



Ministry of
Community Development

2009/10 – 2011/12
Service Plan

February 2009



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Ministry of Community Development
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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



Equipping local governments with the tools they need to create more livable and resilient communities is at the heart of the Ministry of Community Development's 2009/10-2011/12 Service Plan. This Ministry is tasked with meeting the diverse needs of communities, whether large or small, urban or rural, in every corner of British Columbia.

By working with all levels of government and through valued partnerships with organizations such as the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and British Columbia Regional Development Trusts, we take a collaborative approach to community development. Our philosophy is that we must work together as communities, and as governments, to achieve our shared vision of a strong and healthy province in the face of climate change and global economic uncertainty.

One of this Ministry's top priorities is to bridge the rural-urban divide. The rural and resource-rich areas of B.C. contribute a great deal to the economic well-being of the entire province. By helping these communities achieve their full social and economic potential, we are supporting the equitable reinvestment of resources throughout British Columbia.

Forestry-dependent communities being impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic and the current downturn in the forestry sector are also a primary concern for us. In an effort to help these communities survive and thrive, we have instituted programs that support individual displaced workers and assist local governments with economic diversification.

We are also working hard to help communities develop and improve infrastructure through projects that support economic growth, minimize environmental impact, provide cleaner air and water, and contribute to the overall well-being of British Columbians.

My hope is that the strategies outlined in this plan will further empower local governments across this province to bring their visions to life – visions that are as diverse as they are significant. Whether the goal is to build local economies, reduce greenhouse gas emissions or improve community infrastructure, this Ministry strives to support every community in developing better places to live, work and invest.

The Ministry of Community Development 2009/10 – 2011/12 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. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as

of February 10, 2009, have been considered in preparing the plan and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in the plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krueger', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Honourable Kevin Krueger
Minister of Community Development
February 10, 2009

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Purpose of the Ministry

The purpose of the Ministry of Community Development is to equip communities across British Columbia to build strong, competitive local and regional economies that support sustainable and socially-responsible communities. The needs of urban and rural communities differ from one another and it is important that the way in which government works with all communities is tailored to their individual needs. The Ministry supports communities in reaching their full potential by providing a broad range of tools and resources. These include:

- A legislative framework enabling local governments to govern effectively and be accountable to their citizens.
- Tools that foster effective government structures, services, land-use planning and engagement in consultation with municipalities, regional districts and First Nations to achieve local goals.
- Programs, funding and strategic support that enable local communities to grow economically, construct needed infrastructure, improve air and water quality and enhance policing and community safety.
- A single point-of-contact for rural communities to access the resources, advice, and funding they need to help them diversify their economies, overcome barriers to development, and realize their full economic potential.
- Investment in local and regional infrastructure that is flexible in meeting the priorities of urban and rural communities.
- Assistance for forestry workers and their families by creating opportunities for transition to retirement, retraining and temporary employment that supports their local economies.
- Leading and coordinating the provincial government's response to the social, economic and environmental effects of the mountain pine beetle epidemic.



Inukshuk

Photo: Picture BC

The Ministry has realigned its services and supports for rural communities to make them more effective and easier to access. The relationship between urban and rural is one of inter-dependence and the Ministry aims to facilitate and strengthen that relationship. Likewise, the Ministry works to build and strengthen other ties, such as the relationship between local governments, First Nations, federal and provincial bodies, the private sector, community groups and Regional Development Trusts which include: [Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society](#), [Northern Development Initiative Trust](#), [Island Coastal Economic Trust](#) and [Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust](#).

The Ministry is committed to ensuring transparent, flexible, fair and equitable property assessment and review services. This is achieved by supporting policy development and the Province's property assessment processes to ensure the system is competitive and affordable while enhancing economic growth for B.C. property owners.

The Ministry governs two Crown Corporations, the [Columbia Basin Trust](#) and the [BC Assessment Authority](#). Further, it administers the annual Property Assessment Review Panel program across the province and is responsible for the Property Assessment Appeal Board, the Islands Trust Fund Board and the Board of Examiners.

Strategic Context

The private sector now expects that B.C. will experience slower economic growth in 2009 and 2010 than it has in previous years. Risks to B.C.'s economic outlook include a prolonged U.S. recession, continued turmoil in global financial markets, slower global demand for B.C. products, volatile commodity prices and further moderation of domestic demand in B.C.

A slower economy impacts local governments' fiscal capacity. At a time when our provincial population is expected to grow by over a third in the next three decades,¹ it is important to build local economies and the capacity of local governments to finance the services that are critical to citizens.

Many of B.C.'s rural communities were facing economic challenges even before the current economic crisis. Factors such as climate change, the mountain pine beetle epidemic and the worst downturn of the forestry sector in 30 years have challenged rural B.C.'s ability to remain fiscally strong.

