

MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND AND AIR PROTECTION

Mandate Review

Presentation to Open Cabinet

by

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Overview

Setting the Context

- *New Era* commitments
- Government's direction

The role and value of government

- Achieving Results
- Mandate

New directions for B.C.

- Strategic shifts
- Moving forward

New Era Commitments

Adopt a scientifically-based, principled approach to environmental management that ensures:

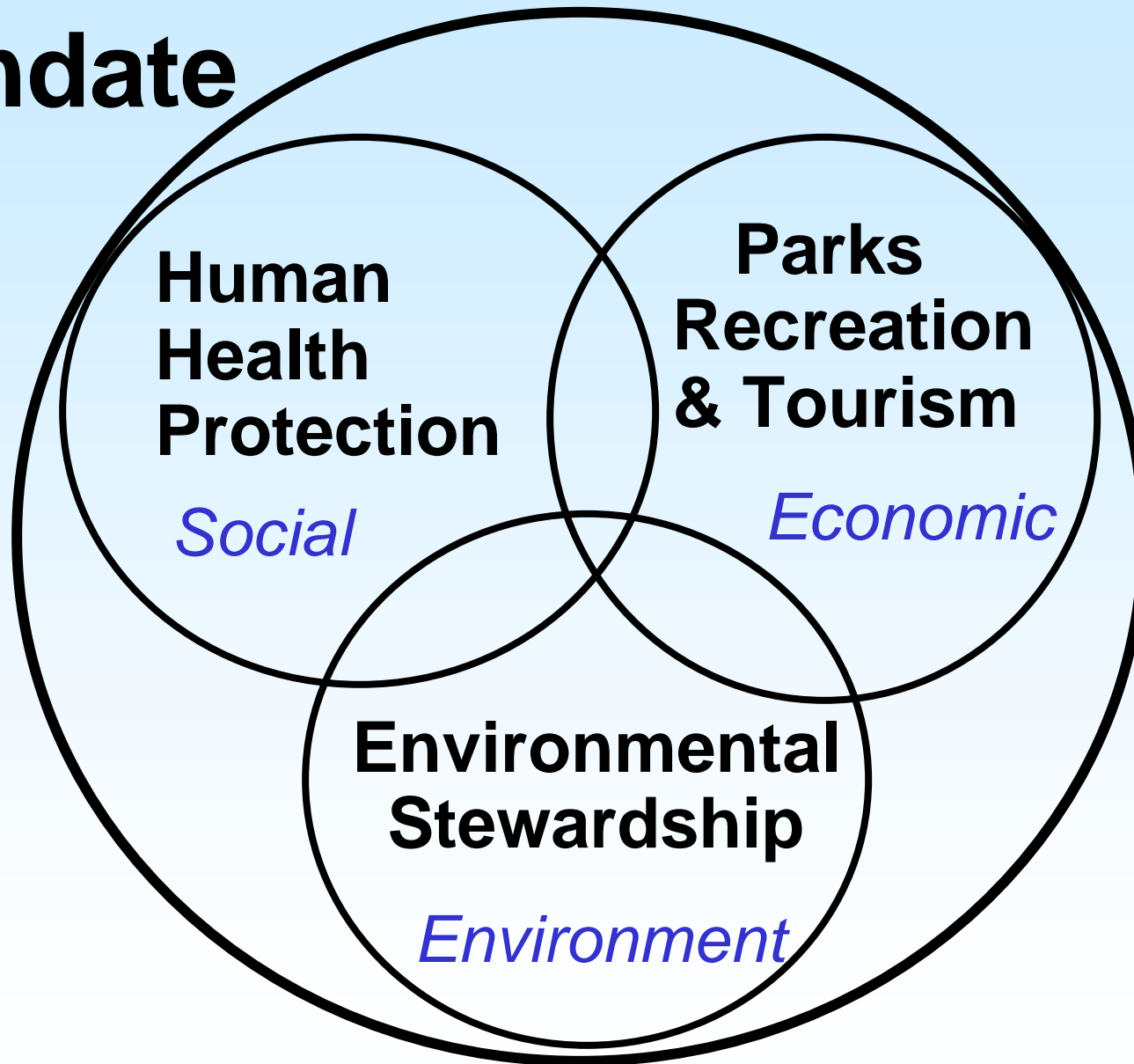
- sustainability
- accountability and
- responsibility

Government Direction

“ Our program will ensure that economic development

- maintains highest environmental standards...
- respects the strong environmental concerns of British Columbians...
- assures our environmental stewardship is exemplary”

Mandate



Achieving Results Need Measurable Goals

- Objective measures
- Long term benchmarks
- Near term targets

Achieving Results

Need to improve processes

- science -best available science to guide environmental policy decisions

- sustainability -balance of economic, social and environmental outcomes

Achieving Results

Need to improve processes

- **accountability** -reduced red tape; increased consistency, timeliness, and transparency; and measurable outcomes
- **responsibility** -define the required results then allow organizations to find ways to achieve them

Human Health Protection

Goal:

- Protect human health and safety by ensuring clean and safe water, land and air

Human Health Protection

Public Interest:

- public health can be compromised without individual knowledge or control (e.g. water contamination; air quality)
- government role in standard setting and legal enforcement to ensure sustainability, accountability, and responsibility

Human Health Protection

Public Interest:

