

PROVINCIAL MINISTRIES & AGENCIES

SECTION 20

Contact with Ministries

The local governments of BC will be in contact with provincial ministries and agencies concerning:

1. Approval and review of local actions by provincial agencies;
2. Joint services or regulatory activities; and
3. Provincial assistance programs.

Some of the ministries and agencies that local government elected officials will come in contact with are listed below. A complete listing is available at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations>

BC Housing

BC Housing is a Crown corporation that works in partnership with the private, non-profit and cooperative sectors, and health authorities, among others to develop a range of housing options in the province. It also has responsibilities related to licensing of residential builders, home warranty insurance and research to improve the quality of residential construction and consumer protection. BC Housing administers a number of funding programs supporting affordable housing, available at:

<https://www.bchousing.org/partner-services/funding-opportunities-for-housing-providers>

BC Transit

BC Transit coordinates the provision of public transportation across BC with the exception of areas serviced by TransLink (Metro Vancouver).

BC Assessment Authority

BC Assessment establishes and maintains property assessments throughout the province in accordance with the *Assessment Act*. The *Assessment Authority Act* sets out the structure of the Authority, as well as the functions of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Authority. It also empowers the Authority to levy tax on all parcels of taxable property in the province, which together with various revenue generating services, provides and helps to maintain its annual operating fund.

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training is responsible for ensuring accessible, affordable, relevant and responsible education and skills training. The Ministry administers a suite of student financial assistance programs. The Ministry also works with post-secondary partners, municipalities, employers and industry towards labour market development. The Ministry provides oversight to two Crown corporations: the British Columbia Council for Internal Education, and the Industry Training Authority.

Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agriculture and seafood products; carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety and plant or animal health programs; and data collection and dissemination relating to agriculture and seafood.

The Ministry funds the Agricultural Land Commission, which is an independent administrative tribunal that oversees the Agricultural Land Reserve, a provincial land use zone that recognizes agriculture as a priority use. The Ministry is also responsible for the operation of the BC Farm Industry Review Board, which is an independent administrative tribunal with responsibilities for the general supervision of regulated marketing boards and commissions in addition to administering the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*.

Ministry of Attorney General

The Ministry is responsible for administrative, civil and family justice services and court services. It is also responsible for family maintenance enforcement, legal advice and services to government, legal aid, prosecution services, protection and promotion of human rights, gaming regulation and enforcement. In addition, the Ministry is responsible for liquor licensing, enforcement and distribution.

Several agencies, boards and commissions fall under the Ministry of Attorney General, including the BC Lottery Corporation, BC Utilities Commission, BC Human Rights Tribunal, BC Review Board, Environmental Appeal Board, Forest Appeals Commission, Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal, Building Code Appeal Board, the Property Assessment Appeal Board, and Legal Services Society.

Ministry of Children & Family Development

The Ministry supports all children and youth in British Columbia, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families and to be strongly connected to their communities and culture. These services are delivered in part through partnership with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, Indigenous service partners, and contracted community social service agencies and foster homes, as well as cross-government and social-sector partners.

**Ministry of
Citizens' Services**

The Ministry provides services for citizens and builds opportunities for local communities and businesses to benefit from government's purchasing power, using a single point-of-service approach. The Ministry also coordinates support for the expansion of high-speed internet connectivity throughout the province. It provides corporate leadership across government to modernize and transform government's information management and information technology, to address citizen needs including responses to Freedom of Information requests. The Ministry also supports government by managing the Province's real estate assets, technology systems and equipment, and leverages procurement.

**Ministry of
Education**

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the province's K-12 education system through governance, legislation, policy and standards. Specific roles and responsibilities are set out under the *School Act*, *Independent School Act*, *Teachers Act*, *Library Act*, *First Nations Education Act*, and accompanying regulations.

**Ministry of Energy,
Mines & Petroleum
Resources**

The Ministry is responsible for British Columbia's electricity, alternative energy, oil, natural gas and related infrastructure, and the province's mining and mineral exploration sectors. In fulfilling its mandate, the Ministry consults with other ministries and levels of government, energy developers and marketers, regulators, mineral exploration and mining companies, First Nations, communities, environmental and industry organizations, and the public. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources also holds governance responsibilities for the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro); and the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC).

**Ministry of
Environment &
Climate Change
Strategy**

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of BC's water, land, air and living resources. The Ministry mitigates and manages the risks and consequences from climate change, including developing plans to set and meet carbon pollution reduction targets. It also oversees provincial environmental assessment. The Ministry is encompassed both the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS); and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance manages the province's fiscal, financial and taxation policies. Its responsibilities include developing forecasts of the provincial economy; developing and monitoring government's capital plan and three-year fiscal plan; and managing significant risks and opportunities relating to the plan. It is also responsible for oversight for financial, procurement and administrative governance as well as banking, corporate accounting, insurance, risk and debt management services for the broader public service. It undertakes policy development, regulation and enforcement for specific sectors including financial services, capital markets, pension plans, mortgage broker sectors, real estate services and societies.

The ministry provides oversight of Crown governance and corporate accountability, and is responsible for the operation of the Government House and accountability for the BC Securities Commission, Partnerships BC, and Real Estate Council of BC.

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development

The Ministry is responsible for land and resource management including the protection of the province's archaeological and heritage resources. It ensures the sustainable management of forest, wildlife, water and other land-based resources, works with Indigenous and rural communities to strengthen and diversify their economies, and supports activities that provide environmental, economic, cultural, and social benefits. It is responsible for wildfire management and facilitates safe public access to various recreational activities (e.g., hunting, fishing).

Two organizations report to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development: The Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia (FESBC), and the British Columbia Forest Practices Board.

