

Guardian Compass

Navigating BC Public Service Connections

July 2026

About this Document:

A Comprehensive Resource: This document is intended to be a comprehensive resource developed through collaboration between the BC Guardians Working Group¹ and the provincial government, with the goal of providing information to help First Nation Guardians as they work in their territories. The document aims to provide navigational guidance to help First Nations Guardians or Land and Resource Departments to connect with key parts of the public service and provide foundational information to assist with: understanding emergency response protocols, supporting territorial stewardship, fostering compliance, and facilitating partnerships and relationship-building. This document will continuously evolve and improve through co-development and feedback, ensuring it remains accurate and responsive to the needs of First Nations Guardians.

While this document provides a one-stop source for information, it serves as a high-level introduction and First Nations Guardians programs are encouraged to seek additional detail and explanation on specific topics as required.

Organized around Guardian functions: “Guardians” is an umbrella term used to refer to a variety of programs led by First Nations, including, but not limited to: Liaisons, Watchmen, Rangers, Stewards, Nation Patrol, Territorial Patrol, Field Technicians and Environmental Monitors. This document was developed and organized to align with our understanding of the key functions that Guardians are often performing for their Nations. The document emphasizes the opportunities for interactions and partnerships with provincial agencies.

¹ A technical Guardians Working Group was established in April 2023 to support co-development of the Guardians and Stewardship Training Initiative and future pathways for Guardians. It includes 25 First Nations and First Nation Organizations, representing 77 First Nations in B.C. Please see Appendix 4: Acknowledgements for the list of participating Nations and Agencies, with gratitude.

Introduction

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For questions related to this document, or to report updates required (dead links, new information, etc.), please contact Reconciliation Programs and Agreements Branch at the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship: NRS.ReconciliationPolicy@gov.bc.ca

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Section 1 – Interfacing With Compliance and Enforcement Agencies

Safety Disclaimer:

This section includes information on how to identify and report potential offences to provincial compliance and enforcement agencies. Remember:

- **If you see an immediate threat to public safety or a life-threatening situation, call 911**
- If 911 service is not available in your area, call your local police, fire or ambulance service
- Always use caution when approaching the scene of a potential offence and avoid talking to possible suspects in situations that may be dangerous
- Generally, observe and gather information from a safe distance
- If possible, it is usually better to leave questioning of suspects to agency officials or peace officers
- If there is a pollutant, and you are not sure what it is, STAY BACK
- Call in backup help earlier rather than later
- Contact the responsible government agency
- Remember that it can be an offence for you to interfere with a person who is hunting, fishing, guiding or trapping if the person has a licence or permit and is not committing any offences while doing so [[s.80 Wildlife Act](#)]
- Unless otherwise specified in an agreement with a provincial agency, you do not have the legal powers of provincial government officials, including to stop and board vessels, detain people to investigate, demand identification or seize gear

B.C.'s natural resource agencies have a mandate to protect, manage and conserve the water, land, air and living resources in B.C. Partnerships with First Nations, municipal and federal governments are critical to advancing this mandate. The B.C. government creates and applies laws that protect the environment and community health and safety. Our compliance and enforcement (C and E) activities ensure these laws are being followed.

- **Compliance**, or regulatory compliance, verifies, supports and educates people and businesses to follow the rules and requirements placed on them
- **Enforcement** includes actions such as issuing tickets, administrative penalties and prosecution that place consequences on people and businesses who break the rules placed on them

In an effort to enhance understanding of C and E in B.C.'s natural resource sector (NRS) and support relationship-building between NRS agencies and First Nations, the C and E section of the Navigating the B.C. Public Service document includes:

- A high-level overview of B.C.'s approach to C and E across the NRS
- How to identify and report natural resource violations
- An overview of the unique roles, functions and authorities of NRS agencies in compliance management, including examples of relevant collaborations with First Nations.

Context: Natural Resource Sector Compliance Management In B.C.

Provincial NRS agencies are responsible for ensuring C and E of a broad suite of regulations aimed at protecting, managing and conserving water, land, air and living resources in B.C. They ensure the protection of B.C.'s environment, natural resources and public safety through the effective and efficient enforcement of B.C.'s laws and regulations. NRS agencies play a critical role in ensuring compliance with these regulatory requirements. Consequently, C and E activities undertaken across the sector to achieve this are wide ranging and diverse.

B.C. Natural Resource Agencies (Ministries and Organizations)

There are 10 NRS ministries and organizations in B.C. with responsibilities set out in legislation (Acts that are approved by the legislature) or regulation (rules created by persons or bodies that the legislature has given the authority to make through an Act, such as the governor in council or a minister)². [A list of Ministries and Acts is found here.](#)

1. [Ministry of Agriculture and Food](#) (AF)
2. [Ministry of Environment and Parks](#) (ENV)
 - [Environmental Assessment Office](#) (EAO - Crown Agency)
3. [Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions](#) (ECM)
4. [Ministry of Forests](#) (FOR)
5. [Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#) (IRR)
6. [Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals](#) (MCM)
7. [Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship](#) (WLRS)
8. [Agricultural Land Commission](#) (ALC)
9. [BC Energy Regulator](#) (BCER - Crown Agency)

Refer to the “Compliance and Enforcement in the NRS Agencies” section of this document for information about the roles and responsibilities of the various C and E agencies across the NRS.

A Note on Partnerships

Natural resource agencies have a variety of other provincial, municipal, federal and First Nations partners, each of whom have their own complementary roles and responsibilities, many of which are codified in Indigenous laws and provincial or federal legislation or regulations. B.C. NRS resource agencies aim to work with First Nations in the spirit and intent of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP), with recognition that further work is required to determine a new relationship between B.C. and First Nations in regard to C and E and

² For more information about B.C.’s legislative framework, you can explore B.C.’s [Legislation Made Easy](#) booklet or Canada’s [How New Laws Are Created](#) website.

reconciliation and to align with B.C.'s [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act).

Close co-ordination and collaboration with First Nations are often required for C and E work, and frequently results in joint monitoring, patrols, inspections and investigations. In some cases, provincial C and E agencies and First Nations may explore designated or delegated C and E authorities to advance shared stewardship and conservation objectives, such as the [Guardian Shared Compliance and Enforcement Pilot Project](#) between BC Parks, Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation and Nuxalk Nation. Partnerships play an important role in C and E, and the provincial compliance regime is strengthened by First Nation community members with intimate knowledge of the land, access to Indigenous science, and collaboration with subject matter experts.

For more information about how each NRS agency collaborates with First Nations in C and E activities, refer to "Compliance and Enforcement in the NRS Agencies" (pg. 21-42).

