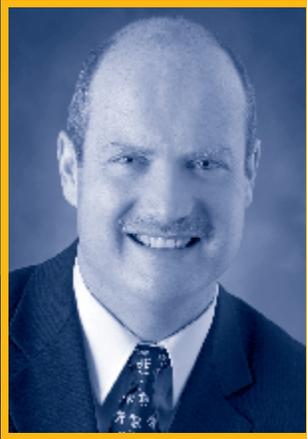




MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION SERVICE PLAN SUMMARY 2007/08–2009/10

Message from the Minister



I am pleased to have the opportunity to describe the practical and measurable actions the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will undertake over the next three fiscal years to further the New Relationship with First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations. This New Relationship will continue as it began – based

on principles of mutual trust, respect and recognition of Aboriginal rights and title.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will continue its advisory role in support of ministries across government on Aboriginal-related initiatives. These range from lands and resource matters for First Nations to programs for Aboriginal and Métis people in urban centres. Our goal is to bridge the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians by the year 2015.

We remain committed to treaty negotiations as a full and formal expression of reconciliation. Treaties and other agreements stimulate investment, create jobs and expand economies in communities throughout British Columbia. In conjunction with other ministries across government, the Ministry will support the negotiation of agreements to materially improve the lives of First Nations and to achieve greater clarity over Crown lands and resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. de Jong'.

Honourable Mike de Jong

Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is tasked to be the centre of excellence on innovative approaches on Aboriginal policy across government. The Ministry provides strategic advice, identifies opportunities and facilitates the removal of barriers to stimulate positive outcomes for Aboriginal people.

It leads government's efforts to build social and economic capacity within First Nations communities and with Aboriginal people and to reconcile First Nations and provincial interests, resulting in tangible social and economic benefits for Aboriginal people across the province.

The Ministry focuses its efforts in three strategic areas: bridging the socio-economic gaps between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians through the Transformative Change Accord and the Métis Nation Relationship Accord, building strong and respectful relationships between government and Aboriginal organizations and, ongoing efforts to conclude treaties and other lasting agreements.

Strategic Context

2006/07 was characterized by significant achievements toward government's New Relationship with Aboriginal people. This is a significant step forward from a history of confrontation, litigation and failure to reconcile differences with Aboriginal people.

This history, characterized by a lack of recognition and reconciliation, has left Aboriginal communities with the difficult task of dealing with chronically poor socio-economic conditions, including: the prevalence of illness and chronic disease; long-term unemployment; significantly low secondary school completion rates; high levels of substance abuse and suicide; and a reduced life expectancy.

But a shift is occurring. The New Relationship, a vision jointly supported by the First Nations Leadership Council and the Province, establishes a framework for a government-to-government relationship and partnership and agreement to engage on legal, economic and social matters.

This agreement was recognized in the Transformative Change Accord, which was signed by the Province, Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council on Novem-

ber 25th, 2005. It outlines specific measures designed to bridge the socio-economic gap between First Nations and other British Columbians. Likewise, the Métis Nation Relationship Accord commits government and the Métis Nation to continue efforts to bridge the gap between Métis and other British Columbians.

Most recently, the Lheidli T'enneh, Tsawwassen and Maanulth First Nations have concluded their treaty negotiations and are beginning the formal ratification process.

Within 10 years, this government aims to eliminate the inequities that have been an aspect of life for Aboriginal people throughout Canada's history. Reconciliation is at the heart of this goal, and it involves building a positive, enduring relationship founded on trust, mutual respect and recognition of Aboriginal Canadians' constitutional rights.

With greater certainty created by negotiated treaties and the stability of improved socio-economic status, the Province can better attract and retain investment, create jobs and build stronger First Nations communities.



Vision

Guided by principles of trust, recognition, respect and reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title, we will build a healthy and prosperous future for the benefit of Aboriginal people and all British Columbians.

