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Eby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable David Eby
Premier
July 26, 2023

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Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

This annual service plan report has been developed to meet the requirements of the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Minister is required to report on the actual results of the Ministry's performance related to the forecasted targets stated in the service plan for the reported year.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2020 shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [Office of the Premier 2022/23-2024/25 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

The Premier serves as the President of the Executive Council (Cabinet) of the Government of British Columbia. The Office of the Premier (the Office) assists the Premier in overseeing and leading government and 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 B.C. Public Service on matters of public policy, and management and operational issues. The Office of the Premier:

- Articulates government's goals, commitments, and priorities through ministry mandate letters, and works with ministries and Crown agencies to ensure communication of those goals, commitments, and priorities and to track and monitor their implementation.
- Leads the public service and, with the Deputy Ministers' Council, commits to be a top employer that maintains and enhances public trust, builds capacity, increases our competitiveness, and manages for results.
- Provides support for the operations and decision-making processes of Cabinet and its committees; and
- Works directly with the federal, provincial, and territorial governments in other countries and with all ministries and Crown agencies to ensure relations with the federal, provincial, territorial, and international governments advance British Columbia's interests.

Operating Environment

In 2022/23, British Columbians continued to face challenges because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of British Columbia continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of the people in this province. Government had identified five foundational principles that will inform each ministry's work and contribution to our provincial recovery: Putting people first; lasting, and meaningful reconciliation; equity and anti-racism; a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction commitments; and a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, government's priority has been making sure British Columbians are safe and have access to the critical services and supports they rely on. This will continue to be the priority even once the pandemic is over. Government is also supporting ongoing response and recovery initiatives in communities impacted by extreme weather events in 2022/23.

Economic Statement

After rebounding rapidly in 2021, British Columbia's economy saw slower yet strong growth in 2022. B.C.'s real GDP growth of 3.6 per cent last year was the fourth highest among provinces (tied with Ontario) and grew at the same pace as the national average, following growth of 6.2 per cent in 2021. Growth in B.C.'s real GDP was mostly supported by service-producing industries such as transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and professional, scientific, and technical services. Goods-producing industries also experienced growth led by construction.

While B.C.'s recovery broadened in 2022, it remained uneven as sectors such as transportation and warehousing; accommodation and food services; and arts, entertainment and recreation have yet to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels. B.C.'s labour market continued to grow in 2022, with employment growth of 3.2 per cent and an average unemployment rate of 4.6 per cent, while wages and salaries increased by 10.8 per cent. Consumer spending on goods grew slowly after a rapid expansion at the beginning of the recovery and nominal retail sales posted overall growth of 3.1 per cent. Last year, prices rose dramatically as strong demand for goods and services was met with lingering supply-chain challenges and high prices for global commodities following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In 2022, B.C.'s inflation rate averaged 6.9 per cent, the fastest annual rate since 1982, and up from 2.8 per cent in 2021. B.C. housing starts totalled 46,721 units in 2022, down 1.9 per cent compared to the previous year. Despite the decline, housing starts in 2022 were the second highest on record. Home sales fell sharply in 2022 as they adjusted to higher mortgage rates not seen since 2008. B.C. MLS home sales decreased by 35.2 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021. Meanwhile the MLS average home sale price rose by 7.4 per cent in 2022 because of strength early in the year, despite monthly declines in 9 of the last 10 months of the year.

On the external front, B.C.'s international merchandise exports grew by 20.4 per cent, boosted by strong commodity prices in the first half of 2022.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

Goal 1: Establish government goals, commitments, and strategic priorities.

Objective 1: Establish government goals, commitments, and strategic priorities.

Provide a government-wide focus on fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, responding to severe wildfire and weather events, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, providing better health care, delivering affordability and security, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods including a clean energy future.