Compliance Management Framework

While each of the B.C. NRS agencies are distinct, they all share a common culture of C and E which requires a unique skillset and approach to public service. Moreover, many compliance issues are complex and require co-ordinated approaches, and solutions often lie across multiple units, regions, divisions or agencies. Accordingly, NRS staff co-ordinate and collaborate efforts with the goal of achieving high rates of compliance.

Compliance Principles

Compliance principles are an overarching component of B.C.'s Compliance Management Framework: Natural Resource Agencies' Approach to Ensuring Compliance (Compliance Management Framework), reflecting core values fundamental to the design of the Framework. These principles are used by staff to guide the implementation of compliance-related activities within their respective agency:

- Establish priorities based on risk

- Encourage shared stewardship
- Be accountable and transparent
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement

To learn about what each of these principles entails, see pg. 9 of B.C.'s [Compliance Management Framework \(PDF\)](#).

B.C.'s NRS Model for Ensuring Compliance

The compliance model followed by B.C. NRS agencies provides a variety of options for achieving compliance and emphasizes the need for staff to use the best available information to assess each case on its own merits.

The model involves:

1. **Setting Requirements:** Setting requirements in regulations that are clear, practical, measurable and enforceable
 - **NRS Vision:** Regulatory requirements are set in a manner that:
 - Best achieves desired outcomes
 - Can be readily understood and complied with by regulated parties
 - Considers the social and economic costs and feasibility associated with compliance
 - **Examples of Requirement-Setting Activities:**
 - Establish acts or regulations, or conduct regulatory reviews
 - Consult with industry associations or other advisory groups on requirements
 - Prepare authorizations (e.g., permits, licences)
2. **Promoting Compliance:** Promoting these requirements to ensure they are widely known by the regulated community (for example, for wildlife, one regulated community could be hunters) and the public in ways that encourage individuals and businesses to voluntarily comply,

- **NRS Vision:** When implementing a new regulatory requirement, promotion is the first activity undertaken to ensure that all regulated parties are aware of and understand the requirement with which they are expected to comply
 - To help ensure ongoing compliance, compliance promotion activities and tools are used to achieve the highest possible rates of **voluntary compliance**
 - These activities may include public education, industry education, compliance assistance and recognition, deterrence and incentive activities
 - **Examples of Compliance Promoting Activities and Tools:**
 - Guidelines or best management practices (e.g., Streamside Crossing Guidelines and [Mining and Smelting Waste Guidelines](#))
 - Public information and education materials (e.g., [Hunting Synopsis](#), Options for Wood Waste Use and Disposal Under Provincial Legislation)
 - Outreach and education (e.g., public meetings, field contacts, industry workshops, media, social media)
 - Specific compliance assistance, including tailored guidance materials and detailed technical papers (e.g., for the mining industry)
3. **Verifying Compliance:** Verifying through monitoring, inspections and audits that individuals and businesses are meeting their regulatory requirements, and
- **NRS Vision:** Verification activities may be scheduled or conducted with little to no advance warning, depending on consideration of risk (i.e., actual or potential impact to the environment, human health, safety or Crown resources and revenue, and the likelihood of occurrence), as well as the need to maintain an appropriate level of contact with regulated parties

- **Responding to Non-Compliance:** If compliance verification reveals non-compliance with a regulatory requirement, staff assess the situation and determine an appropriate response, taking into consideration the facts specific to the situation, as well as the need for general deterrence
- Staff also assess the need to inform or collaborate with any other partners
- **Examples of Compliance Verification Activities:** Compliance monitoring, inspection and audit activities that natural resource agencies employ to determine if parties are meeting regulatory requirements
 - In addition to verification activities, compliance information may also be obtained from external parties, such as self-reported information from regulated parties or reports of offenders from the public and First Nations (see “Reporting Environmental and Natural Resource Violations” section on pg. 16 for more information)
- 4. **Enforcing Requirements:** Where regulatory requirements are not met and, where appropriate, compelling compliance through enforcement actions.
 - **NRS Vision:** Consistent, fair and predictable responses to non-compliance that are appropriate for the alleged violation and encourage ongoing deterrence
 - **Examples of Enforcement Actions:**
 - Administrative enforcement actions include advisories, warnings, orders, administrative penalties and administrative sanctions
 - Prosecutorial enforcement actions include violation tickets and court prosecutions

- Some agencies use restorative justice as an alternative to prosecution

Looking for more information? These four components of the compliance model are described in greater detail in pages 11-16 of B.C.'s [Compliance Management Framework](#). You can also refer to "How to Identify and Report Natural Resource Violations" (pg.12-16) for more details about specific C and E roles, actions and tools.

Ensuring Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Compliance Management

Performance Management

Performance management involves tracking and analyzing compliance information to determine whether program adjustments need to be made. It is an essential component of informed decision-making around priority setting and resource allocation. Performance management involves addressing the following:

- What compliance activities or projects were accomplished this year?
- Are we achieving the expected compliance outcomes?
- Do we need to adjust our approach in any way?
- What data is available to inform program management decisions?

Read more about B.C.'s approach to performance management on pg. 17 of B.C.'s [Compliance Management Framework](#).

Communicating Results

Many people are interested in learning the results of natural resource C and E activities. As part of a commitment to openness, transparency and public accountability, B.C. strives to clearly communicate these results by addressing the following:

- Who needs to know about B.C.'s C and E work (e.g., regulated parties, Indigenous Peoples, public, staff)?
- What type of information do they need?
- What is the most effective and appropriate way to communicate?

To facilitate and streamline reporting on C and E activities, NRS agencies have adopted a one-window approach, the Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database (NRCED).

NRCED is an online public database that publishes C and E actions undertaken by B.C.'s NRS agencies, including inspections, orders, violation tickets, administrative penalties, court convictions and more. Actions in the database cover a wide range of regulated activities, and provide records of compliance and non-compliance (for instance, failing to comply with discharge permits, hunting out of season, and applying pesticides unsafely). Both individuals and companies are subject to these actions and publication of records.

Proactive public disclosure of C and E actions promotes compliance with regulatory requirements and demonstrates B.C.'s commitment to transparency and accountability. Proactive public disclosure efforts have continued to evolve since they were first initiated in 2005. NRCED now contains over 120,000 records, with fine amounts totaling \$45 million. New records are added each day, reflecting the work of nine B.C. agencies under 40+ different provincial and federal statutes.

