

2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy

Annual Report



Ministry of
Social Development
and Poverty Reduction

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Message from the Minister



We are all better off in a province where we take care of each other—a province where people can afford to follow their dreams and have the services and supports they need to live with dignity, have a good life and build a better future.

That's why our government introduced our first Poverty Reduction Strategy, TogetherBC, in 2019. Here in British Columbia, we've been through a lot, from global inflation and rising costs, to the threat of unjustified tariffs, and political and economic uncertainty south of the border. It's been challenging for everyone, especially those on fixed incomes. We're taking action to make life more affordable and build a stronger, more resilient future, including updating our poverty reduction legislation last spring as the foundation of the new [2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy](#).

This strategy sets 10-year targets to reduce poverty by 60 per cent for all people, 75 per cent for children, and 50 per cent for seniors by 2034. Built on the advice of more than 10,000 people, over 70 per cent of whom have experienced poverty, our plan reflects the voices of those most affected.

While we know there is still more to do, the latest available data shows that we are making progress. Since 2016, we have reduced the overall poverty rate by 29.4 per cent, the child poverty rate by 36.2 per cent, and the seniors' poverty rate by 20.9 per cent. This means that in 2023, there were 161,000 fewer people living in poverty, including 48,000 children. I know our poverty reduction plan will be instrumental in continuing to guide our work to support people.

People say they feel better—and are better off—when they have a job and community connections. That's why we've continued to invest in programs that reduce barriers and support thousands of people in getting back to work. Our new Community-Based Employment Services (CBES) program, launched in six communities in 2024/2025, offers wraparound supports such as employment readiness, pre-employment skills, job search and sustainment, and supported education. These services are designed for people facing complex challenges such as substance use, precarious housing, or mental illness, to help people return to work and move towards greater independence.

We also continued to invest in training programs that help people gain the skills they need to find good jobs and we expanded services like childcare to help families balance work and caregiving.

To strengthen food security, we worked with partners across B.C. to support local solutions. Last year nearly \$16 million was distributed to hundreds of community-led food programs throughout B.C. to increase access to fresh, local food, reduce waste and build critical food infrastructure.

We also deepened our partnerships with Indigenous communities. Through the First Nations Well-Being Fund, we have supported about 75 per cent of First Nations in B.C. for First Nations-led projects to promote well-being and reduce poverty. Thank you to our partners like Food Banks BC, United Way B.C., New Relationship Trust, and First Nations Public Service Secretariat for administering these supports and funds on our behalf. This work is helping deliver real results for people and communities across the province.

Together, as we continue to implement the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy, we're building a more affordable, equitable and inclusive B.C.—a province where everyone feels safe, welcome, and included in their communities; where people can find and get the help

they need; and where income and disability assistance are accessible and inclusive. We know people are counting on us in this challenging time, and our Poverty Reduction Strategy will continue to guide our work to break the cycle of poverty and build a better B.C. for everyone.

SHEILA MALCOLMSON

MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION



Introduction

This 2024 Annual Report covers the first year of the renewed 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Province’s 10-year plan to break the cycle of poverty and improve well-being for people through cross-government action.

This report provides an update on early progress toward the Province’s legislated targets. It also highlights the collective efforts made across government throughout 2024.

The 2024 strategy sets out a vision for a province where:

- » Everyone can build a good life;
- » Services and supports are available, equitable and accessible; and
- » People feel connected to culture and included in community.

The strategy aims to address both the root causes and consequences of poverty through sustained cross-sector collaboration.

To achieve this vision, the new strategy identified eight critical action areas:

1. Upholding Indigenous self-determination
2. Preventing poverty and intervening early
3. Meeting basic needs
4. Making programs and services better and more accessible
5. Providing effective pathways to employment
6. Opening up access to education and skills training
7. Updating income assistance and disability assistance
8. Facilitating greater social inclusion

These areas reflected the voices of over 10,000 people who engaged in consultations through regional townhall sessions, a public survey and online submissions. Over 70 per cent of these people had lived experience of poverty.

Measuring our progress

B.C.'S POVERTY REDUCTION TARGETS

B.C.'s poverty reduction targets are set in legislation to ensure this work remains a priority for years to come. The Province tracks poverty using the Market Basket Measure (MBM). This is Canada's official way to determine who's living below the poverty line and track progress towards poverty reduction. It calculates how much money a person or family needs for things like food, clothing, housing, and transportation. This report uses 2023 numbers, which were released in spring 2025. These are the most recently available figures.

Since 2016, B.C. has reduced the:

- » Overall poverty rate by 29.4 per cent;
- » Child poverty rate by 36.2 per cent; and
- » Seniors' poverty rate by 20.9 per cent.

The Province also looks at depth of poverty as another important indicator, to see how far below the poverty line people are living. People whose income is 75 per cent or less than the poverty line are living in deep poverty. This means they have significantly less income to purchase what they need.

Since 2016, the rate of deep poverty has decreased for all people under age 65, including children. While deep poverty among seniors remains relatively low, it is increasing as seniors have been hit especially hard the last few years with rising costs of living.

In 2023, these were the estimated numbers for people living in deep poverty in B.C.:

- » 328,000 people (6.2 per cent of all people)—a 33.3 per cent decrease since 2016;

- » 50,000 children (5.6 per cent of children)—a 32.5 per cent decrease since 2016; and
- » 22,000 seniors (2.1 per cent of all seniors)—a 37.3 per cent increase since 2016.

Appendix A provides an overview of poverty rate trends in B.C. and other key indicators highlighted throughout the report.

SHIFTING HOW WE MEASURE PROGRESS

We know that the Market Basket Measure alone doesn't capture the full picture of poverty. This is especially true for people with disabilities, those living in rural/remote communities, and Indigenous people. Based on this input—in particular, from Indigenous people—B.C. has expanded its indicators of poverty and well-being. These indicators are highlighted throughout this report.

The Province is also continuing to work with Indigenous Peoples to develop more holistic and culturally relevant indicators that reflect their unique priorities and experiences. These include:

- » A First Nations-governed regional data governance centre under the Anti-Racism Data Act (Declaration Act Action Plan Item 3.14), led by the Ministry of Citizens' Services; and
- » A new holistic indicators framework being developed through the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in collaboration with First Nations and Métis partners to measure progress under the Declaration Act Action Plan.

As new indicators are developed, we will include these in future annual reports.



Poverty Reduction Strategy Act

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act sets the legislative framework for the strategy. This includes poverty reduction targets.

In March 2024, the provincial government made amendments to the legislation. The strategy's engagement process helped to inform these changes.

One of the most significant amendments involved updating our previous targets. The new, 10-year targets aim to reduce the overall poverty rate by 60 per cent and the child poverty rate by 75 per cent. For the first time, we also included a target to reduce the seniors' poverty rate by 50 per cent.

Other key changes included:

- » **Making sure the strategy looks at the root causes of poverty;**
- » **Requiring that any updates to the strategy include actions and progress measures specifically for Indigenous Peoples; and**
- » **Updating the list of population groups using more respectful language that better identifies those most affected by poverty.**



Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee commentary

The Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee is an independent body with a mandate to advise the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction on strategies, policies, and processes related to poverty reduction and prevention.

In this report, we present our assessment of progress made in 2024 across the province, particularly in relation to the goals set out in the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy. This past year has marked a critical phase of implementation for several key initiatives launched in prior years, alongside new policy shifts intended to address the most urgent drivers of poverty.

We commend the Government of B.C. for sustained investments in areas that target drivers of poverty including housing, food security, child and family well-being, and income supports. Investment in the continued expansion of affordable and below market housing including partnerships with non-profits, local governments, and Indigenous communities, the launch of the BC Family Benefit, sustained momentum in food sustainability programs, \$10-a-day child care spaces, job readiness and workforce participation, and targeted progress in Indigenous self-governance are actions actively contributing to the reduction of poverty and having real impact on British Columbians living below Canada's poverty line.

PROGRESS TOWARDS LEGISLATED TARGETS

Income poverty refers to the condition of a household having too little income to meet its basic needs. The poverty rate measures the fraction of people that live in such households, where the basic needs threshold is defined by Statistics Canada's Market Basket Measure (MBM). The reduction of income poverty is not the sole objective of the Province in its poverty reduction strategy. Other aspects of well-being, such as housing sufficiency and food security, are very important.

In 2019 the Province legislated goals for reductions in poverty rates in B.C. The legislated target for the five-year period beginning on January 1, 2019 is to reduce the poverty rate among all persons by 25 per cent from its 2016 level, and to reduce the poverty rate among persons under 18 years of age by 50 per cent from its 2016 level. Even though the five-year period has ended, this analysis is based on the most recent data available from Statistics Canada, the 2023 data.

In B.C., the poverty rate for all persons was 16.0 per cent in 2016. By 2023, that rate had dropped to 11.3 per cent, which is a 29.4 per cent decrease. The child poverty rate, for persons aged under 18, was 17.4 per cent in 2016 and fell to 11.1 per cent in 2023—a 36.2 per cent decrease.

We think of 2023 as a typical or “normal” year when looking at poverty trends. That's because 2020 and 2021 were unusual years due to the pandemic, which affected incomes and government supports in ways that don't reflect long-term patterns. So, to get a clearer picture of progress toward B.C.'s poverty reduction goals, we focus on the trend that leaves out those two years.

Based on this approach, B.C. has met its legislated target to reduce overall poverty by 25 per cent. However, it hasn't yet reached the goal of cutting child poverty in half. While a



reduction in child poverty of 36.2 per cent—more than a third—is substantial, more policy effort needs to be aimed at children, especially those children in female-led single-parent families who have experienced a significant increase in their poverty rate since 2020.

It may be helpful to compare poverty rates in B.C. with those in Canada as a whole to see how the Province is doing. The poverty rate for all persons in Canada fell from 12.9 per cent in 2016 to 10.2 per cent in 2023, a reduction of 20.9 per cent, which is a smaller decline than we experienced in B.C. The child poverty rate in Canada fell from 13.9 per cent in 2016 to 10.7 per cent in 2023, a reduction of 23.0 per cent. This reduction in child poverty is smaller than the 36.2 per cent reduction we observed in B.C. over the same period. Also, the year-over-year change in poverty rates since 2022 is more encouraging in B.C. than for Canada as a whole. In B.C., the poverty rate for all persons declined by 0.3 percentage points, but in Canada as a whole, this rate increased by 0.3 percentage points. And, in B.C. the child poverty rate rose by 0.1 percentage points, but in Canada as a whole, the child poverty rate increased by 0.8 percentage points.

This suggests that, although B.C. has not reached its legislated target of halving child poverty, something is going in the right direction for most children living in poverty in B.C. A counterargument to this claim is that B.C. had a higher rate of child poverty than that

in Canada as a whole throughout the entire period. So, although we are going in the right direction, we have further to go.

The Province has engaged in many activities, detailed in this report, to improve lives and reduce deprivation, including actions to reduce income poverty. Such actions include, for example, increasing welfare benefit levels. The major actor in reducing income poverty over the period 2015 to 2019 was the federal government, through the implementation of the Canada Child Benefit in 2016 (which specifically targets child poverty) and increases to other income support programs. These increases were permanent, which gives the Province a good foundation upon which to act, for example, through increased income supports for households with children. The impact of the BC Family Benefit, which started in 2020, has not yet been measured.

While substantial progress has been made to date, the committee observes that there is still much work to be done to help lift families and individuals out of poverty—especially in rural, remote, and northern communities, and for children in single-mother households. We have observed several key themes impacting poverty and would like to offer additional commentary on these in the sections that follow.

HOUSING

The housing crisis remains the most urgent and complex poverty issue facing many British Columbians. Continued efforts to pull every policy lever available, including supporting both private and public supply of housing, scaling rent-geared-to-income programs, strengthening tenant protections, as well as support for municipal infrastructure to enable rapid densification are essential to addressing this crisis.

INCOME SUPPORT TIED TO INFLATION

While it has been stated previously, we feel it is still important to mention that without the indexing of income supports, benefit levels will continue to erode, pushing already vulnerable individuals further into poverty. All transfers to individuals need to be indexed to the Consumer Price Index to ensure the most vulnerable people in B.C. are not falling behind. We recommend that the Province of B.C. continue to raise minimum wage in line with inflation rates to ensure that minimum wage workers don't fall into increased poverty.

FOOD SECURITY

Rising food prices are driving vulnerable and at-risk families and individuals deeper into food insecurity. We support the investments made in local agriculture, Indigenous food systems, and community food programs; however, sustained funding is needed to support food sovereignty and local supply chains across the province.

WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION ACCESS

The committee has observed that current structures disincentivize employment and training, particularly for those receiving regular income assistance benefits. Notably, this includes stringent monthly income caps that penalize job earners and reduce their monthly benefits, leaving them no further ahead, and outdated welfare legislation that prohibits some welfare recipients from maintaining their benefits while pursuing post-secondary education. We urge reform of monthly earnings exemptions and welfare legislation that prohibits more inclusive access to education, to ensure those experiencing poverty can better their positions while maintaining benefits needed to meet basic needs.

NON-PROFIT SECTOR SUSTAINABILITY

The non-profit sector is a cornerstone of poverty reduction, and yet, it is increasingly strained. The committee has observed from all corners of the Province many workers leaving the non-profit sector to pursue more stable and lucrative careers, and to better maintain their mental health. It is the committee's position that the Province of B.C. needs to make long-term investment in wages, capacity-building, sustainability, and organizational health of non-profits. If the essential role of the non-profit sector is not recognized and better resourced, this sector will erode and become unable to respond to people in B.C. who require essential supports, connections, and services provided by non-profits across B.C.

EQUITY AND REGIONAL INCLUSION

The success of our poverty reduction strategy depends on fair and equitable access to supports—there still is work to be done in northern, rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. Targeted regional investments and place-based strategies should be scaled up to ensure that all across B.C., poverty reduction benefits, programs, and supports are in place to help those in need.



LOOKING FORWARD

The data and insights presented in this sixth report highlight both the progress made and the continued thematic challenges that remain in addressing poverty in B.C. While the Province has met its legislated target to reduce overall poverty, there is still much work to be done to ensure all British Columbians are living above the poverty line. Progress to date—especially when compared to national trends—demonstrates that targeted policies can make a meaningful difference.

To continue building on this progress, the Committee urges sustained and strategic investments in areas that impact poverty beyond income alone, such as housing, food security, equitable service delivery, education access, and support for the non-profit sector. It is incredibly important to ensure regionally inclusive strategies and supports that enable individuals to move out of poverty without being penalized through benefit claw backs or systemic barriers, no matter where they live in our beautiful province.

The path forward requires continued coordination across all levels of government, a deeper commitment to equity, a consistent investment in social infrastructure including non-profits, and the political will to address both the structural and immediate causes of poverty. We remain committed to providing guidance and accountability in support of these efforts and recognize the transformative potential of a poverty reduction strategy that is ambitious, inclusive, and enduring.

— MINISTER'S POVERTY REDUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Poverty Reduction Highlights: Key actions across 2024

This section highlights some of the key actions provincial ministries took in 2024 to implement B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy. These actions are important steps towards making a real difference for those who need it the most. Appendix B includes a full list of actions.

PREVENTING POVERTY AND INTERVENING EARLY

Preventing poverty leads to a more equitable and prosperous province. Early intervention can stop poverty from continuing into the next generation. Early help means better outcomes for children and families.

→ Supporting Indigenous children and youth to stay at home, in community, and out of the child welfare system

Since 2016 the number of Indigenous children and youth in care has been declining, however, the proportion of Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare system increased:

- » The total number of Indigenous children in care decreased from 4,362 in 2016/17 to 3,346 in 2023/24; and
- » In 2023/24, 69.2 per cent of children and youth in care were Indigenous, an increase from 62.8 per cent in 2016/17.



In 2024, the B.C. government introduced or strengthened policy, program, and leadership reforms to address the root causes of the overrepresentation and to correct this trend. Reforms included:

- » Signing several co-ordination agreements that advance Indigenous jurisdiction in child and family services;
- » Establishing the Indigenous Child Welfare Director position at the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and appointing the first Indigenous Child Welfare Director; and
- » Establishing a cross-ministry group of senior public officials to guide the development of a Child and Youth Well-being Plan. The plan is meant to ensure that children and youth in B.C. have access to the necessary resources and support to thrive.

→ Supporting youth aging out of care and transitioning to adulthood

The expanded Provincial Tuition Waiver Program aims to make post-secondary education more accessible for current and former youth in care by providing financial support for tuition and other eligible fees. It has supported 1,886 former youth in care, saving students \$6.8 million in tuition fees.

Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) Program

Since 2022, the SAJE program has supported youth and young adults transitioning from government care to adulthood. In 2024, the government made legislative and regulatory amendments to expand eligibility.

Through the SAJE program, which now extends supports to young adults up to age 27, current and former youth with care experience have access to:

- » SAJE Navigators and SAJE Guides, program staff who provide guidance and transition planning support;
- » An unconditional income support of \$1,250/month for young adults aged 20-27 with care experience;
- » Housing support through the Rent Supplement Program, which provides \$600 a month in financial assistance for up to two years for eligible young adults;
- » Health and wellness supports, including mental health and counselling benefits, dental and optical benefits, and medical benefits; and
- » Access to Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections funding.

→ Child care

In 2024, the Province released the “Where All Children Belong: B.C. Inclusive Child Care Strategy,” which outlines a strategy, including guiding principles, early actions, and long-term goals, to make affordable, quality, inclusive child care a core service that families can rely on.

As part of this work, during 2024-25 fiscal year, the Province:

- » Eliminated waitlist fees for child care;
- » Funded over 15,300 \$10-a-day ChildCareBC spaces in B.C.—an increase of more than 1,800 spaces in 2024-25 alone;
- » Supported more than 27,000 families across B.C. to receive the Affordable Child Care Benefit. This provides up to \$1,250/month, per child, to help eligible low- and middle-income families with child care costs;
- » Continued to invest in the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, with an average of more than 140,700 spaces offered at reduced fees, saving parents up to \$900 per month, per child; and
- » Created more than 650 new child care spaces for school-aged children through the New Spaces Fund (NSF).
 - ◇ Created an additional 180 child care spaces by funding three Indigenous-led projects with more than \$23 million through the NSF
 - ◇ The NSF aims to increase the number of licensed child care spaces available, especially in low-income and rural/remote communities

→ Education

Since 2016, the number of B.C. students completing high school has been increasing. In 2023–24, 91 per cent of all B.C. students completed high school within six years of starting grade 8, compared to 87 percent in 2015-16. Each year, about half of graduates go directly to B.C. public post-secondary education.

For Indigenous students, 75 per cent completed high school within six years, up from 64 percent in 2015-16, and each year, about one in three go directly to post-secondary.

Government remains committed to further increasing graduation and post-secondary attendance rates. At the same time, it acknowledges the ongoing disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners and continues to advance targeted supports and systemic changes to close the gap.

In 2024, the Province:

- » Funded \$319.5 million to create 213 new classrooms and 5,285 new seats across 15 school districts;
- » Invested \$30 million over three years to improve literacy levels for B.C. students, with a focus on supporting students with dyslexia and other learning differences; and
- » Expanded the External Credentials Program to include First Nations language and cultural programs as eligible for graduation credits.

→ Improving access to justice

In 2024, the Province:

- » Provided \$29.1 million to Legal Aid BC over three years to expand free family legal services, improve intake, and launch a new clinic for people experiencing family violence;
- » Expanded Indigenous Justice Centres—there are 15 physical centres and one virtual operating in B.C., offering culturally-safe support in criminal and child protection matters; and
- » Endorsed the Métis Justice Strategy—the Indigenous Justice Secretariat and Métis Nation B.C. are working on developing the detailed implementation plan.

→ Supporting newcomers

In 2024, the Province provided \$12.2 million to the BC Safe Haven Program. This program supports refugee claimants with housing, trauma counselling, employment services, and community integration.

MEETING BASIC NEEDS

Meeting basic needs means making sure everyone has access to the necessities of life including safe and affordable housing, health care, and healthy and nutritious food.

→ Boosting people's income

To help keep up with rising costs, in 2024, the Province:

- » Increased minimum wage from \$16.75 to \$17.40 an hour;
- » Updated legislation so that minimum wage automatically increases each year based on inflation; and
- » Increased the BC Family Benefit by 25 per cent for one year (2024-25) and raised income limits by 25 per cent. This has helped 340,000 families, including 66,000 newly-eligible ones.

→ Preventing homelessness and meeting core housing need

More people had access to suitable housing in 2023 (the latest available data), with the rate of core housing need falling from 16.1 percent in 2016 to 15.5 percent in 2023. The latest B.C. estimate of homelessness from 2022 found that 28,710 people experienced homelessness. In 2024, the Province continued to address homelessness and housing affordability through these actions:

- » Distributed an additional \$3.08 million to low- to moderate-income renters through the BC Rent Bank to help over 4,530 people remain housed during times of financial crisis;
- » Provided a one-time benefit of \$430 for families and seniors with low incomes who are receiving a rent subsidy through the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program;

- » Made changes to the SAFER program that allowed an estimated 4,800 more seniors to qualify, and saw existing recipients see an average increase of approximately \$110 per month;
- » Implemented the Homeless Encampment Action Response Team and Temporary Housing (HEART and HEARTH) programs, bringing together partners to support people in encampments with shelter and housing options and wraparound health and social services; and
- » Completed more than 1,500 homes as part of the Building BC: Community Housing Fund, bringing the total as of March 31, 2025, to over 4,900 homes completed.
- » Nearly \$3 million in funding was distributed by United Way B.C. to 29 food hubs and close to 100 community organizations, making it easier for people to get healthy food in their communities; and
- » The \$14 million Critical Food Infrastructure Fund, administered by United Way BC, helped over 100 local non-profits in B.C. to build food security infrastructure.

→ Improving food security

Food insecurity has increased, largely due to global inflation. In 2024, 24.4 per cent of households in B.C. reported food insecurity (compared to 21.8 per cent in 2023). This included 32.6 per cent of children (compared to 28.8 per cent in 2023). Food insecurity remains more prevalent amongst certain populations, such as Indigenous people—36.8 per cent of whom reported experiencing food insecurity.

The historic \$200 million investment by the provincial government, in 2023, continued to support a range of programs and partnerships with non-profit organizations throughout 2024 that focused on:

- » Improving access to healthy food;
- » Strengthening food systems; and
- » Advancing Indigenous food sovereignty.

In 2024:

- » Over \$2 million in funding was distributed by Food Banks BC through the Agency Relief Fund to hunger relief organizations across the province;

Feeding Futures

Through Feeding Futures, the Ministry of Education and Child Care provides \$71.5 million per year in dedicated funding to school districts to create and expand school food programs. School food programs can vary in the type and frequency of meals offered, how food is prepared or delivered, and what partnerships exist to help programs operate. This gives schools the ability to meet the needs of their local communities.

As of 2024, approximately 87 per cent of schools were operating a school food program in B.C., compared to just 59 per cent in 2021, before Feeding Futures was introduced. Over the same period, the number of students accessing breakfast, lunch, and/or snack programs increased by 75 per cent. It went from 16 per cent (94,000 students) in 2021 to 28 per cent (162,000 students) in 2024.

Many school districts are collaborating with non-profit organizations and community partners to enhance school food delivery, procurement, and preparation. In 2024, close to 80 per cent of schools with a food program were buying B.C. food.

→ Healthcare

Since the launch of the Primary Care Strategy in 2018, more than 750,000 people have been connected to a primary-care provider, such as a family doctor or nurse practitioner, helping bring the proportion of people with a regular health care provider to 74.5 percent.

- » In 2024, the Province also continued to improve access to specialized health care services for those who need them:
- » Expanded Foundry Services, a province-wide network that provides integrated health and wellness services for young people aged 12–24. Foundry served 17,036 young people in fiscal year 2024/2025 and opened Foundry East Kootenay, the first Indigenous-run centre, in May 2024;
- » Added 193 new publicly funded adult and youth substance-use treatment beds; and
- » Building upon the original investment of \$440 million in 2023, the Province invested \$270 million over three years towards the implementation of the 10-year Cancer Action Plan, to improve access to cancer care and expand capacity.

→ Addressing health disparities among Indigenous people

Indigenous people continue to face serious health disparities and systemic barriers. For example:¹

- » Infant mortality among First Nations has improved slightly—down 0.7 per 1,000 live births (from 2015–2019);
- » Life expectancy has decreased (from 73.3 years in 2017 to 67.2 years in 2021) and the mortality rate has increased (from 117.3 per 10,000 people in 2017, to 156.0 per 10,000 in 2021);

- » Rates of diabetes, mental health challenges and deaths related to the toxic drug crisis remain disproportionately high;
- » Approximately 24 per cent of First Nations people living off reserve, 23 per cent of Inuit, and 18 per cent of Métis reported unfair treatment by health-care professionals; and
- » In 2024, Indigenous people living off-reserve made up 3.5 per cent of all health care workers:
 - ◇ Based on the latest available data (2023), only 0.39 per cent of doctors, 1.5 per cent of nurses, and 1.7 per cent of midwives identified as First Nations.

To support self-determination and improve health outcomes for Indigenous communities, the Province implemented and/or expanded several key initiatives:

- » PharmaCare now covers 100 per cent of eligible prescriptions and supplies for registered Indigenous children and youth under the care of Indigenous governing bodies;
- » Increased support for Indigenous birth workers;
- » Introduced bursaries and tuition credits for Indigenous nursing students;
- » Continued investment in the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health; and
- » Continued implementation of the In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care report recommendations. These recommendations focus on embedding cultural safety, improving accountability and increasing Indigenous leadership in health decision-making.

¹ *In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care Full Data Report (PDF)*, *First Nations Population Health and Wellness Agenda: First Interim Update, 2024*

MAKING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BETTER AND MORE ACCESSIBLE

To make it easier for people to get the help they need before reaching a crisis point, the B.C. government continues working towards:

- » Decreasing system complexity;
- » Increasing co-ordination and information-sharing across programs; and
- » Eliminating systemic barriers.

This includes raising awareness about available supports and services and helping people access benefits they're entitled to, including securing key documents such as personal identification (ID).

In 2024, the Province:

- » Brought the ServiceBC Mobile Service Centres to 50 communities across B.C., completing over 9000 transactions and providing vital services like driver's license and BCID renewals, MSP enrolment, and vital events registration. These mobile units also support remote and Indigenous communities and are deployed during emergencies to help residents replace lost identification and access government programs;
- » Provided \$5 million in funding to the Vancouver Foundation to establish the Access to Benefits Advocacy Fund, supporting ID access, benefits applications, and tax filing; and
- » Launched the [Indigenous Pathfinder Service](#) to connect Indigenous people, including farmers, food producers, and First Nations governments with supports to access existing Indigenous-led food sovereignty and food security programs, services, and funding opportunities.

Community Integration Specialists — Connecting people to services

Community Integration Specialists (CI Specialists) help people who are homeless, or at risk of experiencing homelessness, navigate and access the supports they need. Since 2022, we've increased the number of CI Specialists from 72 to 180 by the end of 2024.

The Indigenous Partnership Program also expanded throughout B.C. There are now 17 CI Specialists based out of 16 Aboriginal Friendship Centres and/or organizations that support Indigenous people.

Client story

After 30 years in construction, a 58-year-old client faced depression, health issues, and homelessness, living out of their vehicle with no belongings. Their turning point came when a friend introduced them to a local community organization where they met two CI Specialists.

The CI Specialists helped the client apply for income assistance, gave them food vouchers and clothing supports, and helped to eventually secure housing near their only remaining family. They arranged for rent to be paid directly to the landlord, easing the client's financial worries.

Now stably housed and reconnected with their community, the client shared:

"I'm so glad. So glad... I call those two (Community Integration Specialists) my angels. I've got my own kitchen, all brand new appliances... My life turned around..."

UPDATING INCOME ASSISTANCE AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

In 2024, over 250,000 people relied on income and disability assistance each month. This included:

- » An average of 99,840 people receiving income assistance monthly, including 31,652 dependent children. This spanned 64,533 cases (singles and families); and
- » An average of 151,601 people receiving disability assistance, including 20,970 dependent children.

In 2024, the Province advanced updates to the foundations of the B.C. Employment and Assistance program to make it fairer, more relevant, and easier to access. These changes build on progress made through the first Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Key changes in 2024 include:

- » Updated our laws to:
 - ◇ Support a new approach to employment planning based on each person's needs, instead of assuming everyone is ready to work right away;
 - ◇ Recognize Indigenous decision-making by supporting shared agreements with Indigenous governing bodies;
 - ◇ Remove financial penalties for common challenges, like reporting mistakes or finding it hard to keep a job; and
 - ◇ Make the appeal process fairer by giving people more time to request a review.
- » Increased earnings exemptions, so people can keep more of the money they make:
 - ◇ The monthly earnings exemptions increased to \$600 for a single person on income assistance; and
 - ◇ The annual earnings exemption for a single person on disability assistance increased to \$16,200 one of the highest in Canada, supporting greater financial independence and flexibility.

- » Updated income and asset exemptions, so people don't lose benefits when they receive certain types of income. This included:

- ◇ Ensuring that people are able to keep the full Canada Disability Benefit; and
- ◇ Expanding eligibility for certain supplements.

OPENING UP ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING

In 2024, the Province invested in programs and initiatives that help more people access education and skills training. For example, we:

- » Provided \$37 million towards the B.C. Access Grant, which provides non-repayable financial assistance of up to \$4,000 per year to low- and middle-income students enrolled full-time at public post-secondary institutions in B.C.
- » Invested \$3.6 million in the Adult Upgrading Grant, which supported over 2,800 low-income students with costs to pursue these programs:
 - ◇ Adult Basic Education;
 - ◇ Accessible Education and Training; and
 - ◇ English Language Learning.
- » Directed \$30.7 million to the Indigenous Skills Training and Education Program, which supported more than 4,000 Indigenous people in B.C. to participate in community-based skills, post-secondary education and employment initiatives.
- » Supported over 5,000 learners in 356 programs with up to \$3,500 through the StrongerBC future skills grants.

CREATING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT

The Province is working to make it easier for people to work, participate in their community, earn money, and create a stable and secure life for themselves. While 2024 brought labour market challenges, provincial supports helped thousands of people find jobs and build brighter futures. The following snapshot highlights key employment trends and initiatives from the past year:

→ Labour market snapshot (end of 2024):

- » Unemployment rate: 5.6 per cent (up from 5.3 per cent in 2023)
- » Employment rate (ages 15 – 64): 73.9 per cent (down from 76.5 per cent at the end of 2023)
- » Over 99,000 people accessed WorkBC programs:
 - ◇ 82,000 received individualized case management
 - ◇ 15,600 (46 per cent of case managed clients) achieved sustainable employment²
- » Since 2015, 2,695 people have received services through WorkBC's Single Parent Employment Initiative. Of these, over 78 per cent have achieved employment outcomes (in contrast with 31 per cent for non-participants)

Key provincial employment initiatives in 2024:

- » Passed the International Credentials Recognition Act (effective July 1, 2024), to streamline credential recognition for internationally trained professionals across 29 regulated occupations
- » Invested \$9.2 million (provincial and federal) in the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program
 - ◇ This funding supports 1,339 immigrants

- ◇ Seventy per cent of participants secured jobs in their field
- ◇ A high proportion of these jobs were in nursing
- » Launched TradeUpBC, an online hub that:
 - ◇ Supports experienced trades professionals and employers
 - ◇ Provides information about trades-training opportunities
- » Provided funding to the Foundry Work and Education Program, which supports young people with persistent and multiple barriers to employment or education. Since the provincially funded program began:
 - ◇ Over 1,200 youth have benefited from it
 - ◇ Nearly 70 per cent of participants have secured jobs or returned to school
 - ◇ More than 350 partnerships have developed across B.C.
- » Provided \$23 million over three years (starting in 2023) to New Relationship Trust to administer the Indigenous Labour Market Fund. This program funded nearly 40 projects in 2024 to support cultural recognition in the workplace and labour market studies



² "Sustainable employment" means employment that can be sustained over time and supports financial independence.

Community-based Employment Services

Poverty and unemployment often go hand in hand. For many individuals, the idea of holding a job feels impossible—barriers like homelessness, mental health, substance use, and lack of training stand in the way. The Province is investing \$5 million in a new Community-Based Employment Services (CBES) program (2024-2027), to help people facing multiple barriers find meaningful work.

Programs are offered in six communities across the Province. In Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, CBES service provider Lookout offers the Ethical Employment Program (LEEP), an employment program that integrates supportive housing with comprehensive employment support, proving that with the right support, employment is not only possible—it’s transformative.

The impact of the LEEP program is best seen through the journeys of participants like Ahmed and Caroline. Ahmed, a refugee, found full-time work with Uber Eats and has maintained his sobriety thanks to the program’s ongoing support. Caroline, also a refugee, secured a part-time retail job that suits her skills and interests. With help from LEEP, she gained certifications, built a routine, and is now saving to reunite with her children and pursue a career in healthcare.

These stories reflect the heart of the program: personalized support, real opportunity, and lasting change.

FACILITATING GREATER SOCIAL INCLUSION

Social inclusion means that everyone—regardless of their age, ability, identity, or geography—can fully participate in their communities and access opportunities to thrive.