Key results

- Government continued to deliver on its key goals, commitments, and strategic priorities of government.
- The Deputy Minister to the Premier led the Deputy Ministers' Council ensuring consistent information and direction for senior leadership to ensure government's strategic priorities are effectively met.
- Working with all ministers and ministries, government stayed within its fiscal strategy while delivering existing and new priorities.
- In collaboration with the Planning and Priorities Secretariat, the Premier's Office has established a priority sequence for the implementation of government goals, commitments, and priorities that align with the government's fiscal and delivery capacity.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers who sit on the Deputy Minister's Council, met regularly with the Deputy Minister to the Premier to discuss goals and issues within and between their Ministries. The Planning and Priorities Secretariat contributed to the coordination of this work. All 33 members of the Deputy Ministers' Council met performance expectations.

Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
1.1 Number of members of Deputy Ministers Council that are meeting performance expectations. ¹	32	32	33

Data source: Deputy Minister's Office

¹PM 1.1 targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 32 and 32, respectively.

Goal 2: Provide guidance and direction for Government of British Columbia

Objective 2.1: Lead the Executive Council

Cabinet Operations supports the Deputy Minister to the Premier in setting out the framework for Cabinet and Cabinet Committee decision-making.

Key results

- Cabinet Submissions focused on ensuring cross-government alignment with government's priorities and objectives.
- Effective logistical support for the operations and decision-making process of Cabinet and its committees continues throughout the year.
- Cabinet and Cabinet Committee decision-making was accurately recorded.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

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

Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
2.1 Cabinet received timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans. ¹	100%	100%	100%

Data source: Cabinet Operations

¹PM 1.1 targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 100% and 100%, respectively.

Goal 3: Foster Intergovernmental Relations

Objective 3.1: Create and cultivate a network of culturally respectful relationships with other government, diverse partners, and British Columbians to showcase and advance B.C.'s strategic interests.

Key results

- Hosted the annual Council of the Federation meeting as Chair, including leading intensive cooperation and coordination among Canada's Premiers on important aspects of the united call from Premiers for a long-term, sustainable increase to health care funding that would allow greater access to health services which resulted in a federal announcement of \$46 billion in new money for provinces and territories over 10 years for health care.

- Strengthened our partnership with Washington State by working together on key priorities such as advancing a collaborative response to flooding caused by the Nooksack River and organizing a Premier- led mission to Seattle and Olympia.
- Promoted B.C.'s interests via an event featuring jurisdictional leaders from the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) at the Cascadia Innovation Corridor Conference, and by facilitating the signing of a memorandum of understanding renewing PCC members' shared commitment to increased climate ambitions.
- Advanced B.C.'s international, cultural, economic, and social objectives by delivering 67 primarily in-person meetings with foreign dignitaries and Canadian officials posted abroad. These included 24 meetings with Consuls General; 25 with Ambassadors or High Commissioners posted to Canada; 11 Ministerial level meetings and six with delegations.
- Engaged with members of B.C.'s francophone community in priority sectors such as social services, early learning, justice, economic development, area and culture, and communication to enhance the delivery of French Language services in the province of B.C.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) provided timely advice and support to the Premier and Cabinet in their engagement with the federal government, provincial/ territorial governments, and other heads of state and governments. IGRS participated in negotiations leading up to the Council of the Federation meeting, ensuring B.C.'s interests were represented in agendas and created strategic alliances, as required, to advance priorities.

Performance measure and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
3.1 Progress on Key intergovernmental objectives ¹	100%	100%	100%

Data source: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

¹PM 3.1 targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were stated in the 2022/23 service plan as 100% and 100%, respectively. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2023/24 – 2025/26, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	3,479	0,000	3,479	3,983	504
Cabinet Operations	2,099	0,000	2,099	2,056	(43)
Planning and Priorities Secretariat	1,610	0,000	1,610	1,364	(246)
Executive and Support Services	7,504	0	7,504	6,791	(713)
Premier's Office	4,810	0,000	4,810	4,851	41
Deputy Minister's Office	2,694	0,000	2,694	1,940	(754)
Sub-total	14,692	0,000	14,692	14,194	(498)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total	14,692	0,000	14,692	14,194	(498)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	3	0,000	3	0,000	(3)
Total	3	0,000	3	0,000	(3)

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.