

Office of the Premier

**2014/15 – 2016/17
SERVICE PLAN**

February 2014



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Message from the Premier and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to present the Service Plan for the Office of the Premier. As jurisdictions around the globe continue to face a slow recovery, I am reminded how fortunate we are to live in British Columbia. In our province, we have an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen our economy and create more jobs to secure our future.

To do that, we must stick to our plan - even if that means making tough decisions today so that we can build a better future for those who come after us. We must have the courage to face the fact that western governments have seen slowing growth for a generation.

The choice for our generation is between managing decline or growing the economy. British Columbians made a clear choice.

Growing the economy starts with a solid fiscal foundation and that starts with controlling spending to balance the budget. That's a commitment to respect your hard earned tax dollars and it protects our children's ability to lead when it's their turn. It's a promise we made in our last budget, and it's a promise we've kept.

Next we must seize the opportunity of liquefied natural gas. The potential is a \$1 trillion boost to our economy over 30 years, the creation of a Prosperity Fund to get us on a path to a debt-free B.C., and an estimated 100,000 jobs across B.C. We are working diligently to strengthen skills training so that British Columbians are first in line for those jobs.

Exporting LNG is also the biggest step British Columbia can take to reduce global emissions. Our abundant supply of natural gas can help fuel the growth of Asian economies with a clean, safe source of energy.

LNG is at the centre of the BC Jobs Plan to create and protect jobs across our province by leveraging our strengths. From our resources industries, to the tech sector, to tourism and agriculture, we are diversifying our markets and attracting investment to create long-term, family-supporting jobs. And that's how we are able to invest in the services and infrastructure that British Columbians depend on. Our province's future success is determined by the decisions we make today. British Columbians gave this government a mandate to grow the economy and seize the natural gas opportunity and that is exactly what we are working to do.

The *Office of the Premier 2014/15 – 2016/17 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 and for achieving the specific objectives in this plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christy Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C".

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier
February 3, 2014

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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 Premier is regularly advised by the Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary of the range of activities undertaken to facilitate cross-agency coordination of policy advice and implementation. These activities include regular meetings of departmental deputy ministers to share information over policy directions; meetings with counterpart central agency executives; and interdepartmental coordination of a wide range of policy priorities.

The Office 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 of the Premier has a clear role to play in promoting effective policy coordination across the public service. Ministers need to have complete trust in the quality of the advice and support the Office offers on the proper conduct of government business within accepted conventions and practices.

There continues to be growing emphasis on enhanced coordination across a range of government departments. The use of effective planning supports improved efficiencies through joint inter-agency cooperation.

The Office:

- Articulates government's goals, commitments and priorities and works with ministries and Crown agencies to ensure communication of those goals, commitments and priorities and to track and monitor implementation of them;
- Leads the public service and, with the Deputy Ministers' Council, leads implementation of the corporate human resource plan for the BC Public Service, *Being the Best* and *Citizens @ the Centre: BC Government 2.0*, a transformation and technology strategy for the BC Public Service;
- Provides support for the operations and decision-making processes of Cabinet and its Committees; and,
- Works directly with the federal government and with all ministries and Crown agencies to ensure that relations with federal, provincial, territorial and international governments advance British Columbia's interests.

Strategic Context

Led by the Office of the Premier, the government's strategic plan is to grow the economy and create the conditions for prosperity – not just for today, but to create opportunities for generations to come.

Rooted in a solid foundation of fiscal prudence and respect for taxpayer dollars, government is focused on controlling spending and balancing the budget. Government is also undertaking a core review to ensure that programs and services are structured for success. This initiative will succeed because of the efforts and hard work of the approximately 27,000 dedicated professionals within the BC Public Service.

The BC Jobs Plan is government's strategy to create and protect jobs across the province by creating a climate that encourages a strong economy in which the private sector can thrive. By focusing on B.C.'s unique competitive advantages, government has identified a series of targets and actions that can help drive new investment and job opportunity. These, and other government initiatives, are supported by the important work of Cabinet Committees and British Columbia's strong and constructive relationship with the federal government.