Access the NRCED database here: [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database](#). Any questions about the NRCED database can be directed to: NRCED@gov.bc.ca

Note: NRCED does not account for the C and E actions of all B.C. C and E agencies:

- For C and E information on energy resource activities across the province, navigate to the BC Energy Regulator's [C and E website](#)
- For inspection reports and related enforcement actions for major mines, visit the [BC Mine Information Website](#)
 - See [enforcement action records](#)

Read more about B.C.'s approach to communicating results on pg. 18 in the [Compliance Management Framework](#).

Requirements for Success

The following elements are considered key requirements for success in B.C.'s compliance management framework:

- Guiding policies
- Tools and training
- Timely and accurate information
- Planning and coordination
- Be accountable and transparent
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement

Read more about B.C.'s requirements for success on pg. 19 in the [Compliance Management Framework](#).

How To Identify and Report Natural Resource Violations

The following section sheds light on the operational roles involved in C and E in B.C. and how to successfully identify and report natural resource violations.

Compliance and Enforcement Roles

B.C. NRS staff have responsibility or authority under many laws, regulations, codes and authorizations³. See "Natural Resource Agencies" in this document for links to the relevant legislation for each agency across the NRS.

Typical C and E roles performed by NRS employees include:

Inspections: Inspections are carried out by NRS staff designated as Inspectors under legislation (e.g., Mines Inspectors designated under the Mines Act, Officers designated under the Environmental Management Act, drinking water officers under the Drinking Water Protection Act). Inspectors undertake a wide variety of activities, including reviewing monitoring data and reports, sampling discharges, entering facilities or private land, and examining industrial works in order to verify compliance. Inspectors are also responsible for recommending enforcement action to address non-compliance.

³ For a deeper understanding of Acts and regulations in B.C., see B.C.'s [Legislation Made Easy](#) Booklet.

See this website for more information on [what happens during an inspection](#).

Investigations: If non-compliance poses an actual impact or potential risk to the environment, human health or public safety, or it is unlikely that the regulated party will comply, an inspector may refer the file for investigation. Investigators (e.g., Conservation Officers, Natural Resource Officers or the Integrated Environmental Enforcement Unit) are specially trained to gather evidence, execute search warrants and take statements. In some cases, investigators can issue violation tickets as well as build a case for possible prosecution.

A key distinction between an inspection vs. investigation is that an inspection is done to verify compliance while an investigation is done to collect information and evidence that may be required to support enforcement action.

See this website for more information on [consequences of non-compliance](#).

Statutory Decision Making: Many laws (also known as statutes, legislation or Acts) delegate authority to government staff to make decisions. These staff are called Statutory Decision Makers or Delegated Decision Makers. These decisions enable individuals, businesses, municipalities or other organizations in B.C. to perform regulated activities on the land or water or concerning natural resources, like issuing a permit or a tenure. Statutory Decision Makers may permit, restrict, refuse or intervene in the activities, including requiring that certain conditions be met for activities to be authorized. In many cases, these decision makers may also impose administrative penalties for non-compliance.

See [Transfer of Authority for Natural Resource Management](#) for a listing of how B.C. grants authority to Statutory or Delegated Decision Makers under natural resource legislation.

Read more about C and E roles on pg. 14 in the [Compliance Management Framework](#).

Note that employees of NRS C and E agencies may be responsible for multiple C and E roles in their position. For example, a Natural Resource Officer, Conservation Officer or Park Ranger may lead inspections, investigations and be delegated as statutory decision makers under certain legislation. For a

better understanding of the C and E roles and responsibilities of each agency, refer to the Compliance and Enforcement in the NRS Agencies section of this document.

Compliance and Enforcement Tools

B.C. NRS agencies and their respective C and E staff have a variety of C and E tools at their disposal. Some tools are administrative and can be issued by staff, such as warnings and advisories, or by statutory decision makers, such as orders and administrative penalties. Other tools may only be issued after there has been an investigation, such as violation tickets and recommendation of charges to Crown Counsel that may result in a court prosecution.

While there are many common C and E tools across the NRS, each agency can only use tools that are enabled by their agency's governing laws. As a result, understanding which C and E tool can be used, by whom, and in what context requires understanding NRS laws.⁴ The Compliance and Enforcement in the NRS Agencies section of this document outlines the key C and E roles, responsibilities and functions of each NRS agency in B.C.

Typical C and E tools used by natural resource agencies include:

- **Compliance Inspections:** Compliance inspections are any action(s) taken to verify compliance with regulatory requirements. Compliance inspections typically involve:
 - **Compliance Notice:** Issued by an inspector when all parameters of an inspection are found in compliance
 - **Advisory:** Issued by an inspector to advise a non-compliant party that they are not in compliance and provide clear direction on what actions must be taken in order to achieve compliance⁵

⁴ For clarity, a **Delegation** is the assignment of statutory decision-maker authority and responsibility to another official to carry out specific activities while a **Designation** is the classification of an official as a decision-maker identified in legislation. For more information, see B.C.'s Transfer of Authority for Natural Resource Management [webpage](#).

⁵ Note that while the Ministry of Environment and Parks uses this terminology, some NRS Agencies such as the Natural Resource Officer Service use the term "compliance notice" in this context instead of "advisory."

- **Warning:** Warns of a possible escalated enforcement response if non-compliance continues
 - Warnings are also used by some agencies to create a compliance record when non-compliance occurs and is immediately remedied
- **Referred for Further Action:** Means that the results of an inspection were forwarded to a director, statutory decision maker, another agency (such as the Conservation Officer Service), or professional association for further review or investigation
 - This may lead to enforcement action for the non-compliance observed during the inspection
- **Orders:** Written legal documents issued by designated officials to address non-compliance (e.g., pollution) and/or manage environmental, health or safety risks
 - Orders may create new requirements to undertake specific time-bound actions or cease specific actions
- **Administrative Sanctions:** Any suspension, restriction, cancellation or revocation of an authorization (licenses, permits, registrations, etc.) for non-compliance with requirements
- **Administrative Penalties:** Financial penalties imposed by designated officials on a person or a business for non-compliance with a regulatory requirement
 - Maximum penalty amounts are prescribed by regulation, generally ranging from \$2,000 to \$500,000
 - Monetary values and conditions around administrative penalties are prescribed in law and/or regulations, and the appropriate penalty is determined by the designated decision-maker based on the circumstances of each case
- **Damages/Reparations:** Some legislation also includes provisions to address harms or losses caused to the environment, natural resources, government property and other values or features
 - Damages or reparations require the responsible party to compensate for losses incurred by a contravention