In 2023 (the latest available data from Statistics Canada), 61.2 per cent of people in B.C. reported a “somewhat strong” or “very strong” sense of belonging to their community (a decrease from 71.1 per cent in 2016).

In 2024, the Province made progress to promote greater social inclusion and equity. This includes helping people stay connected to their community—through community-based supports and funding to community organizations, investments in transportation, and expanding access to internet. It also includes efforts to address racism and create accessible communities.

Highlights of this work include:

- » Expanding supports for seniors through programs that help them live independently at home and stay connected to their communities. For example:
 - ◇ The Better at Home program (operated in 97 locations across 260 communities, including First Nations communities) provides non-medical home supports, including friendly visiting and peer support, information and referral (supporting access to other community resources), and expanded group activities. In 2024–25, more than 20,000 seniors received more than 360,000 services through Better at Home.
 - As part of this program, social meals and transportation grants to non-profit agencies (through United Way British Columbia) supported social connection between seniors over a shared meal. They helped seniors stay engaged in their communities by driving them to local events.

- ◇ The new Long-term Care at Home program, funded through a \$47 million federal-provincial agreement, launched pilots in Delta and Saanich. The program equips homes with virtual care technology, aiming to support over 2,700 seniors. It will expand to other B.C. communities within 18 months.
- » Invested \$500 million over four years (2024–2028) to help keep BC Ferries’ fares affordable.
- » Expanded access to high-speed internet for rural and remote communities:
 - ◇ 74 per cent of rural homes; and
 - ◇ 83 per cent of homes on First Nation reserves and Modern Treaty Nation lands now have access.
- » Invested \$25 million in local programs that strengthen community well-being. This funding was distributed by the Vancouver Foundation as part of BC’s \$60 million Stronger Community Services Fund.
- » Continued to tackle systemic racism and gaps in government services through the Anti-Racism Act and initiatives under the Anti-Racism Data Act.
- » Continued to develop new accessibility standards as part of the AccessibleBC Plan. These standards aim to reduce barriers in several areas, such as employment and service delivery.
- » Supported inclusion for people with developmental disabilities by partnering with Community Living BC, and working with:
 - ◇ The Co-operative Housing Federation of BC and the Community Land Trust to create more affordable and inclusive housing;
 - ◇ BC People First to shape policies that reflect the real experiences of people with developmental disabilities;
 - ◇ Rotary at Work and Inclusion BC to fund employer recognition events that highlight inclusive hiring; and
 - ◇ Empowering Self Advocated To Take Action Co-operative to lead Welcome Home projects that build stronger, more accessible communities.

UPHOLDING INDIGENOUS SELF-DETERMINATION

Colonial policies and practices have led to disproportionately high poverty rates among Indigenous people. In recognition of this, the Province is committed to advancing reconciliation and reducing poverty in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. In addition to the examples highlighted in previous sections, the Province continues to work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to implement the Declaration Act Action Plan. In particular, Action 4.15 commits to incorporating Indigenous Peoples’ lived experiences and knowledge of poverty into B.C.’s Poverty Reduction Strategy and ongoing poverty reduction efforts, ensuring that solutions are inclusive, culturally informed, and grounded in reconciliation.

In 2024, the Province also:

- » Signed the Rising to the Challenge Accord, affirming First Nations’ jurisdiction in child and family services;
- » Signed the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on First Nations Early Learning and Child Care—the first of its kind in Canada. It supports First Nations’ jurisdiction and advances Declaration Act Action 4.19;
- » Invested over \$70 million across various initiatives to support Indigenous-led programs and community priorities such as ongoing funding through the First Nations Well-Being Fund and funding through the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres for youth, Elder, and capacity-building programs; and
- » Advanced many reconciliation-based agreements, such as Haida Title Lands Agreement, several treaty negotiations and 54 mineral tax sharing agreements.

These initiatives advanced Indigenous self-determination and helped preserve cultural heritage. They also helped strengthen local economies, bringing positive impacts to communities throughout B.C.

First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC)—Supporting Economic Empowerment in Communities

FPCC is a First Nations-led B.C. Crown Corporation with a legislated mandate to assist First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts, cultures and heritage. FPCC oversees multiple programs and initiatives that contribute to a more vibrant, inclusive and economically robust province.

In 2023/24, FPCC provided a record-breaking \$48.6 million in grants to communities to assist them with this work.

More than a funder, FPCC takes a community development approach and provides training, coaching, mentorships, and resources to help communities reach their revitalization goals. Read FPCC's annual report to communities [here](#).

In 2024, FPCC worked with the Conference Board of Canada to understand the economic impact of FPCC's investments. The results showed that FPCC generated:

- » Over \$103.8 million in economic output for B.C. in 2023/24, and a total of \$142.3 million across Canada;
- » An estimated \$69 million in gross domestic product (GDP) in B.C., and a total of \$91.2 million in Canada; and
- » Over 1,650 full-year jobs in 2023/24, contributing to a total of over 1,800 full-year jobs in Canada. These include jobs in remote and rural communities, which not only support local economies but also encourage career development for B.C. First Nations.

The report is available [here](#) (PDF).

Conclusion

Since the launch of B.C.'s first Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2019, the Province has made steady progress in reducing poverty and improving supports for people in B.C. Fewer people in the Province are living in poverty. More families are accessing child care, housing, and employment supports. The renewed 2024 Strategy builds on this foundation. It deepens the Province's commitment to equity, reconciliation, and economic security for people.

The first year implementing the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy laid important groundwork for long-term change. It outlined key areas to explore over the next 10 years. While there's still work to do, early results show meaningful progress.

As we continue to navigate complex challenges such as global inflation and economic uncertainty, investments in poverty reduction remain vital. They will help to ensure that B.C. becomes a more resilient, equitable province. Continued cross-government collaboration and community partnership will be essential. Together, we are building momentum toward a future where everyone in the Province has the supports and opportunities they need to thrive.








Appendix A: Snapshot of key poverty indicators




This table shows how we’re measuring poverty across the province. It includes income levels and other important factors that affect people’s lives, like access to food, housing, education, and feeling connected to community. These indicators are highlighted in the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy Annual Report and are grounded in the Strategy’s critical action areas, which guide the Ministry’s efforts to reduce poverty and improve well-being across the province.

We’re using 2016 as our starting point because it gives us a consistent baseline to compare against. The table includes the most recent data available (from 2023 or 2024), so we can see what’s changed and how government programs and policies are making a difference.





Going forward, we’ll update these indicators to see how things are changing, by comparing each year to both 2016 and the year before.

MEASURING PROGRESS: POVERTY INDICATORS FROM 2016-2024

-   Green arrows mean things are getting better or heading in the right direction.
-   Red arrows mean things are getting worse or going in the wrong direction.
-  Yellow dashes mean we don’t have enough data to show a comparison or trend.

Indicator	Source	2016	Most recent data available *noted for each indicator	Progress since 2016
Poverty rate	Statistics Canada: Low Income Statistics	All people: 16%	All people: 11.3% (2023) Total reduction since 2016: 29.4%	
	Statistics Canada: Low Income Statistics	Children: 17.4%	Children: 11.1% (2023) Total reduction since 2016: 36.2%	
	Statistics Canada: Low Income Statistics	Seniors: 9.1%	Seniors: 7.2% (2023) Total reduction since 2016: 20.9%	

Indicator	Source	2016	Most recent data available *noted for each indicator	Progress since 2016
Unemployment rate	Statistics Canada: Labour Force Characteristics	6.1%	5.6% (2024)	
	Statistics Canada: Labour Force Characteristics	Indigenous people: 11.4%	Indigenous people: 10.1% (2024)	
Median after-tax income	Statistics Canada: Total and After-Tax Income	\$35,900	\$41,200 (2023)	
Minimum Wage	Province of British Columbia: Ministry of Labour	\$10.85	\$17.40	
Number of Indigenous children & youth in care	MCFD Reporting Portal	4,362	3,346 (2024)	
Proportion of Indigenous children/youth in care	MCFD Reporting Portal	61.2%	69.2% (2024)	
\$10 a day ChildCareBC Spaces	B.C. Education System Performance - Child Care	N/A	15,300 (2024)	
High school completion rates	B.C. Data Catalogue	Overall: 87%	Overall: 91% (2024)	
	B.C. Data Catalogue	Indigenous students: 64%	Indigenous students: 75% (2024)	
	B.C. Data Catalogue	Students with disabilities and/or diverse abilities: 69%	Students with disabilities and/or diverse abilities: 79% (2024)	

Indicator	Source	2016	Most recent data available *noted for each indicator	Progress since 2016
Core housing need (% of people in core housing need)	Canadian Housing Survey Data Tables	16.1%	15.5% (2023)	
Food insecurity (% of households that were food insecure in previous 12 months)	Statistics Canada: Food Insecurity	12.3%	24.4% (2024)	
Primary care attachment (% of people who have a regular healthcare provider)	Based on data collected through the Provincial Attachment System - Province of British Columbia	N/A	74.5% (2024/25)	
Sense of belonging (% reporting a “somewhat strong” or “very strong” sense of belonging to community)	Statistics Canada: Health Indicator Statistics	71.1%	61.2% (2023)	

Appendix B: Cross-ministry report on poverty reduction 2024

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program – Ongoing

- » B.C. farmers will be able to access an additional \$80M in funding through the Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program to make irrigation more efficient, or to build infrastructure to improve water availability and storage.

Agricultural Water Management Workshops and Drought Management Engagement Sessions

- » A series of in-person workshops held in more than 30 communities to help farmers around the province prepare for potential drought. At these workshops, farmers received practical, step-by-step water management advice and information about available financial support.

Agriculture and Food Workforce Development Initiative – Ongoing (3-year program, FY23/24 – FY25/26)

- » In 2023, the initiative committed to providing as much as \$15M (grant through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, designed and guided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food) to help strengthen the workforce through cost shared funding for projects focused on recruitment, retention, skills and training and mental health and well-being supports in the B.C. agriculture sector and Indigenous Food Systems. Program includes multiple streams:
 - ◇ Mental Health Wrap Around Supports: \$755K
 - ◇ Workforce Analysis, Planning and Partnerships: \$400K
 - ◇ Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture Skills and Training: \$2.3M
 - ◇ Student Summer Farm Work Bursary: \$1.4M
 - ◇ Recruitment, Retention, and Innovative Skills: \$6.8M
 - ◇ Regional Recruitment and Retention of Veterinary Service Delivery for Food Animals Program: \$1.4M

4-H British Columbia – ongoing partnership and funding

- » In FY24/25 \$300,000 in funding was contributed to 4-H BC Provincial Council Society and the provision of in-kind support through staff time.
- » Goals of the program are:
 - ◇ Engage youth to encourage participation in agriculture and food systems and to increase awareness and interest in agriculture and food careers.
 - ◇ Engage underrepresented groups and/or expand program reach and accessibility to additional communities to support participation in agriculture and food systems and to increase awareness and interest in agriculture and food careers in B.C.

- ◇ Inspire the next generation of agriculture and food industry and community leaders through leadership, career development skills, and community service opportunities in the agriculture and food sector.
- ◇ Engage volunteers and leaders who are trained and have the knowledge to deliver high quality programs, learning, and skills development opportunities for youth members.
- » Program offers low-barrier education, training, and career pathway resources to youth interested in agriculture and contributes to social inclusion through the community and service-oriented delivery model, especially for rural agricultural communities and youth.

AgriStability Enhancement Program – Started 2024

- » Will provide an estimated \$15M in immediate relief to farmers in need.
- ◇ The new Tree Fruit Climate Resiliency program will provide \$5M to help tree-fruit farmers buy equipment and pursue projects that were not eligible under previous programs.

BC Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food – Ongoing

- » Indigenous leaders and subject matter experts on agriculture and food are working with the province to increase Indigenous participation in the sector and strengthen Indigenous food systems and food sovereignty.

Feed BC and Feeding Futures (K-12 school food programs) – Ongoing

- » Feed BC supports the Ministry of Education and Child Care-led Feeding Futures to deliver Feeding Futures school food programs, encouraging school districts to incorporate B.C. produced and processed foods into their food program and track progress, as one component of Feeding Futures program roll out.
- » Includes integration of agricultural and food literacy educational initiatives and resources K-12.

Feed BC Partnerships – Ongoing

- » A provincial initiative to increase B.C. food in government supported facilities. In 2024, Feed BC continued work with the Ministry of Health and all six health authorities, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and 20 public post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and 10 provincial correctional centres to track and source more B.C. food towards a minimum of 30% B.C. food expenditures. Every dollar spent on B.C. food in government institutions brings a two-fold impact to B.C.'s economy including new local jobs and GDP.
- » Includes integration of resources to support integration of indigenous and traditional foods in public institutions.

First Peoples' Food Sovereignty Table – Started 2024

- » A table co-lead by First Nations Health Authority and Ministry of Agriculture and Food to improve collaboration, information sharing and centering of Indigenous voices and perspectives in Indigenous food security and food sovereignty in B.C. The table is comprised of representatives from Indigenous organizations, Indigenous Advisories and key provincial and federal agencies intersecting with Indigenous food sovereignty. The table will be ongoing and focused on long term solutions and food system resilience, with foundational co-developed Shared Understandings, Priority Actions and a Collaborative Framework developed in the first year.
- » Support for this initiative is provided by the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Food Affordability and Innovation Fund – Started 2023

- » The \$17.5M Food Affordability and Innovation Fund has helped more than 30 companies and non-profits improve the availability and affordability of food in B.C.'s remote, rural and Indigenous communities.

Food Security Emergency Planning and Preparedness Fund – Started 2023

- » The \$20M fund has supported 25 local governments, First Nations and farming associations. Funding is available through two streams:
 - ◇ Stream 1 provides up to \$150,000 to local governments, First Nations, agriculture, agri-food and seafood associations for planning activities.
 - ◇ Stream 2 provides up to \$2M for equipment and infrastructure to B.C.-based industry associations, primary processors, and supporting service providers that have a direct role in preparing and responding to agricultural emergencies.

Indigenous Food Pathways Program – Started 2024

- » The Indigenous Food Pathways Program is an application-based program for strategic capacity development. The program aims to generate positive change that supports Indigenous peoples' self-determination over their food systems, and their participation in the food and agriculture sectors. Four projects are being supported through 2024/25-2025/26 including:
 - ◇ Tea Creek Agricultural Skills Training Programming
 - ◇ Skwlāx Traditional Harvesting and Food Security Initiative
 - ◇ Klinse-za Cultural Society Indigenous Food Sovereignty Capacity Building Program
 - ◇ ISPARC Food Systems Program
- » Funding is provided through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Indigenous Pathfinder Service – Started 2024

- » This 1:1 concierge-style service connects Indigenous communities, organizations, farmers and entrepreneurs to existing programs, services and resources to assist Indigenous-led businesses and projects meet their food sovereignty and food security goals.
 - ◇ Funding for the B.C. Indigenous pathfinder service is provided through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

INDIGENOUS DELIVERY ORGANIZATIONS:

Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I-SPARC) 2026

- » This Project will see ISPARC support engagement and co-development activities with First Nations and Indigenous organizations specifically focused on regional and local food systems and food security. ISPARC will host three regional gatherings of First Nations, Indigenous leaders and food security practitioners across the province, provide micro-grants for community-led food security planning activities, and deliver to related knowledge sharing and capacity development supports. This work is supported by Ministry of Agriculture and Food through a \$595,000 grant from the Ministry Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

New Relationships Trust (NRT) - Indigenous Food Security and Sovereignty Program – Final year 2026

- » Partnering with NRT to provide \$30M over three years, the program has supported more than 100 projects over the first two intakes, ranging from community food security to climate-change adaptation to the revitalization of traditional food production. The final program intake is anticipated for mid-May 2025 with approximately \$13M remaining.

Small Scale Greenhouse training modules and workshops

- » Klize-za Co. is developing training resources and modules for utilization by Indigenous communities operating and considering investment into small and medium scale greenhouses. These operations often have both community food security, job creation and economic development related goals. Training materials will be released later in 2024 and pilot delivered in five First Nations communities across the province.
- » Funding for this initiative is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Regional Extension Program – Started 2023

- » Supporting 16 regional projects through \$1.5M in funding from the governments of Canada and B.C., farmers can improve soil health, water supply and management, greenhouse gas emissions and the impact from drought and wildfire.

MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

MULTICULTURALISM AND ANTI-RACISM BRANCH

Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network – Ongoing

- » Launched in 2020, this program connects more than 35 communities throughout the province through a hub and spoke network to address incidences of hate and racism at the community level.

Multiculturalism Grant Program – Ongoing

- » Applications for the 2024 grant cycle were open through October 2024, inviting community-based organizations across B.C. to submit proposals for projects aimed at addressing racial inequity and promoting intercultural understanding throughout the province.

Anti-Racism Data Act – Ongoing

- » The Anti-Racism Data Act, enacted in 2022, enables the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information to help identify and eliminate systemic racism in government programs and services.

Anti-Racism Act – Ongoing

- » The Anti-Racism Act, introduced in May 2024, establishes a whole-of-government approach to dismantling systemic racism and advancing racial equity, with a specific focus on addressing racialized and Indigenous-specific racism.

Racist Incident Helpline - New

- » Launched in 2024, the Racist Incident Helpline is an initiative that provides culturally safe and appropriate support in 240 languages. It offers an accessible way for individuals to report incidents of racism and hate while also connecting them to community support services, including mental health resources, peer support, and workshops. Beyond addressing individual incidents, the helpline seeks to tackle racism at both interpersonal and systemic levels. The data collected will play a crucial role in shaping the Anti-Racism Act, ensuring that policies are informed by lived experiences and real incidents.

INDIGENOUS JUSTICE SECRETARIAT

Implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy and development of a Métis Justice Strategy for British Columbia – Ongoing

- » The secretariat works with all partners to ensure Indigenous Peoples are no longer disproportionately interacting with or negatively impacted by the justice system.
- » In partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC), the Ministry of Attorney General will continue implementing the BC First Nations Justice Strategy. The strategy works to reform the justice system to be safer and more responsive to Indigenous Peoples and to restore First Nations justice systems, legal traditions, and structures.
- » The Province endorsed the Métis Justice Strategy in June 2024, and will work closely with Métis Nation BC on a detailed implementation plan for the Strategy.

BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) and Province open new Indigenous Justice Centres – Ongoing

- » The BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) has identified Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC) as a cornerstone of the First Nations Justice Strategy. IJCs provide wraparound service capacity, primarily focusing on criminal law and child protection issues. BCFNJC now operates 14 IJCs in Burns Lake/Hazelton, Chilliwack, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Kelowna, Merritt, Nanaimo, Port Hardy, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria and Williams Lake, with the 15th IJC in Forst St. John opening in early 2025. BCFNJC also operates a Virtual Indigenous Justice Centre, which provides services for people who are not able to access an in-person centre.

JUSTICE SERVICES BRANCH

Justice Access Centres and Family Justice Centres – Ongoing

- » Assist people in finding early and affordable solutions by providing self-help and information services; dispute resolution and mediation options; referrals to legal advice; and access to community resources, agencies, and publications. There are Family Justice Centres (FJCs) throughout the province, and five Justice Access Centres (JACs) (Abbotsford, Nanaimo, Surrey, Vancouver (Robson) and Victoria). All services are offered free of charge.
- » JACs and FJCs provide services that are a part of the Provincial Court process (under the Provincial Court Family Rules) in particular locations. In 2024, the Provincial Court early resolution process expanded from the current locations in Victoria and Surrey to include the Port Coquitlam Provincial Court family registry in November. The [early resolution process](#) provides early preparation for families through screening for family violence, identification of legal and non-legal needs, referrals to community organizations, assistance resolving disputes out-of-court and support preparing for the appropriate next steps.

- » The expansion continues in 2025 to include Provincial Court family registries in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Pemberton, Richmond, Sechelt and Vancouver (Robson Square).

Legal Aid BC (LABC) – Family Legal Aid Expansion – Started in 2024

- » In February 2024, the Province [announced](#) \$29.1M over three years to support LABC to expand financial eligibility for family legal aid services, improve intake capacity, and create a new multidisciplinary clinic for people experiencing family violence. On December 2, 2024, LABC opened the Family Law Centre (FLC), with physical locations in Surrey and Victoria, as well as virtual and mobile services in Duncan, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo and Prince George. The FLC provides legal representation and related services to eligible clients experiencing family violence to assist clients to stabilize their legal and non-legal needs.

Civil Resolution Tribunal – Ongoing

- » The Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) Reconcili(action) Plan 2021-2024 sets out the tribunal’s commitment to implement specific, measurable, and timely actions toward reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. It includes short- and long-term actions to better serve Indigenous Peoples through the CRT process, including identifying and eliminating systemic and procedural barriers that Indigenous participants may experience.

Interjurisdictional Support Services (IJSS) and Implementation of the 2007 Hague Child Support Convention (“the Convention”) in British Columbia - Completed in 2024

- » The 2007 Hague Child Support Convention is an international treaty that provides processes to establish, change, recognize and enforce child support orders when parents live in different countries.
- » After becoming the first Canadian province to enact legislation implementing the Convention (in March 2022), it came into force in B.C. on March 1, 2024.
- » The Convention, which offers cost-free effective access to procedures, helps people in B.C. by increasing the number of countries B.C. can work with regarding cross-border child support matters to help recover support payments for families.
- » As the provincial Central Authority, IJSS staff are responsible for receiving and sending applications for support made under the Convention.
- » A list of jurisdictions that B.C. can work with under the Convention can be found here: <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=131>.
- » In addition to the Convention, B.C. also has bilateral arrangements with other countries: https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/15_2003#section6.

MINISTRY OF CITIZENS' SERVICES

Indigenous Procurement Initiative (PSD) – Ongoing

- » Fulfilling the commitment in the British Columbia Procurement Plan 2024, the PSD formed an external advisory committee to advise on the development and implementation of specific short-, medium-, and long-term actions to:
 - ◇ Develop a co-ordinated, B.C. government-wide approach to goods and services procurement with Indigenous Peoples;

- ◇ Develop new, or revise existing, procurement policies, practices, programs and supports; and
- ◇ Address gaps, barriers, and inequities in those policies, practices, and programs and supports that exclude Indigenous businesses, organizations, communities and individuals and prevent them from participating in the Province’s procurement opportunities.

Connecting British Columbia (CONN) – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Citizens’ Services is committed to connecting all homes to high-speed internet services by 2027 and delivering on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act – Action Plan item 4.36 “To ensure every First Nations community in B.C. has high-speed internet services.”
- » Since 2017, the Province has invested over \$584M into the expansion of high-speed, broadband internet and cellular services throughout B.C. and leveraged funds from other levels of government and the private sector. This includes the announcement in Budget 2023 of an additional \$75M to support extending cellular services to another 440 km of highway by 2027, building on the government’s \$15M commitment in 2020.
- » As of December 2024, 96% of households in B.C. have access to high-speed internet services.
- » Rural communities and First Nation communities have seen significant increases in available internet since 2017:
 - ◇ In 2017, only 57% of homes in rural and remote areas and 66% of homes on First Nation reserves had access to high-speed internet.
 - ◇ As of December 2024, 74% of rural homes and 83% of homes on First Nation reserves and Modern Treaty Nation lands had access to high-speed internet.
- » The Ministry of Citizens’ Services is also working in partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to accelerate natural resource permitting for internet connectivity projects. In 2024, the Province made additional investments to several communities throughout B.C., including the North Coast Regional District and the Interior.

Gender and Sex Data Standard (BCDS-OCIO) – Ongoing

- » A new BCDS-OCIO was launched January 2023 that establishes consistent gender and sex terminology, and guidance to ministries on the collection of gender and sex data that recognizes gender diversity, minimizes harm, and meets requirements under the B.C. Human Rights Code.

Service BC Centres (SBC & GDX) – Ongoing

- » SBC & GDX and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction have an integrated service model in 48 different communities around the province, helping to break down the stigma for vulnerable people needing to access income assistance services, resulting in a better service experience. Together we provide services to rural and urban communities across the province.
- » Service BC Centre staff provide the public with a connected service experience by drawing on their knowledge of provincial government programs and services. Whether someone is a newcomer to B.C. or a person with a life event, they may not always know what services they need; however, Service BC Centres will provide them with information on relevant programs and services.

- » For example, when a newcomer to B.C. visits a Service BC Centre to inquire about a BC Services Card or BC Identification Card, staff can identify additional needs and connect them to other helpful services – such as enrolling in Medical Services Plan, accessing Fair PharmaCare or understanding the steps to obtain a BC drivers license.
- » All Service BC Centres are equipped with hearing loop technology to serve the hard of hearing and hearing impaired.

Expanding Access Mobile Services (SBC & GDX) - Ongoing

- » SBC & GDX have two mobile service vans called “Mobile Service Centres” equipped with the technology and tools needed to deliver services directly to people in remote, rural and underserved communities. Services can include driver licensing and BC Identification (BC Services Card/BCID), Medical Services Plan applications, services from the Vital Statistics Agency and information on Income Assistance and Disability Assistance.
- » The Mobile Service program is designed to reach communities that face barriers to accessing government services. These barriers may include geographical remoteness, technological and connectivity limitations, cultural and language differences and communication challenges. By improving access and equity, it plays a vital role in bridging the gap between urban and rural areas, particularly for Indigenous communities.
- » To further enhance accessibility, Mobile Service Centres are equipped with hearing loop technology to support individuals who are hard of hearing and hearing impaired. A heated, attached tent offers a comfortable and accessible alternative for individuals who may have difficulty entering the service vehicle, with the same services available as inside the vehicle. Additionally, a low-sensory environment is available to support individuals with sensory sensitivities.

Multi-channel & Multilingual Contact Centre Services (SBC & GDX) – Ongoing

- » SBC & GDX offer access to government services through multiple channels that improve accessibility for the diverse communities we serve, including a toll-free multilingual phone service, translation services in over 220 languages, a relay service for those who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired and email, text and webchat channel services.

Digital Accessibility (SBC & GDX) – Ongoing

- » SBC & GDX launched a new look and feel for gov.bc.ca in 2024, that is optimized for mobile device accessibility and usability.
- » A new Service Navigator (a chatbot on the main government home page) answered over 27,000 questions in 2024, helping people quickly access common government services without having to wait on the phone or in line at an office.
- » SBC & GDX ensures that government’s websites are accessible to people who use screen readers and those with visual impairments by meeting international standards for digital accessibility specifically Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 Level AA.
- » Some examples of digital accessibility efforts:
 - ◇ Conducting audits to ensure government’s web sites meet international accessibility standards and providing digital accessibility expertise to ministries as they build digital products.
 - ◇ Simplifying accessibility guidelines and developing digital accessibility training for all public servants to ensure government’s web presence is accessible.

Multi-language Program (SBC & GDx) – Concluded

- » The Multi-language Program was a two-year joint initiative between SBC & GDx and Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE), focused on talking to and hearing from people about how to make government communications more accessible to meet the diverse needs of people in B.C.
- » In partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, resources for newcomers in French, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese & Traditional Chinese were added on government's website for Multi-language resources for newcomers on the topics of driving, health, emergencies and anti-racism. This was the culmination of talking to more than 250 people in 14 communities about the information important to them when they first arrived in B.C.
- » In addition to the resources for newcomers, SBC & GDx maintains a dedicated page to provide information for Ukrainians moving to the province, including what to do when first arriving, getting settled in B.C., and how to access services such as health care and financial assistance. This information is updated regularly and translated into Ukrainian and Russian.

Short-Term Rental Registry (SBC & GDx) - Ongoing

- » BC Registries and Online Services (BCROS) is working with the Ministry of Housing (HOUS) to develop a Short-Term Rental Registry that will be operated by HOUS to track homes available for longer term rental and limit short term rentals. The Short-Term Rental Registry went live January 21, 2025.

Annual Release of Statistics under the Anti-Racism Data Act - Ongoing

- » Under the Anti-Racism Data Act, the Province must annually publish statistics and other information about the advancement of racial equity in government programs and services. Publications are prepared by ministries and usually include research findings relevant to programs, policies and services they deliver.
- » In 2024, the second annual release of statistics was published. It supplied information about inequities that Indigenous, racialized people, and other equity deserving groups face in: (1) health outcomes, focused on population differences in three chronic conditions; (2) access to learning supports in education; and (3) representation in the BC Public Service. This information is intended to guide future research areas to help identify service gaps and make government services and programs better and more accessible.

Indigenous Languages Technology Standard (ILTS) – Ongoing

- » This standard helps ministries provide more inclusive services to Indigenous people living in B.C. by preparing Ministries to be able to provide service interactions with Indigenous language names. It outlines the IM/IT technical requirements for systems to read, write, store, process, and display Indigenous languages. This is a key enabler of Indigenous language names on government ID, making it possible for Indigenous People to use their language names while accessing government services.

Secondary ID Framework (BC Services Card) – Ongoing

- » A Secondary ID Framework was established in 2024 to facilitate the identity proofing process for Indigenous individuals applying for the BC Services Card and BCeID.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Eliminating Waitlist Fees for Child Care – New in 2024

- » Starting April 1, 2024, child care providers receiving Child Care Operating Funding may no longer charge waitlist fees. This change will ensure that waitlist fees are not a financial barrier for families seeking equitable access to licensed child care in B.C.

Early Learning and Child Care Act (ELCCA) – New in 2024

- » The ELCCA was brought into force via regulation on Sept 1, 2024.
- » This new Act reaffirms the Province’s ongoing commitment to making access to more affordable, inclusive and culturally safe child care, and expands the purpose for which a child care grant may be paid, such as:
 - ◇ establishing a child care facility;
 - ◇ improving the inclusivity in child care for children with support needs; and
 - ◇ facilitating the design and delivery of Indigenous child care programs.
- » These changes will help improve access to child care for families.
- » Also starting Sept. 1, 2024, enhanced Affordable Child Care Benefit supports will be available to families when their child care is arranged or recommended by an Indigenous authority under Indigenous law. This means families will receive the same support with their child care costs, regardless of whether their child care is arranged or recommended by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies, or under Indigenous law.
- » There are no other changes to eligibility for the Affordable Child Care Benefit; families continue to receive the same level of support without interruption.

B.C.’s Inclusive Child Care Strategy – New in 2024

- » In June 2024, the Province released “[Where All Children Belong: B.C. Inclusive Child Care Strategy](#).” The strategy describes the foundation for a future where access to affordable, quality, inclusive child care is a core service that families can rely on. This foundation includes:
 - ◇ Embedding equity and inclusion in all aspects of child care, so that children’s diverse identities, cultures, languages and needs are welcomed and celebrated;
 - ◇ Supporting child care providers and professionals in gaining the knowledge and skills to provide inclusive child care; and
 - ◇ Meeting the specific needs of children, including those who are neurodiverse, have a disability, have complex needs or have other support needs.
- » The strategy identifies early actions that the Ministry of Education and Child Care is taking as it makes progress towards inclusive child care throughout B.C. Examples include:
 - ◇ Exploring the development and implementation of updated occupational competencies for early childhood educators (ECEs) to reflect changes in best practices and the evidence base in early childhood education, particularly related to inclusive child care and Indigenous competencies.

- ◇ Developing training and resources to empower ECEs and other members of the child care workforce to foster inclusive, culturally relevant practice. A new Leaders in Inclusive Child Care training is in development for 2025.
- ◇ Continuing to work with Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide inclusive child care supports through Supported Child Development and Aboriginal Supported Child Development programs while examining what barriers families are experiencing in accessing these services.

New Student Spaces – New in 2024

- » In September 2024, the Province announced a \$133.5M investment to add 89 new classrooms, which is the equivalent of 2,185 new seats, in 10 school districts.
 - ◇ Communities receiving the new additions include West Kelowna, Langley, Surrey, Delta, Richmond, Burnaby, Maple Ridge, Fort St. John, Nanaimo and Terrace.

Improved literacy screening and support – New 2024

- » In April 2024, the Province announced a \$30M investment over three years to improve literacy levels for B.C. students, including more supports for students with dyslexia and other learning differences.
- » This funding is supporting B.C. schools to scale up early literacy screening for Kindergarten to Grade 3 students and expanding Provincial Outreach programs and teams to provide new screening and literacy intervention supports.
- » Over \$13M was distributed to school districts in the 2024-25 school year to provide professional development and training for classroom teachers and support staff related to literacy instruction, screening, and interventions.
- » The Ministry of Education and Child Care is also working with K-12 education partners, Indigenous organizations, researchers, and specialists to identify and respond to the literacy development needs of Indigenous students and English Language learners.

Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) – New 2024

- » In September 2024, the First Nations Leadership Council and the governments of British Columbia and Canada signed a Tripartite MOU on early learning and child care for First Nations in B.C.
- » The MOU is the first of its kind for ELCC in Canada. It is an important step on B.C.'s path to reconciliation, to support the self-determination of First Nations in B.C. and to make progress on Declaration Act Action Item 4.19 to advance First Nations' jurisdiction in ELCC.

Provincial School Outreach program – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Education and Child Care is investing over \$3M per year in Provincial School Outreach teams – multi-disciplinary teams of specialists who work directly with schools to provide support and services for students with diverse learning needs.
- » The two Provincial School Outreach teams include a school psychologist, occupational therapist, learning supports teachers, behaviour specialists, speech-language pathologists, school counsellors, and an English Language Learner Teacher.
- » As of the 2024/25 school year, the initiative has provided support to 52 schools in 27 districts, with a priority focus on working with smaller, more remote communities.

BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) – Ongoing

- » Initiates further systemic changes to improve educational outcomes of First Nations students.

Implementing First Nations jurisdiction over education agreements – Ongoing

CommunityLINK – Ongoing

- » Provides funding to school districts for programs and services focused on vulnerable students. Annually, about 25% of CommunityLINK funding is spent on food programs.

StrongStart BC – Ongoing

- » StrongStart BC centres and outreach programs reduce young children’s vulnerability and increase success in school throughout the early years as well as later in life.

Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) program – Ongoing

- » The Province partners with the First Nations Health Authority and Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC to provide over 2,200 no-fee, culturally based AHS spaces provincewide as of December 2024, including over 1,350 spaces located in First Nations communities and over 850 spaces in urban and northern communities.

Child care pilots on school grounds – Ongoing

- » As of 2024-25, the Province invested \$2.4M in funding to support the Seamless Day Kindergarten pilot, which integrates before- and after-school care into the classroom with instructional support from certified early childhood educators.
- » In 2024, the Province provided more than \$2M over two years to three school districts (Chilliwack, Nanaimo-Ladysmith and Nechako Lakes), to support the creation of an estimated 180 new licensed child care spaces. This initiative will gather critical information to assist with future expansion of this model into other districts.

New Spaces Fund – Ongoing

- » Since 2018, the Province has invested over \$1.2 billion to support the creation of more than 40,000 new licensed child care spaces through the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund and other space-creation programs including
 - ◇ More than 30,100 spaces for children ages 0-5, and;
 - ◇ More than 9,900 spaces for children ages 6-12.
- » Of the 40,000 spaces, over 23,000 spaces are open for families and the rest are in development or construction. Operational spaces include
 - ◇ More than 18,300 spaces for children ages 0-5, and
 - ◇ More than 4,900 spaces for children ages 6-12
- » In 2024, the New Spaces Fund funded the creation of more than 580 new child care spaces for school-aged children.
- » In 2024-25, three Indigenous-led projects received over \$23M through the ELCC Infrastructure Fund, to create over 180 child care spaces.
- » The ELCC Infrastructure Fund supports provinces and territories to make additional capital infrastructure investments for underserved communities to advance inclusion in ELCC.

New Child Care Spaces for Métis Communities – New in 2024

- » Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) received \$13.9M since 2022 through B.C.'s Ministry of Education and Child Care's Canada-wide ELCC Agreement to create five new child care facilities that cater to the cultural needs of Métis families. Two of these sites are now opening and welcoming families.

\$10 a Day ChildCareBC and Affordability – Ongoing

- » On average, during the 2024-25 fiscal year, there were over 15,300 \$10 a Day ChildCareBC spaces in B.C. The ministry is on track to achieve its goal of 20,000 spaces by March 31, 2026. The 2024-25 application intake added 770 spaces to the \$10 a Day Program. Along with work to expand access to \$10-a-day child care, the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative continues to bring quick relief to families with over 138,800 spaces offered at reduced fees up to \$900 per month, per child.
- » The Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) is an income-tested program providing up to \$1,250 a month, per child, to help eligible low- and middle-income families (earning up to \$111,000 per year) with their child care costs. On average, over 34,000 children per month from over 27,000 families received ACCB in 2024-25.
- » The Support Needs Supplement offers up to \$150 monthly in additional ACCB for children with documented support needs. In 2024-25, over 2,400 children from over 2,000 families received the Support Needs Supplement.

Early Childhood Educators (ECE) Bursaries and Workforce Support – Ongoing

- » In 2024, ECE students will benefit from an additional \$45M over three years for the ECE Education Support Fund. The fund, managed by the Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC), provides as much as \$5,000 per semester for eligible ECE students.
- » A recruitment and retention strategy was included as part of B.C.'s ChildCareBC plan, launched in 2018. In addition to bursaries, the Province is:
 - ◇ Creating over 2,600 new student spaces in public post-secondary ECE programs and increasing enrolment by more than 90% since 2018, prioritizing flexible delivery options such as online, hybrid, blended and work-integrated learning program delivery;
 - ◇ Enhancing ECE compensation by up to \$6 per hour for ECEs;
 - ◇ Providing a Specialized Certification Grant, introduced in January 2024, to recognize ECEs with their Infant and Toddler and/or Special Needs Educator post-basic certificate who work in licensed child care or Aboriginal Head Start with children aged 0-5, with an annual grant of \$2,000 for those with one certificate and \$3,000 if they hold both certificates; and
 - ◇ Investing in new ECE dual credit programs in 30 school districts so students in grades 11 and 12 can get a head start on their ECE post-secondary training while earning credits to graduate from high school.

External Credentials Program – Ongoing

- » B.C. students can earn credits for First Nations language and culture programs through the expansion of the External Credentials Program (ECP). Since 2022, First Nations are able to create and approve their language and cultural learning programs to be recognized by the Ministry of Education and Child Care as external credentials that students can use toward graduating.
- » As of 2024, credits earned through these First Nations language and culture programs can also satisfy the Province's Indigenous-focused graduation requirement.

First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol – Ongoing

- » The First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol, signed May 26, 2020, commits the Province and First Nations to work together to improve the educational outcomes of Indigenous children and youth in care.
- » The Ministries of Education and Child Care, Children and Family Development, and Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills are working closely with First Nations leadership to implement the Protocol workplan, which includes improving data collection, information sharing, public reporting, and services for children and youth in care.

Equity of Opportunity Supplement – Ongoing

- » Provides funding to districts to support additional services to students by recognizing children and youth in care, children and youth receiving non-clinical mental health supports and low-income families in the school district.

K-12 Anti-Racism in Education Action Plan – Ongoing

- » The K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan, released in January 2023, is a comprehensive multi-year strategy to address racism and discrimination in education and create a culture and climate of belonging for all students and staff.
- » Key initiatives within the Action Plan include:
 - ◇ Creation of Anti-Racism in Education: A Guide for Teachers (released in February 2023)
 - ◇ Ongoing youth engagement
 - ◇ Creation of an Inclusion Calendar Guide to promote anti-racism messages, understand shared history, and celebrate diversity in schools and communities (released in September 2023)
 - ◇ Development of foundational online professional learning resources for employees within B.C.'s education sector (released in June 2024)
 - ◇ Development of Racism Incident Response Guidelines to support districts and schools to identify and respond to incidents of racism in a trauma-informed and responsive manner (to be released in February 2025).
 - ◇ Development of a parent engagement strategy to promote parent/guardian understanding of the K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan and build awareness about opportunities for their involvement in school anti-racism efforts (to be released in May 2025).

Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement – Ongoing

- » The new Indigenous-focused graduation requirement came into effect in the 2023-24 school year for all students working towards the B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma), in English or French, including students at B.C.-certified offshore schools.

British Columbia Training and Education Savings Grant – Ongoing

- » The B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant helps parents plan and save early for their child's post-secondary education by providing a one-time, \$1,200 grant into a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) of eligible children.

Feeding Futures Fund – Ongoing

- » Budget 2023 committed \$214M in operating funding over three years to make sure students are fed and ready to learn by expanding existing school food programs in districts and schools that already have them and creating new ones in districts and schools without.

- » For the 2024–25 school year, the Ministry of Education and Child Care allocated \$71.5M directly to school districts with flexible funding criteria to address the immediate need of feeding hungry students in a stigma and barrier-free manner while longer-term approaches for school food programs are put into place.
- » The ministry also allocated \$5M for minor capital enhancements required for school food programs through the Food Infrastructure Program.
- » The Ministry of Education and Child Care is working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to include the Feed BC program in school food programs.

K-12 Workforce Plan – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Education and Child Care is working closely with sector partners, including Indigenous organizations, employer groups, school districts, independent schools, unions, post-secondary institutions, the BC Teachers’ Council, and provincial associations to implement a K-12 Workforce Plan to help address staffing pressures in the K-12 system.
- » This work is supported through the Province’s StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, which provides \$12.5M over three years (2023/24 to 2025/26) to support province-wide training and recruitment initiatives for teachers, with a focus on Indigenous teachers, and teachers in rural and remote areas.
- » In 2024, the Ministry of Education and Childcare reduced application fees for internationally educated teachers from \$395 to \$245.
- » In 2024, initiatives under the K-12 Workforce Plan focused on areas such as supporting teacher retention through the creation of a provincial mentorship program, improving accessibility to teacher education programs, working with Indigenous partners on strategies to increase the number of Indigenous teachers, and recruiting more teachers in rural and remote communities.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

BC Clean Energy Act Changes – New for 2024

- » In 2024, the Province updated B.C.’s energy objectives in the Clean Energy Act to improve affordability and reduce carbon pollution. The changes include:
 - ◇ Adding new objectives to ensure that BC Hydro cumulative rate increases do not exceed cumulative inflation between 2017 and 2031, and are predictable and stable from year to year, and that BC Hydro is ready to acquire enough electricity to meet B.C.’s long-term climate targets under the Climate Change Accountability Act.
 - ◇ Amending the existing objective that 93% of the electricity generated in B.C. needs to come from clean or renewable electricity generation (which the province has surpassed) to a target of 100% by 2030 for the integrated grid.

CleanBC Better Homes and Better Building Program – Ongoing

- » Offers specialized energy coaching and high-value rebates for heat pumps in Indigenous communities, with \$4.65M in incentives spent from 2020–2023.
- » Over the 2023 calendar year, the Province delivered \$28.4M in rebates to more than 4,500 income-qualified households in B.C.

CleanBC Multi-Unit Residential Building Retrofit Program – Started in 2024

- » In 2024, the Province launched the CleanBC Multi-Unit Residential Building Retrofit Program. The program supports whole-building retrofits for apartments, condominiums and co-ops, helping make homes more comfortable and reducing energy bills. With \$61M over three years, the CleanBC Multi-Unit Residential Building Retrofit Program is the result of a \$26M investment by the Province, and \$35M from BC Hydro as part of its Energy Efficiency Plan.

CleanBC Social Housing Incentives Program – Ongoing

- » The program offers energy study funding, project implementation support, and greenhouse gas reduction incentives for social housing providers, which will reduce energy costs for tenants. From 2018-2023, 23 projects were completed, with \$740,000 spent on incentives.

CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) – Ongoing

- » The RCES includes three streams of action: (1) build remote community capacity to lead energy efficiency and clean energy projects; (2) support remote community efforts to improve energy efficiency and minimize greenhouse gas emissions in new and existing buildings; and (3) implement renewable energy generation projects to displace diesel generation.
- » In 2024, the Province's Community Energy Diesel Reduction (CEDR) program provided \$7.7M, administered by the New Relationship Trust, to seven remote First Nations in B.C. to support them in building capacity to reduce reliance on diesel fuel for electricity generation and leading the development of renewable energy projects.

CleanBC Better Homes Energy Savings Program – Ongoing

- » In 2024, CleanBC's Better Homes Energy Savings program offered as much as \$16,000 in rebates for heat-pump upgrades to people in B.C. with the program increasing the available rebate values for heat-pump upgrades and adding an additional income tier for middle-income homes.

Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program (OHPA) – Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Province announced a \$151M investment in OHPA to help people with low or middle incomes reduce their energy costs. With the support of the OHPA program, income-qualified applicants receive a rebate of as much as \$16,000 to switch to high-efficiency heat pumps in homes currently heated with oil.

Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities (ICEO) – Ongoing

- » Through the ICEO process, the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions and the First Nations Energy and Mining Council in partnership with the First Nations Leadership Council, are seeking to engage First Nations rightsholders and organizations in a collaborative dialogue to:
 - ◇ Position First Nations to fully participate in current and future opportunities in B.C.'s clean energy sector; and
 - ◇ Align the Province's strategic clean energy policy and legislation with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people.

BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative (BCICEI) – Ongoing

- » BCICEI has funded 67 projects totalling almost \$12M.

- » \$140M announced in 2023 helped fund a new funding stream for BCICEI in 2024. The funding stream further supports First Nations clean energy projects, and is a collaborative effort between the Province, New Relationship Trust and PacifiCan. The new stream allows small-scale renewable-energy projects that are ineligible to submit to BC Hydro's calls for power due to their size to move forward and contribute to the power grid.

CLIMATE ACTION SECRETARIAT

Climate Preparedness and Adaption Strategy

- » The Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, in partnership with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, is undertaking a provincewide Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) to be completed in 2025. Regional assessments will follow, beginning in 2025. The DCRRA is explicitly including assessment of disaster and climate risks for vulnerable populations and is considering the disproportionate risks to Indigenous communities.

CleanBC 2030 Roadmap – Ongoing

- » The CleanBC Communities Fund is a federal-provincial program to provide green infrastructure funding to local governments. The third and final intake is approved by both B.C. and Canada, with announcements underway, and 27 projects totaling \$151.1M. This intake supports projects starting in 2023 and completing by March 2027 (previous intakes: Intake 1 (2019): 16 projects totaling \$54.4M; Intake 2 (2020-2021): 19 projects totaling \$47.6M).

Clean Coast Clean Waters (CCCW) – Ongoing

- » The Clean Coast Clean Waters (CCCW) initiative received an additional \$25M in funding in 2023, bringing the total to \$49.83M. This funding program supports job creation, including youth employment and jobs for First Nation communities and was used for projects in 2023 and 2024. Funding is directed toward marine coastal First Nations, local governments, and non-profit organizations in B.C.

Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP) and CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collections Program –Ongoing

- » The OIP is a federal-provincial grant program that supports the new organics processing infrastructure in B.C. Up to \$30M will be invested in facilities in B.C., with \$10M from the province, \$10M from the federal government, and the remaining \$10M from project proponents. The CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program is investing over \$25M in new organics processing facilities and new residential organics collection programs. These funds support rural and remote communities, including investing in new long term green jobs. In 2023/24, construction of 33 facilities throughout B.C. was completed, with 13 anticipated to be complete in 2024/25.

Indigenous Climate-Resilience Capacity Pilot Program – Started 2023

- » The Province is helping First Nations communities strengthen their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change through the launch of an Indigenous climate-resilience capacity-building pilot program. The Province has provided \$2.25M to fund this pilot program that is being delivered by two First Nations organizations with experience delivering environmental programs: the Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative and First Nations Emergency Services Society.

Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) - Ongoing

- » The LGCAP has distributed over \$120.5M to date (\$24.5M in 2022/23, \$24.5M in 2023/24 and \$71.7M in 2024/25) for

local governments and Modern Treaty Nations to support climate action aligned with the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, and local climate action. Funds are typically disbursed each fall, however, in 2024/25, the equivalent of three years of funding was allocated to all participants (covering 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27). Program funds support local climate action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, prepares communities for the impacts of a changing climate and creates new opportunities for people in the clean economy. Annual reporting includes questions on taking an equity-informed approach to climate action.

CleanBC Communities Fund (CCF)

- » The CCF supports the CleanBC 2030 Roadmap and provides provincial and federal funding for community infrastructure projects that reduce reliance on fossil fuels. While the fund is no longer open for new projects, it continues to actively support cost-shared infrastructure projects that focus on management of renewable energy, improved access to clean-energy transportation, improved energy efficiency of buildings and the generation of clean energy. Over three intakes, CCF provided \$248.8M to support 55 community infrastructure projects.

BC HYDRO

Electricity Affordability Credit (EAC) – Ended March 31, 2025

- » The B.C. EAC was in effect from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, providing the average BC Hydro residential customer with savings of \$100, based on electricity consumption from the previous year. The credit was also available to customers of non-BC Hydro electricity utilities, including FortisBC and municipal utilities. The province entered into agreements with these utilities to ensure their ratepayers received comparable credits.

Customer Crisis Fund – Ongoing

- » On June 22, 2021, the Province continued BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund to provide support for people in financial crisis and help avoid disconnections of their electricity service while potential alternatives for a permanent crisis program are evaluated.
 - ◇ An additional \$1.9M was approved by government in March 2025, which should allow the program to continue in its current form until Spring 2026.
- » In 2024, BC Hydro awarded 6,740 grants

BC Hydro flexible payment plans – Ongoing

- » BC Hydro offers several payment plan options to help customers who need extra time to pay their bills avoid disconnection of service, including: equal payment plans that spread out the cost of seasonally high bills equally on monthly bills throughout the year; one-time payment deferrals; and interest-free repayment of overdue balances.

BC Hydro changes to customer disconnection policy – Ongoing

- » BC Hydro does not disconnect residential customers for non-payment during periods of extreme temperature. This includes a complete moratorium on non-payment disconnections in the North Interior and South Interior from November to March. In response to extreme temperatures in summer 2021, BC Hydro implemented a high temperature disconnection policy when temperatures were expected to reach 35 degrees Celsius. In 2022, BC Hydro aligned the policy with the province's new Heat Alert and Response System.
- » BC Hydro has also established processes with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to avoid security deposits and postpone disconnections for customers awaiting decisions on applications for support. BC Hydro also

implemented tariff changes to allow another customer to act as a guarantor for a residential customer account as an alternative to providing a security deposit.

- » BC Hydro has implemented changes that will delay disconnections where customers demonstrate a medical reason for requiring power.

Social Housing Retrofit Support Program – Ongoing

- » The Social Housing Retrofit Support Program provides funding to social housing providers to investigate and implement energy efficiency projects and rebates to install energy-saving products.
- » BC Hydro, along with FortisBC, the BC Non-Profit Housing Association and BC Housing are working together to make it easier for customers to participate by reducing application process time, integrating BC Hydro funding for electrification opportunities, and increasing energy management support by funding dedicated energy manager positions, education and training curriculum development and data integration support.

Low-Income Conservation Programs – Ongoing

- » BC Hydro, in partnership with FortisBC, has two offers for eligible low-income households – the Energy Conservation Assistance Program and Energy Saving Kits.
- » In 2023/24, BC Hydro spent approximately \$15M on low-income energy efficiency programs and products to help low-income customers save approximately five gigawatt hours of electricity. As a result, participating customers saved approximately of \$600,000 on their annual electricity bills.
- » In 2023/24, over 8,200 households went through the Energy Conservation Assistance Program and over 10,000 households received an energy saving kit.

Portable air conditioner offer – New

- » On June 28, 2023, the Government of B.C. announced it was providing \$10M to expand the Energy Conservation Assistance Program to include portable air conditioners to support at-risk customers who meet the income qualification requirements of the program. BC Hydro installed more than 4,000 units in 2023/24.

BC Hydro's Indigenous Scholarships and Bursary Program – Ongoing

- » The Indigenous scholarships and bursary program supports students to attend post-secondary education programs. In 2024, BC Hydro awarded 35 \$5,000 scholarships for full-time students; two \$2,000 bursaries; and one \$8,000 Randy Brant Memorial Award (granted to the top applicant each year, the recipient is selected based on academic achievement, community involvement, and dedication to a career at BC Hydro.)
- » The total value of the scholarships and bursaries program for 2024-25 was \$180,000.

BC Hydro Contracts and Procurement to Indigenous Designated Businesses – Ongoing

- » Through its Indigenous Contract and Procurement Policy, BC Hydro works with First Nations and their designated businesses to provide direct procurement opportunities. The value of Indigenous procurement in 2024/25 was \$258M in direct contracts to First Nations-designated businesses.

Indigenous Communities Conservation Program (ICCP) – Ongoing

- » BC Hydro supports Indigenous communities looking to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of their homes. Through two program offers, Indigenous communities can receive salary support and training, free energy-saving products and rebates to implement home energy upgrades for their community members.
- » In 2024/25:
 - ◇ Two Indigenous communities installed free energy-saving products and completed basic home condition assessments in 45 homes with support from the ICCP Home Energy Check-up.
 - ◇ Energy efficiency upgrades were completed in 153 homes with support from the ICCP Home Energy Upgrade Rebates.

Elimination of Separate Rates in Non-Integrated Areas

- » In June 2024, BC Hydro applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) to cancel higher electricity rates in non-integrated areas and offer the same rates available to integrated service area customers.
- » Approximately 5,000 residential customers reside in non-integrated areas, with many of these customers living in one of 12 First Nations communities. All of these customers would reduce their electricity costs by moving to integrated service area rates.
- » In February 2025 the BCUC approved BC Hydro's proposal effective April 1, 2025.

Expanding Eligibility to the Flat Rate as an Optional Residential Rate

- » In June 2024, BC Hydro applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission to allow residential customers to choose to pay for their electricity under the existing Flat Rate rather than the Residential Inclining Block (or "Tiered" rate).
- » Approximately 400,000 residential customers could potentially reduce their electricity costs by moving to the Flat Rate, providing customers with a service option that may improve affordability. Benefitting customers include those living in detached homes with electric heating, particularly those in rural areas and remote communities.

BC ENERGY REGULATOR (BCER)

Natural Resource Aboriginal Liaison Program – Ongoing

- » The Natural Resource Aboriginal Liaison Program supports strengthening relationships and reconciliation between the Province and Indigenous communities by creating greater Indigenous community awareness of natural resource development, safety, environmental and emergency management, and restoration activities.
- » The program receives funding from the Indigenous Funding Program through the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship and the Canada Energy Regulator, with a budget exceeding \$1M. The BC Energy Regulator dedicates three full-time positions to administer the program.

Indigenous Training Opportunities

- » The BC Energy Regulator collaborated on five provincial initiatives, allocating \$85,000 in funding for 2024 to support priority action areas, guiding principles and key population groups of B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy. Indigenous learners from throughout the province participated in diverse programs as follows:

- ◇ Tea Creek: An Indigenous-led endeavor situated in Kitwanga, dedicated to land-based food sovereignty and trades training, participants at Tea Creek undergo comprehensive training in horticulture, carpentry, drone mapping, and heavy equipment operation, alongside learning to create media stories for effective project communications.
- ◇ Mind Over Metal: The Mind Over Metal youth camps, for youth ages 12-17, are focused on reshaping the perception of welding and welding-related careers.
- ◇ University of Northern BC's Active Minds camp: Active Minds provides a comprehensive array of science, engineering, and computer camps, events, and workshops tailored for children ages 6 to 16. These activities are carried out across Northern B.C. at multiple locations throughout the summer months.
- ◇ Qwelmínte Secwépemc Knowledge Builders: Drawing upon the Skú7pecen telling and Walking on Two Legs concept, technicians from both Indigenous and western backgrounds come together as a collective, sharing values and principles to bridge existing knowledge gaps.
- ◇ University of Victoria (UVic) – Restoration of Natural Systems: Each year, a sum of \$5,000 is allocated for a few awards, which are available for Indigenous students from First Nations in B.C. who are enrolled in the Restoration of Natural Systems Diploma or Certificate program at UVic.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

- » Columbia Basin Trust is a statutory Crown corporation focused on the region most impacted by the Columbia River Treaty. The Trust has dual accountabilities to the province as shareholder, and to Columbia Basin residents who, through required engagement to develop management plans, set priorities for spending to enhance the economic, environmental and social well-being of Basin residents.

Basin Farmers' Market Co-operation Nutrition Coupon Program – Ongoing

- » In partnership with the BC Association of Farmers' Markets, the Trust committed \$506,400 over four years (2022-2025) to the Basin Farmers' Market Coupon Program, which enables lower-income families, seniors and pregnant women to buy fresh, locally grown food from Basin farmers. In 2024, the Trust committed an additional \$660,000 to fund the program from 2025 to 2028.

Affordable Housing Program – Ongoing

- » The Trust's Affordable Housing Program helps ensure that existing affordable housing units are maintained, energy efficient and comfortable for residents. Since 2016, the Trust has invested \$52M in affordable housing.
- » In 2024, the Trust provided development support for 22 new affordable housing units, supported retrofits to retain, improve, and/or enhance the energy efficiency of 58 buildings and 1,195 units, and funded the installation of a solar photovoltaic array at one affordable housing site (24 units) to help reduce utility costs and maintain long-term affordability.

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy – Ongoing

- » The Trust has supported the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) since 2000, providing nearly \$10M to support literacy initiatives across the Basin.
- » In 2024, the Trust provided \$500,000 and CBAL delivered more than 60 literacy programs and workshops, totalling 7,750 sessions reaching 10,108 children and youth and 7,130 adults.

First Nations Housing Sustainability Initiative – Ongoing

- » The Trust’s First Nations Housing Sustainability Initiative supports First Nations communities in the Basin to enhance and expand local affordable housing. Since 2017, the initiative has invested \$10.6M to address local First Nations housing needs.
- » In 2024, the Trust committed \$200,000 to help create four new affordable housing units.

Student Wage Subsidy Programs – Ongoing

- » The Trust’s student wage subsidy programs help address the needs of small businesses, strengthen the local economy, and build a skilled workforce. Since 2010, \$13.9M has supported employers in hiring full-time students part-time during the school year and full-time over the summer.
- » In 2024, the Trust provided over \$650,000 in wage subsidies, supporting 137 organizations to hire 124 students.

Child Care Support Program & Early Childhood Educator Wage Subsidy Programs – Ongoing

- » Since 2017, the Child Care Support Program has committed \$16M to improve and create licensed childcare spaces and support Early Childhood Educator (ECE) recruitment and retention in the Basin. In 2024, the Trust approved seven projects to improve 511 spaces and create 24 new spaces.
- » In 2024, the Trust supported 353 childcare staff through ECE wage and training subsidies.
- » The Trust is providing \$1.9M through 2025 to support the ECE Wage Subsidy Program.

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) – Ongoing

- » In 2024, a new online portal became available to make it easier for people to apply for financial support for uninsurable losses after a disaster. In recent years, the Province has enhanced and expanded the DFA program to better support people and communities. DFA is intended to compensate for sudden, unexpected and uninsurable disaster-related losses.

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) - Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Province invested approximately \$102M for more than 130 local disaster-risk reduction and climate-adaptation projects through the CEPF. The funding is intended to support communities to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. Project types include small-scale structural mitigation projects and improvements to community disaster mitigation strategies, including more accurate hazard mapping.
- » In 2024, the Province announced approximately \$580,000 in 22 local projects under the Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training stream of the CEPF. This funding is intended to support communities to enhance cultural safety and humility in the delivery of local emergency management programs and services.

Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program – Started in 2024

- » In 2024, the DRIF program announced approximately \$21M toward projects in B.C. to enhance community capacity to withstand and adapt to natural and climate-driven hazards. The DRIF program supports First Nations and local government projects that strengthen defences against hazards such as floods, drought, extreme heat, and landslides.

Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program – 2023/24 and 2024/25

- » The province has offered \$45,500 to each First Nation in B.C., for two years in a row, to support implementation of the engagement requirements in the Emergency and Disaster Management Act. The goal of this funding is to support capacity needs, relationship-building and collaboration through emergency management phases.

Multilateral negotiations – 2024/25

- » In 2024, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) formally commenced multilateral negotiations with the First Nations Leadership Council and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to replace the current 10-year bilateral service agreement between ISC and EMCR for the delivery of emergency management services and programs to B.C. First Nations.
- » The multilateral agreement is intended to better serves the needs of First Nations and to align with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the principles outlined in B.C.'s new Emergency and Disaster Management Act, both of which came in to force post the implementation of the bilateral agreement in 2017. This work underscores one of EMCR's key priorities, to facilitate the participation of First Nations as full and equal partners in the collaboration and delivery of emergency management.
- » Phase 1 of the negotiations focused on building emergency management capacity in First Nations communities. Phase 1 concluded in fall 2024 and resulted in 34 new permanent federally funding Emergency Program Coordinator positions for First Nations communities.
- » Phase 2 of the negotiations are expected to begin in late spring 2025.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

Clean Coast Clean Waters (CCCW) – Ongoing

- » The CCCW initiative received an additional \$25M in funding in 2023, bringing the total to \$49.83M. This funding program supports job creation, including youth employment and jobs for First Nation communities and was used for projects in 2023 and 2024. Funding was directed toward marine coastal First Nations, local governments and non-profit organizations in B.C.
- » In 2024, \$8M of the funding announced in 2023 went towards 17 more projects, which are expected to clean an additional 1,900 kilometres of shoreline, remove at least 31 derelict vessels and clean at least six derelict aquaculture sites, creating 639 new jobs. Seven of the 17 projects are being led by First Nations.
- » A portion of CCCW funding is allocated through a partnership between the province and Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative which includes eight nations (across nine communities) located along the Pacific Central and North Coasts to Haida Gwaii. Their clean-ups have focused on strategic food gathering locations and areas of high cultural significance and creating capacity for youth employment and elders for mentoring.

Organics Funding Programs - Ongoing

- » Since 2018, the Organics Infrastructure Program and CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program have invested \$68.85M towards new organic waste processing infrastructure and residential curbside collection programs in B.C. These funds support rural and remote communities, including investing in new long term green jobs. Thirty-five projects have been completed, with seven projects anticipated to be complete in 2025.

- » In 2024, the CleanBC – Organics Funding Program was launched. This fund supports rural and remote communities, including investing in new long term green jobs. In 2024-25, \$2.62M of funds were awarded to support three Indigenous-led projects.

Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program (CWSRP) – Ongoing

- » Operating as a partnership between BC Lung Foundation, the Province, and local communities, the CWSRP supports heating affordability by providing funding to encourage upgrading older high-polluting woodstoves to cleaner heating appliances such as heat pumps and new emissions-certified wood stoves.
- » In 2024 \$260,00 was granted to participating communities, with 70% of the funding going to small and medium sized communities.

Site Remediation Sites Registry – Ongoing

- » As part of the Site Remediation Fees review and the Digital Service Enhancement Project, First Nations governments will be provided with free access to contaminated sites information in the Site Registry. Free access is essential for respecting First Nations’ rights to self-determination and cultural preservation. Access to accurate data enables effective participation in discussions and decisions related to policy, programs and development initiatives that affect their communities. This information is vital for informed decision-making and allows First Nations governments to protect their lands, resources and cultural heritage.

Social Services Camping Fee Exemption (SSCFE) - Ongoing

- » The SSCFE program provides access to front country camping opportunities, free of charge, to individuals in receipt of federal or provincial income assistance for persons with disabilities. The program has been ongoing since the 1970’s.
- » The SSCFE program budget is dependent on usage, which continues to increase. In recent years, the annual value of the program has been approximately \$700,000 (\$712k in 2024/25, and \$788k is projected for 2025/26).
- » BC Parks continues to monitor annual program utilization through its Attendance and Revenue tracking system. The team responsible has also been evaluating user feedback and undertaking user research interviews to better understand users’ experience with the SSCFE program in an effort to minimize barriers to accessing recreational opportunities. To learn more, visit: [Social Services Camping Fee Exemption - Province of British Columbia | BC Parks BC Parks Recreation User Fees Regulation](#)

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

BC Family Benefit – Ongoing

- » A tax-free monthly payment to families with children under the age of 18. The program launched in October 2020 and supports around 281,000 families with children under the age of 18 through monthly payments.
- » As of July 2023, the maximum benefit increased by an additional \$250 per year for a two-parent family of four and as much as \$750 for a single-parent family with two children. Approximately 95% of single-parent families in B.C. get the benefit, with payments averaging approximately \$2,200 over the year.
- » The BC Family Benefit Bonus was introduced as a one-year temporary measure starting in July 2024 to June 2025 to ensure that more families receive financial support to help cover everyday expenses. The Bonus benefited 340,000 low- to middle-income family households throughout the province, and an estimated 66,000 families that have not previously received the BC Family Benefit automatically received the provincial bonus when they filed income taxes.

- » The Bonus is a boost of \$445 on average over the 12-month period. With a 25% rise in monthly payments, a family of four could now potentially receive up to \$3,563 annually, while a single parent with one child could be eligible for up to \$2,688 per year.
- » The Bonus will complete in June 2025 at which point the payment and income thresholds return to their usual amounts.

Pay Transparency Act – Started in 2023

- » In spring 2023, B.C. passed the Pay Transparency Act, requiring employers to adopt more transparent pay practices to address pay discrimination and reduce the gender pay gap.
- » In 2024, women in B.C. were typically paid 15% less than men, and the gap was even larger for women and gender-diverse people who were Indigenous, racialized, newcomers, living with a disability and/or 2SLGBTQIA+.
- » All provincially regulated employers are now required to include pay ranges on job postings and refrain from behaviours that contribute to the pay gap, such as punishing employees who share their pay details with coworkers.
- » Through a phased approach that began in November 2023, large and medium-sized employers are required to publicly report their pay gaps.
- » In June 2024, the Province introduced a new online reporting tool that helps employers prepare these reports. In November 2024, B.C. employers with 1,000 or more employees were required to report, and approximately 80% met the requirement.
- » In June 2024, the Province released its first Pay Transparency Report, using data from Statistics Canada and employer reports to highlight the gender pay gap across various sectors and intersectional identities. The report is available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/services-policies-for-government/gender-equity/annual-report-2024.pdf>

B.C.'s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan – Ongoing

- » On December 10, 2023, B.C. released Safe and Supported: B.C.'s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan. The three-year plan is guiding and coordinating new action across government to prevent, address, and respond to gender-based violence including boosting programming and supports for survivors, strengthening government's response to the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and ramping up prevention and awareness campaigns. These investments are supported by more than \$65M in annual, stable provincial funding and a total of \$61.9M across four fiscal years through the Canada-B.C. bilateral agreement for the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence. To date, B.C. has received and invested approximately \$25M of the federal funding.
- » In 2024, B.C.'s Gender Based Violence Action Plan supported initiatives to address and prevent gender-based violence, including:
 - ◇ As part of the Province's 2023 housing plan, Homes for People, B.C. is investing \$1.2B over the next 10 years to double the number of Women's Transition Housing Fund spaces from 1,500 to 3,000. As of December 31, 2024, 1,199 units have opened or are underway.
 - ◇ The Province is investing \$29.1M over three years to expand access to legal aid, improve intake capacity, and create a new multidisciplinary trauma-informed family law clinic.
 - ◇ The Province invested nearly \$6M of the federal funding from the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence in community-based victim services and violence against women programs to help address wait lists, increase access for underserved communities, and build program capacity.

