

**Ministry of  
Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation**

**2019/20 – 2021/22  
SERVICE PLAN**

**February 2019**



## Minister Accountability Statement

The *Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 2019/20 - 2021/22 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.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fraser', written in a cursive style.

Honourable Scott Fraser  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
February 1, 2019

## Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#) (the Ministry) guides and calibrates the Province of British Columbia's efforts to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with [Indigenous peoples](#)<sup>1</sup> through the implementation of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration), the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) of Canada: Calls to Action](#), and the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court Decision.

The B.C. Government has promised to achieve its [reconciliation commitments](#) in a transformative and collaborative manner. [Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities](#) and leveraging Indigenous knowledge and perspectives will improve social and economic outcomes for Indigenous peoples and all British Columbians.

The Ministry works towards [reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in B.C.](#) by collaboratively developing related policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing [agreements, partnerships, and treaties](#). The Ministry is making substantive improvements on its approach to this work by focusing on building lasting relationships with Indigenous peoples rather than taking a transactional approach; working toward flexible agreements that can evolve over time; and developing collaborative approaches to policy making. These improvements increase collaboration on decision-making and promote better engagement with Indigenous communities, treaty partners and federal and municipal governments.

The B.C. government's promise to achieve its reconciliation commitments in a manner that is both transformative and collaborative calls for Indigenous peoples to be deeply and directly involved<sup>2</sup>. The Ministry's role in this transformation is to increase engagement with Indigenous governments, communities<sup>3</sup>, organizations, federal, municipal and treaty partners, stakeholders and the public. While reconciliation is a whole-of-government responsibility, the Ministry provides guidance and leadership to other areas of government on establishing and enhancing relationships with Indigenous peoples.

The Ministry is also responsible for the [Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#), which provides advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in B.C., and; the [First Peoples' Cultural Council \(FPCC\)](#), a provincial Crown corporation formed by the

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<sup>1</sup> The term "Indigenous" used throughout this document is intended to be inclusive of all peoples of Indigenous ancestry, including First Nations (status and non-status), Métis and Inuit.

<sup>2</sup> Changing the relationships between Indigenous communities and government helps challenge long-standing paternalism and racism, and builds empathy and insight into the histories and legacies of Canada's treatment of Indigenous peoples and the changes that are necessary to address them.

<sup>3</sup> The term "communities" means the diversity of Indigenous communities as defined by Indigenous peoples and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, land-based and reserve. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation works with all Indigenous peoples wherever they may live in British Columbia.

Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program.

## Strategic Direction

The Government of British Columbia is putting people at the heart of decision-making by working to make life more affordable, improve the services people count on, and build a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Over the past year, significant government investments in areas including housing, child care and the elimination of fees, such as Medical Service Premiums, have contributed to making life more affordable for British Columbians today and into the future. Ministries are engaged in ongoing work to improve the availability of services citizens rely on including those related to primary medical care, education and training, transportation, the opioid crisis and poverty.

A strong economy that works for all regions of B.C. is diversified, resilient and improves the standard of living for people across the province. With that in mind, government is focusing on sustainable economic growth that strengthens our natural resource sectors, continues the development of the emerging economy, supports small business and uses innovation and technology to solve B.C. problems. A key priority in 2019/20 and beyond will be driving economic growth with cleaner energy and fewer emissions. At the same time, Ministries continue to build prudence into budgets and plan for challenges.

Underpinning the work of all Ministries are two shared commitments: reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and consideration of how diverse groups of British Columbians may experience our policies, programs and initiatives. As part of these commitments, Ministries are working to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and Gender-Based Analysis+ policy and budgeting.

In July 2017, each minister was given a formal mandate letter that identifies both government-wide and ministry-specific priorities for implementation.

This service plan outlines how the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will support the government's priorities, including selected action items identified in the Minister's [Mandate Letter](#). Over the previous fiscal year, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation made progress on these priorities by:

- Committing to [Concrete Actions](#) with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to advance reconciliation, including co-developing legislation in 2019 to implement the UN Declaration.
- Collaborately designing and launching the [2018 Shared Vision, Guiding Principles, goals and objectives](#) with the FNLC.
- Reaching a revenue-sharing agreement that will give First Nations in B.C. access to a share of provincial gaming revenue to support self-government, strong, healthy communities and services that make life better for families.
- Launching the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#) (the draft principles), a resource to help guide all public servants to strengthen relationships with Indigenous peoples based on respect and recognition of inherent rights and title.

