

**Ministry of  
Jobs, Economic Recovery  
and Innovation**

**2021/22 – 2023/24  
SERVICE PLAN**

**April 2021**



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Kahlon', written in a cursive style.

Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation  
April 7, 2021

## Minister of State's Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Trade and under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, I am accountable for achieving the following results for 2021/22:

- (a) promote the 2021 BC Export Awards;
- (b) consult with key stakeholders as Ministry of Trade teams work towards developing a new B.C. Trade Diversification Strategy which should include new strategies to expand B.C.'s export opportunities;
- (c) continue to support Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. 's efforts to actively maintain, create and diversify demand for B.C.'s manufactured wood products in key international markets;
- (d) continue to promote B.C. food and agriculture exports in collaboration with the Minister of Agriculture;
- (e) promote B.C.'s Export Navigator program across B.C. to help more small businesses export their goods and services;
- (f) promote the benefits of free trade agreements to help B.C. businesses leverage new opportunities;
- (g) engage with industry stakeholders to identify sector-focused special projects that would support economic development, trade and innovation in sectors including shipbuilding, aerospace and forest innovation;
- (h) submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (a) through (g) on or before March 31, 2022.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Chow". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Honourable George Chow  
Minister of State for Trade  
April 7, 2021

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## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation is working to make life more affordable for British Columbians by building a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone.

The Ministry is guided by three fundamental pillars: innovation, sustainability and inclusiveness.

The Ministry delivers programs and services that encourage business start-up and growth through innovation and adoption of new technologies throughout the province.

Its mandate includes supporting emerging opportunities in manufacturing, shipbuilding, aerospace, aviation and mass timber. The ministry also promotes trade and investment, positioning B.C. as a global exporter of low-carbon goods and services.

The Ministry supports Indigenous peoples, small businesses and communities with economic development activities, the revitalization of traditional industries, economic diversification, job creation and strategic investments to ensure everyone benefits from growth.

The Ministry has an oversight role for the following Crown corporations: [Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.](#), [InBC Investment Corporation](#) and [Innovate BC](#).

## Strategic Direction

In 2021/22 British Columbians continue to face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of British Columbia is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Government has identified five foundational principles that will inform each ministry's work and contribute to COVID 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly reduced economic activity in B.C. in 2020. The ongoing evolution and economic cost of the pandemic on B.C. and its trading partners remains highly uncertain. The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) estimates a 5.1 per cent decline in B.C. real GDP in 2020 and expects growth of 4.9 per cent in 2021 and 4.3 per cent in 2022. Meanwhile for Canada, the EFC projects national real GDP growth of 4.7 per cent in 2021 and 4.2 per cent in 2022, following an estimated decline of 5.4 per cent in 2020. As such, B.C.'s economic growth is expected to outperform Canada's in the coming years. The pandemic has increased risks to B.C.'s economic outlook, such as the timing of the global vaccination rollout, extended travel restrictions, a weaker global recovery, and the continued impact of a slower recovery in some sectors of the B.C. economy. Further risks include ongoing uncertainty regarding global trade policies and lower commodity prices.

This 2021/22 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the [November 2020 Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

## Performance Planning

### Goal 1: Support businesses and communities to create sustainable, family supporting jobs throughout British Columbia

Goal 1 has been adjusted from the 2020/21 Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness Service Plan to better reflect the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presents for B.C. businesses as we begin to recover as well as the Ministry's new mandate.

#### Objective 1.1: Support businesses to establish, grow and anchor in B.C.

This objective has been updated to focus on the work the Ministry is doing to support B.C. businesses.

#### Key Strategies

- Continue to deliver StrongerBC programs including the Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant Program.
- Work with stakeholders to identify and address gaps related to scale-up programming including RevUP.
- Work with organizations such as Small Business BC to provide small businesses throughout the province with the supports and services they need to start up, grow and innovate.
- Ensure businesses that are not yet export-ready are supported to become exporters through Export Navigator and trade readiness programs, building capacity for international markets and attracting investment into their regions.
- Continue to leverage investment programming, such as the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit program and InBC to support business scale up.
- Support the establishment of the InBC Strategic Investment Fund.

Performance Measures	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1a Total small business venture capital leveraged through tax credit usage <sup>1</sup>	\$111M	\$88M	\$89M	\$90M
1.1b Rural small business venture capital leveraged through tax credit usage <sup>2</sup>	\$12M	\$8M	\$8.5M	\$8.5M

<sup>1</sup> Data source: Investment Capital Branch. The 30% tax credit reduces risk to B.C. investors of their investment into eligible B.C. businesses.