- There is no maximum amount for damages/reparations prescribed in law, as it is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on harm inflicted or losses incurred
- **Note:** A key distinction between administrative penalties and damages/reparations is that penalties deal with the person or business that contravened with the goal of shifting their behaviour towards compliance, while damages deal with the harm inflicted on the affected party with the goal of compensating the affected party for harm or losses.
- **Violation Tickets:** issued by designated officials to persons and businesses for minor offenses such as littering, hunting violations and illegal campfires.
 - The [Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation](#) (VTAFR) of the Offence Act prescribes the types of violations tickets that can be issued and specifies the corresponding fine amount
 - VTAFR also states the types of enforcement officers who may issue violation tickets and the types of tickets that these officers can issue
- **Court Prosecution:** A legal proceeding recommended by designated officers and initiated by Crown Counsel to hold a party accountable for alleged offences
 - Formal charges are initiated by Crown Counsel when there is sufficient evidence of the alleged offence
 - Guilty convictions may result in a range of penalties, typically including fines, creative sentencing orders, forfeitures, probation or jail time
- **Restorative Justice:** A set of guiding principles used in dispute resolution that interprets crime as a violation of people, relationships and community values and seeks restorative outcomes rather than assigning blame and punishment
 - Led by trained facilitators, restorative justice forums offer a timely and cost-effective way to deal with certain environmental offences in an inclusive forum designed to promote offender accountability, repair the harm caused by the offence and restore compliance
 - Community Justice Forums and Community Environmental Justice Forums are the types of restorative justice most commonly used in environmental C and E cases

Read more about C and E tools on pg. 15 in the [Compliance Management Framework](#)

Reporting Environmental and Natural Resource Violations

The table below can support identifying and reporting violations to provincial C and E agencies:

Please note, the reporting numbers below are not emergency response telephone lines. **If you see an immediate threat to public safety or a life-threatening situation, please call 911.** If 911 service is not available in your area, call your local police, fire or ambulance service.

Issue	How to Report
Environmental Violations (General) Environmental violations to report include: • Illegal waste disposal, such as household or business waste and waste dumped on Crown land • Unlawful open burning, such as burning prohibited materials or burning when or where prohibited • Discharge of chemicals or sewage to lakes or rivers • Damage to fish or wildlife habitat • Exceeding the daily bag or catch limit • Use of illegal hunting or fishing gear	To report violations of fisheries, wildlife, or environmental protection laws, except salmon-related violations: • Call the RAPP hotline (toll-free in B.C.): 1-877-952-7277 (1-877-952-RAPP), or • Report the incident online via the RAPP form: Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) – Environmental Protection Sustainability Forms The Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) program is a toll-free tip line and online service available 24/7 that allows you to anonymously report known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife or environmental protection laws without risk of confronting the offender. Accurate and timely reporting helps emergency call centre staff quickly relay your

Issue	How to Report
• Fishing or hunting out of season or in closed areas • Unauthorized collection or sale of fish and wildlife or their parts	information to the nearest available Conservation Officer or to the appropriate Agency (for instance, BC Parks for matters related to parks and other protected areas). Non-emergency inquiries for the Conservation Officer Service can be directed to: conservation.officer.service@gov.bc.ca
Human-Wildlife Conflict Report human-wildlife conflict where public safety may be a risk, including: • Dangerous wildlife accessing garbage or other human supplied food sources • Instances where wildlife cannot be easily scared off • Dangerous wildlife is in a public location like a city park or school during daylight hours • When a cougar or wolf is seen in an urban area Information on how to react when encountering specific wildlife species can be found on the species pages and at WildSafeBC.	The RAPP hotline should be used to report wildlife-human interactions where public safety may be at risk. • Call the RAPP hotline (toll-free in B.C.): 1-877-952-7277 (1-877-952-RAPP), or • Report the incident online via the RAPP form: Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) – Environmental Protection and Sustainability Forms • Calls within Parks and Protected areas are filtered from RAPP to Park Rangers When do Conservation Officers respond? Conservation Officers respond to conflicts with dangerous wildlife where there is a risk to public safety. Examples include responding to attacks, bears breaking into buildings, repeated dangerous wildlife encounters at or near public locations, and situations where dangerous wildlife has become habituated (no longer afraid of humans) or food conditioned (dependent upon human provided foods) and now present a risk to public safety.

Issue	How to Report
In addition to taking action around homes and yards to prevent conflicts with wildlife, get involved with the WildSafeBC programs.	
Illegal/ Unauthorized Activities Report Illegal or unauthorized activities related to: • Use of surface and/or groundwater • Construction of works (like pumping equipment) or altering terrain near water (for a definition of “works,” see Section 1 of the Water Sustainability Act) • Use of fire in forests or on grasslands, infractions related to fire prohibitions • long-term occupation of Crown land or unauthorized foreshore development • Forestry operations and unauthorized cutting of firewood • Culturally sensitive sites or artifacts • Use of resource roads • Environmental damage in sensitive ecosystems	Report a suspected natural resource violation online to Ministry of Forests’ Natural Resource Officer Service: • Violation report form • If you prefer, you may call 1-877-952-7277, Option 2 for Monday to Friday: 7:30am-4:30pm Pacific time Natural Resource Officers (NROs) review every natural resource violation report to determine its priority and an appropriate response. An NRO may contact you for additional information that may be relevant to the investigation and that could assist with any related prosecution or administrative hearing. Other natural resource questions? Please contact FrontCounter BC if your concern does not involve a violation or if you need to find out where to report another concern: • FrontCounterBC website • 1-877-855-3222

Issue	How to Report
- Habitat damage (fish and wildlife) - Recreation sites and trails - Crown pastures and associated livestock - Illegal harvest of wild aquatic plants	
Fisheries Violations- Salmon Report fisheries violations related to salmon, which include: - Polluting - Poaching - Illegal fishing, such as: - Fishing with the wrong gear - Harvesting fish out of season - Using fishing techniques that are banned Federal and Provincial Responsibilities: The federal Fisheries Act is the primary law managing fisheries in Canada. The Province has delegated authority under the Fisheries Act for non-salmon freshwater fisheries. Freshwater recreational fishing is administered under the province's Wildlife Act.	Report a fisheries violation directly to Fisheries and Oceans Canada by contacting a regional Conservation and Protection office at the numbers below. Toll-free telephone: 1-800-465-4336 Telephone: 604-607-4186 (Greater Vancouver number) Email: DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca Additional local and regional office contacts can be found under Regional Contacts. You can also report illegal activity anonymously to CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (Canada-wide).