- ◇ More than \$15M of the federal funding received to date is also being utilized to support Indigenous-led initiatives that foster community safety, healing, and belonging, which Indigenous partners, community members, and survivors have told us is needed to prevent and address gender-based violence.
- ◇ The Province has invested the federal funding to support initiatives that reach children and youth, including:
 - \$1.4M to support the school-based violence prevention program (Violence is Preventable) in reaching 7,000 more students from kindergarten to grade 12.
 - \$1.2M to support 41 community services providers that deliver sexual abuse intervention programs to deliver staff training, develop new resources, and boost service delivery,
 - \$300K to the Belonging Network to update content on healthy relationships and consent for young adults who were former youth in care,
 - \$300K to expand the reach of the Caring Dads program in South Fraser Valley, which is a program that engages men to foster healthier relationships with their partners and children,

Climate Action Tax Credit

- » In 2023, the Province raised income thresholds and increased the climate action tax credit to ensure B.C.'s clean transition remains affordable for more people. The increased thresholds mean more people were eligible for the money with an estimated 70% of eligible families and individuals receiving the maximum amounts.
- » In 2024, the Province provided continued enhancements to the credit, which means a single person could receive up to \$504 per year, up from \$447 in 2023 and an increase of nearly \$300 from the base tax credit amounts in 2022.

BC Renter's Tax Credit

- » Starting in 2024, tenants can claim the renters tax credit on their 2023 (and beyond) income tax returns. The maximum credit is \$400 and starts to phase out at 2% of adjusted family net income levels above \$60,000 and is fully phased out at income of \$80,000.

Indigenous Youth Internship Program – Ongoing

- » The Indigenous Youth Internship Program offers a 12-month internship program that is culturally responsive and supported. Interns work for nine months in the BC Public Service, followed by three months in an Indigenous organization. It is intended to encourage Indigenous youth to consider the BC Public Service or Indigenous organizations as a place to pursue a rewarding career; support Indigenous youth to develop their leadership skills; provide opportunities for Indigenous youth to contribute and improve relationship building between Indigenous communities/ organizations and the provincial government; and contribute to closing the social and economic gaps that exist between Indigenous people and other people in B.C.

Work-Able – Ongoing

- » Work-Able is a 12-month paid internship with the BC Public Service for recent (within the last three years) post-secondary graduates who self-identify as having a disability. This unique program provides learning, coaching, and mentorship to help participants build successful careers in the BC Public Service.

Indigenous Applicant Advisory Service – Ongoing

- » The Indigenous Applicant Advisory Service is available to Indigenous applicants (First Nations [status or non-status], Métis or Inuit) seeking work or already employed in the BC Public Service. This service aims to increase representation of Indigenous people in the BC Public Service by providing advice and guidance on the hiring process and informs improvements.

Home Owner Grant: Additional Grant and Low-income Grant Supplement – Ongoing

- » The Province offers home owner grants to help reduce property taxes payable on principal residences for qualifying owners in both municipalities and rural areas. To obtain the grant, the assessed value of the property must be under a threshold value that is calculated annually in the Home Owner Grant Regulation.
- » The regular grant is \$570 for homes in Metro Vancouver, the Capital Regional District, and Fraser Valley Regional District. For all other areas of the province the amount is \$770. An additional grant of up to \$275 is also available for seniors, certain veterans, and people with disabilities or those housing relatives with a disability. These home owners are also eligible for the low-income grant supplement, which ensures that even if their assessed property value exceeds the annual threshold, they will receive the full home owner grant amount. The low-income grant supplement is income-tested.

BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC) Customer Support Centre (CSC) Customer Support Agent (CSA) Indigenous Cohort – New

- » The BCLC CSC is unique in that it hires and trains in cohorts of three to nine individuals, usually twice per year.
- » The CSC team recognized an opportunity to hire an entire cohort of Indigenous individuals.
- » The initiative is focused on equitable hiring for Indigenous Peoples in Canada (First Nations, Inuit and Métis). Hiring through a cohort-based approach will maximize the success of individual candidates by allowing BCLC to apply a culturally sensitive lens to training and supervision.
- » This special program has been authorized for a period of five years, beginning September 2024. This gives BCLC the potential to recruit nine cohorts (~80 individuals total). The actual number of individuals recruited and retained will align with BCLC business needs.
- » Recruitment will begin in January 2025 and the first full cohort will begin training in May 2025.
- » The CSA role pays well above provincial minimum wage and offers benefits and opportunities for advancement.

MINISTRY OF FORESTS

Expansion of BC Wildfire Services – Ongoing

- » In preparation for the 2025 wildfire season, the province invested in the expansion of B.C.'s firefighting aviation and ground fleet, including additional crews in remote areas of the province.
- » The BC Wildfire Service maintains three domestic and international resource-sharing agreements, and dozens of contract opportunities, in various resource equipment and service areas.

Wildfire Response Training - Ongoing

- » In 2024, 21 eligible community response groups (approximately 430+ community members) received training to engage in wildfire response ahead of the fire season. The Province funded training and provided clear operating procedures for these groups to effectively and safely integrate with BC Wildfire Service (BCWS).
- » Financial support from BCWS resulted in 5,575 certifications to 879 individuals being delivered through training provided by First Nations' Emergency Services Society in First Nations communities across B.C.

BC Wildfire Service's (BCWS) New Recruit Bootcamp - Ongoing

- » Changes to the BCWS New Recruit Bootcamp included removing barriers for certifications which can now be completed once a job is accepted.

Growth of the Indigenous Initial Response Program

- » Further growth of the program to include additional First Nations communities providing wildland firefighting capacity to their traditional territories through deployments coordinated with BC Wildfire Service.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Doulas for Aboriginal Families Grant Program (DAFGP) – Ongoing

- » The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres launched the DAFGP in 2013 and is currently the only organization to administer a provincial doula support grant for Indigenous families in B.C. The DAFGP aims to increase healthy birth outcomes for Indigenous families in B.C. and removes the cost barrier to doula services by providing grant support for full spectrum, labour/ birth, and postpartum doula services. DAFGP also actively works to increase the number of Indigenous doulas registered and offers Indigenous doula training and community of practice supports. The DAFGP has supported 3,037 Indigenous families throughout B.C. since 2013.
- » The DAFGP aligns with multiple widely supported public health goals including the Strengthening Public Health Framework by BC Population and Public Health, Answering the Call by the First Nations Health Authority released in November 2024, and the B.C. government's Health Mandate 2024/2025.

Indigenous Midwives

Ministry of Health is providing \$2.5M in ongoing, renewable funding through the newly established Indigenous Maternity Planning Committee from April 2022 until March 2025. The funding and committee will operate on four guiding principles:

- » supporting and advancing reclamation and decolonization of birth and maternity practices and bringing birth back home;
- » supporting and advancing Indigenous birth and maternity practices;
- » supporting the Indigenous Maternity Planning Committee in establishing a long-term plan for Indigenous midwifery and traditional maternity care providers in B.C.; and
- » developing programs, services, initiatives and policies that are informed and driven by the community and Nation level. Work should be anchored in the community-driven, Nation-based principle, as outlined in the seven directives of FNHA.

Travel Assistance Program (TAP) – Ongoing

- » TAP is a corporate partnership between the Ministry of Health and private transportation carriers.
- » TAP supports patients with the cost of ground, air or ferry travel to access non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community
- » In 2023-24, 98,248 TAP approvals were issued.
- » On Dec. 19, 2024, seven additional ferry routes were added to TAP. These routes are serviced by independent contractors and provide service to rural and remote communities, including 22 First Nations communities around B.C.

Expanded travel programs for cancer patients - Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Province provided an additional \$20M over two years to the Canadian Cancer Society to support travel and lodging for cancer patients. This funding builds on a previous investment of \$10M in 2023.
- » In 2023-24, 1,398 cancer patients from 249 communities received travel-support funding through the Canadian Cancer Society Travel Treatment Fund, representing a 742% increase from the previous year.

Expanded provincial cancer care – Ongoing

- » As part of Budget 2024, Government invested \$270M over the next three years to support B.C.'s 10-Year Cancer Action Plan, which outlines actionable steps to better prevent, detect and treat cancers, delivering improved care for people facing cancer now while preparing for growing needs. As part of the plan, several initiatives were initiated in 2024:
 - ◇ Launched the first province-wide cervix self-screening program, enabling individuals aged 25 to 69 to order a quick and accurate HPV test kit to use at home, providing a more convenient, comfortable and accessible option for early detection of cervical cancer.
 - ◇ The Province extended eligibility for publicly funded HPV vaccines to males born in 2005 with the opportunity to receive the vaccine for free until June 30, 2024.
 - ◇ Cancer patients affected by certain advanced leukemias and lymphomas now have a new treatment option, Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell (CAR-T) therapy, closer to home.
 - ◇ Expanded the provincial gynecological oncology surgery program from two centres (Vancouver and Victoria) to three centres—including a new full-service site in Kelowna—to improve equitable access for patients in rural and northern communities. Enhanced services in Vancouver and Victoria have further reduced wait times and improved access to timely, team-based, wraparound care closer to home.

Provincial Perinatal Substance Use Program (PPSUP) – Complete

- » PPSUP is an ongoing program delivered through BC Women's Hospital to advance provincial capacity and services to improve health outcomes for pregnant and early parenting women who use substances and their infants.
- » Beginning in 2022-23, the Provincial Health Services Authority was allocated \$7M in annual ongoing funding to continue the BC Women's Hospital's existing model with centralized PPSUP leadership and co-ordination.

Hospital at Home (HaH) program – ongoing

- » HaH is an internationally recognized model that enables hospital-level care to be provided in the comfort of your own home.

- » There are seven HaH programs operating in B.C., two of which launched in Vancouver in January 2024 and one more is set to launch in 2025 in Fraser Health.

Primary Care Strategy– Ongoing

- » The team-based Primary Care Strategy continues to increase patient attachment and access to quality, comprehensive, culturally safe, and person-centered primary care services throughout the province – no matter where people live, or what income bracket they fall into. For example:
 - » In 2023/24, the Province expanded the Health Connect Registry and introduced the Provincial Attachment System – the first ever system in B.C. which understands how many people are seeking primary care, where and what provider capacity exists throughout the province.
 - » B.C. is implementing team-based primary care through several different models of care under the Primary Care Network (PCN) umbrella by opening new Urgent and Primary Care Centres and Community Health Centres, introducing and expanding the Longitudinal Family Physician Payment model, and launching the Nurse in Practice program.
 - » HealthLink BC provides information online and by phone by calling 8-1-1 about the primary care services available in each community, whether that be for people who may be attached to a provider or who may be seeking episodic care in person, or virtually.
 - » Real-Time Virtual Supports (RTVS) offer access to virtual care for patients and providers in rural, remote, and First Nations communities in B.C. There are multiple pathways available through RTVS, including
 - HEiDi (provides 8-1-1 access to physicians),
 - RUDi (emergency medicine support for rural and remote providers),
 - CHARLIE (pediatric medicine support for rural and remote providers), and
 - MaBAL (maternity and newborn care support for rural and remote providers).
 - ◇ The Province offers First Nations Virtual Doctor and First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service to enable First Nations people to make virtual appointments with doctors.
 - ◇ Northern Health Authority offers Virtual Primary and Community Care Clinic to deliver primary care services for unattached patients.
- » The delivery of primary care by PCNs is governed by a commitment to truth, reconciliation, and humility, ensuring provision of care that is culturally safe, addresses and eliminates racism and discrimination, and respects the dignity, well-being, and unique health care needs of Indigenous Peoples.
- » The Province is committed to delivering that care equitably by removing systemic barriers to ensure everyone is supported in achieving good health and wellbeing, regardless of age, ability, socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or geographic location.

Nurse-family Partnership – Ongoing

- » Since 2012, the Nurse-family Partnership program (part of a \$23M Healthy Start Initiative) has provided an intensive, home visiting program offered by specialized public health nurses aimed at supporting young, first-time mothers vulnerable to structural and systemic inequities and their children up to age two years. B.C. has delivered the program to over 2,200 families with inequities since its inception.

Early identification of autism assessment – Ongoing

- » The BC Autism Assessment Network (BCAAN) is currently undertaking several initiatives to enable early identification of autism among young children.
 - ◇ Following a pilot project, Sunny Hill Health Centre at BC Children’s Hospital has implemented streamlined assessments for children three and a half years of age and younger who are non-verbal and showing severe signs of autism typical behaviours. The pilot occurred between June 2021 and December 2022 and resulted in a decreased waitlist for this age group by 28.4%, with 97% of children clinically diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
 - ◇ BCAAN is expanding how assessments are administered for children under the age of four. This change will allow community pediatricians to assess highly symptomatic preschool children without time intensive standardized tools (i.e., the Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale –2 and Autism Diagnostic Interview-R).
 - ◇ BCAAN is undertaking a project with the BC Center for Ability, the Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre, Island Health Authority and Northern Health Authority that enables Speech Language Pathologists to complete the standardized assessment tools in order to increase assessment capacity across the province.

Partnership with First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Health and FNHA have partnered on the joint initiative of First Nations-led Primary Care Centres (FNPPCs) to provide access to quality, culturally safe primary health care that serves the health and wellness needs of First Nations. There are 14 FNPPCs approved, with three FNPPCs providing services and currently open.
- » The Joint Project Board is a partnership between FNHA and the Ministry of Health. Through this partnership, annual funding of up to \$15.33
- » supports 27 community-driven, Nation-based primary care projects in First Nations throughout the province.
- » The Ministry of Health also partners with the First Nations Health Council, FNHA, the First Nations Health Directors Association, provincial partner ministries, and the Government of Canada to advance community-driven, Nation-based approaches supporting the social determinants of mental health and wellness, per the [2018 Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding](#). Implementation of the memorandum was extended to April 2, 2025, to continue supporting these approaches as the partners work towards implementation of the tripartite [10-year social determinants of health strategy](#) approved by First Nations Chiefs and Councils in 2023.
- » Prescription drug coverage for clients of FNHA is also ongoing through PharmaCare Plan W (First Nations Health Benefits).

Health Career Access Program (HCAP) – Ongoing

- » As part of the StrongerBC economic recovery framework, HCAP is a fully funded work-integrated learning program designed to increase the supply of health care assistants in B.C. HCAP provides people in B.C. without prior health-care education or experience with accessible, low-barrier opportunities to enter high-demand careers within the health sector. Since March 2024, over 1,800 people have been hired into HCAP (more than 9,700 since the start of the program) to gain non-clinical experience in various health-care settings while training to become a health-care assistant or mental health and addictions worker

Internationally Educated Nurses – Ongoing

- » As part of B.C.’s Health Human Resources Strategy, the Ministry of Health has committed more than \$28M over three years (2023/24-2025/26) to support internationally educated nurses (IENs) to practice in B.C.

- » This program has been designed and implemented in collaboration with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, Inspire Global Assessments, Health Match BC, and the regional health authorities. Through this program, IENs have access to a zero-cost registration pathway with a two-year return of service agreement as well as streamlined credential recognition, expanded training opportunities, bursaries for prerequisites and exams, and navigation supports.

Internationally Educated Allied Health (IEAH) – Ongoing

- » As part of B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy, the Ministry of Health has committed more than \$11M over three years (2023/24 - 2025/26) to support internationally educated allied health (IEAH) to practice in B.C. Through this program, IE physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and medical lab technologists receive access to bursaries, navigation support, and streamlined credential recognition and registration pathways with a two year return of service agreement.

Minimum Nurse to Patient Ratios – New in 2024

- » In 2024, together with the BC Nurses Union, the Ministry of Health established minimum nurse-to-patient ratios for six health-care settings in acute care facilities.
- » To support the implementation of minimum nurse-to-patient ratios, the Province invested \$237M in initiatives that will retain, encourage the return of, and recruit new nurses into the health-care system.

Nursing Tuition Grants - ongoing

- » As part of the minimum Nurse to Patient Ratios initiative (mNPRs), the Ministry of Health has committed more than \$68M in one-time funding for tuition credits to be paid to nursing students in B.C.
 - ◇ \$2,000 per year in tuition credits for nursing students enrolled in BSc Nursing, BSc Psychiatric Nursing, and Practical Nursing programs at a public post-secondary institution.
 - ◇ \$5,000 per year in tuition credits for Indigenous nursing students enrolled in BSc Nursing at a public post-secondary institution (this credit is already provided to Indigenous students in BSc Psychiatric Nursing, and Practical Nursing programs).

Access to Practical Nursing (APN) Bursary

- » In August 2022, the Ministry of Health announced one-time funding of \$3M for APN bursaries worth up to \$10,000 per student to offset tuition and other fees for Health Care Assistants enrolled in an APN program at a public post-secondary institution between September 1, 2022, and May 31, 2025
- » As of January 2025, 221 APN students have benefitted from the bursary, including 51 Licensed Practical Nurses who have graduated and started their service commitment in B.C.'s public health system.

BC Loan Forgiveness Program

- » Recent graduates in select in-demand occupations can have the B.C. portion of their integrated B.C.-Canadian student loan forgiven by agreeing to work at publicly funded facilities in undeserved rural and remote communities in B.C.
- » Eligible occupations include nurses, physicians, midwives, medical laboratory technologists, diagnostic medical sonographers, speech language pathologists, audiologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, respiratory therapists, polysomnographers, and radiation therapists.
- » Qualifying healthcare workers have the outstanding B.C. portion of the Canada-B.C. integrated student loan debt forgiven at a rate of up to a maximum of 20% per year for up to five years.

Priority Program Bursaries (PPB)

- » Through B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy, the Ministry of Health has committed more than \$15M over three years (2023/24 - 2025/26) for bursaries to attract students to priority training programs in the health sector. This includes two bursary programs:
 - ◇ Student Recruitment and Retention Bursary (SRRB) of \$2,000 per program year to attract students to key health programs in public post-secondary institutions in B.C. Students enrolled in advanced care or primary care paramedicine, biomedical engineering technology, cardiovascular perfusion, clinical counselling, environmental health, medical laboratory assistant, medical laboratory technology, medical radiography technician, medical resonance imaging technician (first discipline), nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, rehabilitation assistant, or respiratory therapy programs.
 - ◇ Indigenous Student Recruitment Bursary (ISRB) of \$5,000 per program year for Indigenous students enrolled in Dietetics, Midwifery, Nurse Practitioner, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Practical Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing, and Speech Language Pathology programs at a public post-secondary institution in B.C.
- » PPB funding is available to students enrolled in eligible programs between September 1, 2023, to October 1, 2025.
- » As of December 2024, 2,174 students have received the SRRB, and 187 students have received the ISRB.

New Graduate Allied Health and Nursing Bursaries

- » Through B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy and the Minimum Nurse to Patient Ratios Initiative (mNPR), the Ministry of Health allocated \$1.278M in 2023/24 for nursing new graduate exam bursaries of up to \$500.
 - ◇ In 2024/25, the Ministry allocated \$3.228 to continue nursing new graduate exam bursaries and to expand to priority Allied Health occupations.

Provincial Signing Bonuses – 2024/25 and extended for April 1 – June 30, 2025

- » Through B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy and the Minimum Nurse to Patient Ratios Initiative (mNPR), the Ministry of Health allocated \$47.063M in 2024/25 for provincial signing bonuses including:
 - » The Northern Health Signing Bonus: up to \$30,000 for eligible nurses who accept a regular position that fills a high needs vacancy in a rural or remote community in Northern Health
 - » The Rural and Remote Signing Bonus: up to \$20,000 for eligible nurses who accept a regular position that fills a high needs vacancy in a rural or remote community outside Northern Health.
 - » The GoHealth BC Signing Bonus: Up to \$15,000 for eligible nurses (nurses who are new to B.C. or returning from private nursing agencies to the public sector) who accept a regular position with GoHealth BC.
 - » The Urban/Metro Signing Bonus: up to \$15,000 for eligible nurses who accept a regular position that fills a difficult-to-fill or high-needs vacancy in an urban or metro community.
 - » The Ministry has directed health authorities to keep the program in place for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025/26 (April 1 – June 30, 2025) while completing a review and evaluation of the program and to allow time for the Minister to make an informed decision on 2025/26.
 - ◇ A prioritization exercise is underway to determine whether additional funding will be allocated to the HAs in Q1 2025/26 to continue offering these signing bonuses (recruitment incentives).

Provincial Rural Retention Incentive (PRRI) – 2024/25 and extended for April 1 – June 30, 2025

- » Through B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy and the Minimum Nurse to Patient Ratios Initiative (mNPR), the Ministry of Health allocated \$87.445M in 2024/25 for the Provincial Rural Retention Incentive (PRRI).
- » Through PRRI, eligible regular health authority, Providence Health Care, and Health Employers Association of BC affiliate employees working in 80 rural and remote communities receive up to \$2000 per quarter, pro-rated to regular hours worked.
- » First Nations Health Authority employees are also eligible for these incentives.
- » The Ministry has allocated approximately \$22M to extend the program for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025/26 (April 1 – June 30, 2025) while completing a review and evaluation of the program and to allow time for the Minister to make an informed decision on 2025/26.

Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) – Ongoing

- » CFAI supports health authorities to improve food security in their regions. Since 2005, health authorities have received a combined total of \$1.5M annually in CFAI funding. In 2021 the Ministry of Health provided a permanent \$1M uplift to funds to reduce the need for short-term, unsustainable responses to food insecurity by strengthening community capacity to improve food access and availability in the province, with a focus on remote and Indigenous communities.

In Plain Sight Task Team – Ongoing

- » Implementation of In Plain Sight recommendations are ongoing.
 - ◇ In June 2023, the In Plain Sight Task Team, including representation from ministries, Métis Nation BC, First Nations Health Authority, the First Nations Leadership Council, and health system partners, concluded their two-year mandate to drive forward the implementation of the 24 recommendations identified in the report In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in BC Health Care, across the health-care system.
 - ◇ The Ministry of Health continues to work towards the implementation of the report recommendations and reporting on progress is embedded within the DRIPA Action Plan as Action 3.7.

National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH) – Ongoing

- » Ongoing efforts to make health-care systems culturally safe and accessible for all First Nations Peoples, Inuit, and Métis people in B.C. and across Canada are being strengthened with the creation of a ground-breaking repository of resources at the NCCIH. Public funding has supported the NCCIH to grow the first-ever collection of cultural safety and Indigenous-specific anti-racism tools and resources. Indigenous Services Canada provided \$520,000 over five years to support this initiative nationally and the Government of B.C. contributed \$550,000 to enable B.C. health system partners to create tools, strategies, and resources to enhance culturally safe service delivery and practices across the health system.
- » NCCIH is working with health authorities to develop tools and resources to support the implementation of the CSH Standard and is undertaking a pilot with Northern Health Authority on new training curriculum for health authority staff.

Enhancing health-care services in Northern B.C. – Ongoing

- » To help people living in Northern B.C. access health-care services, the Province is providing up to \$6.38M for programs and incentives to encourage more health workers to work and live in the North.

PharmaCare– Ongoing

- » Expanded coverage and added 39 new drugs to the PharmaCare formulary in 2024.
- » Effective April 1, 2023, PharmaCare covers the full cost of more than 60 commonly used birth control methods.
- » Minor Ailments and Contraception Service (MACS) was launched on June 1, 2023. B.C. residents can see a pharmacist for a comprehensive assessment and clinical advice and treatment for 21 minor ailments and contraception at no charge. Between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, a total of 494,084 MACS services were provided to 348,296 patients.

PharmaCare Plan C (Income Assistance) for Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs)

- » Effective April 4, 2024, PharmaCare provides Plan C (Income Assistance and Family Services) coverage to Indigenous children and youth under the care of IGBs.
- » Children and youth who have been receiving care under the Ministry of Children and Family Services can continue to receive Plan C coverage after IGBs start to provide care.

Home and community care client rates for Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) Arrivals – Ongoing

- » Temporary policy supports CUAET arrivals who require home and community care (HCC) services but may not be able to afford the client rates.
- » If the individual does not have income or is unable to provide any proof of their financial situation, the HCC client rate will be waived, and the individual will be assessed a \$0-client rate for their HCC service for up to one year. The client rate will be recalculated if the individual gains income during that year or becomes able to provide proof of their financial situation.

Temporary Home and Community Care client rate policies related to COVID-19 financial impacts - Complete

- » Temporary policies implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic support access to home and community care services (long-term care, assisted living and home support) for clients financially impacted by the pandemic. Fees were lowered or fee caps were extended between 2020 and 2024.

Health of Métis People – Ongoing

- » In February 2022, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, along with the Ministry of Health, released the report *Taanishi Kiiya? Miiyayow Métis Saantii Pi Miyooayann Didaan BC* – the Métis Public Health Surveillance Program Baseline Report (MPHSP). The program identifies key health indicators and sets recommendations, goals and benchmarks to monitor and report on the health and wellness of Métis People over the next decade. The initiative will include releasing interim reports every three years to assess progress on achieving the 10-year health and wellness targets outlined in the report.
- » In 2023-24, the Ministry of Health provided MNBC with \$375,000 to support health and wellness initiatives benefiting Métis Peoples and communities in B.C., including partnership development, supporting the MPHSP and engagement and collaboration opportunities with partners across the health care spectrum. In 2022-23, the ministry also provided \$1M to support the development of a Métis Health and Wellness Strategy.
- » The Ministries of Health and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation have partnered with MNBC to create a Health, Mental Health and Wellness, and Harm Reduction Table (the Table) to uphold Métis self-determination in health care and to advance Métis health and wellness priorities.

- » The Table work plan will evolve over time to reflect key collaborative priorities, including cultural safety and humility for Métis peoples in B.C., mental health and wellness, exploring harm reduction and substance use programming; risk factors impacting health and wellness, and provincial information systems.
- » MNBC and Ministry representatives meet monthly to discuss issues impacting Métis health and wellness, and to explore opportunities to partner on advancement of health system priorities.
- » In Spring 2024, the former Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA) provided MNBC with a \$500,000 grant in support of Culture-Based Recovery and Aftercare.
- » MNBC hosted a Girls Gathering in September 2024, with another scheduled in February 2025, supported by one-time funding through MMHA. The event included an overnight camp gathering held in Prince George for Métis girls ages 8-15. It included teachings and cultural activities facilitated by Elders, knowledge holders, and mental health service providers focused on mental wellness and life promotion to increase wellness strategies for Métis girls. The gathering also included a sashing ceremony.
- » MNBC hosted six regional Harm Reduction gatherings throughout fall 2024 and early 2025, supported by one-time funding through MMHA. These gatherings provided opportunities to share teachings around healing and culture, and for Métis community members to learn information about local resources (including MNBC, Foundry, Health Authority partners, etc.), how to administer naloxone, and to build community relationships.

Collective bargaining

- » In 2022-2025 collective agreements, health employers and health sector unions and bargaining associations agreed to a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) acknowledging the pervasive harms of colonialism faced by Indigenous peoples, and committed to working together to advance a comprehensive, system-wide approach to confronting Indigenous-specific racism and cultural safety.
- » A core element of the MOA was to establish a provincial Indigenous-specific anti-racism (ISAR) forum with the health sector unions as well as a physician-specific committee on ISAR and cultural safety and humility. Preparations are underway for the next round of collective bargaining in early 2025.

Age-Friendly Communities (AFC) Program – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Health, through the Age-friendly BC Strategy, provides Age-friendly grants, supports, tools, resources, and recognition to local governments and Indigenous communities to develop policies, programs, and services that allow older adults from all cultures, identities, and abilities to age-in-place in their communities.
- » In 2023, 25 communities throughout B.C. were successful in their application for grant funding, including six Indigenous communities.

BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program – Ongoing

- » In 2021-22, the Ministry of Health provided the BC Association of Farmers' Markets with over \$12M to support the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program, which provides coupons for lower-income people living in B.C. to purchase fresh, healthy, local food at B.C. farmers' markets. The program is run by community organizations provincewide. \$3M of this funding will support an increase in the number of seniors participating in the program over three years (\$1M each year). In 2023, over 12,000 B.C. households benefited from this program, an increase from 10,152 in 2022.

B.C.'s Health Human Resource Strategy– Ongoing

- » B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy (the strategy) aims to optimize the health system, expand training, and improve health-care worker recruitment and retention.
- » Implementation of the strategy is aligned with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, the In Plain Sight Report, and the BC Cultural Safety and Humility Standard and includes funding for Indigenous leadership roles designed to support system level change, an Indigenous leader recruitment and support initiative, an Indigenous-specific recruitment strategy, expanded cultural safety training, and post-secondary educational programs.

FOODSAFE Program innovation – Ongoing

- » The Provincial FOODSAFE Program is a suite of food safety courses that support safe food processing, preparation, and handling practices.
- » Many staff members who are required to take FOODSAFE Level 1 earn minimum wage.
- » In 2022, the cost of the FOODSAFE Level 1 course was reduced from \$115 to \$99. In April 2023, course was reduced from \$99 to \$88 by offering students the ability to self-study. Further efforts will be made in 2024 to 2026 to continue to bring the cost of the online FOODSAFE Level 1 course down.

Complex center for young people – Started 2023

- » The centre will be for young people living with complex, chronic conditions and will support children, families, caregivers and health-care providers through care co-ordination, training and education, offered online and in person.
- » The construction of a new centre for child and youth living with complex health-care needs will start in 2025.

Expanded supports for seniors to live independently

- » Better at Home program
 - ◇ Better at Home is a community-based program funded by the Province and managed by United Way BC, that provides seniors with access to non-medical home support services to support them in remaining independent longer in their own homes and connected to their communities.
 - ◇ As of March 2025, there are 97 Better at Home programs in B.C., serving 260 communities, including First Nations communities.
- » Long-term Care at Home program (LTC@Home) – new in 2024
 - ◇ LTC@Home equips seniors' homes with technology for virtual care and monitoring, customized to an individual's needs and monitored by a care team who checks in if an alert is received.
 - ◇ LTC@Home is funded through the Canada-B.C. Aging with Dignity agreement, which provides up to \$47M over four years.
 - ◇ Starting in June 2024, two pilot projects were launched in Delta and Victoria, with a goal of supporting more than 2,700 seniors and their caregivers over the next four years, and expanding to other communities around B.C. over the next 18 months.

Long-term care homes – Ongoing

- » As of December 2024, there are more than 553 long-term care homes throughout B.C. that are open, under construction, in development, or initiated.

Free COVID-19 and influenza vaccines – Ongoing

- » Immunization against influenza and COVID-19 continues to be free for anyone over the age of six months in B.C. and enhanced influenza vaccines are offered to seniors.
- » For the 2023-24 viral respiratory illness season, the province invested \$27.635M to purchase influenza vaccine. Of this amount, \$9.114M was for purchasing enhanced influenza vaccines for seniors.
- » In 2024, B.C. had administered 1,550,765 doses of COVID-19 vaccines and 1,388,497 doses of influenza vaccines.

Indigenous Midwifery Support Fund – Started in 2024

- » Through the [2022-2025 Midwifery Main Agreement](#), the Ministry of Health (Ministry) agreed to provide \$2.5M in ongoing, renewable funding to support Indigenous midwifery.
- » The Indigenous Sexual, Reproductive, and Infant Health Planning Committee has been established, co-chaired by the Ministry and the Midwives Association of BC, to allocate the \$2.5M to return and grow Indigenous midwifery in communities.

Midwifery Service Template Contracts – Ongoing

- » The [2022-2025 Midwifery Main Agreement](#) between the Ministry of Health and the Midwives Association of BC provides a new [service contract template](#) for health authorities to contract with midwives.
- » The contracts are designed to stabilize maternity care by sustaining midwives' income in low-volume, remote communities or providing an alternative payment model for midwifery services to the Medical Services Plan billing model.

Population and Public Health Determinants (DOH) of Health Model – Ongoing

- » In September 2024, the BC Population and Public Health Framework was released by the Ministry of Health and presented a made in B.C. Determinants of Health Model.
- » The DOH Model shows how broader structural, social and ecological factors including housing, income, employment and education.
- » The DOH Model emphasizes the intersections of poverty with other factors that impact on short and long-term health outcomes. It promotes measurement of social and material deprivation as they relate to health. These highlight the foundational principles of the Framework including Health Equity, anti-racism and upholding Indigenous Rights and Truth and Reconciliation.