Ministry of Health

The Ministry has overall responsibility for health services for British Columbians. The province's health authorities are primarily responsible for health service delivery. Five regional health authorities deliver a continuum of health services within their respective geographic regions. A sixth health authority, the Provincial Health Services Authority, is responsible for managing the quality, coordination and accessibility of specialized services and province-wide health programs. The Ministry also works in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to improve the health status of First Nations in BC.

The Ministry is also responsible for provincial legislation and regulations related to health care, including the *Medicare Protection Act* and the *Health Professions Act*. The Ministry's public health roles include regulating food safety in food establishments through the *Public Health Act* Food Premises Regulation, and regulating drinking water safety through the *Drinking Water Protection Act*.

The Ministry also directly manages a number of provincial programs and services, including the Medical Services Plan, PharmaCare, and the BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is responsible for leading efforts towards reconciliation with First Nations and Indigenous peoples in British Columbia. The Ministry leads relationship-building with First Nations, Métis, and Aboriginal people, and is responsible for negotiation and implementation of treaty, non-treaty agreements, partnerships and other reconciliation initiatives. It works across government and with other partners and stakeholders to improve socio-economic and socio-cultural outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

The Ministry is also responsible for the First Peoples' Cultural Council, a provincial Crown corporation to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program.

Ministry of Jobs, Trades and Technology

The Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology is tasked with building a strong economy by attracting, supporting and retaining innovative companies, investing in infrastructure, revitalizing traditional industries, and providing economic development tools, among other approaches. It is also responsible for delivering services to expand exports across sectors, attracting strategic investments, and developing international partnerships.

The Ministry has an oversight role for the following Crown corporations: Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd., the BC Immigrant Investment Fund, BC Renaissance Capital Fund, the BC Innovation Council and the Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society. The Ministry also has legislative or oversight responsibility for a number of agencies, boards and commissions, including: Small Business BC, the Indigenous Business Investment Council, the North Island-Coast Development Initiative Trust, the Northern Development Initiative Trust, the Premier's Technology Council, the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust and the Small Business Roundtable.

Ministry of Labour

The Ministry of Labour promotes fair, healthy and safe labour and employment relationships in support of a strong, sustainable and innovative economy. The Ministry has overall responsibility for British Columbia's labour and employment statutes including the Labour Relations Code, the *Employment Standards Act*, and the *Workers' Compensation Act*. The Ministry has legislative responsibility for WorkSafeBC, the Labour Relations Board, the Employment Standards Tribunal and the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal.

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions works to improve the mental well-being and reduce substance use-related harms for British Columbians. The Ministry is responsible for the development of a mental health and addictions system that is effective for individuals and families across the lifespan throughout the province. The Ministry is also responsible for leading an immediate response to the province's opioid overdose public health emergency.

The Ministry aims to strengthen social supports and services that impact mental health and well-being (e.g., housing, employment, income, education, and childcare). The Ministry also leads the transformation of BC's mental health and addictions system by setting the strategic direction for the Province through cross-sector planning and driving system-level improvement.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provides local governments with a legislative framework; supports local governments, not-for-profit organizations and residents in community building; and, supports development of affordable housing through policy and programs, technical codes and standards and services for landlords and tenants.

The Ministry oversees the following Crown corporations, agencies, boards and commissions: the BC Assessment Authority, the BC Housing Management Commission, the Board of Examiners and the Islands Trust Fund. The Ministry also oversees the University Endowment Lands, administers the annual Property Assessment Review Panel process and supports the Audit Council for the Auditor General for Local Government. The Ministry partners with Technical Safety BC and the Building Officials Association of BC as delegated authorities to deliver services for British Columbians. The Ministry is also responsible for TransLink legislation and governance.

Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible for policing and law enforcement; correctional services; restorative justice; crime prevention; victim services; coroners services; civil forfeiture; criminal record checks; private security industry regulation; cannabis legalization and regulation; road safety; emergency management, including planning, preparedness, mitigation/prevention, response and recovery; flood protection and mitigation; fire prevention and safety; consumer protection; and guide dog and service dog certification.

The Ministry is also responsible for a number of bodies: Consumer Protection BC, Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of BC, and Police Boards.

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation provides support and assistance to people with disabilities and offers unemployed and underemployed British Columbians access to programs and services.

Responsibilities include: provision of income and disability assistance, coordination of mental health and addiction services, employment services through the Employment Program of BC, and support for community living services through Community Living BC.

Social innovation and entrepreneurship are promoted through initiatives such as the BC Partners for Social Impact, multi-sector partnerships, and a social innovation website (Hubcap) which provides tools, resources and education regarding social innovation projects.

Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture contributes to BC's tourism and creative sectors, prioritizing opportunities for participation in sport and the arts and supporting and promoting an inclusive society.

The Ministry oversees five Crown corporations: Destination BC, the BC Pavilion Corporation, the Royal BC Museum, the Knowledge Network and the BC Games Society. The Ministry also provides oversight to the Office of the BC Athletic Commissioner. In addition, the Ministry works with the BC Arts Council to support cultural and artistic diversity in the province and with viaSport to engage and unify British Columbians through the power of sport. The Ministry also works with Creative BC to expand and diversify British Columbia's creative industries, stimulate creation of good jobs and sustainable employment in the creative sector, and promote BC's creative content and production capabilities.

Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure plans transportation networks, provides transportation services and infrastructure, develops and implements transportation policies, and administers many related acts, regulations and federal-provincial funding programs, including the Building Canada Fund. The Ministry's priorities include improving vital rural and urban infrastructure, investing in public transit, cycling infrastructure and other green modes of transportation, reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening the economy through the movement of people and goods.

The Ministry is responsible for several Crown corporations: the BC Transportation Financing Authority, BC Railway Company, Transportation Investment Corporation, and BC Transit.

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