Mission

The Ministry provides leadership across the provincial government that will, over the next decade, bridge the social and economic gaps that many Aboriginal people face in British Columbia. While working collaboratively with Aboriginal organizations, the federal government and other partners to support the goals of the New Relationship, the Ministry will continue to negotiate and implement treaties and other lasting agreements with First Nations.

Ministry Goals and Performance Measures

Goal 1: Concluded treaties and other lasting agreements on Crown lands and natural resources with First Nations.

Objectives

1.1 Conclude agreements that define rights and responsibilities and facilitate economic development.

Performance Measure	Benchmark (2005/06)	2007/08 Annual Target	2008/09 Annual Target	2009/10 Annual Target
Goal 1 Percentage of British Columbia Crown land covered by agreements with First Nations. ¹	67% ²	+4%	+4%	+4%
Obj 1.1 Number of new initiatives that partner First Nations or Aboriginal organizations with local governments and the private sector.	8	6-8	7-10	8-11
Obj 1.1 Number of new significant agreements or business arrangements between First Nations and government. ³	4	4-5	5-6	6-7
Obj 1.1 Number of treaty agreements or initiatives that build incremental progress towards treaties or other lasting agreements. ⁴	2	8-11	10-13	12-15

1 Calculated as of March 31, 2006, the amount of Crown land covered by agreements is 58,807,568 ha and includes all agreements across government.

2 Increase primarily related to 21 Forest and Range Agreements and Agreements-in-Principle completed in 2005/06.

3 Refers to significant agreements with cross ministry impacts.

4 Refers to the number of initialed final agreements and agreements-in-principle.

Goal 2: Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Objectives

- 2.1** Cross government implementation of programs and services to address socio-economic disparities.

Performance Measure	Benchmark	2007/08 Annual Target	2008/09 Annual Target	2009/10 Annual Target
Obj 2.1 Number of initiatives/actions undertaken through cross government plans to assist in closing the socio-economic gap. ¹	3-5	4-6	5-7	6-8
Obj 2.1 Increased partnerships with federal government and Aboriginal organizations to improve social and economic programs and services.	2-3	4-6	5-10	6-14

¹ The signing of the Transformative Change Accord predates this performance measure; however, the initiatives outlined in this Accord are included in future targets.

Goal 3: Build strong and respectful relationships between government and Aboriginal organizations.

Objectives

- 3.1 Build trust with Aboriginal people through a reconciliation and recognition framework.
- 3.2 Foster engagement with Aboriginal people in government decisions that impact Aboriginal communities.

Performance Measure	Benchmark	2007/08 Annual Target	2008/09 Annual Target	2009/10 Annual Target
Goal 3 Number of engagements with Aboriginal organizations and communities on provincial policy development. ¹	3	3-5	3-5	3-5
Obj 3.1 Number of agreements reached with Aboriginal organizations that foster recognition and reconciliation. ²	1	15	20	25
Obj 3.1 Number of sessions/events undertaken to increase awareness of Aboriginal issues in British Columbia. ³	115	115-120	115-120	115-120
Obj 3.2 First Nations Consultation Framework ⁴	Framework complete	In Implementation	In Implementation	In Implementation

- 1 Refers to the number of provincial policies that have been processed through First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations, which may include discussion and engagement with community representatives.
- 2 Including agreements regarding Aboriginal place naming and language preservation.
- 3 Sessions/events undertaken include public meetings, public events, open houses and signing ceremonies.
- 4 Once the framework is complete, this ceases to be a Ministry performance measure as the framework will be implemented by agencies and ministries throughout government. The Ministry's role changes to one of providing ongoing advice and coordination for government on the implementation of the framework.

Resource Summary Table

Core Business Areas	2006/07 Restated Estimates	2007/08 Estimates	2008/09 Plan	2009/10 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Negotiations	22,888	35,955	41,196	29,196
Aboriginal Relations	7,734	11,893	12,435	12,628
Executive and Support Services	5,481	7,312	7,752	7,749
Total	36,103	55,160	61,383	49,573

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ministry Service Plans, please visit:

www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2007/serviceplans.htm