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

Initiatives for children, youth and young adults:

a) Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams – Ongoing

- » ICY teams are community-based, multidisciplinary teams that deliver integrated mental health and addictions supports and services for children and youth, and their families/caregivers - making it easier for them to connect to the care they need when and where they need it.
 - ◇ By the end of 2024, ICY teams are operating or being implemented in 20 school district communities and are supporting at least 1,447 young people per month in the first five communities.
 - ◇ The teams continue to scale up operations of both clinical and non-clinical services and supports, including hiring of positions to support Indigenous children, youth and families.
 - ◇ The Province is investing \$128.6M over three years to implement teams in 20 school districts to be operational by 2025.

b) Foundry Centres and Virtual Supports – Ongoing

- » Foundry is a provincewide network of integrated youth centres and virtual supports, offering free and confidential counselling, primary care, sexual-health and addictions services to young people 12-24 years and their families. Budget 2023 included \$74.9M to open an additional 12 Foundry centres. By the end of 2024, 17 [Foundry centres](#) were open around the Province and 18 others were in development (including 10 new centres announced in March 2024). The province plans for a total of 35 centres when expansion is complete.
- » Through a \$16.2M grant to Foundry via the 2022-23 Canada-BC Labour Market Development Agreement, starting in 2023 (for three years), youth who want to help other youth could begin to train for jobs in the health and social services sector as youth peer support workers. This funding will also evaluate the effectiveness of youth peer support as a core service in primary care settings for young people.
- » Foundry's Work and Education program provides integrated and personal wraparound assistance to people ages 15 – 24, including health, mentoring, education, skills development and job placement services. A \$9M provincial investment is expanding the program to six more Foundry centres (Langley, Cariboo Chilcotin, Port Hardy, East Kootenay, Sea to Sky, and Surrey) in addition to sustaining the program at 12 existing centres and through Foundry's provincial virtual service.
- » More than 16,000 young people throughout B.C. accessed Foundry services in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

c) New youth treatment and recovery beds – Ongoing program, new beds opened in 2024 to support better access to substance use care

- » Government continues to add more youth substance use treatment and recovery beds throughout the province, including 43 new community-based beds in 2024.

d) New and expanded youth substance use services – Ongoing

- » The Province is investing \$161.52M over three years to increase services for young people, including youth substance use including crisis supports, culturally safe wraparound services, school and community-based prevention and early intervention resources, enhanced transition services and improved emergency room hospital-based care and discharge planning.

- » The Ministry of Health is working with regional health authorities, Provincial Health Services Authority, and First Nations Health Authority to support implementation of these new and expanded services across the province.

Indigenous-led solutions:

a) First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) land-based healing services – Ongoing

- » The Province continues its commitment to support Indigenous-led land-based and culturally safe treatment services through annual investment of \$10.75M provided to the FNHA. In 2024 this investment funded 130 sites supporting 147 communities.
- » In 2024, the Province, along with the Community Action Initiative and the FNHA, supported 11 First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous-led organizations providing bed-based treatment and recovery services with one-time funding of \$25,000 each.

b) Culturally appropriate treatment and recovery supports – Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Northwest Working Group, comprised of representatives from the Northern First Nations Alliance, Northern Health Authority, First Nations Health Authority and the Province, continued work to address the disproportionate impact of the toxic drug crisis by implementing more culturally appropriate resources to better serve people living with addiction in the North.
- » Orca Lelum Youth Wellness Centre in Lantzville on Vancouver Island opened its doors to Indigenous youth in 2024, with support from the Province, as the first of its kind wellness centre specifically for Indigenous youth.
- » In July 2024, the We Wai Kai Nation, with support from the Province, began converting its former Tsakwa'lutan resort on Quadra Island into a new healing centre dedicated to helping people struggling with addiction.

c) The Mental Health and Wellness Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Ongoing

- » The Mental Health and Wellness Tripartite MOU was signed in 2018 by the First Nations Health Council, with the First Nations Health Authority as a supporter, the Province of B.C., and the Government of Canada, and supported by an initial tripartite investment of \$30M. A key feature of this approach has been the ability to provide First Nations flexible funding to fill service gaps across a continuum of care and to integrate clinical and traditional approaches to mental health and wellness. 173 First Nation communities have participated in this process, with over 61 projects funded throughout B.C.
- » The MOU was extended to April 2, 2025, to permit continued implementation of initiatives under existing funding commitments. In 2024-2025, the Province provided \$5M to support the implementation of the MOU initiatives through the Social Determinants of Health 10 Year Strategy
- » As part of the Tripartite MOU, the Province also invested \$20M (of a total \$60M investment) to support First Nations-Run Treatment Centres to improve accessibility to culturally safe services. This includes the replacement of six existing First Nation-run treatment facilities and the building of two new facilities across all regions of the Province. In 2023, the Province contributed an additional \$35M to support the completion of the eight First Nations-run treatment Centres. In November 2023, the Tso-w-Tun Le Lum Healing House in Duncan was completed, marking the first treatment centre to be operational with the support of this funding.

d) Partnership with BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) – Ongoing

- » The Province continues to provide \$375,000 annually in funding to the BCAAFC to build capacity and support implementation of recommendations outlined in the Urban Indigenous Wellness Report (2020) to address priorities and support needs for urban Indigenous Peoples in B.C.

Reducing Risk:

a) Overdose prevention and supervised consumption services - Ongoing

- » The number of overdose prevention services and supervised consumption services has increased from one site in 2016 to more than 50 sites reporting observed consumption visits in 2024.
- » In 2024, there were more than 931,727 visits for observed consumption at overdose prevention services and supervised consumption services, of which 608,074 visits were for observed inhalation services.

b) Grant funding to Moms Stop the Harm for the provision of family support services – Ongoing

- » Funding has been provided to Moms Stop the Harm through the Community Crisis Innovation Fund to provide support for families affected by substance use and families grieving the loss of a loved one due to illicit drug toxicity. In addition, funding will be used for support group expansion, health system navigation, capacity building, stigma reduction activities, and additional initiatives.

c) Community Action Teams (CATs) – Ongoing

- » CATs are diverse, collaborative tables composed of local leaders that operate community-led initiatives to increase support and access to harm reduction, health and social services in response to the toxic drug crisis.
- » In fiscal year 2024-25, the Government of B.C. invested \$2.926M to support 35+ operating CATs across B.C.
- » CAT activities are tailored to community and often focus on outreach for people with lived/living experience of substance use, including ID/personal admin support, monthly BBQs, weekly hot lunches, purchasing of personal effects (e.g. shoes, socks, toiletries, umbrellas), extreme weather response, etc.

Provincial Peer Network (PPN) – Ongoing

- » Funding has been provided through the Crisis Innovation Fund to the PPN, a provincial network of drug user-led organizations that serves to strengthen collaboration and information sharing between the organizations through regional and provincial capacity building and the development of a network structure.
- » In fiscal year 2024-25, the Government of B.C. invested \$1.7M to the PPN.
- » PPN activities are centred on peer wellness and connection. Activities include encampment outreach, food distribution, warming/cooling centres, washroom access, mobile phone support, connection to services, etc.

Drug Checking – Ongoing

- » Budget 2024 included over \$5M annually to sustain B.C.'s robust drug checking program, which has 113 locations where people can drop off a drug sample for analysis, 48 of which offer immediate point-of-care testing with FTIR spectrometer on some days of the week.
- » The expansion of sample collection sites reduces rural inequities and improve access to drug checking services for more British Columbians.
- » B.C.'s drug checking program also includes higher-quality confirmatory testing, building on a \$305,000 investment in HarmCheck (paper-spray mass spectrometry technology) in 2023, to provide earlier detection of new adulterants in the illicit drug supply.

Connecting people to care:

a) Expanding adult substance use treatment and recovery bed-based services – Ongoing

- » Building on previous investments, Budget 2023 provided a total of \$157.5M over three years for Road to Recovery, a made-in-B.C. model of addictions care that establishes a seamless continuum of care from withdrawal (detox) to treatment and aftercare services for clients with moderate to severe substance use disorders.
 - ◇ Road to Recovery Vancouver: 60 of 95 beds in operation including 45 beds operational by the end of December 2024.
 - ◇ In Vancouver Coastal Health, clients call the Vancouver Access Central phone line to speak to doctor or nurse trained in addictions care; they provide a same day clinical assessment and match the client to the right substance use care for their needs. Between October 2023, and November 2024, Vancouver Access Central received more than 22,000 calls, 5,000 of which were requests for detox services.
 - ◇ More than 2,000 people were admitted to bed-based detox services through Access Central between October 2023 and November 2024.
- » Overall in between January 2024 and January 2025, 193 publicly funded substance use beds were implemented.
 - ◇ This includes 129 funds funded through partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association of BC (CMHA BC). In 2023, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions provided \$88M to the CMHA-BC to continue funding 105 beds opened through Budget 2021 funding, and to add another 190 new beds.
- » Between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, 1,000 more people accessed a publicly funded treatment or recovery bed than the previous year.

b) Expanded access to opioid agonist treatment (OAT) medication – Ongoing work, new benefits implemented in 2024

- » The monthly counts of total clients dispensed OAT increased from 14,743 in January 2015 to 23,414 in December 2024.
- » The number of health-care practitioners prescribing any form of OAT increased from 773 in June 2017 to 2,029,025 in December 2024.
- » In August 2024, the Province also launched a new provincial Opioid Treatment Access Line. The OTA Line is a toll-free line (1-833-804-8111), open every day from 9 am to 4 pm across B.C. People can speak with a healthcare worker, including doctors and nurses, who can prescribe opioid treatment medication over the phone the same-day and connect to regional services for follow up care.
- » Starting June 2023, OAT medications are covered through Plan Z, the Province's universal coverage plan, providing full coverage for B.C. residents with an active medical services plan.
- » PharmaCare spend on OAT products for OUD in 2023/24 was \$103.4M for nearly 32,600 beneficiaries.

c) Nurse prescribing for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) – Ongoing work, new actions

- » Effective November 1, 2023, the temporary authorization for registered nurses (RN) and registered psychiatric nurses (RPN) to diagnose and treat opioid use disorder became permanent through regulation changes and the establishment of a certified practice for opioid use disorder.
- » In April 2023, amendments to the nursing regulations were approved to permanently enable RNs and RPNs, who have a certified practice designation established by the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, to diagnose OUD and prescribe OAT for the treatment of OUD.

- » As of December 17, 2024, 114 RNs and 41 RPNs held a CP-ODU designation from the BC College of Nurses and Midwives.
- » In the month of December 2024, 719 patients received dispenses for buprenorphine injection, buprenorphine/naloxone, methadone, or slow-release oral morphine at community pharmacies within B.C., written by 70 RN or RPN CP-ODU prescribers.

d) New funding to enhance access to care – ongoing work, new actions

- » Through Budget 2024, the Province significantly increased funding that many service providers rely on to deliver thousands of registered or licensed treatment and recovery beds throughout B.C.
- » Effective June 1, 2024, SDPR per diem daily rates at registered mental-health and substance-use homes increased from \$35.90 to \$60 for registered bed-based services, and from \$45 to \$70 for licensed bed-based services.
- » This rate change builds on a 2019 increase, the first in 10 years.

e) Community Counselling Grants – Ongoing

- » The Province funds the community counselling grant program, supporting 47 organizations to provide low- and no-cost mental-health and substance-use counselling services, including virtual services. In March 2023, the province provided an additional \$15M to fund these services over two years, bringing the total to \$35M since 2018-2019.

f) Decriminalization implementation – Ongoing work

- » To support implementation of the decriminalization policy, the Province provided Health Authorities (HA) and First Nations Health Authority funding for a total of 36 new FTEs (Budget 2023):
 - ◇ 12 Decriminalization Navigator FTEs (2 per HA) support systems change by working internally to promote change management, staff education, addressing emerging issues and by working directly with local law enforcement to ensure officers have up-to-date information on locally available services.
 - ◇ 24 Proactive Outreach FTEs support on-the-ground connections to care and referrals for PWUD.
 - ◇ These positions continue to play a role in supporting access to care across the spectrum of substance use care, increasing frontline capacity, and supporting relationship building with law enforcement.

Crisis Response:

a) Safer Communities Action Plan

- » Announced in September 2024, the Province is taking action to make sure people with long-term concurrent mental-health and addiction challenges get secure and dignified care by opening highly secure facilities for people under the Mental Health Act throughout the province, as well as secure treatment within BC Corrections.

b) CRCL (Crisis Response, Community Led – formerly called Peer Assisted Care Teams) – Ongoing, new teams announced in 2024

- » The Province, with the support of the Canadian Mental Health Association, B.C. Division, launched CRCLs in Victoria, New Westminster, North Shore Prince George, and Comox Valley. These bring together trained peers and mental-health professionals, such as social workers and counsellors, to offer trauma-informed and culturally safe support with a civilian-led approach to mental-health and addiction-related crises. In 2024, the 5 operating CRCLs responded to a total of 5,882 calls for help, and only 1.3% of the calls were escalated to police. A 6th CRCL in Kamloops will launch in 2025.

c) Mobile Integrated Crisis Response (MICR) Teams – Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Province expanded MICR Teams (also known as Car programs) to include Squamish. In total, there are 18 MICR Teams operating in communities throughout B.C.
- » MICR Teams are specialized crisis-response teams that pair a police officer with a health-care professional to deliver an immediate, empathetic response to mental-health and substance-use emergencies. The Province committed \$9M over 3 years in 2024 to help fund their implementation.

d) 988 Suicide Crisis Helpline – Started in 2023 (federal initiative, but links to B.C. providers)

- » Launched by the federal government in November 2023, 988 provides a free, easy-to-remember call or text option that ensures immediate and effective response for people calling in to speak with crisis line responders, 24/7 and from anywhere in the province.

Supporting well-being and recovery:

a) Recovery support for men in addiction – Started in 2023

- » [New Roads Recovery](#) Community in Victoria provides support for men who have experienced repeated incarceration, housing instability and addiction. In November 2023, the Province provided \$4.39M to continue funding for this initiative that will support an estimated 330 people in the recovery program over the next three years.

b) Complex Care Housing – Ongoing

- » Complex Care Housing addresses the health, housing, cultural and social needs of people with overlapping mental-health challenges, addictions issues, and other significant health challenges.
- » Building on initial funding in Budget 2022, Budget 2023 invested a further \$266M to fund Complex Care Housing services, including \$169M in capital funding to build new homes for people.
- » Services are in place for more than 500 people and a further 240 homes are in development.

c) Enhanced Health in Supportive Housing – Started in 2023

- » Enhanced Health in Supportive Housing (EHS) provide enhanced health supports in new supportive housing clients with moderate to high primary health and mental health/substance use acuity that exceed what is currently accommodated within supportive housing setting and just below the Complex Care Housing client's level of service need
- » In 2024/25, 147 EHS units were operationalized in the Fraser Health region. As of March 28, 2025, there were available units for 237 persons provincially and another 30 in development.

d) Urgent Homelessness Response (UHR) – Ongoing

- » UHR funding established in 2020-21 has enabled health authorities to respond to support the health needs of people experiencing homelessness by boosting existing services and creating new teams to provide outreach-based health supports.
- » As of March 28, 2025, there were services available to over 8,500 unique clients across the province.

e) Mental health supports for workers in long-term care and continuing care – Ongoing

- » As part of B.C.'s Health and Human Resources Strategy, the Province committed \$1.49M to continue CareforCaregivers.ca, a website providing tailored mental health content for workers and managers, and Care to Speak, a peer-based text, chat and phone service providing emotional support and service navigation, up until 2025-26. These programs are led by the Canadian Mental Health Association – BC, in partnership with SafeCare BC.
- » In addition, \$65,000 was provided to expand Leading from the Inside Out, a professional development program for leaders in long-term and home care to develop the skills to be resilient and effective while leading themselves and others through uncertainty.

f) Workplace Mental Health Hub website – refreshed in 2024

- » As part of a three-year grant with the Canadian Mental Health Association, a new website ([PeopleWorkingWellBC.ca](https://www.PeopleWorkingWellBC.ca)) was launched in July 2024 to support employees and organizations, with a focus on people working in the tourism and hospitality sector and community social services sector.
- » Free articles, webinars, and training is provided to help employees and leaders foster a psychologically healthy and safe workplace. Over 45,000 website visits have been recorded since the new launch.

g) Recovery Community Centres (RCCs)

- » Long term recovery supports are being expanded in every region through new RCCs, called “Junctions”.
- » Junction’s offer outpatient groups and one-on-one support, relapse, prevention, care planning, activities to support long term recovery.
- » The first Junction was piloted in Vancouver in 2023 and has since expanded to two more locations in the Vancouver Coastal Health region – on the North Shore and the Sunshine Coast. The North Shore Junction launched in July 2024.
- » Information on Junction BC and programs can be found here: [Junction BC](https://www.JunctionBC.ca)

h) Well-being website – refreshed in 2023

- » Government launched an updated website, [HelpStartsHere.gov.bc.ca](https://www.HelpStartsHere.gov.bc.ca), with comprehensive information on mental health and addiction supports across the province.
- » The Stories of Support campaign, launched in December 2023, showcases real-life stories that highlight the various paths people take towards healing and recovery, and connects individuals to the website.

i) Support for people with brain injury from toxic drug poisonings

- » B.C. invested \$4.5M in 2022-23 over three years for the Brain Injury Alliance to help people in B.C. who have an injury, including those resulting from toxic drug poisoning.
- » In 2023, a new program in Vancouver, the Cognitive Assessment and Rehabilitation for Substance use program opened to help people living with brain injury and their support persons.

Access to education and training:

Health Career Access Program – Mental Health and Substance Use Expansion (HCAP-MHSU) – Ongoing

- » In 2023, B.C. committed \$43M over three years to recruit and train mental health and addictions workers to help deliver services across the continuum of care.
- » HCAP-MHSU is a three-year pilot, based on the original HCAP framework. It provides a fully funded learning program designed to increase the number of mental health and addictions workers in B.C. HCAP-MHSU provides people - including people with lived experience - without prior health care, education or experience with accessible, low-barrier opportunities to enter high-demand careers within the health and social sector. Between March 2024-March 2025, over 130 participants were enrolled in the program.

HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

BC Builds – Started in 2024

- » In 2024, the Province launched BC Builds, an initiative that works in partnership with non-profits, local governments, First Nations and the development sector to identify available underused land, provide financing and funding, and deliver projects that create more homes and help bring costs more in line with what middle-income households earn.
 - ◇ At least 20% of all BC Builds homes have rents that are at least 20% below market rate for projects in partnership with non-profits and First Nations.
 - ◇ All BC Builds units have a target of middle-income households spending no more than approximately 30% of their income on rent.

Attainable Housing Initiative (AHI) – New in 2024

- » In 2024, the Province introduced the AHI which will see approximately 2,600 homes being built at the Heather Lands, an 8.5-hectare (21 acres) site in Vancouver.
- » The initiative was proposed by the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation (MST Nations) as a meaningful way for the Nations to harness economic, cultural and social benefits from their land holdings by strategically partnering with other levels of government.
- » The partnership will include MST Nations providing the land and the Government of B.C. contributing up to \$672M over 10 years, which is expected to be repaid by purchasers to the Province under the initiative, allowing the Province to reinvest returned funds into future provincial programs, which may include housing.

Affordable housing through BC Housing – Ongoing

- » In 2024, new affordable housing for families, seniors and/or people with disabilities was announced in 22 locations throughout B.C.
- » Nearly 3,000 homes throughout B.C. were completed under Building BC programs in 2024.

Secondary Suite Incentive Program (SSIP) – Started in 2024 (will be completed March 30, 2025)

- » The B.C. Government has made the decision to reallocate the funds from the provincial SSIP and discontinue the pilot program.

- » BC Housing will continue to accept applications until March 30, 2025. All complete applications up to and including this date will be processed.
- » Moving forward, funds from this program will go towards existing and future BC Housing programs and services, including BC Builds.

Strengthening enforcement – Ongoing

- » On December 28, 2022, government announced additional funding to the Residential Tenancy Branch that includes doubling the size of its Compliance and Enforcement Unit (CEU), which will support expanded enforcement of Residential Tenancy Act and Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act contraventions.
- » Since its creation in May 2019 until January 2025, the CEU has assessed over 1,558 complaints. The CEU initiated 456 investigations and issued 44 monetary penalties. Many of these complaints were resolved by voluntary compliance without the need for an investigation.
- » The CEU works in consultation with many supportive and independent housing providers, including BC Housing, to ensure that health and safety standards for many vulnerable populations are in compliance with tenancy laws.

Changes to Residential Tenancy Regulation (RTR) – Completed in 2024

- » In 2024, the Province amended the RTR under the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) to clearly define supportive housing and exempt supportive-housing units from sections of the RTA that prohibit guest policies and wellness checks. Many supportive-housing providers rely on wellness checks and guest policies to ensure the safety of staff and tenants.

Protecting Tenants from Bad Faith Evictions – Started in 2024

- » In 2024, Government introduced further protections for tenants from bad faith evictions. This included increasing the amount of notice a tenant must receive when they are evicted for personal use and the amount of time tenants have to dispute the eviction.
- » To deter bad faith evictions, the Province also launched the Landlord Use Web Portal, which requires landlords to generate a notice to end tenancy for personal use evictions. This will also allow the Residential Tenancy Branch to collect data on personal use evictions and conduct post-eviction audits to ensure landlords have followed through on the stated reason to end the tenancy.

BC Rent Bank – Ongoing

- » As of November 2021, low-to-moderate-income renters in every part of B.C. now have access to rent bank services through an extended partnership between BC Rent Bank and the Kamloops & District Elizabeth Fry Society. B.C. is the first province to provide 100% Rent Bank coverage.
- » Rent banks play an instrumental role in helping at-risk renters maintain housing during times of temporary crisis. The combination of loans and non-repayable grants has enabled rent banks to assist more renters.
- » In 2023-24, the number of people assisted by rent bank services increased by 51%, helping over 1,500 households.
- » In 2024, BC Rent Bank also began distributing Canada BC Housing Benefit rent supplements through an agreement with BC Housing.

Supported Rent Supplement Program (SRSP)

- » Announced in Budget 2022, SRSP pairs clinical and non-clinical supports with rent supplements of up to \$600/month for an individual funded through the Canada-British Columbia Housing Benefit (CBCHB).
- » The Province supports SRSP through funding from the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs and Ministry of Health (HLTH) providing \$9.5M to BC Housing to work with service providers to provide non-clinical supports and \$20.193M to HLTH for clinical supports annually.

Homelessness Community Action Grants – Ongoing

- » Since 2019, the Province invested \$12M to support local groups and organizations working on the front lines in B.C. communities through the Homelessness Community Action Grant program. Grants are administered by the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC).
- » Municipalities and community organizations can apply for up to \$50,000 in funding.
 - ◇ 326 projects were approved under the program between 2019 and March 2025.
 - ◇ 71 projects totalling \$1.96M were awarded to Indigenous organizations and communities since 2019.
- » In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SPARC BC used the interest from the program to purchase basic smartphones to support vulnerable and at-risk persons who do not have access to technology. The project distributed more than 15,000 phones to people experiencing homelessness in B.C.

BC Homeless Count – Ongoing

- » In Budget 2022, the Province allocated \$828,000 to the 2023 point-in-time (PiT) counts, which includes funding to conduct counts in 20 communities and compilation and reporting of all counts to get a provincial total.
- » The third provincewide PiT homeless count was completed in the spring of 2023. This count builds on the previous provincial counts conducted in 2017-18 and 2020-21.
- » Data from the 20 provincially funded counts will be combined with nine other counts that are funded by the federal government and independent sources.

Homelessness Framework Engagement – Ongoing

- » The 2022 Budget announced \$633M over three years to support individuals experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. Part of this action includes co-creating homelessness solutions with Indigenous Peoples and people with lived/living experiences of homelessness through engagement.
- » Budget 2022 actions and engagement is ongoing and includes:
 - ◇ Funding for external and Indigenous partner engagement on the Integrated Support Framework, which is now publicly released and available online.
 - ◇ Three-year funding for an Indigenous Advisory Committee and a Persons with Lived Experience Advisory Committee.

Maximum allowable rent increase – Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Province announced that they will be tying the annual allowable rent increase in 2025 to inflation at 3%, down from 2024's allowable increase of 3.5%.

Legislative amendments to prevent eviction in Downtown Eastside (DTES) – New 2024

- » In 2024, the Province introduced amendments to the Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act to validate the City of Vancouver's bylaw to regulate single-room occupancy vacancy control to protect rent affordability for single-room occupancy tenants.
- » These changes support some of the city's most at-risk residents by keeping rents affordable for people with a low income in the DTES, preventing as many as 1,000 people from losing their homes.

Downtown Eastside (DTES) Provincial Partnership Plan – Started 2023

- » Initiated in March 2023, the DTES Provincial Partnership Plan is a multi-partner, cross-ministry plan focused on improving community health and well-being in the DTES.
- » Accomplishments through the plan so far include:
 - ◇ More than 750 new and renovated housing units in the DTES since the plan was released in March 2023.
 - ◇ Expanded shelter and outreach services.
 - ◇ New integrated health services to support people across a variety of settings.
 - ◇ Targeted investments to support non-profit service providers.
 - ◇ Trilateral work on single room occupancy revitalization.

Downtown Eastside (DTES) Single Room Occupancy Grant – Completed in 2023

- » The Province provided \$11M to the DTES SRO Collaborative Society (SRO-C) to improve access to services and supports.
- » SRO-C is a non-profit organization working to improve habitability, affordability, safety, health and housing security for tenants living in privately owned SROs who are at risk of eviction and homelessness.

Housing Supply Act – Ongoing

- » The Housing Supply Act came into effect in 2023 and enables the Province to set housing targets for municipalities specified in the Housing Supply Regulation.
- » In 2023, the Housing Targets Branch set housing targets for the first cohort of 10 municipalities.
- » In 2024, the Province announced that a total of 17,599 homes are expected to be delivered by the third set of communities, representing a 58% increase in overall housing to be built when compared to historical trends.

Growing Communities Fund – Started 2023

- » In 2023, the Growing Communities Fund provided a one-time total of \$1 billion in grants distributed among all of B.C.'s local governments.
- » The grants support the delivery of infrastructure projects necessary to enable community growth, including more housing.

Legislation to turn short-term rentals back into long-term homes – Ongoing

- » As part of the Province's Homes for People action plan, new legislation supports turning short-term rentals back into homes. The legislation focuses on:

- ◇ Increasing fines and strengthening tools for local governments;
- ◇ Returning more short-term rentals to long-term homes; and
- ◇ Establishing provincial rules and enforcement.
- » In 2024, the Principal Residence Requirement came into effect in more than 60 communities across the province, providing that short-term rentals can only be offered in the principal residence of a host.
- » In 2025, the Province launched the Short-Term Rental Registry shifting to proactive compliance with the new short-term rental rules through registration. This should lead to greater compliance and more units returned to the housing market.

Legislations to streamline delivery of homes, services, infrastructure – Started 2023

- » In 2023, the Province introduced Bill 44, Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, 2023. The bill amended the Local Government Act and Vancouver Charter to reduce the number of local government rezonings by shifting the local planning and land use framework to emphasize up-front planning and zoning, with the aim of increasing housing supply and diversity in communities across B.C.

Legislation introduced to deliver more homes near transit hubs – Started 2023

- » As part of Budget 2023, the Province committed \$394M to deliver thousands of units at or near transit over the next 10 to 15 years.
- » In 2023, the Province passed Bill 47, Housing Statutes (Transit-Oriented Areas) Amendment Act, 2023, which supports the Province’s commitment to address the housing crisis by ensuring that higher-density residential development and complete communities can be built around key transit hubs throughout B.C.
- » Bill 47 requires 31 municipalities to designate transit-oriented areas (TOAs) by bylaw around the 104 transit stations that are listed in the regulations.
- » On December 7, 2023, the Province designated TOAs around 52 transit stations, where the legislation is currently in effect. TOAs will be designated by municipalities around all 104 transit stations by June 30, 2024.

Legislation to provide local governments more tools

- » In Spring 2024, the Province passed Bill 16, which provided local governments with new and updated tools to support complete communities, including:
 - ◇ A new Inclusionary Zoning tool, which allows local governments to require that a portion of units in new housing projects be allocated for affordable housing.
 - ◇ Changes to the existing Density Bonus tool available to local governments that provides developers with the option to build to a higher density in exchange for providing amenities and/or affordable housing.
- » A new authority for Tenant Protection Bylaws, which allows local governments to require owners to provide more support for tenants facing eviction due to redevelopment.

New funding supports for local governments with housing initiatives – Ongoing

- » In January 2024, the Province provided \$51M to 188 local governments to support them in meeting new housing-density initiatives stemming from Bill 44 and Bill 47 (above). Additionally, Bills 46 and 16 enable local governments with new and updated development finance tools and authorities for inclusionary zoning, tenant protection bylaws, and transportation demand management works and services.
- » In 2023, \$10M was provided for a second intake of the Local Government Development Approvals Program administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.
- » The Province has provided approximately \$4.4M toward the 2024 intake which closed March 08, 2024.

Expanding Speculation Tax – Started 2023

- » As part of B.C.'s Homes for People plan, the Province is taking action to fight real estate speculation and turn more empty units into homes for people by expanding the speculation and vacancy tax to 13 new municipalities. An independent review released in 2022 found that the tax had helped deliver more than 20,000 homes in Metro Vancouver alone.

Accessibility in the British Columbia Building Code (BCBC) - New in 2024

- » Effective March 8, 2024, the BCBC 2024 increased requirements for accessibility for new buildings including requiring all building entrances and entrances to accessible washrooms to have a power-operated door, and to require an elevator in large two- and three-storey buildings.
- » These changes reduce barriers for people living with disabilities to access and use the programs and services of the built environment, connecting people with employment opportunities and facilitating social inclusion.

BC HOUSING

Community Housing Fund (CHF) – Ongoing

- » CHF is part of the Budget 2018 10-year, \$7-billion housing plan. Budget 2018 committed close to \$1.9 billion over 10 years to build and operate 14,350 affordable new rental homes for seniors, families, low-income and middle-income earners, with a particular focus on the "missing middle".
- » Budget 2023 committed a further \$1.4 billion over 10 years to build an additional 6,000 affordable homes for people with moderate- and low-income households by 2031-32.
- » There are over 13,260 homes complete or underway through this program as of December 31, 2024.

Women's Transition Housing Fund – Ongoing

- » In April 2023, as part of the Homes for People plan, the Province committed to funding an additional 1,500 new units to the Women's Transition Housing Fund program, for a total of 3,000 units to be delivered by 2031-32.
- » This program supports three types of housing for women and gender diverse people and their children leaving violence, including transition housing, second-stage housing and long-term affordable rental housing.
- » A Request for Pre-Qualification was issued in April and closed on September 13, 2024. Non-profit providers interested in this new round of funding were encouraged to apply.
- » Operators qualified through this process will be invited to respond to Request for Proposals as Women's Transition Housing & Supports Program (WTHSP) housing sites are identified. A proposal to operate an identified WTHSP housing

site will be required.

- » As of December 31, 2024, nearly 1,200 homes are complete or underway through this program.

Women's Transition Housing and Supports Program – Ongoing

- » BC Housing supports more than 100 transition houses and safe homes for women — with or without children — who are at risk of violence, or who have experienced violence.
- » The programs provide women and children with a temporary place to stay, support services, referrals and assistance in planning next steps.
- » Second stage housing is for women who are at risk of violence or have experienced violence, and provides a private, secure, affordable apartment or townhouse unit where women and accompanied children can live safely and independently, typically for 6-18 months. Staff are available to provide emotional support, safety planning and referrals.

Supportive Housing Fund – Ongoing

- » Budget 2018 provided \$1.2 billion over 10 years to build and operate 3,800 units of supportive housing with 24/7 support services for those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.
- » The Province committed an additional \$2.1 billion in capital investment to deliver a total of 5,700 supportive homes available to those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. This type of housing includes support services, such as staff on site 24/7, daily meal programs, life-skills training, mental health and wellness support and assistance with accessing other social service programs.
- » As of December 31, 2024, there are 4,765 homes completed or underway through the Supportive Housing Fund in B.C.

Indigenous Housing Fund (IHF) – Ongoing

- » Launched in 2018, the IHF is a \$1.7-billion provincial program, administered by BC Housing, to support government's target of delivering 3,500 homes for Indigenous families, elders, individuals and people with disabilities on and off reserve.
- » A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on November 30, 2023, and closed on May 15, 2024.
- » BC Housing accepted proposals for the IHF from prospective partners, including Indigenous non-profit housing providers, First Nations, Indigenous organizations, and non-profit and for-profit developers wanting to partner with Indigenous housing providers and First Nations.
- » This is the second RFP for the IHF. The first RFP round took place in November 2018.
- » In September 2024, the Province announced the successful proponents of the second Indigenous Housing Fund Request for Proposals. 1,662 affordable rental homes will now be developed with 667 on-reserve homes for First Nations and 995 off-reserve homes for Indigenous Peoples.
- » As of December 31, 2024, more than 3,220 homes are now open or underway throughout B.C. through the Indigenous Housing Fund, with additional homes for Indigenous people through other Building BC programs, such as the Community Housing Fund and the Supportive Housing Fund.

Rapid Response to Homelessness Initiative – Closed

- » As part of the Budget 2017 update, the provincial government announced an investment of \$291M to build 2,000 modular housing units for those who are experiencing homelessness.
- » For Budget 2018, the Rapid Response to Homelessness Initiative was replaced with the Supportive Housing Fund.
- » As of December 31, 2024, 1,894 units were completed under the Rapid Response to Homelessness funding program.