Issue	How to Report
Environmental Emergencies Reporting environmental emergencies that have the potential to cause adverse effects to the environment and human health, such as: • Hazardous or toxic spills • Unauthorized discharges • Unauthorized emissions • Dike and dam failures • Debris flows (for instance landslides) and floods A new spill notification service using Alertable is currently being rolled out to all First Nations across British Columbia. First Nations can reach out to spillresponse@gov.bc.ca if interested in joining. For more information about environmental incident notification, please see Environment Contacts - Regions for the provincial regional office nearest you.	Section 3 of this document deals with Emergency Management. Report environmental emergencies to the Emergency Coordination Centre (part of EMCR). • Call 1-800-663-3456 toll-free in B.C. The dispatcher will notify the appropriate Environmental Emergency Response Officer. To report marine spills, contact: • Toll-free: 1-800-889-8852 (Canadian Coast Guard Spill Reporting) for marine pollution in Canadian waters • 24-hour/toll-free: 1-800-OILS-911 for marine spills in international waters on the Pacific West Coast (excluding Alaska) For more information on spill reporting, contact the Environmental Emergency Branch: spillreports@gov.bc.ca For more information, see Environmental emergency contacts.
Wildfires Report wildfires, unattended campfires, smoke columns and violations of wildfire regulations in B.C. to the BC Wildfire Service.	To report a wildfire: • Call 1-800-663-5555 toll-free in B.C or *5555 on a cell

Issue	How to Report
For up-to-date information on fire danger ratings, regional fire prohibitions and wildfire activity, call the fire information line: 1-888-336-7378 Anyone conducting a Category 3 open burn must have a burn registration number. Call the burn registration line: 1-888-797-1717 to register a burn.	All calls are answered by BC Wildfire Service staff at the Provincial Forest Fire Reporting Centre. For up-to-date wildfire information and general contacts, see BC Wildfire Service contact channels. • Further comments, questions and concerns can be emailed to FIREINFO@gov.bc.ca
Invasive Species Reporting invasive species, including: • Aquatic invasive species, such as plants, fish and other aquatic organisms • Terrestrial invasive species, such as plants, animals and other organisms You can find the current list of priority invasive species in B.C. here. B.C. Aquatic Invasive Species Survey Methods (PDF, 1.4MB) Federal and Provincial Responsibilities re: Aquatic Invasive Species:	Report sightings of invasive species by: • Using the free Android or Apple app • Using the online form • Emailing invasive.plants@gov.bc.ca Your invasive species sighting will be reviewed by an invasive species specialist who will co-ordinate follow-up activities. Important: Please ensure you include a photo with your report! A photo allows provincial specialists to confirm the identification accurately record the information you submit. Sightings of invasive mussels should be reported to the BC Conservation Officer Services RAPP Line: 1-877-952-7277 • Follow the Clean, Drain, Dry approach whenever removing your boat from the water

Issue	How to Report
It is important to note that marine flora (aquatic plant life) is under provincial jurisdiction, while marine fauna (aquatic animal life) is under federal jurisdiction.	See this website to learn more about reporting invasive species in B.C.
Environmental Assessment Violations Anyone who observes an activity they believe may be a non-compliance for a given Environmental Assessment project can make a complaint to Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) Compliance and Enforcement (C and E). The EAO is a neutral regulatory agency that manages environmental assessments of proposed major projects in B.C., such as mines, oil and gas pipelines and facilities, large infrastructure projects and resorts.	The EAO C and E team evaluates and responds to all complaints and advises complainants of how their complaint was addressed. Complainants can contact EAO C and E by sending an email to eao.compliance@gov.bc.ca. Please include “COMPLAINT” in the subject line of the email and the name of the EA Project, if known. See EAO’s Complaint Guidance (2019) for instructions on what information to include in your complaint, the complaint review process, and EAO’s possible next steps.
Mines Complaints, concerns or inquiries about a mine or mine activity can be made to the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals via the Mines Inquires line/email.	Mines contact information - Province of British Columbia If you have a complaint, concern, or inquiry about a mine or mining activity, please use the contact information below: Mines inquiries Phone: 1-833-978-9798

Issue	How to Report
	Mines inquiries email address: mines.inquiries@gov.bc.ca Mineral and coal exploration, placer, aggregate and rock quarry Mines Act permits are managed by regional offices located in Victoria, Kamloops, Cranbrook, Prince George, and Smithers. B.C. Mines Regional Office contacts can be found on this website.
Energy Projects The BC Energy Regulator (BCER) is a single-window regulatory agency with responsibilities for overseeing oil and gas operations, refineries, geothermal development and renewable energy projects including wind and solar. BCER is also the primary regulatory authority for authorizations associated with the construction of the North Coast Transmission Line (NCTL) and other high-voltage electricity transmission projects. Contact BCER with any concerns about an existing BCER-regulated activity (odours, spills, noise, dust, etc.). All incidents and complaints related to natural gas and oil	Report concerns such as odours, spills or noise Concerns and Complaints: • 1-250-794-5200 (24-hour public number) • 1-877-500-BCER (2237) (24-hour toll free) When gathering information regarding complaints, it is helpful if the following information is provided: • Description of the nature and extent of the problem • Date and time the problem was first noticed • Location of the issue (town, section, township, range, etc.) • Possible causes of the problem, if known • Name of the permit holder operating in the area, if known

Issue	How to Report
activities are recorded and tracked through the BCER's database. Each complaint is addressed individually, and, in most cases, inspectors are dispatched to the location to determine the cause of the complaint and assist in resolving the situation. BCER works to ensure permit holders act promptly and effectively to prevent unnecessary escalation and begin any remediation work required. See this website for more information about how to report concerns about proposed oil and gas activities.	• Description of any prior contact with the permit holder regarding the problem • Complainant contact information (name, telephone number, address) • Any additional information that may be relevant
Agricultural Land Report an Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) violation or contravention, which may include: • Fill placement or removal of soil on ALR land • Operating a commercial business unrelated to farming (non-farm use) • Parking or storage of commercial or industrial vehicles (non-farm use)	The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) responds to information brought to its attention that may involve activity that contravenes the ALC Act. If you witness, are aware of, or have concerns over any activity on ALR land that appears to be unauthorized, please consider submitting the online violation report form. Please do not submit multiple reports relating to the same property issue. If you experience

Issue	How to Report
• Aggregate extraction • Construction and use of excessively large buildings/structures not used for farming purposes, • Construction of residences exceeding 500 m² and/or multiple residences, and • Breach of conditions of an ALC decision Visit www.alc.gov.bc.ca for more information	a problem submitting either form, please contact the C and E team at ALRLandUseConcern@gov.bc.ca
Readers can also reference Coastal Stewardship Network and the University of Victoria's Environmental Laws: A Field Guide for B.C.'s Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii for more information about provincial and federal environmental laws. Note that the resource is not a government of B.C. document; it was created for use by Coastal Guardians to provide a reference guide of Crown laws and regulations as they monitor and protect their territories across the North Pacific Coast.	