This being said, B.C. communities are better positioned than many others in Canada to endure these adverse economic conditions and to build on their strengths. In recent years, our provincial economy has been outpacing the national average, and the fiscal position of the province is strong, with a triple-A credit rating and a very good ratio of debt to Gross Domestic Product. B.C. communities are fiscally strong; therefore the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFA), which pools municipal borrowing and investment needs, also maintains a triple-A credit rating.

For communities across B.C., successfully navigating a challenging economic period will be important. Positioning ourselves to recover quickly will be equally important.

Rural B.C. communities have many advantages, assets and opportunities to build on in areas such as tourism development, film production and green energy. British Columbia is emerging as Canada's gateway to the Asia-Pacific. Building on this, the development of the northern transportation corridor further opens the door for increased trade with the Asia-Pacific. For example, the recent port expansion in Prince Rupert will bring real economic benefits to North Coastal communities.

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games also present an economic opportunity for many B.C. communities, and not just for those hosting Games events. In addition to boosting recognition of B.C. as a prime destination for tourism, immigration and business, the Games also present an opportunity for entrepreneurial communities to showcase their products and services to the world – as well as build long-lasting business contacts.

¹ British Columbia, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, BC STATS. British Columbia Population Projection - P.E.O.P.L.E. Vol. 33. (July 2008). Page i. <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/Project/P33BCIntro.pdf>.

We have witnessed in recent years a growing commitment by both citizens and local governments around the province to limit greenhouse gas emissions. To date, 151 B.C. communities, representing over 90% of British Columbians, have signed the *British Columbia Climate Action Charter* since it was presented at the 2007 Union of British Columbia Municipalities annual convention.² This level of support across communities for climate action is an important step towards creating a greener British Columbia.

² British Columbia, Ministry of Community Development. "Ministry Information: B.C. Climate Action Charter" (Jan. 14, 2009). http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/ministry/whatsnew/climate_action_charter_update.htm

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

[The Ministry of Community Development](#) was created in June 2008. It is now comprised of the Local Government Department, RuralBC Secretariat, Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Division, Community Development Trust, Property Assessment Services and Management Services. While some of the 2009/10 to 2011/12 Service Plan goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures were included in last year's Ministry of Community Services' Service Plan, this year's plan focuses on supporting communities to achieve the following goals:

1. Communities and regions are empowered to achieve their visions for the future.
2. Bridges are built across the rural-urban divide.
3. Communities are equipped with innovative tools that enable them to work toward environmental sustainability.
4. Forestry-dependent and pine beetle-affected communities are assisted in adapting to a changing forestry sector.

Goal 1: Communities and regions are empowered to achieve their visions for the future

Supporting communities as they pursue their unique goals is an important role of the Ministry. We will continue to develop programs and services that provide accessible, flexible tools for communities so they can be accountable to their citizens, diversify their economies, be environmentally responsible, and provide healthy and safe places for British Columbians to live.

Objective 1.1: Community governance is open, flexible, and effective

British Columbians expect their local government to provide a sense of community, sustainable infrastructure and the day-to-day services they need and desire. The Ministry supports local governments in serving their citizens effectively by providing broadly empowering local government legislation, the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act*. These include important checks and balances to ensure local decision-making is open, effective and inclusive of opportunities for ongoing citizen involvement.

Strategies

- Provide a modern and empowering policy, legislative and regulatory framework to meet local government needs.
- Encourage local governments to build citizen capacity and engagement in local decision-making.
- Assist local governments with incorporations, amalgamations, boundary extensions, planning and restructuring.
- Revitalize the regional district governance framework.

Objective 1.2: Local governments have the capacity to meet the service needs of their residents

British Columbians expect their local governments to provide essential services such as safe drinking water and effective wastewater treatment, policing, crime prevention and community safety. With economic changes and the need to renew aging infrastructure, the Ministry contributes expertise and targeted funding to B.C. communities for infrastructure planning and construction, community safety and local government restructuring.

Strategies

- Provide the tools and resources to help local governments maintain the human and fiscal capacity needed for self-government, including an efficient and well-functioning property assessment system.
- Administer [Small Community and Regional District Grants](#) to local governments.
- Provide locally appropriate infrastructure funding and planning support through a range of Ministry [programs](#).
- Promote targeted funding for policing, crime prevention and community safety by returning 100 per cent of net [traffic fine revenues](#) to local governments.
- Continue to work with local governments to create healthy, active, green, and age-friendly communities and build respectful relationships with First Nations.