Education Awards Program – Ongoing

- » The Education Awards Program provides a total of seven bursaries and awards for post-secondary education and training programs. Eligible recipients include residents in a household receiving a subsidy from BC Housing or rental assistance through the Rental Assistance Program.

Emergency Shelter Program – Ongoing

- » Emergency shelters provide temporary but immediate places to stay for anyone who is experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- » BC Housing funds three types of shelters, including permanent shelters, temporary shelters, and EWR shelters.
- » In 2024, BC Housing provided funding for over 6,600 spaces across the province.

Extreme Weather Response (EWR) – Ongoing

- » The EWR program funds overnight shelter spaces for individuals who are experiencing homelessness. EWRs are activated when a community has issued an extreme weather alert. The program operates during the winter season, generally, from November 1 to March 31.
- » The Province provides reimbursements to First Nations and local authorities for opening emergency warming centres during extreme weather.
- » In 2024, the Province funded 3,942 year-round, 875 temporary and 706 EWR shelters across B.C.

Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) – Ongoing

- » Through HOP, outreach workers meet their clients where they are – in the street, shelters or in a temporary place – and can help connect clients with services and housing that is appropriate and available.
- » The Indigenous Outreach Stream, formerly known as the Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program, was included in the HOP framework in 2018. HOP includes targeted funding to enable Indigenous Peoples who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk to homelessness to access housing, support services and other culturally appropriate community resources.
- » As of December 31, 2024, 1,638 rent supplements were allocated under the Homeless Outreach Program with an average rent supplement of \$418/month.

Homeless Prevention Program – Ongoing

- » This program assists at-risk groups facing homelessness by providing rent supplements and support services to help them access rental housing in the private (non-subsidized) market. BC Housing provides funding for the program, which is administered by community-based agencies and homeless outreach providers.
- » As of December 31, 2024, 1,734 rent supplements were allocated under the Homelessness Prevention Program with an average rent supplement of \$438/ month.

Rental Assistance Program – Ongoing

- » Families are reimbursed part of the difference between 30% of their total income and their monthly rent, based on a sliding scale that gives more money to those with the least income.
- » In 2024, assistance was calculated using household size, income, rent, and location where a family lives. Regardless of actual rent, assistance is calculated based a comparison of the households actual rent to a maximum rent level. The maximum rent level ranged between \$970 and \$1,250 a month, depending on the region of the province in which a recipient resides.
- » Eligible households can receive benefits under Rental Assistance Program and still be registered for subsidized housing through the Housing Registry.
- » As of December 31, 2024, 3,240 rent supplements were provided.

Rental Protection Fund - Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Rental Protection Fund preserved nearly 700 homes throughout the province. The \$500M fund provides one-time capital grants to non-profit housing organizations so they can buy affordable residential rental buildings and co-operatives listed for sale. This protects the people who are living there and safeguards the units for the long term.

Canada – BC Housing Benefit (CBCHB) – Ongoing

- » CBCHB rent supplements are funded through the BC-Housing-CBCHB agreement with Canada Mortgage Housing Association funded through the federal National Housing Strategy with an equivalent cost match through provincial programs
- » CBCHB provides monthly rental assistance to target priority groups, including women and children experiencing or at risk of domestic violence, Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, veterans, youth leaving care, people with disabilities and people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- » This benefit is distributed by non-profit or other community providers who serve vulnerable populations or directly by BC Housing
- » As of December 31, 2024, a total of 4,916 supplements have been provided through the Canada BC Housing Benefit with an average rent supplement of \$547/month.

Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) – Ongoing

- » The SAFER program provides rent supplements in the private market to low-income seniors (aged 60+).
- » In 2024, assistance was calculated using household size, income, rent and location. The benefit reimburses a portion of the difference between 30% of gross household income and the actual rent paid or the maximum rent ceiling, whichever is lesser.
- » Eligible households can receive benefits under SAFER and still be registered for subsidized housing through the Housing Registry.
- » As of December 31, 2024, there were 23,646 households receiving SAFER.

BC Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations (BC RAHA) – Ongoing

- » The BC RAHA program has replaced the Home Adaptations for Independence program and provides eligible low- and

moderate-income households up to \$20,000 in rebates to complete home adaptations. The program allows seniors and people with permanent disabilities or diminished ability to gain greater independence within their homes.

- » Some program changes include: removing the need to obtain a quote for standard accessibility adaptations; ensuring more equitable access to funding by region and type of home adaptation; and increasing access to occupational therapists or other qualified professionals for assessments.

Homeless Encampment Action Response Team (HEART) and Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) Programs – Ongoing

- » In spring 2023, HEART and HEARTH were announced under the provincial Belonging in BC Homelessness Plan.
- » Budget 2023 provided \$228M over three years for HEART/HEARTH as well as \$44M for temporary modular housing.
- » The program provides emergency housing, shelter options and immediate co-ordinated supports to help people in encampments or sheltering in public spaces to move indoors and access temporary or permanent housing options that fit their needs.
- » HEART and HEARTH launched in Abbotsford, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Victoria and Vancouver. HEARTH only launched in Campbell River, Chilliwack and Duncan.
- » As of February 2025, 655 HEARTH spaces opened in 16 sites, with 515 more underway.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION

B.C.'s Strategic Plan for Public Library Service and library service enhancement initiatives - Ongoing

- » In March 2023, as part of B.C.'s Strategic Plan for Public Library Service, the province reinvested in public libraries with a historic \$45M contribution.
- » People continued to experience improvements at their local public libraries, including expanded digital collections, upgraded, barrier-free spaces, enhanced programming, and improved access to Wi-Fi and computers. Libraries are working to make spaces more inclusive and welcoming, while providing services and programs people need to go about their daily lives.

Community Literacy: Literacy Outreach Co-ordination – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Municipal Affairs awards \$2.185M annually to Decoda Literacy Solution's Literacy Outreach Program. Decoda supports 100 literacy outreach co-ordinators who provide literacy programming support to 400 communities in B.C. The coordinator program received an additional \$1M in enhancement funds in March of 2023, and is now growing and sustaining local community programs through 2024-2025. As a result, the number of new and ongoing community-led literacy initiatives rose by 15% and program participation increased by 11% compared to the previous year.

Raise-a-Reader Campaign – Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Province provided \$500,000 to the Raise-a-Reader campaign, which supports literacy by increasing awareness and raising money to fund community-based programs throughout B.C. Since 2017, the Province has donated \$4M to the campaign. The Raise-a-Reader campaign has generated more than \$23M to support literacy programs in B.C.

Northern Healthy Communities Fund (NHCF) – Ongoing

- » The NHCF is supported by the B.C. government and administered by the Northern Development Initiative Trust. The NHCF is targeted to help address service needs in growing communities that are experiencing large-scale economic development. Eligible local governments, First Nations and non-profit organizations in growing communities near the LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink projects can apply for project funding.
- » In August 2023, Municipal Affairs announced a \$3.8M investment from the NHCF to support 17 projects. Since its beginning, the NHCF has supported approximately 100 projects with a total of \$18.6M.

Asset Management Planning Grant Program

- » The Ministry supported program, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, assists local governments with the preparation of asset management plans and strategies to deliver services efficiently and meet the increasingly stringent annual reporting requirements. Planning for long-term management and replacement of these assets contributes to more sustainable local public services.
- » The Asset Management Program covers 50% of project costs, to a maximum of \$25,000.

Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) – Ongoing

- » CERIP provided \$100M in one-time infrastructure grants for projects that will improve community economic resilience, develop tourism infrastructure, support unique heritage infrastructure, and support economic recovery for rural communities. Project recipients are local governments, First Nations and not-for-profit organizations.

MINISTRY OF JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION

BC Centre for Agritech Innovation (BCCAI) – Ongoing

- » 13 industry projects were initiated in 2024 – these projects represent a total investment of \$3.7M. BCCAI contributed \$965,000 towards the projects. The projects focus on solving critical challenges facing food producers, including soil health, pest and pathogen management, as well as supporting Indigenous food sovereignty and creating more training opportunities in agritech to build a more sustainable economy.
- » 7 Closed Environment Agriculture projects, a special program stream within BCCAI, were launched in 2024 that represent a total investment of \$11.58M. BCCAI contributed \$3.45M towards the projects.
- » 13 training projects were initiated, representing a total investment of \$676,000. BCCAI contributed \$416,000 towards the training projects.

Aspect Biosystems Partnership – Started in 2024

- » Nearly \$24M from the Province to support Vancouver-based Aspect Biosystems, creating more than 200 well paying jobs as it advances its cutting-edge bio-printed tissue therapeutics that will transform the treatment of diabetes, liver disease and other serious health conditions impacting British Columbians and others around the world.

Vitalus Nutrition partnership – started in 2024

- » The Province will provide up to \$25M to support Vitalus Nutrition with expanding its dairy processing facility in Abbotsford, creating 100 on-site, family-supporting jobs. The added capacity will allow regional dairy farmers to increase production, and revenue, while strengthening B.C.'s food supply and food security.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Centre of Excellence – Started in 2024

- » Investment of up to \$7.1M to fund the establishment of the ESG Centre of Excellence pilot program, allowing more B.C. businesses to diversify markets for their goods and create sustainable jobs.

Trade Accelerator Program (TAP) – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation provides support for export-ready underrepresented businesses to expand their international business development and increase export revenue through TAP. This program offers tailored cohorts for underrepresented groups, including Indigenous, women and youth-led businesses.
- » Since 2019, 55% of B.C.'s TAP businesses have been owned by underrepresented groups. In April 2023, JEDI provided funding of \$913,000 to support the program until 2026. Five cohorts took place in 2023, including an Indigenous cohort and a women-owned cohort. Five are scheduled for 2025.

Export Navigator (EN) – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation provides support to help B.C. businesses become export-ready by providing access to 13 community-based Export Advisors across the province, who provide advice and connect businesses with programs and services to address their unique needs.
- » Since its launch in 2016, EN has provided export advisory services to over 1200 companies. EN currently has over 400 active clients of which 59% are owned by under-represented groups and 71% are based in rural communities. 27% of EN clients begin exporting within 12 months of participating in the program. EN clients average a net increase of 28% in export revenue per year. The EN program has been co-funded by Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation and PacifiCan with annual funding of \$1.2M each.

BC Biomanufacturing Training Centre (ongoing)

- » The Province invested \$2M in March 2023 to build a new BC Biomanufacturing Training Centre providing upskilling and reskilling opportunities for good jobs in the life sciences sector. The state-of-the-art training centre will open in January 2025 and deliver an internationally recognized, hands-on biomanufacturing curriculum at the BC Institute of Technology in partnership with the Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences.

British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Centre of Excellence in First Nations Economic Development (FNCOE) – Ongoing

- » A key commitment in 2022's StrongerBC Economic Plan was the co-development of a new Indigenous-led economic development entity. The Province has provided \$1.2M to BCAFN to establish the FNCOE.
- » Now in its third year, FNCOE is working with First Nations and their Development Corporations to create additional capacity to pursue their economic development priorities.

BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (BCMJF) – Ongoing

- » In 2024, the government committed \$93.6M towards expansion projects in manufacturing operations throughout B.C. through the BCMJF, which aims to increase and protect sustainable, family supporting job opportunities for local workers in all regions in the province, especially in communities impacted by economic downturns. Since launching in 2023, BCMJF has committed nearly \$146M towards 132 projects so far that will help create more than 2,000 jobs, while also maintaining and protecting more than 2,700 existing manufacturing jobs throughout B.C.

Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) – Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Province contributed \$33M across rural areas of the province for the second intake of the [REDIP](#). REDIP promotes capacity, economic diversification, and infrastructure development to create jobs and resilience in B.C.'s rural communities. Project selection includes criteria related to diversity, inclusion and reconciliation as well as level of need in the community.

Maritime Industries Infrastructure Modernization and Expansion (MIIME) Grant Program– Ongoing

- » In May 2023, the Province released the BC Maritime Industries Strategy (the “Strategy”) in support of innovative and high-value industrial marine activity aligned with our social, environmental, and economic values. The Strategy included \$25M for a MIIME Grant Program to support maritime infrastructure capital projects and to increase sector competitiveness through co-investment.
- » The MIIME Grant Program has leveraged the B.C. Government’s initial investment to generate close to \$97M in total project value. The 41 projects that have received MIIME Grant funding expected to create over 500 new jobs primarily in skilled trades, and are expected to provide training and/or upskilling for over 380 current employees.
- » 25 (or 61%) out of the 41 funded MIIME Grant projects are delivering economic opportunities for Indigenous People and communities. Moreover:
 - ◇ 7 projects involve a ‘partnership agreement’ or Joint Venture;
 - ◇ At least 3 projects are led by companies that are Indigenous-owned; and
 - ◇ At least 11 projects increase Indigenous workforce participation, training, and skills development.
- » Many projects are still being finalized or are in the latter stages of implementation, with key performance indicators and more detailed project results anticipated later in 2025.

Youth in Manufacturing Initiative – Ongoing

- » The Province invested \$1M in 2023 and another \$1M in 2024 for the Youth in Manufacturing Initiative delivered by the [Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium](#). In addition to paid work experience and industry-recognized training, youth (ages 16-24) can receive credits toward secondary-school graduation and apprenticeship certification. Eligible employers receive \$3,500 per placement to offset onboarding and wage costs for this on-the-job training.

Progress Update on the StrongerBC Economic Plan – Ongoing

- » The StrongerBC Economic Plan is a long-term progressive framework to grow B.C.'s clean and inclusive economy, create jobs, and improve the lives of British Columbians. It was launched in February 2022 and a Progress Update was released in August 2023.
- » Ongoing implementation of the StrongerBC Economic Plan continues to link economic initiatives to inclusive growth and affordability.
In 2024, the Province released Clean and Competitive: A Blueprint for B.C.'s Industrial Future as the final component of the Economic Plan. The Industrial Blueprint shows how government is leveraging B.C.'s strengths to create good jobs and opportunities in every community that will improve quality of life, while strengthening B.C.'s diverse economy today and for future generations.

Lean Fundamentals Micro-credential – Ongoing

- » Created in 2023 and launched in 2024 with funding from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and in collaboration with Camosun College’s Professional Studies and Industrial Training team. This very low-cost, on-demand training removes traditional time and money barriers and enables students and businesses, including Indigenous businesses and small businesses, anywhere in B.C. to learn the fundamental principles and methods required to continually improve business processes and drive greater innovation and productivity.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Improving access to Employment Standards Branch (ESB) Services – Ongoing

- » The ESB interprets, applies and enforces the Employment Standards Act (ESA) and the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act (TFWPA).
 - ◇ The ESA covers minimum standards for such things as payment of wages, termination, statutory holiday pay and vacation pay. The TFWPA protects foreign workers from exploitative recruitment and employer practices.
- » Workers often rely on the ESB to assist them in being paid their earned wages. ESB’s budget was \$21.263M in 2024/25. This is an increase of \$3.561M from the prior year’s budget of \$17.702M.
- » Approximately \$3M of this was to support the branch’s sustainable complaints management strategy.

Minimum wage increase – Ongoing

- » On June 1, 2024, B.C.’s general minimum wage increased from \$16.75 to \$17.40 an hour; the seventh increase since the start of 2018.
- » The 3.9% increase in 2024 also applied to minimum-wage rates for resident caretakers, live-in home-support workers and live-in camp leaders. On Dec. 31, 2024, the minimum piece rates for 15 hand-harvested crops increased by the same percentage.
- » In March 2024, Government amended the Employment Standards Act so that annual increases to the minimum wage rates happen automatically, based on B.C.’s previous year’s average inflation rate.

Workers' Compensation – Ongoing

- » Effective January 1, 2023, workers’ compensation benefits are indexed to the full rate of annual percentage changes in the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) up to 4%. WorkSafeBC has the discretion to approve annual indexation above 4%, if the percentage change in the CPI exceeds that amount. On January 1, 2024, WorkSafeBC increased workers’ compensation benefits by 3.12%.
- » Effective January 1, 2024, new licensing and training certification requirements came into effect to enhance safety for workers doing asbestos removal, transportation and disposal.
- » Effective June 10, 2024, 11 new occupations were added to the mental-health presumption under the Workers Compensation Act, including community-integration specialists, coroners, harm-reduction workers, parole officers, probation officers, respiratory therapists, shelter workers, social workers, transition house workers, victim service workers and withdrawal-management workers.
- » Effective October 1, 2024, flush toilets and handwashing facilities are required at construction sites with 25 or more workers.

Protections for app-based ride-hail and delivery services workers – Ongoing

- » In Fall 2023, Bill 48, the Labour Statutes Amendment Act, 2023, was passed, amending legislation to allow for the development of regulations that entitle app-based ride-hail and delivery services workers to improved employment standards and workers' compensation and occupation health and safety protections.
- » On Sept. 3, 2024, regulations to provide fairness, minimum-wage measures and basic protections for app-based ride-hailing and delivery workers in B.C. came into effect. The regulations address the top concerns raised by workers, including low and unpredictable pay, lack of workers' compensation, lack of transparency, unfair "deactivations" and suspension, and tip protection.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) Program – Ongoing

- » Youth and young adults who have been in government care in B.C. can receive financial and relational supports through the SAJE program.
- » In spring 2024, the Ministry of Children and Family Development enacted legislative and regulatory amendments that expanded program eligibility, resulting in more young adults receiving post majority supports through SAJE.
- » Total budget allocation for SAJE through Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) funding in FY24 was \$30.90M. Note AYA was fully transitioned to SAJE in FY25.

a) SAJE: Income Support – Started 2024

- ◇ New unconditional income support of \$1,250 per month is available to former youth in care from age 19 to 20 to assist with living costs, such as groceries, daily travel expenses and rent.
- ◇ Young adults may access conditional monthly income support of \$1,250 per month from age 20 up to their 27th birthday if they are participating in educational, vocational, life-skills, training or cultural connection activities. This funding assists with daily living costs, such as groceries, daily travel expenses and rent while participating in programming to build skills towards independence.

b) SAJE: Permanent Housing Support – Ongoing

- ◇ To increase housing options, prevent homelessness, and address some of the challenges that young adults face as they transition out of government care, the ministry has made permanent the emergency housing supports implemented during COVID-19 up to age 21. These housing options support young people transitioning to living independently with living expenses and for some young adults to remain in their existing living arrangements.

c) SAJE: Rent Supplement Program – Ongoing

- ◇ Rent supplements of \$600 a month have been made available to young adults renting in the private rental market for up to two years or until the month of their 27th birthday (whichever comes first).
- ◇ Over 1,800 young adults from care have received rent supplements (to the end of 2024).
- ◇ Indigenous young adults are prioritized in each intake period.

d) SAJE: Guide and Navigator transition support workers – Ongoing

- ◇ SAJE workers assist youth and young adults from age 14 to 25 plan their transition from care, articulate and action their goals, and connect them to services and supports for a successful transition to adulthood.

e) SAJE: Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections funding – Ongoing

- ◇ In the fall of 2023, new funding was introduced to provide support to young adults in the SAJE program. The funding is available to those focused on developing life-skills, training or cultural connections, allowing them to access up to \$5,500 in a single year. The maximum amount available for those eligible is \$11,000, starting at age 19 up until their 27th birthday, to support the pursuit of their goals.
- ◇ The requirement for young adults to access a life-skill program from a pre-approved list was removed.

f) SAJE: Mental Health and Counselling Benefit – Ongoing

- ◇ Provides \$1,500 per calendar year for young adults in the SAJE program to access and receive counselling services of their choice through eligible service providers.

g) SAJE: Enhanced Dental and Expanded Optical Benefits – Ongoing

- ◇ In April 2023, dental and optical benefits available to young adults in the SAJE program were increased.
- ◇ The annual dental limit was raised from \$700 to \$1,000, and the \$600 optical benefits were expanded to cover eye exams.

Meeting digital needs of former youth in care (ages 19+) – Ongoing

- » Launched in 2017, the B.C. government collaborated with TELUS to establish the Mobility for Good (M4G) program, in which eligible young adults from care can receive a free cell phone, \$0 plans and have access to digital literacy and safety workshops to help them stay connected to their communities and support networks. Young adults participating in the M4G program are eligible to access the TELUS Internet for Good program, which offers an unlimited internet plan for \$9.95 per month (plus applicable taxes) for 24 months.

No cost smartphones & data plans for youth (ages 13-19) – Ongoing

- » Approximately 4340 youth have benefited from Phones4Youth program since 2021. The first of its kind in B.C., this program distributes iPhones and Android devices with data plans, as well as flip phones accessory packages, to in-care and out-of-care youth aged 13 or older.
- » The Ministry of Children and Family Development is also providing mobile phones to children and youth with out-of-care arrangements and in the ministry's other programs based on need.

Indigenous jurisdiction in child and family services – Ongoing

- » In 2022, B.C. changed provincial legislation to remove barriers for Indigenous Peoples exercising jurisdiction over child and family services, becoming the first province in Canada to expressly recognize this inherent right within provincial legislation.
- » The legislation, the Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act, was developed through engagement with Indigenous partners to align with the federal act, An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families and brings provincial child and family service law into better alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- » In 2024, the following co-ordination agreements were signed:
 - ◇ On June 24, 2024, the Ministry of Children and Family Development signed a tripartite co-ordination agreement with Cowichan Tribes that includes the full transfer of all child and family services, operations and programs to Cowichan Tribes' responsibility and control. The coordination agreement is the eighth in Canada and the second in B.C. under the Act.
 - ◇ On September 6, 2024, the Ministry of Children and Family Development signed a co-ordination agreement with Sts'ailes which supports Sts'ailes's exercise of jurisdiction in relation to the provision of child and family services, through their Snowoyelh te Emi:melh te Sts'ailes, Sts'ailes's Child and Family Services law.
 - ◇ On September 12, 2024, the Ministry of Children and Family Development signed a co-ordination agreement with Gwa'sala- 'Nakwaxda'xw Nations which affirms and restores Gwa'sala- 'Nakwaxda'xw's jurisdiction over children and families.
- » On December 21, 2024, T'kwenm7íple7tens re Kíkwe, Tsq'ésceñ First Nation's child well-being law, came into force. The law is an expression of Tsq'ésceñ jurisdiction and legislative authority over child and family services.
- » The ministry launched an Indigenous child and family services funding model co-development process in September 2023. Co-development sessions are ongoing.
- » In 2024, a new Indigenous Child Welfare Director (ICWD) position was brought into effect and the Indigenous Child Welfare Director was appointed in 2024. The ICWD holds powers equal to the provincial director of child welfare, with both roles designated at the assistant deputy minister level.
- » In 2024, amendments to the Adoption Act and the Child, Family and Community Service Act expanded the scope for joint and consent-based decision-making agreements in Indigenous child and family services and created a full pathway for dispute resolution through the provincial courts under Indigenous law.
- » On Sept. 18, 2024, the First Nations Leadership Council and the Province of B.C. signed the Rising to the Challenge Accord. The accord recognizes and upholds that First Nations have the inherent right to self-determination, including jurisdiction over First Nations children and families, and is a step on the pathway to reconciliation.

Services for Indigenous communities – Ongoing

- » Since 2018, the ministry offers \$30,000 to each of the First Nations and Métis organizations in B.C. to deliver community-based, family support and prevention services.

Healthy Connections Through Culture Program – Ongoing

- » Provides support to Indigenous youth involved in the youth justice system, at risk of involvement, or with previous involvement.

Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS) – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Children and Family Development is actively implementing a strategy for contracted services which has been designed to ensure only children who need it are placed in staffed care and if placed, oversight is extensive, and planning occurs to pro-actively address the wellbeing of the child. SHSS provides four service types: Emergency Care, Respite, Low-Barrier Short-Term Stabilization, and Long-Term Specialized Care.
- » SHSS was developed based on extensive research and engagement with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners.
- » A phased implementation approach is being taken that allows for evaluation and refinement of policies and oversight.

- » Early implementation began in North Fraser and Okanagan Service Delivery Areas in 2023 and was completed in May 2024.
- » Provincial rollout is taking place, following the phased implementation approach, which includes transitioning legacy contracts, and the approval of new contracts, to the SHSS model.

Youth Emergency Shelter (YES) pilot – Ongoing

- » YES, is intended to meet the needs of youth aged 15 to 18 who are in crisis, or at risk of harm or homelessness. YES provides access to short-term overnight accommodation, outreach services and day programming. These sites provide services in these communities while informing possible future provincial YES model service design. A YES pilot site in Maple Ridge became fully operational in December 2023. In June 2024, the location and planning for a second pilot site in Cowichan Valley was announced.

Annual affordability payment – Ongoing

- » In summer 2023, the Ministry of Children and Family Development introduced an annual affordability payment for children and youth in the care of relatives under the Child in Home of Relative (CIHR) program³. The CIHR payment assists families who provide care to children in their extended families with additional financial supports to assist with the cost of raising these children.
- » The annual affordability payment is prorated up to \$8,797.36 annually for children/youth ages 14-17 and \$8,177.92 for youth aged 18. The payment is available per year and offered until the youth's 19th birthday, concluding by fiscal 2028-29 when the last children/youth remaining in the program turn 19.

Child Welfare Improvements – Ongoing

- » In 2024, new procedural safeguards around the disclosure of personal health information were introduced via amendments to the Child, Family and Community Service Act to enhance personal privacy protections while supporting child protection needs.
- » 99% of children and youth in care were visited by child protection workers at least once every 90 days, according to an independent third-party report released in 2024. The report was commissioned in fall 2023 to help the Ministry of Children and Family Development determine the number of children and youth in care who receive private, in-person visits according to policy.
- » On July 16, 2024, the representative for children and youth released Don't Look Away, an investigation and systemic review that details the abuse and death of a young Indigenous boy and the systemic factors that contributed to his death. The investigation was accompanied by a review of the current system of child welfare in the province, which recommends a transformative, cross-government approach to child, youth and family well-being. To realize government's new approach to child welfare, the Province established a cross-ministry group of senior public officials. This group is guiding the development of a Child and Youth Well-being Plan.

Children and Youth with Support Needs – Respite – Ongoing

- » Budget 2023 provided an increase to the annual standard respite rate from \$3,080 to \$4,135 making it easier for families to get the supports they need.

³ The CHIR program is no longer active since 2012, however some families that were eligible in 2012 continue to receive benefits.

- » Families that receive the Ministry of Children and Family Development’s Children and Youth with Support Needs Direct Funding/At Home Program respite funds can use the standard amount of \$4,135 per year in a flexible manner. Flexible options include household supports, caregiving supports and program support for children.

At Home Program – Ongoing

- » In 2023, the Ministry of Children and Family Development doubled the hourly reimbursement rate of \$80 per hour to \$160 per hour for direct therapy services through the At Home Program’s School Aged-Extended Therapy. This increased the annual reimbursement to families to \$5,760 per year per discipline of clinical therapies.

Family Connections Centres (Pilot sites) – Ongoing

- » Four pilot family connections centres opened in 2023. The centres offer a regionalized multi-disciplinary service approach providing a full suite of no-fee services: therapies, interventions, and services to children and youth with support needs and their families based on their unique needs, regardless of whether they have a diagnosis.
- » Total cost for Family Connections Centres in FY24 was \$18.6M.

Enhancing support to caregivers – Ongoing

- » In 2022, the ministry began implementing the Enhanced Out-of-Care program throughout the province to enable children and youth living with moderate-to-significant support needs to reside with extended family or people known to them. This supports fewer children and youth being brought into care, residing in foster homes, or specialized homes.
- » In 2023, the Province provided \$84.9M to boost monthly caregiver rates by up to 47%. The increase will benefit approximately 7,800 children, youth, and their caregivers.

Funding allocation for children and youth with disabilities – Ongoing

- » As of January 2022, a disability supplement is provided monthly to families who are caring for a child under a court-ordered out-of-care agreement who is approved for the federal disability tax credit and child disability benefit. Eligible amounts may be payable retrospective to April 2019.

Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators (EASE) – Ongoing

- » EASE is a collection of activities and resources for parents and caregivers to support their children’s mental health. It includes an online suite of prevention and early intervention courses and resources for kindergarten to Grade 12 students.

Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Early Years (EASEY) – Started in 2023, completed in 2024

- » An early years version – EASEY - for professionals supporting parents and families with young children (ages 0-6) experiencing mild to moderate anxiety, was developed and includes an online course and a collection of evidence-informed information, tools and strategies.
- » Further expansion of EASEY took place through the development of EASEY At Home, a collection of evidence-informed information, activities, tools and strategies for parents, families and other caregivers who are supporting young children ages 0-6 who are experiencing mild to moderate anxiety.

Additional anxiety and depression prevention resources – Started in 2023, completed in 2024

- » Walking Alongside Youth with Anxiety and Walking Alongside Youth with Depression is a collection of online information and learning material available on the ministry’s HealthyMinds BC website – healthymindsbc.gov.bc.ca.

- » The ministry developed new Indigenous-informed online courses and resources to build the mental health literacy of care providers and increase their capacity to support children and youth in their care who are experiencing mild-to-moderate anxiety or depression.

Suicide prevention and non-suicidal self-injury resources for parents and care providers – Started in 2023, completed in 2024

- » The ministry developed new mental health literacy resources and videos to reduce stigma and build the capacity of parents and care providers to support them in identifying and responding to youth experiencing suicidal and self-harm behaviours.
- » An expansion of this video and resource collection was developed specifically for B.C. educators the following year – both collections are available on the ministry’s HealthyMindsBC website: healthymindsbc.gov.bc.ca

Neurodiversity and mental health resources for parents and care providers – Started and completed in 2024

- » The ministry developed new mental health resources and videos for parents and care providers who are supporting children and youth who are neurodivergent and experiencing co-occurring mental health challenges. This collection of resources includes videos with B.C. parents with lived experience and experts in the field and contains practical, accessible, evidence-informed and culturally relevant information about neurodiversity and mental health.
- » Available on the ministry’s HealthyMindsBC website - healthymindsbc.gov.bc.ca

MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) – Ongoing

- » BCAAFC is a key provincial partner providing supports and services to Indigenous people living off-reserve and/or in urban areas. Provincial funding in 2024 included just over \$3M for capacity, training, and towards initiatives such as Elder transportation and programs for youth such as Gathering our Voices and student bursary programs.

Community Well-Being Initiatives – Ongoing

- » In 2024, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation provided \$6.56M towards Community Well-Being initiatives. These are community-based, socio-cultural reconciliation processes where Indigenous communities and the B.C. government work in partnership to identify priorities and implementation measures that advance self-determining, thriving Indigenous communities.

Giving Voice Initiative

- » The Minister’s Advisory Council on Indigenous Women’s Giving Voice program provided \$1M in 2024 to 37 community-driven healing projects that help address the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

First Peoples’ Cultural Council (FPCC)

- » FPCC is a First Nations-led Crown with a legislated mandate to revitalize First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage. In 2023/24 it provided a record-breaking \$48.6M in grants to communities to assist them with this work, creating valuable jobs in First Nations communities.

- » More than a funder, FPCC takes a community development approach and provides training, coaching, scholarships and resources to assist communities in reaching their revitalization goals. Read FPCC’s annual report to communities [here](#).
- » In 2024, FPCC worked with the Conference Board of Canada to understand the economic impact of FPCC’s investments. The results showed that FPCC generated \$142.3M in economic output across Canada in 2023/24, generating \$69M in GDP in B.C., \$91.2M in GDP in Canada and nearly 1,822 full-year jobs. The report is available here: <https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/FPCC-Conference-Board-Report-2024-08-21.pdf>

MINISTRY OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

Economic and Community Development Agreements – Ongoing

- » Government engaged with First Nations throughout British Columbia on agreements in the sharing of direct mineral tax revenues on new mines and major mine expansions. These agreements are known as Economic and Community Development Agreements (ECDAs). There are 54 signed ECDAs with 49 First Nations for 25 mines.
- » Up to 37.5% of incremental mineral tax is shared with First Nations for new mines and expansions with \$87M in payments made in 2023 and \$326M shared since the program’s inception in 2008.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT

Active Transportation Grant Programs – Ongoing

- » In 2024, \$24M from the Province supported 80 active transportation infrastructure projects in communities across B.C., increasing the availability and quality of active transportation infrastructure.
- » Projects funded through the [Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program](#) provide safe, accessible transportation options, which benefit low-income people in B.C., especially those without access to a vehicle.

E-bike Rebate Program – Started in 2023

- » On June 1, 2023, the Province launched income-tested rebates totaling \$6M on the purchase of eligible new e-bikes. The program is fully subscribed and has distributed nearly 4,600 rebates, 99% of recipients had low enough incomes to qualify for one of the income-qualified rebate tiers of \$1,000 or \$1,400, with most (91%) qualifying for the \$1,400 rebate.

Northern Transportation Services - Ongoing

- » In 2023, the Province contributed over \$6M to Northern Development Initiative Trust to continue BC Bus North and the Northern Community Shuttle Program and for other northern
- » initiatives, ensuring the continuation of transportation services that connect people in rural communities to regional centres. Funding is in place through 2027/28.