At the centre of the BC Jobs Plan is government's plan to seize the opportunity of liquefied natural gas. Realizing this opportunity will enable a \$1 trillion boost to our economy over 30 years, the creation of a Prosperity Fund, and an estimated 100,000 jobs across the province. Government is working across ministries to strengthen skills training to ensure British Columbians are first in line for the jobs that will come.

Growing the economy is the only way government can invest in the services and infrastructure that British Columbians rely on. In order to ensure Government's goals are met, the Office of the Premier has issued mandate letters to all Ministers and is working diligently to ensure those targets are met.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

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 agreements in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers

Performance Measure	Benchmark	2014/15 Forecast	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Performance agreements in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: BC Public Service Agency

Discussion

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 agreements that are in place with 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 the 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	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
BC Public Service is recognized as a top employer in British Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Data Source: Ministry of Citizens' Services and Open Government

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 B.C. Government as a top employer through annual updates to and continued implementation of the plan with the involvement of the BC Public Service. The BC Public Service has been recognized as one of:

- B.C.'s Top Employers for 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013
- Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014
- Canada's Top Family Friendly Employers for 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014
- Canada's Greenest Employers for 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013

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 timeliness, and 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 public policy recommendations and plans

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2014/15 Forecast	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Cabinet receives timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: Cabinet Operations

Discussion

All major policies, programs and initiatives are reviewed by Cabinet or a Cabinet committee to ensure alignment with government strategic priorities. There are currently eight 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 provide prompt and effective advice enabling timely and well-informed Cabinet decisions benefitting 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, New West Partnership 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	Benchmark	2014/15 Forecast	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Progress on key issues in Intergovernmental Relations Plan	Progress on key issues	Progress achieved on key issues	Progress on key issues	Progress on key issues	Progress on key issues

Data Source: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

Discussion

Each year, the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat updates its plan with key objectives and major projects, which typically take more than one fiscal year to measure progress. For 2013/14, progress was made on all new initiatives.

The key objectives identified in the intergovernmental plan for 2014/15 are:

- Increase intergovernmental engagement at senior levels in order to advance British Columbia's interests with the federal government, within the Canadian federation and with the United States and other priority countries, including use of telepresence and other technologies.
- Engage and participate in initiatives with provinces and territories through the Council of the Federation, New West Partnership and other intergovernmental forums.

- Advance bilateral collaboration, focusing on jobs and economic growth, with the State of Washington and other neighbouring states and provinces through joint leaders, cabinet and/or senior officials meetings and initiatives.
- Engage with other governments and private sector members of PNWER to promote actions in support of keeping the Canada-US border open for legitimate trade and tourism and building regional consensus on actions that increase economic opportunities for BC families in areas such as clean energy.
- Leverage the shared goals and objectives of the Pacific Coast Collaborative set out in British Columbia's agreements with the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska including to implement the regional jobs strategy and the action plan on climate and clean energy that were outcomes of the March 2012 and October 2013 Leaders' Forums respectively.
- Work across government, with BC stakeholders, with 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.
- Promote Pacific Gateway transportation investments and policy changes so that Canada benefits from Asia-Pacific market opportunities.
- Advance the Province's priorities by engaging with foreign governments, the Consular Corps in British Columbia, Diplomatic Corps in Ottawa, and BC and Canadian representatives posted abroad.
- Support citizen engagement through the Order of British Columbia, Congratulatory Messages Program, and Ceremonies.
- Implement the Canada-British Columbia Official Languages Agreement on French Language Services.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2013/14 Restated Estimates ¹	2014/15 Estimates ²	2015/16 Plan	2016/17 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat.....	2,456	2,456	2,456	2,456
Executive and Support Services.....	6,552	6,552	6,552	6,552
Premier's Office.....	3,231	3,231	3,231	3,231
Executive Operations.....	3,321	3,321	3,321	3,321
Total	9,008	9,008	9,008	9,008
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat.....	0	0	0	0
Executive and Support Services.....	1	1	1	1
Premier's Office.....	0	0	0	0
Executive Operations.....	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	1

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for the 2013/14 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2014/15 Estimates.

² Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Appendices

Appendix A: Premier's Office Contact Information

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Appendix B: Hyperlink to Additional Information

Office of the Premier: www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/office-of-the-premier/