<sup>2</sup>Rural small business usage is a sub-component of the total small business venture capital tax credit usage detailed in 1.1a.

## **Linking Performance Measures to Objective**

Capital continues to be a critical input in helping businesses scale up. By supporting businesses throughout B.C. to access the capital needed to grow and stay in B.C., the Ministry helps establish the province as a preferred location to do business, encourages job creation and provides a catalyst for sectoral growth. The investment dollars available for venture capital can be influenced by several external market factors, therefore, original targets are being carried forward. Preliminary forecasts for 2020/21 indicate the previous targets are likely to be exceeded. Any changes will be reported in the Annual Service Plan Report. Access to investment capital in British Columbia will be further enhanced by the establishment of the [InBC Investment Corp.](#) Strategic Investment Fund.

### **Objective 1.2: Support B.C. communities, Indigenous and other underrepresented peoples to increase participation in established and emerging economic sectors**

This objective was previously Objective 3.1 in the 2020/21 Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness Service Plan. The objective has been shifted to Goal 1 as it speaks to the Ministry's commitment to encourage economic activity in British Columbian communities. This objective has also been slightly adjusted to more fully reflect government's effort to address systemic discrimination.

#### **Key Strategies**

- Engage with communities, Indigenous peoples and stakeholders throughout B.C. to identify resources and investment opportunities suitable for matching with investors and execute focused programs to strategically attract investments targeted to these opportunities.
- Coordinate Indigenous economic development activities, including through the Indigenous Economic Development Joint Office with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and secretariat support for the Indigenous Business and Investment Council.
- Continue to develop and deliver tools and resources, including webinars, workshops, digital training and toolkits, to support Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities with their economic development efforts.
- Continue a comprehensive and consolidated outreach initiative, with particular focus on underrepresented export groups, Small to Medium Enterprises and regional participation to ensure the economic benefits of trade agreements are widespread and well understood throughout B.C.
- Collaboratively develop and deliver training to under-represented groups, businesses and other British Columbians to build the skills and capabilities needed to be successful in the digital economy.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.2a Grow the total number of businesses with more than 10 employees	Baseline established	TBD	TBD	TBD

Data source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Businesses with more than 10 employees are shown to generate more economic activity domestically and internationally.

## Discussion

This is a new performance measure for the Ministry. Businesses with more than 10 employees are shown to have higher salaries and a more stable workforce. Growing the number of businesses with more than 10 employees leads to better family supporting jobs for more British Columbians.

## Objective 1.3: British Columbia’s evolving regulatory framework supports effective service delivery as well as business and economic growth

### Key Strategies

- Maintain the commitment to a zero-net increase in regulatory requirements (from the baseline set in 2004) until 2022.
- Continue to use an annual process of bundling small regulatory changes to enhance service delivery and support ongoing maintenance of B.C.’s regulatory framework.
- Build on the success of the first effort to identify and address gendered language in regulation, by leading efforts to identify and address outdated language related to inclusion, accessibility and modern service delivery.
- Continue to support ministries in providing clear and concise information about expected implications of government decisions for businesses and the economy.

Performance Measure	2004 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.3a Number of regulatory requirements <sup>1</sup>	197,242	0 net increase <sup>2</sup>	0 net increase	0 net increase	0 net increase

<sup>1</sup> Data source: Sector and Regulatory Competitiveness Branch, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation.

<sup>2</sup>From the baseline of regulatory requirements set in 2004.

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The regulatory requirements count is a long-standing proxy for the overall regulatory burden in British Columbia. Through the zero-net increase commitment, the B.C. government commits to maintaining the overall number of regulatory requirements nested in provincial statutes, regulations, policies and forms below the baseline set in 2004. This commitment encourages ministries to maintain streamlined and current regulatory frameworks, and to avoid creating requirements that stifle the development of businesses of all sizes – especially small businesses.

### Goal 2: Capitalize on British Columbia’s strengths, including our low-carbon advantage, to build a brand that attracts investment and accelerates exports

Adjusted from the 2020/21 Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness Service Plan, this goal continues to ensure B.C. is well positioned to take advantage of domestic and international trade development opportunities while highlighting B.C. as a supplier of choice for high potential markets to drive clean economic growth.

