



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
SERVICE PLAN SUMMARY
2007/08–2009/10**

Message from the Minister



British Columbia is Canada's most biologically diverse province. The wealth and quality of our natural environment affords residents and visitors clean water, land and air, strong, sustainable resources and exceptional recreational opportunities. As Minister of the Environment, I am pleased to present our plan for continuing

to protect our environmental heritage and sustain B.C.'s prosperous economy.

The ministry supports government's Great Goal of leading the world in sustainable environmental management through innovative alliances with communities, First Nations, industries, businesses, non-governmental organizations and local, provincial and federal governments. Many of our partnerships, such as the groundbreaking collaboration that resulted in the Central and North Coast land use plans, offer new ways of examining our land base so that we can provide for stability and long-term sustainability of the ecosystems we all rely on.

Climate change is of great local, regional and global significance. The province has set a new target to reduce B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 percent below current levels by 2020. This target will place British Columbia's greenhouse gas emissions at 10 percent under 1990 levels. A Climate Action Team will be established to determine sector targets for 2012 and 2016. A longer-term emissions reduction target for 2050 will also be established for B.C.

British Columbia's rivers and waterways are the lifeblood of our environment, our economy and our communities. The \$21 million Living Rivers Trust Fund demonstrates our commitment and that of our partners to share resources, expertise and knowledge to ensure healthy fish habitat and watersheds, sustainable ecosystems and flourishing B.C. communities.

We are continuing to lead environmental and water stewardship initiatives through progressive legislation, such as the addition of electronic waste to the B.C. Recycling Regulation and the completion of Phase 2 of the B.C. Ground Water Protection Regulation. Such rigorous regulations help us improve the safety and quality of British Columbia's land and water. The ministry is committed to implementing the B.C. Water Action Plan as an important part of its goal to sustain British Columbia's precious freshwater and marine resources.

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games provide a unique opportunity to elevate international awareness of British Columbia. Our efforts to provide outstanding recreation opportunities in our parks are expected to increase the volume of international tourism. Changing demographics and expectations have spurred us to look for ways to provide park visitors with a wider range of options and promote participation in outdoor activities.

Our efforts to reduce costly, time-consuming regulatory processes for resource operators while ensuring high environmental standards are paying off with the success of such cross government partnerships as FrontCounter BC, a single point of contact for natural resource authorizations.

The actions of all British Columbians to protect and enhance our natural environment will ensure that B.C. remains the Best Place on Earth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Penner'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Honourable Barry Penner

*Minister of Environment and
Minister Responsible for Water Stewardship
and Sustainable Communities*

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Environment plays an essential role in encouraging and supporting the efforts of British Columbians to maintain a healthy environment and the important benefits that accompany it – enhanced human health, sustainable economic development and a high quality of life. We work to protect, manage and enhance the province's natural environment to help ensure that the benefits we enjoy today will be available for our children and grandchildren in the future. Through effective partnerships with other government bodies, First

Nations, industry, associations, communities and environmental groups, we champion environmental stewardship and vigorously promote the sustainable use of the province's environmental resources. The ministry strives to enhance the protection and stewardship of water and air resources, ensure that healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems are maintained and that outstanding recreation and wildlife services and opportunities are available to all.

Strategic Context

Effective air, water and land management are critical components of the government's goals to demonstrate leadership in sustainable environmental management, to champion healthy living and physical fitness and to create and sustain a thriving economy. The ministry plans, implements programs and assesses our performance toward the achievement of these goals within a context of changing trends, environmental events and shifts in the economy and society.

For example, in British Columbia, climate change may have far-reaching effects, impacting ecosystems and increasing the risks from unforeseen events. Demands for domestic water use, agriculture and industrial development will continue to increase, impacting water quality and supply. The mountain pine beetle infestation has profoundly affected many forest values, and the loss of investment will have a serious economic impact on communities in the interior of the province. Unforeseen events, when they happen, can severely impact our ecosystems and human health and safety.

Economic growth in British Columbia continues to be strong, supported by robust domestic demand, strong business investment and higher consumer spending. A major part of B.C.'s economy relies on extracting resources from the environment and producing and distribut-

ing products and services for people to consume. The impact to the environment of these processes can be felt locally, regionally and globally. As our population grows and our need and demand for resources, goods and services increases, there is an ever greater need for all British Columbians to meet the challenge of protecting and enhancing the environment.

To encourage positive action, the ministry provides outreach and information to help British Columbians reduce their ecological footprint and make wise lifestyle choices. Consequently, an awareness of environmental issues continues to grow and programs such as household recycling, adopt-a-stream and bike-to-work week have met with considerable success.

To gauge their overall success, more organizations within the business community are looking to the triple bottom line – financial performance, environmental performance and social responsibility. The ministry works with companies on generating broader social and environmental dividends through investments in sustainable stewardship practices, such as pollution prevention, waste management, product reuse and recycling, cleaner more sustainable technology and production methods, and resource conservation.



Vision

A clean, healthy and naturally diverse environment.