U-Pass BC – Ongoing

- » The U Pass BC program, which began in 2011 and has been extended through April 2025, is a partnership between the Province, TransLink, participating public post-secondary institutions and their student associations. The program provides better access to subsidized transit for as many as 140,000 eligible students in Metro Vancouver.

Passenger Transportation Accessibility Program – Ongoing

- » To support greater access to transportation for all, the Province provided, \$7M in grants to 59 companies in 2024, as incentives for taxi companies and drivers to invest in wheelchair-accessible vehicles. This funding helps reduce the financial effects of necessary maintenance work, operating costs and the costs of purchasing and converting wheelchair-accessible taxis.

Expansion of handyDART Services – Ongoing

- » As part of the Province’s commitment of approximately \$29M for new BC Transit system expansion in 2024, the handyDART service hours were expanded in communities across B.C.
- » In 2024, the total annual BC Transit handyDART funding increased by \$1.753M, which added around 13,580 annual service hours and four light duty vehicles to the handyDART fleet.
- » The Province invested over 40M to help fund the new BC Transit handyDART centre in Victoria, accelerating service expansion with space for over 110 buses and 27 battery electric bus charging stations.
- » In April 2024, the Province committed \$300M towards TransLink’s 2024 Investment Plan that enabled late evening service for HandyDART customers in Metro Vancouver starting in September 2024.

Transit Expansion – Ongoing

- » Budget 2024 and 2025 enabled BC Transit to add service to existing systems and implement new routes. A new BC Transit service connecting Tofino, Ucluelet, Long Beach, the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ community of hitaču and the Tla-o-qui-aht communities of Esowista and Ty-histanis launched on Saturday, March 1, 2025. The signs at all 36 stops in the West Coast Transit System will include Nuu-chah-nulth language; the first time BC Transit signs will include an Indigenous language.

Indigenous Community Access and Resiliency Program – Started in 2023

- » The Indigenous Community Access and Resiliency Program, delivered through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure’s Preservation Program, funds projects that improve

Transportation and Transit’s Preservation Program, funds projects that improve safety, resiliency and access for First Nations communities.

- » This program, announced in 2023-24, will invest \$120M over nine years, including \$42M over the next three years, beginning in 2025-26.
- » During the first two years of this program, \$17.8M was invested in more than 30 projects which are in various stages of planning, design, engineering and construction. Many of the projects delivered under this program will include partnering with First Nations communities to deliver the work.

Accessibility Discount Program – Ongoing

- » Ferry users who hold a BC Ferries Disabled Status Identification Card or a Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) card, along with their attendants if required, receive a 50% discount on passenger fares across all routes. This fare discount helps improve the quality of life for people with accessibility needs. The annual cost of the Accessibility Discount Program is approximately \$800,000.

Fare Affordability and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Initiative – Ongoing

- » The Province is providing a total of \$500M over four years (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2028) to help keep BC Ferries' fares affordable.
- » Without this funding, fares would have increased by an average of 9.2% per year, or 36.8% over the four-year period.
- » With the investment, fare increases are limited to an average of 3.2% per year, totaling 12.8% over the term—a 24% reduction.
- » In 2024/25, \$50M in affordability funding was provided. The remaining funds will be delivered in three annual payments, each in September, for the remaining years of the term.

Vulnerable road user safety – Started in 2024

- » Amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act came into force June 3, 2024 that require motorists to drive safely and give space around pedestrians, cyclists and other types of vulnerable road users. These changes improve safety and encourage mode shift to clean and active modes of personal transportation that are more accessible to people with lower incomes.

New rules for personal mobility devices – Started in 2024

- » In 2024, new rules came into force for new and emerging modes of personal transportation. The Province's new electric kick scooter pilot project and updated regulations for e-bikes, electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters enable the use of more affordable and accessible transportation options for citizens.

Vision Zero – Ongoing

- » 2024 was the third year of funding for Vision Zero, a community-based grant program that improves road safety through established standards and policies. In 2024, a total of more than \$866,000 went to 53 projects in 56 communities, including 22 projects in First Nations communities.

MINISTRY OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND FUTURE SKILLS

StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan – Started in 2023

- » The Province's \$480M, three-year [StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan](#) is aimed at helping individuals gain skills for high-demand jobs and bridging the skills gap for businesses. The action plan focuses on affordability and accessibility of post-secondary education, assisting individuals in reskilling for in-demand jobs, eliminating barriers to employment, addressing the workforce priorities for Indigenous Peoples and ensuring people new to B.C. find employment in which they are trained.
- » The plan includes the future skills grant which covers a lifetime maximum of up to \$3,500 in eligible short-term skills training aligned with in-demand occupations at public post-secondary institutions, making advanced education more accessible. The program has already served over 7,000 learners across the province in 340 short-term skills training programs, helping people access training opportunities in industries such as health care, firefighting, cybersecurity and construction. The 2024 round of registration opened in September.

New tools to help with career opportunities – Started in 2023

- » With the new [Find Your Path](#) digital tool, people can explore in-demand careers and map out their educational journey, with easy-to-navigate steps to guide them.

Micro-credential Programs – Ongoing

- » Since 2020, B.C. has invested nearly \$21M in micro-credential initiatives, supporting the development of more than 200 micro-credentials targeting in-demand skills across key sectors, including: technology, healthcare, construction, natural resources and environment, education, agriculture and food processing, advanced manufacturing, and life sciences.
- » This has enabled more than 9,000 British Columbians to quickly obtain the skills needed in a changing economy.

Pathways to Engagement and Employment Readiness (PEERS) Program – Completed in 2024

- » Nearly \$3.7M from the Government of Canada and its Skills for Success program helped to support the PEERS program and the services it provided, benefiting more than 2,600 people in B.C. experiencing or at risk of homelessness since 2021. The program provided participants with informal and flexible work placements in a safe and welcoming environment. In 2023, more than 800 participants were enrolled.

The BC Employer Training Grant (ETG) – Ongoing

- » ETG is a cost-sharing program that provides employers throughout B.C. with funding for skills training for their new or current employees. In 2024-25, the ETG provided funding to over 1,300 employers to support skills training for over 3,800 people. Nearly 60% of workers surveyed indicated a wage increase as a result of ETG-supported skills training.

The Community Workforce Response Grant (CWRG) – Ongoing

- » Provides funding to communities and sectors for cohort-based, short-term (less than 52 weeks) skills training projects to address urgent or emerging workforce needs. Funding includes skills training and financial supports to help participants overcome training and employment barriers. In 2024-25, the CWRG funded 59 projects, providing skills training for 575 people across various sectors and communities throughout the province.

Indigenous Skills Training and Education (ISTE) Program – Ongoing

- » ISTE provides funding to Indigenous communities to increase access to skills training and education. Participant financial supports such as childcare, transportation, life skills, counselling, and cultural elements can be provided to remove barriers to accessing and succeeding in the program.
- » In 2024/25, the ISTE Program provided \$14.5M to 51 First Nations across B.C., or their designate, \$7.4M to Métis Nation BC, \$2.2M to the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centers, \$5M to the First Nations Education Steering Committee, and \$1.6M to various Indigenous initiatives.
- » In 2024/25, it is anticipated that 4,047 participants will be served, of which 2,229 are expected to move on to employment and 1,090 to further education or training.

Skills Training for Employment – Started in 2023:

- » In 2024/25, approximately 5,000 people in B.C. benefitted from the Skills Training for Employment program, including streams for [Young Adults and Young Adults at Risk](#) and [Individuals Facing Multiple Barriers to Employment](#). A partnership between the governments of B.C. and Canada, the Skills Training for Employment program provides needs-based skills training and supports to help overcome barriers to employment and give people targeted skills needed to succeed in the workplace and beyond.

Individuals Facing Multiple Barriers to Employment Program – Started in 2023

- » The [Individuals Facing Multiple Barriers to Employment](#) program helps people overcome obstacles to labour market participation through skills training, employment services, and wraparound supports. A total of 72 new agreements began October 1, 2023, and were funded in 2023-24 with \$20M, provided by the Government of Canada through the Canada-B.C. WDA, and \$9.5M provided through the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan. Approximately 4,000 participants are expected to receive support each year.

TradeUpBC – Started in 2024

- » In 2024, [TradeUpBC](#), an online hub that supports experienced trades professionals and employers, was launched. TradeUpBC provides information about trades-training opportunities available at public post-secondary institutions around B.C., including professional development offerings, micro-credentials and short-term training. These offerings are designed to promptly address the demands of emerging skills in rapidly evolving job markets.

BladeRunners Program – Ongoing

- » [BladeRunners](#) supports at-risk youth aged 15-30 to obtain life skills and job readiness training, job placement, and employment supports in a range of industries. In 2024/25, the BladeRunners program served approximately 1,000 participants in all B.C. regions. The budget for the program is \$6.2M per year.

SkilledTradesBC Pre-Apprenticeship Trades Training – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills provides WDA funding to SkilledTradesBC for programs to prepare Indigenous people, women, persons with disabilities, and other equity-seeking groups for apprenticeships and jobs in trades. In 2024-25, [SkilledTradesBC pre-apprenticeship programs](#) served nearly 1,000 people through 12 programs, for a total of \$8M.

Sector Labour Market Partnerships (SLMP) Program – Ongoing

- » The SLMP program provides project-based funding to support sectors, regions, and populations to better understand their workforce development needs and develop solutions to challenges. Current SLMP projects that support B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy include:
 - ◇ The Construction Foundation of BC's project called The Pathway to Apprenticeship Completion in the Trades increase apprenticeship retention, progression and completion for at least 400 British Columbians. The project places an emphasis on supporting newcomers, and multi-barrier individuals. (\$5.5M over 5 years).
 - ◇ The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work's labour market research project for the deaf and hard of hearing population. The project will study the barriers to full employment for this population as well as challenges that ASL interpreters have in supporting their clients (\$490,000 for two years).

Bachelor of Indigenous Language Fluency Degree Program – Ongoing

- » The Province continues to recognize the importance of First Nations-mandated institutes and First Nations language fluency degrees through a \$3M investment over three years from the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan (2022-23 to 2025-26).
- » The Indigenous Languages Fluency Degree Framework was initiated by First Nations and First Nations-mandated post-secondary institutes and continues to be First Nations-led.
- » Several First Nations are offering or preparing to offer Language Fluency Degree programs.

Bachelor of Chinese Medicine – Started in 2024

- » Canada's first bachelor's degree in traditional Chinese medicine will be offered at Kwantlen Polytechnic University to train people for in-demand careers. This new five-year bachelor's degree program will combine classroom and clinical training, and the first cohort is expected to begin their studies in September 2025.

Adult Upgrading Grant (AUG) – Ongoing

- » The province invests \$3.6M annually to support the AUG, which assists eligible low-income students in Adult Basic Education, Accessible Education and Training and English Language Learning to complete or upgrade their education by helping with education related costs. AUG also supports the cost of tuition for Accessible Education and Training programs. In 2023-24 AUG provided financial support to over 2,800 students to access applicable programs.

Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) – Ongoing

- » The province invests \$3.4M annually to support CALP. In 2024-25, this funding supported the delivery of 102 adult, family and Indigenous literacy programs by 71 providers in 132 communities throughout B.C.

Adult Basic Education/English Language Learning Pathways to High-Priority Career Programs – Started in 2022

- » The Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning pathways initiative was launched in 2022 to provide students with tailored upgrading and English language learning supports to obtain the prerequisites for entry into high priority post-secondary career programs, such as Practical Nursing, Health Care Assistant, Trades, Technology, and Early Childhood Education. In 2024-25, the Province invested \$3.5M to support 22 pathways at 12 public post-secondary institutions and the Native Education College. This funding builds on the previous investment of \$3.8M in 2023-24.

BC Access Grant – Ongoing

- » The needs-based BC Access Grant targets 40,000 low- and middle-income students. Post-secondary students eligible for the grant receive up to \$4,000 per year, which complements the Canada Student Grant programs. Government's annual investment in the grant is approximately \$41M.
- » Students applying for student financial assistance through [StudentAid BC](#) are automatically considered for the BC Access Grant.

Indigenous Pathways & Partnerships (formerly the Aboriginal Service Plan program) – Ongoing

- » Government provides funding to support Indigenous Pathways and Partnerships at public post-secondary institutions, which foster partnerships between institutions and local Indigenous communities.
- » The program increases the access, retention, completion and transition opportunities for Indigenous learners.
- » Government invested \$6.4M in 2024.

Expanded Provincial Tuition Waiver Program – Started in 2023

- » Effective Aug. 1, 2023, the province expanded the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program](#) (PTWP) to all B.C. former youth in care of any age and introduced a new annual \$3,500 grant for PTWP recipients.

Increased financial aid and more flexible repayment – Started in 2023

- » After making student loans interest-free in 2019, the B.C. government doubled the weekly student loan maximums for the first time since 2006.
- » Effective August 2023, the Province changed student loan repayment terms to align with the federal government's Repayment Assistance Program, increasing the income level from \$25,000 to \$40,000, under which a student does not have to repay their loan. The maximum monthly repayment amount has been lowered from 20% to 10% of household income.

International Credentials Recognition Act – Started in 2024

- » The International Credentials Recognition Act came into effect on July 1, 2024. The Act removed barriers in 29 professions, making it fairer, more transparent and more efficient for qualified professionals to pursue and achieve credential recognition, no matter where they were trained.

Student Housing – Started in 2024

- » Expanding access to student housing is part of the Homes for People action plan, which commits more than \$2 billion toward developing 12,000 student beds on campuses throughout the province. To date, 10,770 student beds are complete or underway.

The First Nations Mandated Post-Secondary Institutes (FNMPPI) Act – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association worked together to develop the FNMPPI Act which received Royal Assent in May 2024. A key pillar of the B.C. post-secondary system, First Nations-mandated institutes provide First Nations learners with the opportunity to access programs rooted in their language and culture. The FNMPPI Act commits the Province to contribute ongoing operational and capacity funding for eligible institutes. Annual funding of \$6.45M has been allocated through the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan for eligible institutes.

Indigenous-Specific Racism Review - Ongoing

- » In response to the First Nations Leadership Council's (FNLC) formal request, planning work on an Indigenous-Specific Racism Review is underway to address systemic racism in B.C.'s K-12 and post-secondary sectors. A Technical Table was established in January 2024, including the Ministries of Education and Child Care, Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, First Nations Education Steering Committee and FNLC, to collaborate on planning and implementation.

First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol (FNCYIC) - Ongoing

- » Under the FNCYIC Protocol, the Ministries of Education and Child Care, Children and Family Development, Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, along with the First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Education Steering Committee are working together to improve educational outcomes for First Nations children and youth in care and former youth in care learners. Work continues among all partners to advance workplan actions.

First Nations Community-Based Teacher Education – New and Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills has been working with the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, and the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association on the development and implementation of strategies to support community-based teacher education for First Nations students.

- » In 2025, \$3.3M was distributed to nine First Nations to either deliver a community-based teacher education program in partnership with a public post-secondary institution or develop a teacher education partnership or program with a public post-secondary institution.
- » This work addresses Declaration Act Action Plan action #4.2 to increase the number of Indigenous teachers in the K-12 system to be more reflective of the student population.

BC Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF) – Ended in 2024

- » In response to the global humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and Ukraine, the Government of B.C. created the RRF from March 2022 to March 2024. The Refugee Readiness Fund was a one-time, 2-year investment of \$4M to ensure that B.C. communities were ready to welcome and respond to the needs of Afghan refugees resettling in the province and Ukrainian people who arrived through the Canada Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel program. Through the Fund, communities benefit from a coordinated approach to delivering services, using shared knowledge and drawing from expertise throughout the province. This included initiatives to distribute food and essentials to the surge of new arrivals, build networks to encourage food security and secure temporary housing on arrival, support navigation of the healthcare system, make community connections and ensure basic urgent needs are met.

BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP) – Started in 2024

- » BCNSP launched April 1, 2024, as part of the redesign and expansion of existing program to support newcomers. The BCNSP serves temporary residents, including work and study permit holders and naturalized citizens. Annual funding for 2024/25 is \$13.4M which represents a quadrupling of the previous program funding. Contracts are in place until March 31, 2029, with an intention of ongoing funding. BCNSP plays a vital role in preventing poverty by supporting newcomers to access and navigate government and community programs such as food banks and community kitchens, find housing, make social connections, practice English, and attach to employment and education – often with services in their first language – ensuring their basic needs are met.

BC Safe Haven – Started in 2024

- » Launched in April 1, 2024, the Safe Haven program provides specialized services to refugee claimants in precarious situations who have come to B.C. for humanitarian reasons. Annual funding for 2024/25 is \$12.2M. Safe Haven reduces poverty by offering assistance with navigating government programs, language training, creating social connections, accessing trauma counselling, providing housing search supports and starting them on an employment path. These services provide a solid foundation for newly arrived refugee claimants.

Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants – Ongoing

- » The Career Paths program helps professional newcomers find employment that aligns with their pre-arrival skills and education and curtailing underemployment. Career Paths is cofounded with the federal government and B.C.'s annual funding portion for 2024/25 is \$6.1M. Through targeted career counselling, occupation specific language training and re-credentialing supports, internationally trained newcomers maximize their wage potential. In 2024, the program saw 73% of clients achieving a job in their field on program completion and an average wage at exit of \$33.13 per hour.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

Victim Service and Violence Against Women Programs – Ongoing

- » The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General provides over \$60M annually to support 475 [victim service and violence against women programs](#) across the province, including 158 police-based and community-based victim service programs, 239 Violence Against Women Counselling and Outreach Programs, nine Domestic Violence Units, one provincial helpline, 70 new sexual assault services programs (22 of which provide Indigenous-focused services), and five sexual assault centres. These programs provide counselling, court support, outreach and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes. In 2024, over 48,000 new clients were supported/served by the ministry's contracted police-based and community-based victim service programs, and over 20,000 new referrals were made to Violence Against Women Counselling and Outreach programs.
- » The 70 new sexual assault services programs deliver coordinated, community-based services throughout B.C., while the five sexual assault centres provide wraparound services to survivors of sexual assault, including trauma-informed space for police interviews and medical/forensic examinations, among other services available if the survivor chooses them. The new programs and centres are survivor-centred, trauma-informed, inclusive, and culturally safe. The services are a key component of [Safe and Supported: British Columbia's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan](#).
- » The Ministry also funds [VictimLinkBC](#), a toll-free multilingual, confidential phone, email and text service available across B.C. and the Yukon 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence.

Safe Community Situation Table program – Ongoing

- » Since 2018, more than \$3M has been provided in grants to B.C. regions and communities to facilitate local Safe Community Situation Tables, intervention circles and other related initiatives.
- » The program brings together front-line workers from the public-safety, health and social-service sectors to identify, intervene and connect at-risk people with the social services, housing or mental-health and addictions care they need, before they experience a negative or traumatic event.
- » There are 46 funded situation tables and Intervention Circles in B.C., 36 are operational and 10 more under implementation.
- » In 2024, the Province expanded this program through more than \$800,000 additional funding to launch or expand existing Safe Community Situation Tables throughout B.C.

Anti-Hate Community Support Fund – Completed

- » The \$500,000 Anti-Hate Community Support Fund was launched on Nov. 28, 2023, to support identifiable groups in B.C. that have experienced, or who are at risk of experiencing, hate-motivated crimes, or incidents. Funding under this program was provided to successful applicants in spring 2024.

Expansion of crisis-line supports – Ongoing

- » With federal funding, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is supporting [Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre](#) and the [Indian Residential School Survivors Society](#) to enhance their crisis lines, which provide 24-hour, provincewide, comprehensive, specialized gender-based violence supports. Beginning in March 2023, the two organizations will receive \$2.75M over four years.

Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund – Ongoing

- » Under the federal government’s Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence, the B.C. government received \$10.9M from Public Safety Canada for the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- » The provincial Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund provides education and intervention services to support at-risk and vulnerable youth to help them stay away from gangs and organized-crime activity.

Civil Forfeiture Grant Program – Ongoing

- » The civil forfeiture grant program provides funding to support community safety-related projects in B.C. As part of the 2023-24 cycle, \$8.2M provided support to 189 community projects, 75 of which focused on domestic violence prevention and addressing gender-based violence. The 75 projects received a total of \$2.8M.
- » The Province announced an open call for 2025 grant applications in October 2024.

Crime Victim Assistance Program – Ongoing

- » In 2024, PSSG provided approximately \$21.5M in benefits through the Crime Victim Assistance Program for counselling and other supports to eligible victims, their immediate family members, and some witnesses to assist in recovery from the impacts of violent crime. As of January 1, 2024, amendments to the Crime Victim Assistance Act and its corresponding regulation came into effect, expanding the support available by adding new offences that protect victims of gender-based violence and exploitation (e.g., voyeurism, publication of intimate images without consent, online sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking); significantly increasing the rates paid for key benefits, including counselling, to ensure services remain accessible; and expanding access to benefits required in some of the most serious cases involving extreme violence or death.

Culturally appropriate supports for people at risk of entering justice system – Ongoing

- » The Esk’etemc First Nation launched an Intervention Circle in July 2023 to provide culturally appropriate supports for people at risk of harm or victimization. The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General continues to work closely with the Esk’etemc First Nation’s leadership to ensure its ongoing success and to respect the community’s long-term goals. In 2024, capacity building grants of \$50,000 were given to Witsset First Nation and the Gitanmaax Band to establish Intervention Circles in their communities. Both are moving into the early training phase in preparation for implementation.

Path Forward Community Fund – Ongoing

- » B.C.’s Path Forward Community Fund will support Indigenous-led solutions to violence against women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and promote community safety, capacity building and self determination in addressing systemic causes of gender-based violence.
- » In 2024, the Province provided an additional \$5M to continue the Path Forward Community Fund managed by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.
- » As of 2024, government has invested \$15.84M into the Path Forward Community Fund since 2022.

Increased supports for the Pacific Centre Family Services Association – Completed

- » The Province provided a one-time investment of \$130,000 to the [Pacific Centre Family Services Association](#) (PCFSA) to expand its Crime Reduction and Exploitation Diversion and Mobile Youth Service Team programs, with the funding allocated to increase staff and resourcing for the teams. The PCFSA is a non-profit organization that provides a wide range of community programs and services to vulnerable people and families in the Capital Regional District, such as parenting education, youth mentoring, and addiction-recovery services.

Increased supports to improve the safety and well-being of sex workers - Completed

- » One-time funding of \$500,000 was provided to [PEERS Victoria Resources Society](#) to support services such as drop-in centre, outreach mentorship program, group and one-on-one support services, counselling, peer health navigation, sharing circle, and public education, for the next 3 years.
- » One-time funding of \$500,000 was provided to PACE Society to support services such as drop-in centre, outreach mentorship program, group and one-on-one support services, counselling, peer health navigation, sharing circle, and public education, for the next 3 years.
- » The Province provided \$2M to [WISH Drop-In Centre Society](#) to provide essential services to sex workers over the next three years through the daytime and overnight operation of the WISH MAP Van.
- » One-time funding of \$500,000 was provided to the BC Bad Date Aggressor Reporting Working Group to support the creation of a province-wide bad date reporting system for sex workers to anonymously share with each other reports about bad dates.

BC Liquor Distribution Branch's Food Banks BC Campaign – Ongoing

- » Every year, the [BC Liquor Distribution Branch](#) (LDB) raises funds for [Food Banks BC](#). In 2024, the LDB held two campaigns through which BC Liquor Stores and BC Cannabis Stores collected customer donations and the funds were given to the food banks in the communities where they were collected. Donations are distributed to Food Banks BC's 107-member food banks, as well as several non-member banks. The two annual campaigns in 2024 raised a total of \$1,425,000.

Indigenous Communities Driver Licensing Outreach – Ongoing

- » The [Insurance Corporation of British Columbia](#) (ICBC) has implemented an Indigenous Community Outreach team that travels throughout B.C. to remove key barriers for Indigenous Peoples in remote communities to obtain their driver's licence, BC Identification Card, and BC Services Card, and offers mobile knowledge testing. ICBC also offers limited road testing services in remote communities to support Indigenous Peoples through their licensing journey.

ICBC secondary identification attestation – Ongoing

- » For individuals unable to secure secondary identification, ICBC may be able to provide an attestation option to enable them to obtain photo identification. ICBC does not charge for the BC Services Card if there is no driver's licence attached.

ICBC stability on rates – Ongoing

- » To support people with the ongoing impacts of global inflation, ICBC Basic insurance rates have stayed stable since 2021 and will be maintained until March 31, 2026, marking six years in a row with no increases. With the introduction of Enhanced Care in May 2021, auto insurance rates in B.C. have gone from some of the most expensive in Canada to being among the most affordable.
- » In 2024, ICBC introduced a \$110 rebate to eligible drivers.

RoadSafetyBC's Responsible Driver Program - New

- » In 2024, RoadSafetyBC introduced two new affordability options for drivers required to attend the Responsible Driver Program, a remedial driving education program for people with certain alcohol and/or drug-related driving prohibitions or convictions.
 - ◇ A No Barriers Financial Assistance Plan which reduces the user pay fee by 29% for drivers who are actively receiving income assistance from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
 - ◇ An Affordability Payment Plan which allows drivers to separate the user pay program fee into four smaller, interest free payments.

RoadSafetyBC's Ignition Interlock Program - New

- » On April 1, 2024, RoadSafetyBC entered into an agreement with a new service provider, [Smart Start Canada](#), to deliver RoadSafetyBC's Ignition Interlock Program. The agreement includes features to ease the financial burden on drivers by: providing a free installation of the device; the offering of an Affordability Payment Plan which allows weekly interest free payments; and the offering of a No Barriers Financial Plan which gives a fee reduction of 50% for drivers who are actively receiving income assistance from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Stronger Community Services Fund – Ongoing

- » In 2023, a \$60M provincial investment through the Stronger Community Services Fund to support B.C.'s non-profit sector and strengthen B.C.'s economic recovery. There are four streams of funding: local Community Foundations throughout the province; large, multi-service "lighthouse organizations" with provincial or regional reach, supporting poverty reduction; small local non-profits affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and organizations run by and supporting people in the Indigenous, Black and people of colour communities.
- » Indigenous Recovery and Resiliency Fund – Ongoing
 - ◇ Approximately \$3M of the \$60M was designated for Indigenous-led and serving organizations through New Relationship Trust, building on the \$5M investment in 2022 through the Indigenous Resiliency and Recovery fund. The multi-year, flexible funding supports Indigenous organizations with pandemic-related recovery support and enhance organizational and economic resilience.

First Nations Well Being Fund – Ongoing

- » \$15M through the [First Nations Well Being Fund](#) building on previous investments of \$5.4M between 2020 and 2022. The fund, implemented by the First Nations Public Service Secretariat, supports First Nations and Tribal Councils to improve well-being within their communities, including poverty reduction and food security initiatives.
- » Phases 1-4 took place between 2020-2024 and resulted in a combined total of 212 projects that were approved for funding across all 8 economic regions in B.C.

Victoria Foundation's Food Security Provincial Initiatives Fund – Ongoing

- » \$1.3M in funding for food security and food sovereignty programs was distributed over two years through [Victoria Foundation's](#) Food Security Provincial Initiatives Fund to increase local food production, expand and improve access to culturally appropriate food, and continue to advance meaningful reconciliation in local communities throughout the province.
- » The investment builds on \$3.8M in grants provided by the Province to Victoria Foundation in 2019 and 2022, which helped establish and expand the Food Security Provincial Initiatives Fund.
- » Between 2023-2024, \$1,274,000 was allocated to provide continued support to nine organizations and their projects across the province.

Food security funding for Food Banks BC (FBBC) – Ongoing

- » \$15M in funding to FBBC is part of the historic \$200M investment announced in March 2023 to strengthen food supply throughout B.C., increase the availability of fresh food, encourage more food production in remote areas, strengthen food infrastructure, and create more regional community food hubs.
- » \$5M of this funding, allocated over three years, is going towards FBBC and the Public Health Association of BC. Grants will support local food-access projects developed by organizations from northern B.C. that understand the unique challenges faced by rural, remote and First Nations communities. The funding will also be used to expand the approach of a Resilient North Research Project to investigate food access in other regions in B.C.
- » This funding builds on \$6M for the Emergency Food Purchasing program and \$2.5M for Perishable Food Refrigeration Grant in 2021, and \$1.455M to provide rapid access to food for people affected by emergency events and to initiate the Resilient North Research Project in 2022.

The Critical Food Infrastructure Fund – Ongoing

- » A provincial investment of \$14M for the Critical Food Infrastructure Fund will help provide better access to nutritious food for people living on low incomes and experiencing food insecurity. The fund is being administered by [United Way British Columbia](#) over three years from 2023-2026, and provides grants to local organizations to increase their capacity to provide nutritious and culturally appropriate food to the people who need it.
- » In 2024, provincial food security was supported through:
 - ◇ \$4.1M distributed to 65 organizations, 27 of which were Indigenous led, for smaller community projects under \$100,000;
 - ◇ 6 projects which were approved for larger infrastructure initiatives of \$1M each.

United Way BC Regional Community Food Hubs – Ongoing

- » \$7.5M in food security funding to United Way BC in 2023 builds on previous investments of \$1.27M in 2021 and \$1.4M in 2022. The funding supports people in the Interior, Lower Mainland, central and north Vancouver Island to have better access to an increased supply of affordable food through local food hubs.
- » By 2024, 105 community organizations had benefited from funding, including 23 regional community food hubs and 82 spoke organizations.

Grant to Support Network for Indigenous Women and Women of Colour – Started in 2022

- » \$350,000 in grants since 2022 support Indigenous and Black women, women of colour and their families through the Get Your Groceries program, offered through the Support Network for Indigenous Women and Women of Colour.
- » Since 2023, 4350 people have been served through the grocery gift card program.

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program – Ongoing

- » As part of B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Province provided \$5M to UBCM for the Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program. Since the program began in 2019, 161 municipalities have received a total of more than \$4.2M to support the completion of 77 poverty reduction plans and projects.

BC Non-Profit Network (BCNN) – Ongoing

- » In 2023, the Province provided \$650,000 to Vantage Point, an organization that serves other non-profits in B.C., to lead the development of a provincewide non-profit network to strengthen sector potential in supporting the people and communities they serve.
- » Funding was used to support research, planning, and data sharing regarding the state of the non-profit sector in B.C., and the development of the BCNN.
- » Additionally, funding was used to support the release of the 2023 and 2024 State of the Sector reports, providing an overview of the non-profit sector in B.C.

Period Poverty funding – Complete

- » Through a provincial grant announced in May 2022, United Way BC allocated approximately \$220,000 for 10 pilot projects that work toward the elimination of period poverty.
- » Funded pilot projects were completed by August 2023, and results contributed to a final report and recommendations (released by the Period Poverty Task Force in 2024).

Grant to Immigrant Link Centre Society – Ongoing

- » Immigrant Link Centre Society received \$300,000, building on \$50,000 in 2022, to support their free food program From Pollution to Solution, which redistributes food for people facing food insecurity while keeping surplus food out of the landfill. Additionally, the program provides opportunities for newcomers to volunteer with the not-for-profit sector in B.C.

Welcome Home Kit Program – Ongoing

- » \$1M was provided to the Social Planning and Research Council of BC in 2024, to deliver the Welcome Home Kits program as part of the Province's work to prevent and reduce chronic homelessness. The program provides kits for previously unhoused individuals who secure housing. Kits contain essential items needed to establish stable living arrangements.
- » This funding builds on a previous \$2M investment over 2022 and 2023 to establish the Welcome Home Kits program (e.g., dishes, towels, bedding). Since 2022, 3300 Welcome Home Kits have been delivered, with 1,600 of those in 2023.

Social Development and Poverty Reduction Statutes Amendment Act (Bill 7) – Completed in 2024

- » In March 2024, Bill 7 was passed, amending the Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, as well as the two Acts that govern the BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program (the Employment and Assistance Act, and the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act).
- » The updates to the PRSA set new 10-year targets to reduce the overall poverty rate by 60%, the child poverty rate by 75%, and introduced a new target to reduce the seniors' poverty rate by 50%.
- » The BCEA updates reduced barriers for people receiving income assistance and disability assistance, improved access to supports on the continuum to employment, and advance government's priorities of poverty reduction, reconciliation, and inclusive economic recovery.

Updated Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) – New in 2024

- » In July 2024, B.C. released its updated PRS. The PRS is a 10-year, cross-government plan, that identifies eight critical action areas to help break the cycle of poverty.
- » This work was informed by a broad public and distinctions-based Indigenous engagement with over 10,000 people, 70% with lived experience of poverty. Input from the engagement process is captured in two What We Heard Reports.

BCEA Exemptions and Supplements – Completed in 2024

- » In June 2024, regulatory amendments were made to better support people by ensuring they receive and retain the benefits they are eligible for and can access the assistance they need.
- » New income and asset exemptions were implemented for: payments for injury related expenses, Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment Housing Agreement payments from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, any income earned by dependent children, and proceeds from the sale of a family home.
- » Eligibility for the housing stability supplement, the crisis supplement, and the breathing device health supplement was expanded.

Disability Assistance ICBC Income Replacement Benefits – Started and completed in 2024

- » As of September 2024, people on disability assistance who are injured in a vehicle accident and receive income replacement benefits from ICBC will continue to receive those benefits without any reduction to their disability assistance.