What to Record When Reporting

Document your observations and take notes as soon as possible.

If you can, include:

- A description of suspect(s), including number of people, name, sex, race, age, height/weight, eye colour, hair colour and style, facial hair, physical attributes such as tattoos or scars, clothing, accent and mannerisms
- Details of the violation, including date, time, location, type of violation, suspect(s) actions and comments, type of hunting or fishing gear and other equipment used

- The transport involved, including vehicle or vessel number, province or state, make, model, year, colour and distinctive features such as damage, stripes or customizing
- Witness information, including names, addresses and phone numbers

***Remember, never confront or attempt to apprehend a suspect.**

If [reporting a wildfire](#): If you can, **take a picture of the fire and submit it using the BC Wildfire Service app** (download in the [App Store](#) and on [Google Play](#)). Upon reporting the fire to B.C. Wildfire Service, you may be asked:

- **Location** – Where is the fire? How far up the hillside? Closest intersection?
- **Size** – Metres? Hectares? Size of a house? Size of a football field?
- **Rate of spread** – How quickly is the fire spreading?
- **Fuel** – What is burning? Grass, bushes, trees?
- **Smoke/flames** – What colour is the smoke? Are flames visible?
- **Threat** – Are there any people or buildings at risk?
- **Action** – Is anyone fighting the fire?
- **Campfires** – If reporting a campfire, can you tell if it is wood burning, or is it a propane campfire?

Compliance And Enforcement in the NRS Agencies

This section will provide a detailed overview of NRS agencies' C and E roles, responsibilities and authorities, including how each agency partners with First Nations in C and E activities.

The [Compliance Enforcement Framework](#) document describes the common culture of compliance and enforcement in the public service. It provides an overview of how the natural resource agencies collectively ensure compliance with both provincial and federal legislation and is a foundational document for all NRS agencies.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

C E Mandate

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF)'s compliance goal is for regulated parties to comply with all regulatory requirements established to ensure a competitive, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable agrifood and seafood sector while protecting food safety, public health and animal welfare.

The Food Safety Inspection Branch (FSIB) is responsible for administration, compliance and enforcement of B.C.'s laws for food safety of meat and seafood products. To accomplish this, FSIB is comprised of three province-wide programs:

- The Agri-food Compliance and Enforcement Program
- The Meat Inspection Program
- The Seafood Inspection Program

Legislation Enforced

A list of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's laws is [available here](#), but it primarily includes:

- Food Safety Act (Meat Inspection Regulation)
- Fish and Seafood Act (Fish and Seafood Licensing Regulation)
- Food and Agricultural Products Classification Act (Organic Certification Regulation)
- Animal Health Act
- Public Health Act (Food Premises Regulation)
- Food Safety Legislation - Province of British Columbia

Policy

- [Compliance Management Framework](#)

C and E Roles and Authorities

The Agri-food Compliance and Enforcement Program (ACEP) oversees the licensing and inspection of farmgate and farmgate plus rural slaughter facilities, and C and E activities related to organic label use, mink farming, and violations of the B.C. Food Safety Act under the Meat Inspection Regulation.

ACEP Inspectors are appointed under section 8 of the Food Safety Act, and their general inspection powers are set out under section 9.

The Meat Inspection Program

The meat inspection program is responsible for the inspection of provincially-licensed abattoir establishments, as well as licensing of those facilities under the Meat Inspection Regulation. Inspectors ensure that animals destined for human consumption are humanely handled and slaughtered in a clean environment before and after slaughter.

Agri-Food/Meat Hygiene Inspectors are appointed under section 8 of the Food Safety Act, and their general inspection powers are set out under section 9. These inspectors work collaboratively with ACEP Inspectors.

The Seafood Inspection Program

The Seafood Inspection Program is responsible for administering and enforcing B.C.'s Fish and Seafood Act and regulations, except the portions related to aquaculture and wild aquatic plant harvesting, which are enforced by Ministry of Forest's Natural Resource Officer Service. The objective of this regulatory framework is to ensure that seafood is safe for consumption by the public. This work is carried out through annual licensing and inspection of seafood and aquatic plant processors, fish receivers and fisher vendors.

Fisheries Inspectors primarily carry out the C and E work associated with the Seafood Inspection Program. "Fisheries Inspector" is a legal designation defined under s.41 of the FSA. The powers and duties of a Fisheries Inspector are largely set out under sections 22-28 of the Fish and Seafood Act.

A Fisheries Inspector identifies operators, facilities, and activities that are not compliant with legislation, regulations or conditions of license; assesses options (e.g., client education, investigation) and takes actions consistent with the ministry's Compliance Management Framework.

More information on [Seafood Safety](#).

Reporting

Compliance Management Framework

The [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database \(NRCED\)](#) is a searchable application containing C and E actions issued by NRS agencies.

To learn about AF partnerships with First Nations, contact: AF Indigenous Partnerships and Reconciliation Branch, email:
indigenousfoodsystems@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Environment and Parks – BC Conservation Officer Service (COS)

C and E Mandate

The [BCCOS](#) is a public safety provider focused on natural resource law enforcement and human wildlife conflict prevention and response. The BCCOS aspires to be a global leader and trusted partner in the protection of fish, wildlife and the environment.

Legislation Enforced

Conservations Officers (COs) enforce a wide range of provincial and federal legislation aimed at protecting the environment, human health and safety and Crown resources and revenue; more than 35 statutes combined, including the [Wildlife Act](#), [Environmental Management Act \(EMA\)](#), [Integrated Pest Management Act](#) (IPMA) and [Federal Fisheries Act](#). For example:

- Sworn COs also hold Special Provincial Constable Status under section 9 of the Police Act and have some powers similar to police to enforce Acts and statues, protect the public and preserve the peace
- COs are designated as federal fisheries officers for freshwater fisheries (lakes, rivers and streams) under the federal Fisheries Act
- COs hold designations as law enforcement officers in Alberta and the Yukon

For a list of the powers and duties of a CO under various pieces of legislation, see the [Conservation Officer Service Authority Regulation](#) under the EMA.