- Engaging with B.C. treaty partners to identify priorities for transforming how we negotiate treaties and other constructive agreements to recognize the inherent rights and title of Indigenous peoples and better reflect new case law and growing and evolving relationships with First Nations.
- Establishing a new dedicated [Cabinet Committee on Reconciliation](#) in October 2018 to provide strategic cross-government direction and focus for achieving meaningful, permanent progress on reconciliation.
- Providing \$50-million to support the work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and First Nations communities to revitalize Indigenous languages.
- Committing core, stable funding to boost the work of friendship centres, which play a significant role in supporting the well-being of Indigenous people living in urban areas, through an additional \$6.45 million over the next three years.
- In partnership with the FNLC, hosting the annual [B.C. Cabinet-First Nations Leaders' Gathering](#).
- Advancing recommendations of the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women.

The following performance plan outlines how the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will continue to track progress on key mandate letter commitments and other emerging government priorities.

## Performance Planning

**Goal 1: Advance equality of social and economic outcomes between Indigenous peoples and other British Columbians.**

**Objective 1.1: Partner with Indigenous governments, communities and organizations, other ministries, stakeholders and other orders of government on shared measures that improve the quality of life of Indigenous peoples.**

### Key Strategies:

- Improve social and economic outcomes in Indigenous communities in comprehensive and holistic ways that are organized around each community’s needs, goals, and likelihood of success of specific strategies.
- Work collaboratively to develop and deliver culturally appropriate services and programs for Indigenous peoples, including the protection and revitalization of Indigenous cultures and languages.
- Share the benefits of economic development with Indigenous communities, and increase participation of Indigenous peoples in the economy.
- Collaborate with other ministries and partners to improve the health and wellness of Indigenous communities in areas such as: ending violence towards Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQ2S peoples; justice; education; skills training; individual and community well-being; children, families and youth; economic development; language and culture; and, poverty reduction.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.1 Cumulative number of community well-being initiatives <sup>1</sup>	8	12	16	20	24

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Community well-being initiatives are community-based, socio-cultural reconciliation processes where Indigenous communities and the B.C. government work in partnership to identify priorities and implementation measures to advance self-determining, thriving Indigenous communities. These partnership models take a comprehensive, holistic approach to investments in Indigenous communities to integrate social and economic priorities.

**Objective 1.2: Increase opportunities to support Indigenous communities in governance building and to build associated capacity, funding sources and accountability.**

### Key Strategies:

- Support the development of new revenue streams for Indigenous governments and organizations.

- Increase the role of Indigenous Nations and organizations in delivering services to Indigenous peoples by transferring service delivery.
- Build the capacity of Indigenous governments and organizations, including Indigenous public services.
- Collaborate, align and leverage associated opportunities with the federal government.

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective:**

Sharing provincial gaming revenues is a new fiscal arrangement, and performance measures will be developed for future service plans. All First Nations will be eligible for a portion of the new gaming revenue fund. A new limited partnership, comprised of a First Nations-appointed board of directors, will oversee the distribution of the funds. First Nations will determine the best use for the new funding from a share of annual provincial gaming revenues. Funding will focus on priorities in the following framework: health and wellness; infrastructure, safety, transportation and housing; economic and business development; education, language, culture and training; community development and environmental protection; and capacity building, fiscal management and governance. Within that framework, First Nations governments will determine their own priorities for these funds. Gaming revenue sharing will be provided in addition to existing revenue sharing. Currently, economic benefits agreements between the Province and First Nations are primarily resource based.