Performance Measure 1: Number of municipalities collecting at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes

| Performance Measure | 2008/09 Forecast | 2009/10 Target | 2010/11 Target | 2011/12 Target |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Number of municipalities collecting at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes | 148 ¹ | 146 | 146 | 146 |
| <p>Data Source: Local governments provide the Ministry with their financial data at the end of their fiscal year. The Ministry's reporting requirements are comprehensive and the data received are highly accurate.</p> <p>¹ In 2008/09, B.C. had 160 municipalities; the 2008/09 target of 148 represents 92.5% of municipalities.</p> | | | | |

Discussion

Property taxes constitute the majority of municipalities' annual revenue, providing the funds local governments need to operate and provide the essential services expected by residents. These targets are set to demonstrate the Ministry's efforts to maximize the number of resilient municipalities that are collecting their current year taxes to provide key services to their residents.

The Ministry assists communities with financial management and in assessing and modifying the community tax base. By monitoring the number of municipalities that may be unable to collect at least 90 per cent of their current year taxes, the Ministry is able to identify those communities who may need support from the Ministry in assessing their financial capacity and addressing challenges.

Objective 1.3 Communities and regions are playing their role in growing their economies

To keep the provincial economy strong, the Province will collaborate with communities and regional districts, the federal government and other partners to build local and regional economic strategies that work. This means engaging communities to strengthen their economies by enhancing the assets that make them attractive places to live, work and invest. It also means ensuring local and regional economies are able to withstand, manage and respond to a shifting economic climate while positioning themselves for future economic opportunities.

The Ministry is implementing several initiatives so that communities and regions in British Columbia can put their plans for economic growth into action.

Strategies

- Provide resort municipalities in British Columbia with the tools to assist them in building their tourism-based economies through the [Resort Municipality Initiative](#).
- Encourage and support the building of new economic relationships between communities in B.C. and communities in the Asia-Pacific through the [Asia-Pacific Twinning Initiative](#).
- Facilitate the initiation and enactment of [Regional Growth Strategies](#) and regional economic development networks.
- Promote harmonization of regulatory requirements.
- Support the development of sustainable infrastructure and amenities.

Goal 2: Bridges are built across the rural-urban divide

The rural and resource-rich areas of B.C. contribute a great deal to the economic well-being of the entire province. By equitably investing in and building infrastructure throughout our province we can strengthen our resource and trade economy, which is important to both our rural and urban economies.

One size does not fit all, and the Ministry's RuralBC Secretariat will work throughout the province with rural communities to find the right community-centric solutions to strengthen rural economies. By helping to build and diversify B.C.'s rural economies, the Ministry's work directly supports the Government's Great Goal to "create more jobs per capita in B.C. than anywhere else in Canada".

www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca

The RuralBC Secretariat's website was created to provide easy reference to resources and program funding information designed to assist rural communities and regions.

Objective 2.1: Rural communities have access to programs and services that support their economic development

The Ministry is working to bridge gaps between our rural communities and the provincial and federal programs available to them. Further, the Ministry is working with communities to identify existing or new programs and services that could support them in reaching their vision.

Strategies

- The RuralBC Secretariat, including its regional staff, will work closely with rural communities to identify priorities.
- Based on priorities identified with rural communities, tailor and align government resources to support these priorities through flexible, integrated community agreements.

- Work to integrate the strategies of provincial ministries, federal departments and regions to plan and implement socio-economic initiatives, providing communities with one-stop access to programs and services.

Performance Measure 2: Number of community agreements signed

| Performance Measure | 2008/09 Forecast ¹ | 2009/10 Target | 2010/11 Target | 2011/12 Target |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Number of community agreements signed | 3 | 6 | 10 | 14 |
| <p>Data Source: The number of community agreements between the Ministry and rural communities in B.C. will be tracked by the Ministry. The above figures represent a cumulative total, three signed agreements in 2008/09, three more signed in 2009/10, 4 more signed in 2010/11 and 4 more signed in 2011/12.</p> | | | | |

Discussion

Community agreements demonstrate the Ministry’s intention to tailor and align government resources to be more flexible in meeting rural community needs. Through these agreements, local governments will identify their key priorities for development and prosperity, and the Ministry will focus government resources to meet these communities’ unique requirements. The Ministry is taking a different approach to working with individual communities to strategically prioritize their economic development initiatives. This allows the Province to provide tailored support to help these communities achieve their vision for the future.

In 2009/10, the pilot agreements of 2008/09 will be evaluated and future measures and targets will be developed based on the outcome of this evaluation. A new measure may be included in future Service Plans.

Objective 2.2: Rural communities and regions identify, attract and retain investment

Rural communities and regional economies have significant natural assets that make them well-positioned to attract investors, diversify into non-traditional resource-based industries and enhance economic sustainability. Through strategic investments in B.C. communities, the Ministry supports the growth of emerging industries such as alternate and clean energy (geothermal, bio-fuels), bio-products, agriculture value-added (food and beverage processing and organic produce), and non-resource-based industries.