Policy

- [Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure](#) prescribes common requirements and procedures for all staff to ensure consistent and risk-based assessment and response to non-compliance
- [Compliance Management Framework](#)

C and E Roles and Authorities

The statutory authority of a CO is largely set out under [Part 9](#) of the Environmental Management Act (EMA), which provides the foundation for CO powers and duties. Section [107\(1\)](#) of the EMA specifies that a CO may exercise the powers and perform the duties of an officer under the EMA or any other Act where COs have designated authority and can enforce the rules and requirements under those Acts. For a list of the powers and duties of a CO under various legislation, see the [Conservation Officer Service Authority Regulation](#) under the EMA.

Key roles and functions of a CO include:

- Compliance checks for hunting, angling, trapping, boating and off-road vehicle activities
- Patrols
- Public outreach and safety
- Taking enforcement actions related to conservation, as set out in the applicable legislation
- Investigations in cases of suspected non-compliance, which may involve:
 - Gathering physical evidence and ensuring its continuity and integrity
 - Taking statements and interviewing witnesses
 - Conducting surveillance
 - Obtaining and executing search warrants
 - Performing search and seizures
 - Application and use of various judicial authorizations
 - Joint force operations with partner law enforcement agencies
 - Preparing briefs for Crown Counsel or a Statutory Decision Maker authorized to impose administrative sanctions

- Court appearances
- Investigations may lead to an administrative response, restorative justice measure or prosecutorial response (violation ticket or formal charges)

Reporting

The [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database](#) (NRCED) is a searchable application containing C and E actions issued by NRS agencies.

Partnerships with First Nations

The BCCOS has working partnerships with many First Nations, including communication regarding compliance with hunting and angling activities, collaboration during roadblock checkpoints to verify compliance with environmental legislation, and supporting First Nations to deliver effective wildlife attractant management practices in their communities to reduce human-wildlife conflict. In some cases, collaborative arrangements have been formalized in Enforcement Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). These agreements are co-ordinated by COS' Restorative Justice and First Nation Relations team.

The Restorative Justice and First Nations Relations team also offers introductory BCCOS-related training to interested First Nations with Guardians or guardian-like programs, which supports Guardians in effectively reporting issues to the COS through the RAPP line. Training is tailored to the interests of First Nations where possible and may include: an overview of [The B.C. Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis](#); how to identify potential offences; best practices for observing, recording and reporting potential offences through RAPP; and safety. Participants receive a certificate of attendance upon completion. In recent years, this training has also been delivered jointly with Natural Resource Officers and can take up to four days to deliver. Training is free of cost and can be delivered locally, but participating Nations need to provide the venue.

First Nations' Guardians or guardian-like roles can apply for Special Conservation Officer (SCO) appointments under [section 106\(3\)\(iii\)](#) of the EMA. Consistent with all law enforcement positions, the COS' criteria to become a SCO are comprehensive and include enhanced security screening, associated training, operational support and a legal review. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the COS and the

applicant Nation is required for designation. The MOU may include provisions that address the specific purpose of the designation, training, operational guidelines, information management (privacy protection), supervision and complaints, liability and costs, auditing and reporting.

To learn more about MOUs, training opportunities, and the Special Conservation Officer designation, email Conservation.Officer.Service@gov.bc.ca.
Call 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP Line) to get in touch with a Conservation Officer at the relevant regional field office. B.C.'s [Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis webpage](#) has additional contact information for the regional offices under "Regulations by region."

Ministry of Environment and Parks – BC Parks

C and E Mandate

BC Parks' C and E role is to ensure public safety and protect recreation experiences and the natural and cultural values within each [provincial park and protected area](#) (ecological reserves, conservancies, recreation areas, and protected area designations under the Environment and Land Use Act). BC Parks Rangers undertake C and E activities where needed to support compliance with laws related to provincial parks, protected areas, and adjacent lands. This usually involves educating the public, though in some cases, enforcement actions need to be taken. Depending on the seriousness of the issue, support from the Conservation Officer Service or police services may be needed.

The lands and waters that make up B.C.'s park and protected areas system are also the traditional lands and waters of First Nations. In recognition of this, BC Parks remains committed to working with local First Nations in the protection of their natural, cultural, socioeconomic, and recreational values.

Legislation Enforced

Provincial Parks and protected areas in B.C. are established and governed by four main pieces of legislation. These are:

- [Park Act](#): The Park Act, and the related [Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation](#) and the Class C Park Regulations, set out the governance for [Class A, B and C parks, conservancies and recreation areas](#)
 - Over 85% of the park and protected areas are governed by the Park Act
- [Ecological Reserve Act](#): The Ecological Reserve Act and the related [Ecological Reserve Regulations](#) set out the governance for ecological reserves
 - Approximately 14% of park and protected areas are designated as ecological reserves
- [Protected Areas of British Columbia Act](#): The Protected Areas of British Columbia Act is the main legislation that establishes, names and describes Class A parks, conservancies and ecological reserves
 - The Act contains separate schedules for parks, conservancies and ecological reserves
- [Environment and Land Use Act](#): This Act is used to establish protected areas that allow for pre-existing or future uses not normally allowed in parks
 - Usually, all aspects of the Park Act apply except for specific authorities to allow for the pre-existing or future uses.

Read more about the acts and regulations related to parks [here](#).

Policy

- [Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure \(PDF\)](#) prescribes common requirements and procedures for all staff to ensure consistent and risk-based assessment and response to non-compliance
- [Compliance Management Framework](#)

C and E Roles and Authorities

Park Rangers are appointed under [section 4 \(2\) of the Park Act](#). Subject to the regulations and to any limitations, terms or conditions that may be imposed by the

Minister of Environment and Parks, a Park Ranger is responsible for enforcing compliance with:

- [Wildlife Act](#) and the regulations under that Act
- [Natural Resource Compliance Act](#)
- Park Act, [the regulations](#) and other prescribed enactments within parks, conservancies, recreation areas and any land, trail, path or waterway comprised in an order under section 6 (1) of the Park Act
- [Canada Shipping Act](#) [Purposes of Part 10] designated as enforcement officers to enforce boating safety

To ensure compliance with regulations and laws that apply within parks and protected areas, Park Rangers conduct patrols and investigations within parks and protected areas and use an array of different enforcement tools and approaches, including prosecution. For example, a Park Ranger can issue provincial violation tickets for offences under numerous acts and regulations, but most commonly the [Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulations](#). Park Rangers also have [additional duties](#) outside of C and E, such as relations with First Nations, public engagement and education, trail maintenance, and responding to park emergencies.

In addition to the enforcement tools used by Park Rangers, the Minister of Environment and Parks also has authority to issue administrative penalties for contraventions of the Park Act or its regulations (see [s. 27.1](#)) or contraventions of the Ecological Reserve Act or its regulations (see [s. 6.2](#)).