**Goal 2: Work in partnership to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.**

**Objective 2.1: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court decision.**

**Key Strategies:**

- Jointly develop provincial legislation with the First Nations Leadership Council to establish the UN Declaration as the foundation for provincial government-Indigenous relations and reconciliation in British Columbia. This includes alignment of provincial law and policy with the UN Declaration and Indigenous rights.
- Working in partnership with Indigenous communities, establish a clear, cross-government vision of reconciliation to guide the adoption of the UN Declaration, the TRC Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court decision, and continue to develop a cross-ministry framework to meet these commitments.
- Support government ministries and agencies to integrate reconciliation into their operations.
- Pursue opportunities to align with the federal government, and support and engage the public and other stakeholders to build understanding and partnerships towards reconciliation.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.1 Legislation related to the Declaration introduced by the fall of 2019. <sup>1</sup>	-	1	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Legislation will establish the UN Declaration as the foundation for provincial government-Indigenous relations and reconciliation in British Columbia. Future performance measures to effectively measure government's progress to implement the UN Declaration will flow from mechanisms established as a result of the legislation.

## Objective 2.2: Negotiate and implement comprehensive and lasting reconciliation agreements with Indigenous peoples.

### Key Strategies:

- In partnership with First Nations, transform the treaty process so it respects new case law and the UN Declaration, and take deliberate and measured steps that support incremental approaches to treaty-making.
- Shift how government negotiates agreements with First Nations within or outside the treaty process by exploring collaborative approaches that recognize and implement rights and title.
- Collaborate with the federal government and other orders of government to pursue new approaches and models that support the co-existence and exercise of the jurisdiction of Indigenous governments.
- Work with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to modernize land-use planning and sustainably manage B.C.'s ecosystems, rivers, watersheds, forests and old growth.
- Make space for new approaches to negotiations and associated dispute resolution to incorporate Indigenous models of interaction and resolution.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.2 Number of agreements demonstrating transformed approach to treaty-making and other constructive arrangements <sup>1</sup>	5	7	9	11

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

A transformed approach to treaty-making includes incremental agreements that support the negotiated reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title interests, whether inside or outside the formal BC Treaty Commission Process. Agreements include: a final agreement, agreement-in-principle, incremental treaty agreement, core treaty agreement, or other constructive arrangements that seek to reconcile Aboriginal rights and title interests.

**Objective 2.3: Increase British Columbians’ understanding of the benefits of reconciliation.**

**Key Strategies:**

- Seek support of First Nations to develop a comprehensive, multi-year plan to reinforce support for reconciliation.
- Build partnerships and strengthen cultural understandings between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities through stakeholder and local government engagement.
- Develop ways to involve all British Columbians in shaping the future of reconciliation.

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective:**

The performance measure related to this objective is under development and will be included in a future Ministry service plan, as baseline data and appropriate targets are established over the next year. Baseline data regarding British Columbians’ understanding of reconciliation is needed to inform future strategies.

## Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2018/19 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2019/20 Estimates	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
<b>Negotiations and Regional Operations Division</b>	12,812	13,438	13,382	13,382
<b>Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division</b>	21,906	23,377	23,327	23,327
<b>Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division</b>	1,709	1,952	1,944	1,944
<b>Executive &amp; Support Services</b>	7,487	9,396	9,387	9,267
<b>Treaty &amp; Other Agreements Funding</b>	46,438	49,729	49,556	49,635
<b>First Citizens Fund</b>	1,900	2,000	2,200	2,300
<b>First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund</b>	7,264	7,889	7,563	7,631
<b>Total</b>	99,516	107,781	107,359	107,486
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
<b>Executive &amp; Support Services</b>	3,901	3,901	1	1
<b>Total</b>	3,901	3,901	1	1

<sup>1</sup>For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2018/19 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2019/20 Estimates.

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

## **Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals**

### [BC Treaty Commission](#)

The BC Treaty Commission is an independent body responsible for facilitating treaty negotiations among First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

### [First Peoples' Cultural Council](#)

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nation-run Crown corporation that supports the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia.

### [Haida Gwaii Management Council](#)

The Haida Gwaii Management Council (HGMC) is a strategic-level joint decision-making body for land and natural resource decisions on Haida Gwaii, as set out in the [Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol](#).

### [Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#)

The Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women provides advice to the Government of British Columbia on how to improve the quality of life of Indigenous women across B.C.