Strategies

- Provide resources to facilitate the development of community and regional initiatives to identify sector opportunities, attract new investment and retain existing businesses.
- Expand the Forestry Community Business Program so that other businesses, in addition to forestry sector businesses, are eligible for borrowing.
- Provide resources to facilitate the development of community and regional strategies to identify, attract and retain investment.
- Work with the economic trusts to ensure local government needs are aligned with program criteria. These trusts include: Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society, Northern Development Initiative Trust, Island Coastal Economic Trust and Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust.



Photo: Picture BC

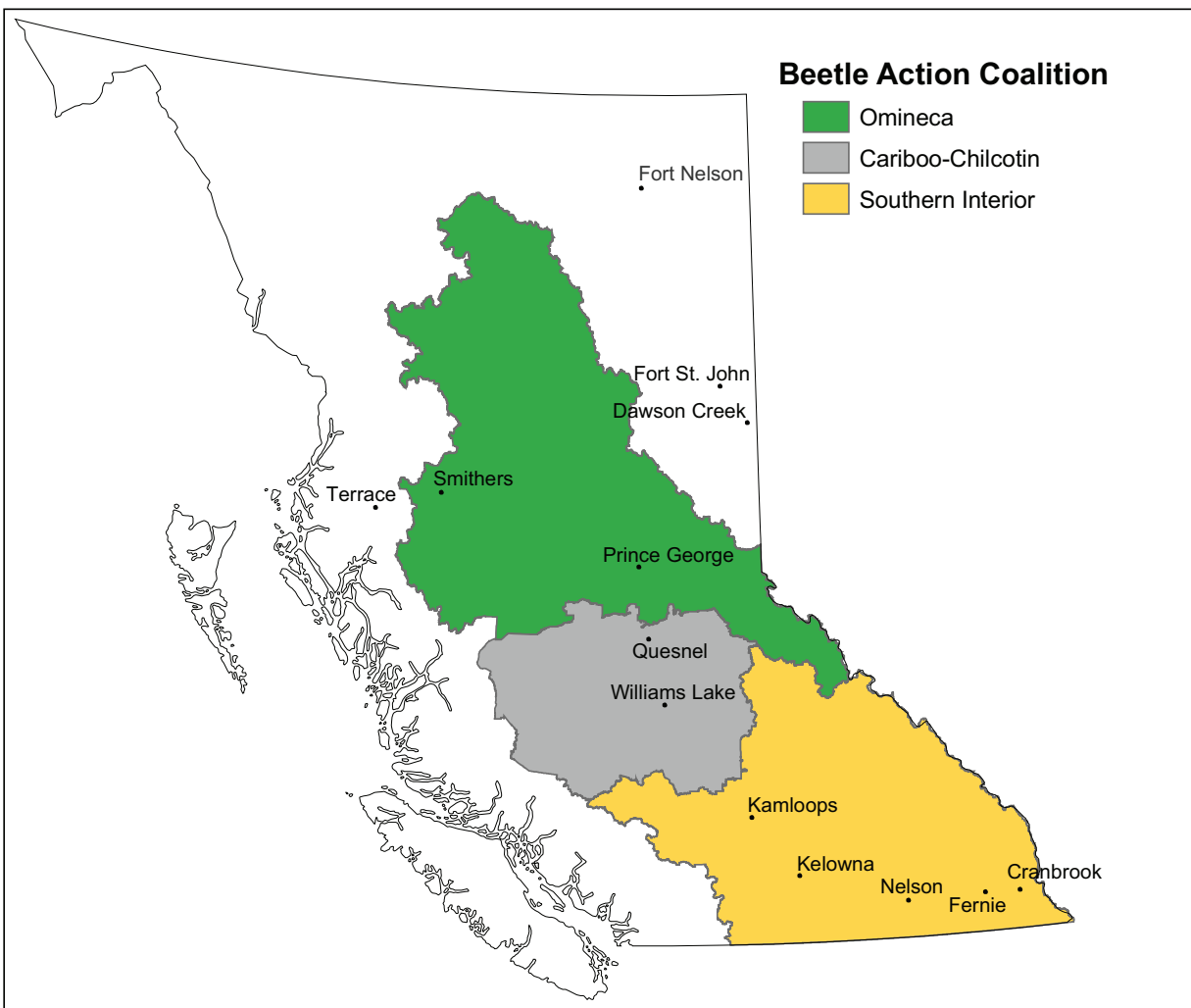
Objective 2.3: Local government and community capacity to manage change is strengthened

The significant downturn of the forestry industry and the mountain pine beetle epidemic are having a large impact on communities across the province. Mills in resource-dependent communities are often the largest employers and contribute to a significant portion of the local government's tax revenue. When a large employer closes, communities require immediate attention and support in implementing change strategies through the Ministry's [Community Transition Services](#). Communities challenged by the mountain pine beetle epidemic require both immediate and longer-term attention and assistance in implementing change strategies that will re-employ workers, encourage economic growth and replace lost tax revenues for local governments.

The Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan provides a long-term, cross-government approach to mitigating the impacts of the mountain pine beetle epidemic and supports long term economic sustainability of British Columbia. Both federal and provincial governments contribute funding to various components of this plan. For more information on the Action Plan, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/pinebeetle.

Strategies

- Provide an integrated and rapid response to resource-based communities requesting assistance in adjusting to the effects of industry closure.
- Provide local government and First Nation leaders with ongoing outreach, advice on best practices and networking opportunities to build leadership and change management capacity.
- Implement the Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan in collaboration with other provincial ministries to support communities affected by the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
- Collaborate with Community Beetle Action Coalitions (identified in the diagram below) in the completion and implementation of strategies to mitigate the economic impact of the beetle epidemic.



Performance Measure 3: Percentage of mountain pine beetle-impacted communities covered by a mountain pine beetle socio-economic adjustment plan

| Performance Measure | 2008/09 Forecast | 2009/10 Target |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Percentage of mountain pine beetle-impacted communities covered by a mountain pine beetle socio-economic adjustment plan ¹ | 56% | 100% ² |
| <p>Data Source: Ministry of Community Development, Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Division.</p> <p>¹ This performance measure was transferred from the Ministry of Forests and Range to the Ministry of Community Development as of June 2008 and is being monitored by the Ministry until 2009/10.</p> <p>² This percentage is based on the current 34 mountain pine beetle-impacted communities in B.C.</p> | | |

Discussion

The socio-economic adjustment plans are specific to the Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan and are being coordinated and delivered by the Ministry’s Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Division. The three regional socio-economic plans are expected to be completed by 2009/10 and will identify the unique pine beetle challenges facing each region and how each region will be addressing these challenges.

This measure demonstrates the importance of making sure all mountain pine beetle impacted communities have the opportunity to participate in creating a socio-economic adjustment plan. These plans provide impacted communities with important information that helps to better their understanding of the potential impact of the mountain pine beetle epidemic and provide an opportunity to advise government on specific mountain pine beetle mitigation measures to undertake. Once government receives and reviews these plans, decisions on future government initiatives and actions can be made.

As the epidemic spreads, the number of communities impacted by the mountain pine beetle will change, however, it is expected that the 2009/10 target of 100 per cent of pine beetle-affected communities being covered by a socio-economic adjustment plan will not change, as these communities are included in one of the identified Beetle Action Coalition regions.

The Province expects some recommendations made in the socio-economic plans will be possible to implement through existing programs of government, and will strive to adapt existing provincial programs and measures where possible.

Goal 3: Communities are equipped with innovative tools that enable them to work toward environmental sustainability

Leading the world in sustainable environmental management is one of the Province's highest priorities. Tackling the critical issue of global warming and making tangible progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions will require concerted and collaborative actions by all levels of government.

Objective 3.1: Local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take other climate change action

The Ministry provides funding and a modern policy, legislative and regulatory framework to help local governments implement climate-change mitigation and adaptation strategies within B.C. communities. The Ministry's infrastructure funding programs now encompass environmental sustainability, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a key component.



Photo: Picture BC

Strategies

- Help local governments develop communities that encourage increased density, walkability, good cycling access and reduced traffic congestion as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing local quality of life.
- Encourage local governments to sign the *British Columbia Climate Action Charter*, which includes committing to the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2012 and working to create compact, more energy-efficient communities.
- Develop a policy, legislative and regulatory framework that provides the right mix of tools to support local government climate change actions.
- Ensure that infrastructure funding programs value those local government projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- In partnership with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, implement the [Federal Gas Tax Transfer and Transit Agreements](#), which provide communities with funding to support environmentally-sustainable municipal infrastructure that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide local governments implementing climate-change initiatives with tools, best practices information and advice.
- Actively support cross-ministry climate-change initiatives.

Performance Measure 4: Percentage of British Columbians living in communities that have signed the *British Columbia Climate Action Charter*

| Performance Measure | 2008/09 Forecast ¹ | 2009/10 Target ² | 2010/11 Target | 2011/12 Target |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Percentage of British Columbians living in communities that have signed the <i>British Columbia Climate Action Charter</i> ¹ | 70% | 90% | 95% | 98% |
| <p>Data Source: The Union of British Columbia Municipalities records and tracks, in a database, those local governments that sign the <i>British Columbia Climate Action Charter</i>. The Ministry further determines, through BC Statistics, what percentage of British Columbians this represents.</p> <p>¹ “Communities” are defined as those municipalities and regional districts that have signed the <i>British Columbia Climate Action Charter</i>. Population percentages were calculated using BC Statistics 2008 projections - regional district populations only include persons living within the regional district but outside of municipal jurisdictions.</p> | | | | |

Discussion

Local governments from across B.C. have joined the Province and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to find ways to tackle the challenges posed by climate change.