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MARKET SERVICES

WorkBC Employment Services – Ongoing

- » WorkBC Employment Services are available to unemployed or precariously employed residents of B.C. On an annual basis, WorkBC Employment Services provides services to about 82,500 people and 35,000 clients are supported through their first year of employment.
- » WorkBC also provides services to about 13,900 people with disabilities each year and about 770 clients receive assistive technology supports at work through WorkBC Assistive Technology Services contracts.
- » The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction is working with provincial colleagues, the federal government, and Indigenous governments as well as service providers, including WorkBC Centres, to build relationships and enhance services for Indigenous Peoples.

- » In 2024, WorkBC service eligibility was expanded to a broader range of newcomers, including different types of refugee claimants, so they can access comprehensive employment services and supports.

Employability Planning Services (EPS) – Started in 2024

- » The ministry's new EPS introduced a client needs assessment to understand people's circumstances, identify barriers to employment, and determine whether they will be referred to employment services and employment obligations.
- » Clients who are deemed to be employable work with ministry staff to develop an Employability Plan that identifies obligations and/or opportunities for them to participate in employment programs, community activities, or programming designed to improve their job readiness.
- » The first phase of this service was launched in September 2024, with a small cohort of clients in Victoria.

Community-based Employment Services (CBES) – Started in 2024

- » In 2024, with funding through the Canada-BC Labour Market Development Agreement, the Province invested almost \$5M into CBES for the next three years.
- » CBES will offer individualized support for people facing complex barriers, such as unstable housing, health, mental health and substance use, to help them gain stability, confidence and have better access to employment opportunities.
- » The pilot for the CBES program was launched in Victoria B.C., followed by additional launches in Vancouver (Downtown Eastside), Surrey, Prince George, Kelowna and Nanaimo.

Trans+ Employment in B.C. Study - Ongoing

- » A \$200,000 grant to the University of Victoria to research barriers and challenges faced by Trans+ people (Trans, Nonbinary, Two-Spirit, and other gender-diverse people) in labour market and employment services, and to propose initiatives to make employment and employment services more inclusive of the Trans+ community. In 2024, this project delivered a training component for WorkBC contractors to increase staff knowledge, skill and competency in serving Trans+ clients.

Employment for Youth with Disabilities - Ongoing

- » A \$4M grant to [CanAssist](#) at University of Victoria to identify best practices, address gaps and duplications, develop strategies for the future of employment services for Youth with Disabilities and to support a provincial program that will improve employment outcomes for Youth with Disabilities. In 2024, this initiative produced a resource and information hub for youth with disabilities, employers, caregivers and educators.

Indigenous Labour Market Fund – Started 2023

- » A \$23M, three-year grant to New Relationship Trust to deliver non-repayable third-party grants to Indigenous organizations to conduct projects addressing labour market gaps in three areas: labour market studies, cultural recognition in the workplace and job fairs.
- » This initiative funded nearly 40 projects through 2024, and continues to fund new applications within the funding streams.

Links to Employment Program – Started in 2023

- » An \$8.2M provincial grant to the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) of B.C. improves employment supports for people with complex needs. The funding comes from the 2022-23 Canada-BC Labour Market Development Agreement.
- » Investing in [Links to Employment](#), a three-year program for people who have multiple and persistent barriers to employment, is part of StrongerBC's Future Ready plan.
- » Since the program's launch, CMHA has delivered services to approximately 259 people in Vancouver, Vernon, Nanaimo and Prince George, in partnership with primary care providers in each community.

WorkBC Community and Employer Partnerships (CEP) – Ongoing

- » In 2024 more than \$3.3M was committed to 16 CEP projects, which prioritizes projects that create work experience and training opportunities to prepare job seekers for available jobs and support an inclusive economic recovery in B.C. communities. Projects include:
 - ◇ **Wildfire and Integrated Natural Resources Training Program – started in 2024**
Stillwater Consulting Ltd. received more than \$363K for the Wildfire and Integrated Natural Resources Training program that provided skills training and on the job work experience opportunities to up to 12 youth in the Vanderhoof area to prepare for employment as wildfire technicians and other jobs in the natural resources and wildfire sector.
 - ◇ **Skills Training for Immigrants – started in 2024**
Okanagan College received more than \$350K to provide up to 30 Immigrants in the Kelowna area with skills training and on the job work experience to prepare for employment as community support workers.
 - ◇ **Food Industry Training for Youth and Risk – started in 2024**
Dan's Legacy Foundation provided up to 4 Youth at Risk with skills training and on the job work experience opportunities to prepare for employment in the food production and warehousing industry.

Foundry Work & Education Program – Ongoing

- » The Province is continuing to provide Foundry with an extension to their funding to administer Foundry Work and Education Program into 2026. This program provides better access to services for young people with persistent and multiple barriers to employment or education. Since the start of the program:
 - ◇ Over 1200 youth have been engaged and supported, with many of them consenting to participate in the program's research study
 - ◇ Nearly 70% of youth who have completed the program have gained employment or returned to school
 - ◇ Over 350 health, community, and employer partnerships have been developed around the province

Employment Skills for those who have experienced homelessness – started in 2024

- » This \$500,000 grant to the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria will fund 2 years of Victoria LEAP (Life Skills, Employment Skills, and Awareness Program).
- » This initiative supports the development of pre-employment training and employment readiness for those who have formerly experienced homelessness and who are contemplating employment, as well as improving access to ID for this population.

Low-Barrier Peer Support Worker Training for People with Multiple Barriers – started in 2024

- » This \$435,000 grant to Mission Possible, works to support those with multiple barriers in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside.
- » This two-year initiative provides peer support worker (PSW) training, work experience, and job search support so that those with multiple barriers can be better supported by those with lived-experience.

Peer Employment and Tax Filing Support for Poverty Reduction in DTES – started in 2024

- » This \$335,000 grant to Mission Possible, works to support poverty reduction on Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside.
- » This two-year initiative pilots an innovative peer employment model that will support individuals with multiple barriers to file their taxes with a collaborative community-based approach.

Online Training for Newcomers in the Care Economy – Started in 2024

- » This \$1.1M grant to the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of B.C. (AMSSA) will support newcomers to B.C. for three years.
- » This initiative provides free online training to help newcomers enter the human services sector, improve employment outcomes, and ease organizational pressures.

Training for Indigenous Peoples – Started in 2024

- » This \$514,000, two-year grant to the Indigenous Community for Leadership and Development (ICLD) will fund training for Nisga’a citizens and other Indigenous Peoples in the Nass Valley to become certified educational assistants.

Supportive employment services for people in recovery – Started in 2023

- » People recovering from mental-health and addiction challenges have benefited from a new three-year pilot program that integrates employment services within treatment and recovery centres. Through a \$4.9M grant, the [Canadian Mental Health Association](#) (CMHA) of BC provided people undergoing treatment at bed-based recovery centres access to employment services as part of their recovery process, gaining the skills and support needed to enter and thrive in the labour market.
- » Since the program’s launch, CMHA has delivered services to approximately 224 people in Kamloops, Nanaimo, Penticton, Vernon and Prince Rupert, in partnership with bed-based recovery providers in each community.

SERVICE DELIVERY

Community Integration Specialists – Ongoing

- » In 2019, the Province established the Community Integration Specialist role to connect underserved individuals with financial assistance and access to community supports. The community integration specialists work collaboratively with community partners and agencies, meeting individuals “where they are at.”
- » As of December 2024, the program has more than doubled, growing from an initial staff compliment of 72 to 180 community integration specialist. Positions are allocated amongst 11 teams throughout the province, based on homelessness data by census area, health authorities, complex care housing sites, partnerships with Friendship Centres, as well as Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction client data of individuals with no fixed address (including encampments).

- » As of December 2024, there are 16 current partnerships with Friendship Centres and Indigenous serving organizations throughout B.C., and 17 Community Integration Specialist staff working in collaboration with partners.

Funding enhancement for mental health and addictions recovery – Started in 2024

- » The province increased funding that many service providers rely on to deliver thousands of registered or licensed treatment and recovery beds throughout B.C. This will ensure essential-care providers, who serve eligible people receiving income and disability assistance, can continue to improve the mental-health and addictions treatment they provide in the face of rising cost pressures.
 - ◇ Registered Mental Health and Substance Use Facilities increased from \$35.90 to \$60.00
 - ◇ Licenced Mental Health and Substance Use Facilities increased from \$45.00 to \$70.00

Access to Benefits Advocacy Fund – Ongoing

- » The Province awarded the Vancouver Foundation a \$5M grant over five years to establish an advocacy fund for advocacy organizations to support ministry clients to access unclaimed benefits such as Canadian Pension Plan Disability, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canadian Dental Care Plan, and any other federal or provincial benefits they may be eligible for. In addition, advocates will be able to assist clients with filing income tax, obtaining identification, etc.
- » A total of 32 advocacy organizations were awarded \$150,000 over five payments to expand their services of providing assistance to access unclaimed benefits. The following number of organizations chosen fall within the following categories:
 - ◇ Nine Indigenous-serving organizations
 - ◇ 10 smaller and/or rural-serving organizations
 - ◇ Nine large urban-population-serving organizations
 - ◇ Four provincewide and/or regional-mandate organizations

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Expansion of the Accessibility Professional Network – Started in 2022

- » The Province provided \$2.5M in grants, which will expand the Accessibility Professional Network throughout the province and increase use of the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification rating.

Accessibility supports for people with disabilities – Started in 2023

- » People with temporary and permanent disabilities, seniors and parents with strollers are benefiting from accessibility improvements supported by \$5M in provincial funding to the [Rick Hansen Foundation](#).

Grant to BC Spinal Cord Injury Community Services Network– Started in 2022

- » A range of community services for people with disabilities throughout B.C. will be expanded, thanks to a provincial grant of \$3M over three years. With the renewed funding, B.C. supports the BC Spinal Cord Injury Community Services Network so it can continue to focus on initiatives to improve inclusion for people with disabilities.

Provincial Accessibility Committee (PAC) – Started in 2021

- » In January 2023, PAC began work to develop the first accessibility standards under the Accessible BC Act. These standards will aim to reduce barriers to accessibility related to employment and the receipt of goods and services.
- » PAC initiated public consultation on these standards in spring 2024.

Accessibility Grants – Ongoing

- » In May 2023, as part of the Province’s ongoing commitment to increasing accessibility and improving community inclusion, the Province announced funding for community-based accessibility projects. 12 applicants have been selected to receive grants up to \$40,000.

Accessible BC Act – Started in 2021

- » The Accessible BC Act establishes a legal framework for government to work with people with disabilities and the broader community to address barriers to full and equal participation. The legislation allows for the development of accessibility standards in a range of different areas.
- » The first two standards being developed are on accessible service delivery and employment accessibility. The proposed standards were developed between January 2023 and April 2024 and released in draft form for public consultation from May 31 to July 31, 2024.
- » Key actions taken between 2021 and 2023 to implement the Accessible BC Act include the publication of AccessibleBC: B.C.’s Three-Year Accessibility Plan, establishment of B.C.’s Provincial Accessibility Committee, and establishment of an accessibility feedback tool.
- » In 2022, the Province adopted the Accessible BC Regulation which establishes new accessibility requirements for more than 750 organizations across B.C.’s public sector.

Local Government Accessibility Grants – Started in 2023

- » The Province provided \$5M to the Social Planning and Research Council of BC to support local government accessibility initiatives with grants of up to \$25,000.

COMMUNITY LIVING BC

Community Living BC (CLBC) funded employment support services: Ongoing.

- » People with developmental disabilities who are eligible for CLBC services received support to return to the workforce and increase their digital literacy.
- » Following COVID-19 and starting in fiscal year 2020-21, a one-time grant funding of \$10M supported CLBC to hire additional employment support staff to help people find or reconnect to employment through support with job searching, assisting people in understanding workplace requirements and helping people reconnect with former employers, and this work continued in 2024.
- » CLBC’s commitment to employment is evidenced by increased capacity of 41% with a continued high demand for the service. March 2024 data reported 2,510 individuals receiving employment services with a 68% employment rate.
- » CLBC dedicated \$26.3M for employment services in fiscal year 2023-24.
- » Changing Attitudes toward employment for people with disabilities: Ongoing

- ◇ Envisioned by Reimagining Community Inclusion (RCI), InclusionBC was provided a one-time grant funding of \$1M in 2022 to develop success stories as a vehicle to develop partnerships, platforms, videos and social media in a concerted effort to increase employment for people with disabilities in the open labour market. This initiative carried forward into 2024.
- » Indigenous Led Employment Services: Ongoing
 - ◇ In 2022, CLBC provided a total of \$350,000 of grant funding for the following initiatives, which work continued in 2024:
 - Cultural Safety focused training for service providers, both CLBC and WorkBC delivered through the BC Employment Network.
 - An Indigenous Employment Research project contracted through Indigenous Community for Leadership and Development (ICLD) for the purpose of understanding current Indigenous led employment services offered in the province that may be serving CLBC eligible individuals. Follow-up plans include pursuing Indigenous led employment services for people who are CLBC eligible.
- » Supported Employment Sector Training- Started April 2022: Ongoing
 - ◇ The BC Employment Network through Kyndred Society was granted a one-time grant funding of \$300,000 over three years to deliver six supported employment trainings for service provider front line staff of both CLBC and WorkBC. These courses are in high demand and fully subscribed.
- » Employer Development- Ongoing
 - ◇ Through a one-time \$1M grant in 2022, InclusionBC will provide support to employer groups (Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trade, Rotary) and projects through strategic planning, outreach and engagement. This initiative continued in 2024.

Supporting Provincial Leadership of People with Developmental Disabilities – Ongoing

- » Through this initiative, Community Living BC (CLBC) is increasing the number of people with developmental disabilities in leadership roles. This ensures that people with lived experience are involved in decision making processes that affect them.
 - ◇ The Service Delivery Advisor roles have expanded to include two new positions and the CLBC Welcome Workshop Presenter role remains in place.
 - ◇ The CLBC Accessibility Advisory Committee is made up of people with lived experience to guide and support CLBC's accessibility work plan.
- » Approximately \$105,000 was invested in 2023-24, through a one-time grant funding, to support the leadership of people with developmental disabilities, including funding for:
 - ◇ Provincial self advocacy organization, BC People First (BCPF), operational activities that support leadership building skills, peer mentorship, and rights education and awareness by and for people with developmental disabilities.
 - ◇ A shared policy working group between CLBC and BCPF.
 - ◇ Workshops led by Empowering Self Advocates to take Action Cooperative that mentor people with developmental disabilities to speak up and plan for a life they desire.

- ◇ Local community building projects to strengthen inclusion and accessibility led by people with developmental disabilities in partnership with city leaders and other community-based organizations around B.C.

Expansion of Grants/ Initiatives – Ongoing

- » CLBC extended and/or expanded a number of innovation grants to improve CLBC policy and practice, which initiative carried forward into 2024, including:
 - ◇ \$300,000 provided to UBC in fiscal 2021/22 to conduct research exploring the experiences of parents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. In 2024 UBC began to conduct research exploring gender and employment (GBA+), to investigate gender-related employment disparities, aiming to improve employment equity through tailored learning programs.
 - ◇ Approximately \$118,900 was invested into a Society for Families Supporting Regular Equitable Authentic Lives to carry out the Project known as Families Supporting Regular Equitable Authentic Lives. This will directly enhance the quality of life for adults with developmental disabilities and their families, enabling them to thrive in a society that values and supports their contributions.

Inclusive Housing Initiative – Ongoing

- » CLBC sponsored Inclusive Housing sessions at the Housing Central Conference and local Regional Education, Networking & Tradeshow events to raise awareness for the need of inclusive housing outside of the community living sector. Approximately \$35,000 was invested in the initiative in 2024.
- » Building on prior work with key community partners, and as a component of Re-imagining Community Inclusion, CLBC is focusing work on cultural safety for Indigenous people, including housing initiatives and exploring options to close the gap between current income and affordable housing rates.
- » CLBC has implemented a project to forecast future housing needs which will assist local governments, housing developers, and non-profit providers to better understand where and what type of housing is needed for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- » CLBC, Co-Operative Housing Federation of BC and the Community Land Trust signed an MoU in September 2024 to ensure all future co-operative housing will have units available for CLBC eligible individuals. This initiative this will provide accessible, inclusive, and affordable housing for individuals with diverse abilities.
- » By Q3 of fiscal 2024/25, individuals accessing residential services increased as follows: independent living supports (24), home sharing (47), staffed living (56).

LIFE-based services – Ongoing

- » In 2023-24, CLBC invested \$6.8M to its LIFE services (with goals for learning, inclusion, friendship and employment), offering 30 programs in total, across all five of CLBC's regions.
- » CLBC hosted the learning event "Beyond Collaboration: Employment and Learning, Inclusion, Friendship and Employment Summit" in February 2024 to focus on collaboration amongst employment and LIFE service providers and CLBC, while providing input into best practices.
- » Data for March 2024 reported 249 individuals participating in LIFE services with nearly 50% of people employed.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORT

KidSport BC – Ongoing

- » Sport BC's (a non-profit organization) KidSport BC program provides grants to lower-income families to help cover the costs of a season of sport. In 2024, the Province's annual contribution of \$400,000 was part of the \$3.6M in grants that KidSport provided to more than 10,600 kids for sport registration fees.

Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I-SPARC) – Ongoing

- » \$1.4M in annual funding to I-SPARC to support Indigenous sport, recreation and physical activity programming in B.C.

RISE Grant Program | Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I-SPARC) – Ongoing

- » RISE grants support youth in and from care to pursue sport, physical activity, recreation and cultural activities, with funding towards registration fees, equipment and travel. In fiscal year 2024/25, the RISE Grant Program distributed 1,423 individual grants. The Province provided I-SPARC with \$3.5M in one-time funding in fiscal 2022-23 to support the RISE Grant Program over 5 years.

BC Sport Participation Program (BCSPP) – Ongoing

- » The Province continued its partnership with the federal government to jointly fund the BCSPP and Indigenous youth programs.
- » In 2024, \$1.3M was provided to support sports and physical activity opportunities for underrepresented populations (e.g., low income, Indigenous, new Canadians, females, living with a disability and older adult populations). This investment includes one-time funding support for participation in adaptive sport programming, and to strengthen physical literacy for children and youth.

After-School Sport and Arts Initiative – Ongoing

- » \$1.4M in annual funding to bring free sport, physical activity, and creative arts programming to 22 school districts throughout the province with a focus on children and youth (grades K-8) and female secondary students (grades 9-12) who face barriers to sport or arts participation.

Creative Pathways – Ongoing

- » In 2024, this industry initiative was funded by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (\$300,000 in FY 24/25 for Creative Pathways and Reel Green combined) to increase workforce capacity and provide clear entry points into the motion picture industry, with streams for equity-seeking groups.

Creative BC – Ongoing

- » Creative BC incorporates JEDDI values (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Decolonization and Inclusion) across all funding programs.
- » This includes hiring consultants from underserved cultural communities to lead outreach activities, offering one-on-one grant coaching sessions, and applying weighted criteria and prioritization across all funding programs.
- » In 2024, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport provided \$3.215M in operational funding to Creative BC.

Amplify BC Programs – Ongoing

- » In calendar year 2024, Creative BC distributed \$4.2M through seven Amplify BC programs to support 325 B.C. musicians and music companies in developing their careers and businesses:
 - ◇ **Career Development Program** supported 105 emerging and established artists in B.C. with more than \$1.1M.
 - ◇ **Record in BC Program** provided almost \$350,000 to 21 projects.
 - ◇ **Music Industry Initiatives program** assisted 19 projects with \$400,000.
 - ◇ **Live Music Program** supported 78 B.C.-based live music events and business-development activities with nearly \$1.4M.
 - ◇ **Demo Recording Program** supported 53 new and emerging artists from systemically excluded groups with \$106,000 to create demo recordings.
 - ◇ **Music Company Program** supported 32 music companies with \$628,933.
 - ◇ **Business Foundations Program** supported 21 small music businesses with \$209,572.
- » Creative BC also provided \$1.4M in Amplify BC funding in 2024 for Music BC’s training programs, travel grants, and an accelerator program for recording artists.

First Peoples’ Cultural Council (FPCC) funding – Ongoing

- » Amplify BC provided \$750,000 to the FPCC in 2024 to support Indigenous artists and industry professionals. This funding facilitates expanded opportunities for mentorship, access to recording studios, and development of artists from Indigenous communities.
- » BC Arts Council provides \$1.725M in annual funding to the FPCC to support the Arts Program, a continuation of a 25-year-plus partnership to directly support First Nation artists, communities and cultural practices.

Knowledge Network: No-cost, commercial-free programming – Ongoing

- » Knowledge Network offers quality, commercial free educational programming on broadcast television, streaming at Knowledge.ca and KnowledgeKids.ca, and through their Knowledge Kids and Knowledge apps, including made-in-Canada content for kids and adults.
- » TACS provides Knowledge Network with ongoing operational funding in support of this work: \$6.611M for 2023/24 and \$6.611M for 2024/25.

Indigenous Tourism funding – 2023-2026 – Ongoing

- » In 2023, \$6M was provided to [Indigenous Tourism BC](#) over three years to deliver the Indigenous Tourism Training Initiative that provides a range of free, culturally centered workshops, professional certifications, and work placement programs for Indigenous employers and employees. To date, more than 1,000 individuals have taken part in the training programs. Some of the programs available through the initiative include Occupational, Marine, and Wilderness First Aid, SuperHost Certification, FOODSAFE, Indigenous Ambassador training, Developing and Packaging Tourism Products, Building Sustainable Tourism Businesses, and Tourism Digital Marketing Essentials.

Destination BC (DBC) - Ongoing

- » Since 2023, DBC has been implementing its three-year diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility corporate strategy and road map as part of a commitment to telling B.C.'s stories through a diversity of voices.
- » DBC regularly works with an Accessibility and Inclusion Committee, furthering its goal to authentically identify, remove, and prevent barriers to individuals in, or interacting with, DBC in the pursuit of a more inclusive and accessible tourism industry.

BC Pavilion Corporation (PavCo) - 2024

- » PavCo continued multiple initiatives in 2024 to support inclusive and equitable access to its facilities, BC Place and the Vancouver Convention Centre:
 - ◇ Partnerships with Chef Andrew George and the Hope and Health Society, and a new partnership with the Orange Shirt Society.
 - ◇ Increasing the number of Indigenous gatherings and events hosted, and event ticket donations to several Indigenous groups including the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society and Urban Native Youth Association.
 - ◇ Hosting the Vancouver Pride Parade Pit stop at BC Place for the second consecutive year, and several youth related community events and partnerships including the Canuck Autism Network Sports Day and Kids Up Front Movie Night.
 - ◇ Welcomed numerous fundraising charitable galas throughout the year, hosted thousands of worshippers for the Eid al-Adha prayers, and partnered with the Cause We Care Foundation to support the assembly of more than 1,200 holiday care packages for single mothers and their families.

Royal BC Museum and BC Archives (the Museum)

- » The Museum began and continued multiple initiatives in 2024 to address affordability, and support inclusive and equitable access:
 - ◇ Free use of learning outreach kits for the public, free educator resources and access to the online Learning Portal, regularly updated with new content.
 - ◇ Complimentary admission to the Royal BC Museum during regular operating hours to self-identified Indigenous Peoples.
 - ◇ Complimentary admission to B.C. school children through educator group bookings.
 - ◇ Introduced pilot program "MyMuseum Pass" with the City of Victoria L.I.F.E. program providing free Museum admission to individuals and families living on a low income.
 - ◇ Provided a series of free online and in-person community engagement events, including special free screenings at IMAX® Victoria.
 - ◇ Admission by donation several days throughout the year, including B.C. Family Day.

BC Arts Council (BCAC) – Ongoing with new projects

- » BCAC distributes approximately \$37M each year to support individuals, not-for-profit organizations and collectives throughout B.C.

- » In 2022, BCAC extended its 2018-2022 strategic plan through the Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022-2024. This includes:
 - ◇ Ongoing accessibility programs (first piloted in fiscal 2021/22) for arts and culture practitioners who are deaf or have a disability and for deaf or disability-serving organizations.
 - ◇ Another round of the two-year Accelerate program to improve access and reduce barriers to funding for equity-deserving and regional arts and culture organizations and collectives. The program was first piloted in 2023.
 - ◇ A second cycle of a year-long, cohort-based, no-cost program that provides arts, culture and heritage organizations and practitioners with learnings and resources to integrate equity and access in their work and organizations.
- » In 2024, BCAC implemented:
 - ◇ An Indigenous Arts Advisory Circle, convened to guide the development and realization of an Indigenous Arts strategy – as part of BCAC’s commitment to upholding the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act guided by principles of cultural vitality and self-determination.

Community Gaming Grants (CGG) – ongoing

- » CGG provide approximately \$140M each year to support nearly 5,000 not-for-profit organizations that deliver services to people throughout B.C.
- » Over 1,300 not-for-profit organizations in the human and social services sector received more than \$57M in grants to programs delivered in communities provincewide. Funding is distributed under the human and social services sector to food banks, shelters, domestic violence supports, hospice, counselling services and others. Nearly \$3.7M of this funding was provided to 50 organizations for emergency social services; over \$1.5M was provided to 20 not-for-profit organizations to deliver mental health and substance use programming to youth. To address food security, 92 community organizations received more than \$5.4M to help deliver food security programs in 2024.
- » More than \$2M was provided to 22 organizations in the human and social services sector to complete capital projects that provide significant benefit to their communities.
- » CGG are funding more than 1,400 parent advisory councils to help school-aged children experience extracurricular activities and enhance their education. In total, over \$12M in CGG is supporting parent advisory councils and district parent advisory councils in the 2024-25 school year.

MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Coastal Marine Strategy – Started in 2024

- » The strategy’s 20-year vision supports the long-term resilience of shared marine resources, renews the Province’s leadership role in its marine environment and directly benefits nearly three-quarters of the province’s population who live on or near the coast. Notably:
 - ◇ As the first comprehensive made-in-B.C. coastal marine strategy, co-developed with many First Nations, the Strategy contains several actions that support indigenous self-determination (Action 17) and advancing collaborative stewardship (Action 18).

- ◇ With respect to supporting employment, Action 11 calls on the Province to build talent in marine industries including marine based education and certification programs, while Action 12 identifies ways in which the marine workforce can be diversified.
- ◇ Priority setting and implementation efforts are ongoing.

Great Bear Sea Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative – Started in 2024

- » Co-initiative between the Government of Canada, the Government of B.C., and 17 First Nations to create a co-governance structure to protect and conserve marine wildlife and habitats, advance ongoing Marine Protected Area management, and stewardship over the long-term, and create thousands of new jobs that will contribute to a sustainable coastal economy.
- » The Indigenous-led Great Bear Sea PFP initiative bring \$335M in new investments to the area known as the Northern Shelf Bioregion and the Great Bear Sea. Contributions include \$200M from the Government of Canada, \$60M from the Province, and \$75M from philanthropic organizations in Canada and around the world.
- » The PFP funding provides long-term funding for the implementation and management of the Marine Protected Area Network in the Great Bear Sea, contributing to sustainable economies and food security for generations.

Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) – Started in 2015

- » Central Coast MaPP partners have conducted extensive research to promote Nation-owned shellfish aquaculture. This work aligns with the Central Coast Nations’ priorities of fostering new, sustainable economic opportunities while managing fisheries for future generations. Since 2016, annual work plans have included activities to advance Pacific geoduck (*Panopea generosa*) aquaculture.
- » Four pilot sites were studied to understand the biophysical suitability of intertidal geoduck aquaculture.
- » MaPP partners have gained insights into site selection, permitting, seed acquisition, and other logistics necessary for developing geoduck aquaculture on the Central Coast (Completed 2024).
- » The next step is to assess the financial feasibility of aquaculture activities and the economic benefits it can bring to communities.

Natural Resource Permitting Strategy – Ongoing

- » Permitting plays a critical role in land and resource management to support a thriving economy, environmental stewardship and reconciliation objectives.
- » Targeted, short term, time sensitive, project specific decisions are supported through internal government initiatives designed to expedite projects that will benefit the province’s economy across energy, natural gas and mining sectors.
- » Efforts are being made to reduce the number of applications needed, streamline processes between government departments, and fast-track key projects that support provincial priorities like economic growth.
- » The B.C. Government is streamlining and simplifying the way permits are issued. The work entails coordinating the permit process based on priority initiatives, such as a focus on applications that get people in homes faster (housing), connect remote communities to high-speed internet (connectivity), and supply clean, affordable electricity to serve B.C.’s growing communities and housing needs (electrification).

» Housing

- ◇ The Permitting Strategy for Housing streamlines the process and creates a single, coordinated approach to housing-related permits across the Natural Resource Ministries and Ministry of Transportation and Transit.
- ◇ A cross-ministry Housing Action Taskforce continued to prioritize criteria for housing projects across natural resource ministries and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit in 2024, including accelerating permitting for housing, and prioritizing housing projects that focus on social housing, rental housing, and projects that are Indigenous-led and provide the highest number of housing units.
- ◇ As of December 31, 2024, 100% of the provincial housing baseline backlog established April 2023 was cleared and the average number of days a housing application takes to get reviewed reduced from 257 to 108 days.
- ◇ Decisions made between March, 2023 and December 31, 2024 have the potential to create approximately 260,000 new housing units in B.C.

» Connectivity

- ◇ The Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship is working in partnership with the Ministry of Citizens' Services to accelerate natural resource permitting for connectivity projects. These projects enable remote, rural and indigenous communities to access high-speed internet, facilitating online access for critical services like health, education and employment.
- ◇ 2024 efforts included working closely across the natural resource ministries and with BC Hydro to review proposed connectivity projects early, resolve issues with Internet Service Providers and coordinate permits required for projects through the development of an Area Hub Team.
- ◇ The B.C. and Federal governments have provided \$830M in funding to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to achieve the provincial target and Section 4.36 deliverable in the Declaration Act Action Plan, to connect all households in B.C. to high-speed internet by March 31, 2027.
- ◇ Permitting work on government funded connectivity projects helped contribute to improved high speed internet access for over 152,000 B.C. households in 2024, opening the door to new services and opportunities including access to low-cost internet plans provided philanthropically by TELUS, Rogers and NorthwTel.

» Electrification

- ◇ The Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship is working in partnership with other ministries to accelerate natural resource permitting for electrification projects, including ten clean energy projects selected by BC Hydro through its 2024 Call for Power. These projects will expand B.C.'s electricity supply enough to power 500,000 new homes while ensuring rates are affordable for people and creating thousands of jobs in B.C. First Nations are key equity partners in the 2024 Call for power projects.

First Nations Land Transfers – Ongoing

- » Thirty three parcels were transferred through reconciliatory agreements. This includes parcels that transferred in fee simple to 16 First Nations, and three Treaty Land Entitlement First Nations are working with the federal government to add land transferred to Canada to their reserves.. This represents 1000% increase, or 10-fold increase in land returns and transfers benefiting First Nations. Over sixty parcels are targeted for transfer in Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and work is ongoing with First Nation partners to implement agreements across the province that will directly benefit First Nation cultural protection and economic interests, including housing and other community or regional initiatives.

Stewardship – Ongoing

- » In April 2023, the Province committed \$8.9M over three years to partner with First Nations representatives to develop the Guardians and Stewardship Training Initiative (GSTI). Guardians increase the capacity of First Nations to steward and govern their land and waters and partner with B.C. on co-management initiatives. In 2024, over \$3.0M was provided to 19 First Nations for guardians training under the GSTI.
- » There are several other initiatives in the collaborative stewardship context that work to support sustainable economic development, including the Marine Plan Partnership and Marine Protected Areas Network, the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement, the Aboriginal Liaison Program, Modernized Land Use Planning and Forest Landscape Planning Projects, and the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework.
- » In 2024 the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework expanded to add 3 new regional collaborative stewardship forums.
- » The CISF program spends \$14M annually on average and now supports 11 regional stewardship forums involving over 150 First Nations.

Salmon habitat and population management - Ongoing

- » [British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund](#) (BCSRIF) has been a successful joint initiative with the federal government to deliver funding to projects that support the protection and revitalization of wild salmon in B.C., and improve the sustainability of the fish and seafood sector.
- » The 97 projects funded through Phase 1 of BCSRIF were completed in March 2024, using the initial investment of \$142.85M.
- » In June 2024, the federal and provincial government announced \$39.4M for 15 projects receiving funding under the second phase of the BCSRIF.
- » The funding for Phase 2 of BCSRIF has now been fully allocated towards 73 ongoing projects that will be complete by March 2026.
- » There has been significant involvement of First Nations within projects, with about 40% of projects led by Indigenous groups and over 20% of projects having First Nations partnerships.
- » Through BCSRIF funded projects, 2,773 jobs have been created, and 2,469 people have received training as part of the project activities.
- » As part of the proponent surveys of BCSRIF projects a Gender Based Analysis Plus assessment of the demographic makeup of project teams is undertaken. These stats indicate that Women (94%), Indigenous Peoples (71%) and Students, Youth or Children (48%) are well represented in projects throughout the program. Significant opportunities that remain to increase the workforce diversity of the program include Veterans (6%), Persons with Disabilities (7%) and New Canadians (17%).
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Ministry of
Social Development
and Poverty Reduction