- shift to much wider role for private sector and innovation
- pollution affects habitat, wildlife, fish conservation goals
- economic opportunities by industries' access to clean air, land and water

Human Health Protection

Conclusion:

- legitimate and compelling public interest

Environmental Stewardship

Goal:

- Conserve and restore the natural biological diversity of landscapes, and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems

Environmental Stewardship

Public Interest:

- very important economically to tourism, and to forest resource export markets
- provincial government can integrate science, accountability and responsibility to achieve sustainability

Environmental Stewardship

Public Interest:

- public values natural capital of British Columbia for quality of life
- ecological services to industries and communities e.g. air/water purification, flood protection, carbon sinks, waste decomposition

Environmental Stewardship

Conclusion:

- legitimate and compelling public interest

Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Goal:

- Manage park and wildlife recreation services and opportunities for British Columbians and visitors

Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Public Interest:

- economic contribution of parks, fish & wildlife tourism (annual parks visits generate \$521 million, angling \$650 million)
- recreation opportunities improve quality of life
- licensing fishing/hunting essential to maintain species populations

Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Private Benefit:

- individuals benefit from services and facilities in BC Parks
- businesses benefit from guide and recreation tenures and economic development

Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Conclusion:

- combined public and private benefit

Strategic Shifts

From



To

- Sole protector of the environment  Shared stewardship
- Prescriptive approaches  Flexible, results based standards with audits & enforcement
- Unclear accountability  Defined responsibilities & targets

Strategic Shifts

From

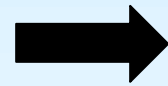
To

- Well developed single focus initiatives  Integrated programs with objective measures based on science and continuous improvement
- Constrained economic development  Economic development with clear, reasonable outcomes and deregulated approaches

Strategic Shifts

From

- Proprietary information



To

Transparent, timely
and accessible
information

Evolution of Environmental Policy

PAST - Policy up to the 80's
“control-based”

- Environment not a high public concern
- Government seen as responsible for regulation
- Regulations generally prescribed allowable levels of pollution for specific industries and sources

Evolution of Environmental Policy

PAST - Policy up to the 80's
“control-based”

- Statutory decision-makers
- Public see parks as places for local use/recreation
- Habitat protection not a concern

Evolution of Environmental Policy (2)

CURRENT - (Policy in the 80's & 90's)
- “conflict-based”

- Growing public concern about the environment
- Polarization between “environmentalists”, “industry”, and some resource-based communities
- Land use issues dominant - focus on achieving 12% target for protected areas

Evolution of Environmental Policy (2)

CURRENT - (Policy in the 80's & 90's)
- “conflict-based”

- Volume of regulations increased
- Single issue focus
- Ministry seen as “pro environment”

Evolution of Environmental Policy (3)

FUTURE - (policy beyond 2001)

- “results-based”

- Environmental stewardship responsibilities shared; all sectors work together with public involvement
- action based on long-term plan for the environment based on science, targets, and measurement

Evolution of Environmental Policy (3)

FUTURE - (policy beyond 2001)

- “results-based”

- polluters/users required to take responsibility for environmental improvement
- parks become centres of conservation, research; the “jewel” of BC tourism
- Ministry “serves” shared goals

Strategic Direction: Human Health

Goal:

- Protect human health and safety by ensuring clean and safe water, land and air

Strategic Direction: Human Health

Challenge:

- determine best framework for protection (e.g. groundwater)
- improve science, monitoring and reporting
- develop results based regulation and accountability models
- define provincial role in inter-jurisdictional issues

Strategic Direction: Human Health

Strengths:

- clean, water land and air relative to other jurisdictions
- examples of innovation and leadership

Shift:

- science-based, integrated decisions
- innovative, results based, deregulated approaches

Strategic Direction: Environmental Stewardship

Goal:

Conserve and restore the natural biological diversity of landscapes, and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems

Strategic Direction: Environmental Stewardship

Challenge:

- international concerns about biodiversity protection are impacting markets for BC products
- communities and businesses see inherent conflict in the ecological and economic value of natural resources
- species at risk and vulnerable ecosystems in developed areas

Strategic Direction: Environmental Stewardship

Strengths:

- globally significant ecosystem and biodiversity values
- world leading protected areas system

Strategic Direction: Environmental Stewardship

Shift:

- science-based, integrated, use standards, audit and enforcement
- manage in the "public interest" not "private interest"
- harness new ideas to find solutions

Strategic Direction: Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Goal:

- Manage park and wildlife recreation services and opportunities for British Columbians and visitors

Strategic Direction: Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Challenge:

- park funding insufficient to manage/maintain/protect parks
- need to protect BC's "crown jewel" while providing accessible tourism, recreation and economic opportunities in parks

Strategic Direction: Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Strengths:

- global leading park system
- private sector delivery of park and recreation services
- respected organizational reputation

Strategic Direction: Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Shift:

- improve knowledge/science
- improve user pay/entrepreneurial approach
- integrate with ministry environmental stewardship activities

Moving Forward

Evolutionary:

- results based approaches
- industry stewardship models
- public reporting
- sustainable public infrastructure
- parks management

Moving Forward

Revolutionary:

- targets, goals and measures for activity
- deregulated legislative framework with fewer statutory decisions
- science-based decisions
- tax policy and market mechanisms
- innovative information technology
- a staff culture orientated to service

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