This measure demonstrates the efforts taken to increase the number of local governments that have signed the charter. In doing so, these communities are committing to developing strategies and taking action to achieve three goals: becoming carbon neutral with respect to their operations by 2012; measuring and reporting on their community’s greenhouse gas emissions profile; and creating complete, compact, more energy-efficient communities. Since the inception of the charter, a Joint Provincial-Union of British Columbia Municipalities [Green Communities Committee](#), and three Working Groups (Carbon Neutrality, Small Communities Strategies and Actions, and Urban Strategies and Actions) have been established and are co-chaired by Ministry of Community Development staff. The Green Communities Committee and Working Groups have worked to provide a range of practical strategies and actions, share information, and build local government capacity to support climate-change activities.

The [BC Climate Action Toolkit](#) has been created as the means to deliver advice and information to help B.C. local governments successfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, at the same time, strengthen their communities.

The Community Energy Association, in partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, has developed a [guide](#) to assist B.C. local governments with calculating greenhouse gas emissions reductions for various types of infrastructure. In addition, the Ministry has partnered with the association to develop a planning guide that describes the purpose and content of a [community energy and emissions plan](#), as well as how to go about creating one.

These activities will continue to support local governments across British Columbia in reaching their carbon reduction goals and objectives.

Objective 3.2: Local governments and communities invest in their urban forests and take a proactive approach to planning, planting and stewardship

Urban forests are the trees and treed landscapes in B.C. communities. Planting trees to bolster urban forests and educating British Columbians about the value of treed environments will contribute to the health of our communities for generations to come. The [Trees for Tomorrow](#) program encourages community organizations, First Nations and local governments to collaborate and add new treed landscapes within their communities across the province to help lock away greenhouse gases that would otherwise contribute to climate-change.

Strategies

- Implement the [Trees for Tomorrow](#) program which supports communities in achieving their visions for healthy treed landscapes.
- Provide resources to communities to understand the role of treed environments in the social, economic and environmental health of the community.
- Develop opportunities for communities to build their capacity to enhance and maintain healthy treed landscapes.

Objective 3.3: Local governments and communities are meeting community needs for water quality and quantity

Finding innovative ways to provide the quality and quantity of drinking water that British Columbians need is a priority for B.C. communities. The Ministry funds innovative local government projects aimed at improving drinking water quality and quantity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Strategies

- Provide targeted funding to local governments to help them achieve provincial [drinking water objectives](#).
- Provide tools and resources to local governments to improve water conservation practices and support integrated resource management by linking water stewardship and liquid and solid waste management resources among adjacent local governments.



Photo: Community Development

Performance Measure 5: Number and percentage of British Columbians served by drinking water systems that meet emerging treatment standards for the protection of drinking water quality

| Performance Measure | 2008/09 Forecast | 2009/10 Target ² | 2010/11 Target | 2011/12 Target |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Number and percentage of British Columbians served by drinking water systems that meet emerging treatment standards for the protection of drinking water quality ¹ | 21.6% of total population served 917,588 total population served Additional 86,270 people with new system | 73.1% of total population served 3,108,231 total population served Additional 2,190,643 people with new system | 74.3% of total population served 3,162,232 total population served Additional 54,001 people with new system | 75.6% of total population served 3,216,232 total population served Additional 54,000 people with new system |
| <p>Data Source: Contractual requirements between the Province and grant recipients include quarterly progress reports, tied to quarterly claim payments, which are tracked within a grant database. Population data is provided by B.C. Statistics.</p> <p>¹ The measure does not include groundwater, nor does it capture the provincial population using privately-owned infrastructure.</p> <p>² The significant increase in population served is due to the completion of the Greater Vancouver Regional District water treatment plant, which will serve approximately 50 per cent of the provincial population.</p> | | | | |

Discussion

The Ministry provides funding to communities for new and improved water treatment facilities through a number of grant programs, including [Building Canada](#), [Towns for Tomorrow](#) and [Infrastructure Planning Grants](#).

This measure provides an indication of those populations served by new water treatment facilities that meet emerging standards. It provides evidence that communities are building the infrastructure using current North American regulatory standards for the treatment of surface water.

Objective 3.4: Local governments work together to be innovative and collaborative in how they deliver services to their residents

Major infrastructure projects are needed in communities to ensure British Columbians have what they need to be strong and healthy. With population growth, increasing construction costs, and the commitment to take action on climate change, these infrastructure projects often challenge the financial capacity of both large and small local governments. Encouraging local governments to find innovative and collaborative solutions to delivering services to British Columbians is a priority for the Ministry.