Mission

Lead, inform, involve and support British Columbians to achieve the best environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Ministry Goals and Performance Measures

Goal 1: Clean and safe water, land and air

Objectives

- 1.1 Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources
- 1.2 Reduced contamination from toxins and wastes
- 1.3 Healthy air quality
- 1.4 Effective responses to climate change
- 1.5 Effective responses to and management of environmental risks

Performance Measure	Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 1.1 Percentage of water bodies monitored under the Canada-B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving water quality trends	96%	96% or greater	96% or greater	96% or greater
Obj 1.3 Percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-wide standard quality objective for PM _{2.5} and low level ozone	PM _{2.5} : 88% Low level ozone: 96%	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve	100% by 2010
Obj 1.3 Ranking of Vancouver for PM _{2.5} concentration compared to major metropolitan areas of equal size across Canada	2nd lowest	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve

Goal 2: Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems

Objectives

- 2.1 Well-managed and accessible information on species and ecosystems
- 2.2 Well-managed parks and protected areas
- 2.3 Protected, maintained and restored native species and ecosystems

Performance Measure	Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 2.3 Number of completed designations by the ministry under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i>				
<i>Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA)</i>	414	444	474	504
<i>Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWR)</i>	35	40	45	50
<i>Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds (FSW)</i>	17	27	37	47

Goal 3: British Columbians understand that they share responsibility for the environment

Objectives

- 3.1 British Columbians understand the benefits of healthy living and the effect of their actions on the environment
- 3.2 Shared stewardship
- 3.3 Industry and client groups are knowledgeable and implement best environmental management practices

Performance Measure	Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 3.2 Number of Parks Collaborative Management Agreements (PCMA) and Wildlife Processes (RFP) with First Nations	16 PCMA 5 RFP	2 PCMA or RFP	2 PCMA or RFP	2 PCMA or RFP
Obj 3.3 Number of product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs	7 ¹	9 (total)	11 (total)	

¹ British Columbia currently has seven product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs in place: paint, used oil products, beverage containers, pharmaceuticals, solvents and flammable liquids, domestic pesticides, and gasoline. Two additional product categories, tires and electronic products, were added to the B.C. Recycling Regulation in 2006/07. Stewardship programs for the two additional categories are currently in development and will be implemented by March 2008.

Goal 4: Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources

Objectives

- 4.1 Sustainable use and continued benefits of water and air
- 4.2 Optimized public, outdoor and commercial opportunities from British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife
- 4.3 Sustainable and collaborative management and use of marine and ocean resources

Performance Measure	Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 4.1 Number of water or watershed management plans completed and implemented	1	3 (total)	6 (total)	
Obj 4.2 Number of recorded park visits	18.5 million (2005/06)	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve	20% increase by 2010
Obj 4.2 Visitor satisfaction level	83% (2006/07)	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve

Performance Measure	Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 4.2 Number of basic hunting and angling licences sold	Hunting: 83,701 resident; 6,131 non-resident (2005/06)	Increase	Increase	Increase
	Angling: 247,789 resident; 65,942 non-resident (2005/06)			
Obj 4.3 Number of marine-based commercial and recreational fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process	3 ¹ (2005/06)	4 (total)	5 (total)	6 (total)

1 The fishery targeted in 2007/08 is sardine. The three fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process in the 2005/06 baseline data are hake, herring and tuna.

Goal 5: A high performance organization

Objectives

- 5.1** A client-focused organization that supports high quality service
- 5.2** A healthy working environment that supports and motivates staff, promotes innovation, and attracts and retains high performance employees
- 5.3** An integrated cross ministry framework that supports ministry goals and objectives
- 5.4** Information resources that support effective decision-making

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Obj 5.1 Changes in satisfaction of client groups:				
(1) Client Satisfaction Index	79%	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve
(2) Communication of shared stewardship	55%	Improve	Improve	Improve
(3) Consultation with stakeholders	49%	Improve	Improve	Improve

- (1)** The Client Satisfaction Index comprises four indicators – professional competence, reliability of information, availability of staff and timeliness of staff response.
- (2)** A goal of the ministry is to encourage B.C. residents to share in the responsibility of taking care of the environment through shared stewardship. This indicator will measure how effectively the ministry is communicating this goal.
- (3)** Consultation with stakeholders is an important indicator for the effectiveness of the ministry's consultation processes on proposed government policy and legislation.

Resource Summary Table

Core Business Areas	2006/07 Restated Estimates	2007/08 Estimates	2008/09 Plan	2009/10 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Environmental Stewardship	73,203	78,857	80,463	81,923
Water Stewardship	29,372	39,228	61,402	65,556
Oceans and Marine Fisheries	2,240	2,258	2,277	2,294
Environmental Protection	41,730	43,230	41,113	41,450
Compliance	18,201	18,482	18,700	18,902
Executive and Support Services	32,485	33,807	34,217	34,640
Total	197,231	215,862	238,172	244,765

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the British Columbia Ministry of Environment visit our web site at www.gov.bc.ca/env or contact one of our offices:

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For more information on this and other ministry Service Plans, please visit:

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