#### Objective 2.1: Assist B.C. businesses to take advantage of trade opportunities in existing and new markets and attract investment to create resiliency

##### Key Strategies

- Lead an ongoing multi-sector program of trade promotion and investment attraction activities to support B.C. exporters and communities in domestic and international markets, working with B.C.’s Trade and Investment Representatives globally.
- Identify new opportunities to diversify markets and leverage resources to build connections in new markets to highlight B.C. as a low-carbon supplier.
- Defend B.C.’s interests in trade actions and disputes to help protect B.C. businesses’ competitiveness; and utilize negotiations to further open markets to support diversification.
- Assist investors in taking significant projects from idea to completion, and bring proponents, various levels of government, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders together to advance investment decisions and lead and coordinate cross-government corporate initiatives.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.1a Number of trade and investment opportunities supported by the Ministry	550	605	665	732

Data source: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

## **Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

The Ministry has an integrated program of investment attraction and export promotion activities in B.C., and in overseas markets to support growth and diversification in the province. Established in 2019/20, this performance measure follows how well the Ministry is able to attract and promote British Columbia trade and investment opportunities and is monitored by an internal tracking system.

## **Discussion**

The forecast for 2020/21 has been adjusted to reflect the global uncertainty presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequent targets have also been adjusted to reflect our steady recovery and will be dependent on ongoing client and stakeholder feedback and development of a new trade diversification strategy.

## **Goal 3: Accelerate the innovation economy to catalyze future opportunities in core and emerging sectors to support recovery in British Columbia**

This new goal reflects the adjusted focus for the Ministry. Coupling innovation with economic goals highlight the need to boost new and developing areas of B.C.'s economy.

## **Objective 3.1: Grow sectors of emerging opportunity including agritech, mass timber and transformative technologies like artificial intelligence and position them as drivers of good jobs and revenues**

### **Key Strategies**

- Establish the Office of Mass Timber Implementation and formalize the cross-government Mass Timber Action Plan that will support clean economic growth.
- Support the work of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to move forward with the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force.
- Continue to help advance the commercialization efforts of B.C.'s quantum computing cluster.
- Work in partnership with Innovate BC, Indigenous communities, non-profits, under-represented groups, industry, the Ministries of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development and Environment & Climate Change Strategy to deliver Youth Corps programming that provides opportunities for young people to develop skills needed to engage in the innovation economy.
- Lead development and coordinate implementation of special projects that generate cleaner, more innovative, value-added economic activities in sectors including shipbuilding, aerospace, forest sector innovation, agritech and other industrial and manufacturing sectors.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
3.1 Market share of mass timber in building construction <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>2</sup>	Establish a baseline	TBD	TBD

<sup>1</sup>Data source: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

<sup>2</sup> Establish the Office of Mass Timber Implementation

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

This new performance measure will gauge the market share of mass timber as government drives system transformation in the development and construction sectors, ultimately stimulating the supply and transforming the forest product manufacturing sector. Given the elongated timelines of building construction, it is anticipated that shifts in market share will be evident over several years.

## Discussion

The Ministry is currently establishing the Office of Mass Timber Implementation (OMTI) to provide a cross-government leadership hub to coordinate policy levers and statutory authorities to accelerate demand for mass timber as a building construction material of choice. This new performance measure will be developed in fiscal year 2021/22, and ministry staff will collaborate across the sectors to inform the establishment of future targets.

## Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Trade and Industry Development <sup>2</sup>	25,801	25,903	27,117	27,117
Small Business and Economic Development	8,070	8,319	8,319	8,319
Investment and Innovation	11,109	11,198	11,198	11,198
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	25,640	25,640	25,640	25,640
Executive and Support Services	7,298	7,588	7,662	7,679
Northern Development Fund	500	500	500	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,418</b>	<b>79,148</b>	<b>80,436</b>	<b>80,453</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Executive and Support Services	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2020/21 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> 2022/23 and 2023/24 includes \$1.214 million for the Office of Mass Timber Implementation.

\* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

## **Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals**

As of March 31, 2021, the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation is responsible and accountable for the following:

[Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.](#)

[InBC Investment Corporation](#)

- [BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd.](#)

[Innovate BC](#)

[Indigenous Business and Investment Council](#)

[Island Coastal Economic Trust](#)

[Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society](#)

[Northern Development Initiative Trust](#)

[Premier's Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee](#)

[Small Business BC](#)

[Small Business Roundtable](#)

[Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust](#)