Strategies

- Ensure program criteria encourage regional innovation and integration in the development and implementation of local government infrastructure projects.
- Provide tools and resources to local governments to support the best management practices that promote sustainability and address regional infrastructure challenges.
- Partner with local governments to further innovative and sustainable planning and land-use approaches through [Smart Development Partnerships](#) to fast-track green development initiatives.
- Through the new [BC Climate Action Toolkit](#), provide the latest news, best practices and practical advice to help B.C. local governments successfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Undertake activities aimed at streamlining provincial approval processes to speed up local government actions that contribute to environmental sustainability.
- Ensure that local government planning activities balance local priorities with provincial priorities and that local decisions pursue local and regional integration.

Goal 4: Forestry-dependent and pine beetle-affected communities are assisted in adapting to a changing forestry sector

Creating jobs, educating and building systems of support for British Columbians are important goals of the Province. The forestry sector downturn in British Columbia impacts more than the forest land base, affecting the lives of forestry workers, their communities and their families.

Objective 4.1: Opportunities are created for workers and their forestry-dependent communities

The Ministry is working with several partners to provide assistance to workers who have been affected by the changes in the forestry sector. Programs are designed to provide opportunities for workers who want to transition to other employment and stay in the communities where they are living and raising their families until our forestry industry is strong and revitalized.

Strategies

- Provide funding through the [Community Development Trust](#) to assist forestry workers with tuition assistance and transitional assistance and to provide job opportunities to forestry-dependent communities.
- Provide skills training, education and employment services to displaced or self-employed forestry workers and other individuals in mountain pine beetle-affected communities who are ineligible for employment insurance, through the Industrial Transition Program.



Photo: Picture BC

Performance Measure 6: Number of workers in forestry-dependent and mountain pine beetle-affected communities assisted by the Community Development Trust and the Industrial Transition Program

| Performance Measure | 2008/09 Forecast | 2009/10 Target | 2010/11 Target | 2011/12 Target |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Number of workers in forestry-dependent and mountain pine beetle-affected communities assisted by the Community Development Trust and the Industrial Transition Program | 2,700 ¹ | 2,800 ² | 1,300 ³ | 800 ⁴ |

Data Source: The Community Development Trust is collecting statistics based on each of the programs as they are delivered. The Industrial Transition Program's service provider will collect recruitment data and the Ministry will collect participation-in-employment data at 3 and 12 months after the intervention is completed.

¹ Represents targets of 2,500 workers for Community Development Trust and 200 workers for the Industrial Transition Program.

² Represents targets of 2,000 workers for Community Development Trust and 800 workers for the Industrial Transition Program.

³ Represents targets of 500 workers for Community Development Trust and 800 workers for the Industrial Transition Program.

⁴ Represents target of 800 workers for the Industrial Transition Program.

Discussion

Workers who receive assistance by participating in these Ministry programs are directly impacted and able to make critical decisions for their futures. Encouraging people and their families to stay and work in the communities where they live is a priority of the Ministry and the Province. Retaining skilled workers to participate in new economic opportunities will contribute to the resilience of our rural communities and enable them to continue to be great places for British Columbians to live, work and invest.

The measure demonstrates the Ministry's success in supporting workers and forestry-dependent communities through the current challenges of the forestry sector downturn and the mountain pine beetle epidemic until these communities are revitalized. The targets decrease over time as workers are assisted through retraining or transition.

Resource Summary Table

| Core Business Area | 2008/09 Restated Estimates ¹ | 2009/10 Estimates | 2010/11 Plan | 2011/12 Plan |
|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Operating Expenses (\$000) | | | | |
| Local Government | 214,033 | 144,027 | 158,720 | 211,714 |
| RuralBC Secretariat | 6,394 | 36,279 | 6,214 | 6,100 |
| Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Division..... | 173 | 539 | 519 | 493 |
| Property Assessment | 660 | 595 | 587 | 574 |
| Executive and Support Services | 9,559 | 9,128 | 8,801 | 8,383 |
| Northern Development Fund | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| University Endowment Lands Administration Account | 6,442 | 6,442 | 6,442 | 6,442 |
| Total | 237,761 | 197,510 | 181,783 | 234,206 |
| Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs) | | | | |
| Local Government | 96 | 96 | 96 | 96 |
| RuralBC Secretariat | 8 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Division..... | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Property Assessment | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Executive and Support Services | 70 | 65 | 65 | 65 |
| Total | 191 | 191 | 191 | 191 |

¹ 2008/09 budget amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with Schedule A of the 2009/10 Estimates.

Ministry of Community Development

| Core Business Area | 2008/09 Restated Estimates | 2009/10 Estimates | 2010/11 Plan | 2011/12 Plan |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000) | | | | |
| Local Government | 725 | - | - | - |
| RuralBC Secretariat | 175 | - | - | - |
| Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Division | - | - | - | - |
| Property Assessment | - | - | - | - |
| Executive and Support Services | 1,046 | 150 | 145 | 145 |
| Total | 1,946 | 150 | 145 | 145 |

Ministry Contact Information

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 9806, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9N7
www.gov.bc.ca/cd

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

www.cd/gov.bc.ca/lgd/

Policy and Research Branch

P.O. Box 9847, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9T2
Telephone: (250) 387-4050
Fax: (250) 387-6212

Governance and Structure Division

P.O. Box 9839, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9T1
Telephone: (250) 387-4022
Fax: (250) 387-7972

University Endowment Lands

5495 Chancellor Blvd.
Vancouver, BC V6T 1E2
Telephone: (604) 660-1808
Fax: (604) 660-1874

Intergovernmental Relations and Planning Division

P.O. Box 9841 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9T2
Telephone: (250) 387-4037
Fax: (250) 387-8720

Infrastructure and Finance Division

P.O. Box 9838, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9T1
Telephone: (250) 387-4060
Fax: (250) 356-1873

Ministry Contact Information (cont'd)

RURALBC SECRETARIAT

www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca

Regional Economic Development Cranbrook Branch

101 – 100 Cranbrook St. North
Cranbrook, BC V1C 3P9
Telephone: (250) 426-1301
Fax: (250) 426-1253

Regional Economic Development Courtenay Branch

201 – I 2435 Mansfield Dr.
Courtney, BC V9N 2M2
Telephone: (250) 897-3276
Fax: (250) 331-0220

Regional Economic Development Dawson Creek Branch

1201 – 103rd Ave.
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4J2
Telephone: (250) 784-2296
Fax: (250) 784-2211

Regional Economic Development Fort St. John Branch

8415 – 94th Ave.
Fort St. John, BC V1J 1E9
Telephone: (250) 787-2716
Fax: (250) 784-2211

Regional Economic Development Kamloops Branch

210 – 301 Victoria St.
Kamloops, BC V2C 2A3
Telephone: (250) 377-2171
Fax: (250) 377-2150

Regional Economic Development Nanaimo Branch

142 – 2080 Labieux Rd
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9
Telephone: (250) 751-3227
Fax: (250) 751-3245

Ministry Contact Information (cont'd)

Regional Economic Development Prince George Branch

200 – 1488 Fourth Ave.
Prince George, BC V2L 4Y2
Telephone: (250) 565-6685
Fax: (250) 565-4279

Regional Economic Development Prince Rupert Branch

125 Market Place
Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1B9
Telephone: (250) 624-7499
Fax: (250) 624-7479

Regional Economic Development Smithers Branch

3726 Alfred Ave. Bag 5000
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Telephone: (250) 847-7797
Fax: (250) 847-7556

Community Partnerships Branch

P.O. Box 9837, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9T1
Telephone: (250) 387-0220
Fax: (250) 386-9467

Corporate and Strategic Initiatives

P.O. Box 9853, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria BC V8W 9T5X
Telephone: (250) 356-6386
Fax: (250) 387-7972

PINE BEETLE RESPONSE

www.gov.bc.ca/pinebeetle

510 – 175 2nd Ave.
Kamloops, BC V2C 5W1
Telephone: (250) 371-3725
Fax: (250) 371-3942

Ministry Contact Information (cont'd)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

<http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/cdt/>

P.O. Box 9595, Stn. Prov. Govt.

Victoria, BC V8W 9K4

Telephone outside of Victoria: (877) 238-8882

Telephone in Victoria: (250) 387-5349

Fax: (250) 387-4425

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT SERVICES

P.O. Box 9361, Stn. Prov. Govt.

Victoria, BC V8W 9M2

Telephone: (250) 387-1195

Fax: (250) 356-6924

Hyperlinks to Additional Information

Ministry of Community Development

www.gov.bc.ca/cd/

Ministry Organizational Chart

www.cd.gov.bc.ca/ministry/org_chart/orgchart.htm

RuralBC Secretariat

www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca

Community Development Trust

www.cd.gov.bc.ca/cdt/

Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan

www.gov.bc.ca/pinebeetle

Ministry Infrastructure Grant Programs

www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/finance/grants.htm

Ministry Key Legislation

www.cd.gov.bc.ca/ministry/legislation/legislation.htm

Ministry Agencies, Boards and Commissions (includes Crowns and Economic Trusts)

www.cd.gov.bc.ca/ministry/agencies_boards_commissions/agencies_boards_commissions.htm