Reporting

The [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database](#) (NRCED) is a searchable application containing C and E actions issued by NRS agencies.

Partnerships with First Nations

As stated in [BC Parks' Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (2021-2024), the agency is committed to "pursuing new concepts of shared stewardship and co-governance in protected area management including shared decision-making, protection designations, C and E (e.g., guardian programs), and joint prioritization and project planning with Indigenous partners."

Under a 2023 pilot, 11 Guardians from Kitasoo Xai'xais and Nuxalk Nations were designated the same legal authorities as park rangers within the parks and protected areas in their ancestral territories, while remaining employees of their Nations. The Nuxalk and Kitasoo Xai'xais Nations have had longstanding guardian watchmen programs and collaboratively manage, with BC Parks, all provincial parks and protected areas in their territories. The pilot supports the Nations' stewardship responsibilities by designating Guardians with legislative authorities so they can conduct C and E activities within their territories. The pilot will run until March 2026. At this time, BC Parks is not considering expanding the Shared Compliance and Enforcement Pilot Program, and an in-depth review of the current pilot will be completed prior to deciding on the future of Shared Compliance and Enforcement.

In addition to the pilot, BC Parks collaborates with many other First Nations' Guardians or Guardian-like programs in pursuit of collective interests in stewardship and protected area management. This can look like joint patrols and monitoring between Guardians and park rangers or First Nations' participation in annual Park Ranger Training Program (required training for new park rangers) or regional training.

Looking for more information? Email parkinfo@gov.bc.ca or call 1-800-689-9025 (toll free from Canada). BC Parks answers emails on weekdays from 9am to 5pm Pacific Time and calls from 7am to 7pm Pacific Time.

Ministry of Environment and Parks – Environmental Protection

C and E Mandate

The role of the Ministry of Environment and Parks' Compliance and Environmental Enforcement Branch (CEEB) is to protect the environment by holding individuals and businesses accountable to the authorizations or regulations they are operating under. Accordingly, CEEB assesses compliance under the [Environmental Management Act](#) (EMA) and [Integrated Pest Management Act](#) (IPMA) and takes timely enforcement action when needed. Its goal is to ensure regulated parties are following requirements designed to protect the environment and human health, and to provide regulated parties the opportunity to improve their environmental business practices.

- Select these hyperlinks for examples of regulated activities that CEEB would oversee under the [EMA](#) or under the [IPMA](#)
- Read more about environmental compliance in B.C. [here](#)

Legislation Enforced

- [Environmental Management Act](#) (EMA): The main law that regulates industrial, commercial and municipal waste discharges, pollution, hazardous waste and contaminated site remediation in B.C.
 - The EMA is supported by its [regulations and codes of practice](#) that have rules that must be followed
 - For a full list of activities and discharges that require authorizations administered under EMA, see [waste discharge authorizations](#)
- [Integrated Pest Management Act \(IPMA\)](#): The key law that governs the use, storage, sale and transport of pesticides in B.C.
 - IPMA is supported by the [Integrated Pest Management Regulation \(IPMR\)](#), which governs pest management in B.C.
 - See [pesticides and pest management](#) to learn more about regulatory requirements and activities that require authorization

Policy

- The [Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure](#) provides information on compliance responses available under the EMA and the IPMA
 - See the [Administrative Penalties Handbook](#) b
- [Compliance Management Framework](#)

C and E Roles and Authorities

Under the EMA and the IPMA and their regulations, Environmental Protection Officers (EPOs) and other government officers are authorized to:

- Check that the law is being complied with through inspections and investigations
- Use [compliance tools](#) to address non-compliance

An EPO, appointed as an “officer” under the EMA (see [s.109](#) for relevant officer powers/duties) and as an “inspector” under [s.11 the IPMA](#), will attend and lead the inspection of both authorized and unauthorized facilities, operations and sites. The inspector may be accompanied by additional staff, such as Conservation Officers.

Inspections may lead to an administrative enforcement response such as the issuance of an advisory, warning, order, administrative sanction or referral for administrative monetary penalty. The Integrated Environmental Enforcement Unit (IEEU) and the Conservation Officer Service (COS) serve as the Ministry of Environment and Parks’ enforcement programs and conduct investigations that require special designations. Investigations may also lead to an administrative response, restorative justice measure or prosecutorial response (violation ticket or formal charges).

See these websites to learn more about [what happens during an inspection](#) and [consequences of non-compliance](#).

See this website to learn more about [compliance and enforcement for pesticides](#) under the IPMA.

Reporting

- To review compliance inspection reports, audits, and administrative penalties issued under the EMA and the IPMA, see [Environmental compliance reports](#)
 - Review reports collected for compliance and enforcement of the IPMA [here](#)
- All inspection reports are available in the [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database](#) seven days after they’re completed

Partnerships with First Nations

CEEB can conduct accompanied inspections of operations regulated under EMA and the IPMA with interested First Nations. Objectives of accompanied inspections include:

- Providing opportunities to First Nations to observe how ministry compliance verification is undertaken in the field, which supports First Nations to be

informed on the status, scope and impacts of regulated activities in their territories

- Increasing the knowledge for First Nations regarding waste discharge and pest management activities
- Increasing Inspectors' understanding of compliance-related issues and interests of First Nations, applicable to the ministry's jurisdiction
- Building relationships between Ministry of Environment and Parks' Inspectors and First Nations, as well as supporting relationships between the First Nations and facility operators

An accompanied inspection may be initiated by an EPO notifying the First Nation of a planned inspection that aligns with the known interests of the Nation. Alternatively, a First Nation may initiate the process by requesting to participate in compliance verification at a particular operation. This can be done by contacting the EPO directly or by sending an email to environmentalcompliance@gov.bc.ca.

Ministry of Environment and Parks – Environmental Emergencies (Spills Program)

C and E Mandate

The [Environmental Emergency Branch](#) (EEB) is responsible for preparing for, responding to and recovering from hazardous material spills and harmful substance spills impacting the environment and/or human health.

The Environmental Emergency Branch is made up of the following sections:

- Preparedness and Policy Development
- Response
- Recovery
- [Flood Debris Management Secretariat](#)

Legislation Enforced

A key responsibility of the EEB is to oversee compliance with regulatory requirements under the [Environmental Management Act](#) (EMA) and [applicable regulations](#) that can lead to an enforcement action.

The EMA [may be applied to](#) a major oil spill, industrial accident, or environmental emergency. The EMA sets out requirements for disposal of oil and hazardous materials, spill prevention and reporting, and pollution abatement. Authority for provincial spill cost recovery is additionally provided by the EMA.

To read more about how spill preparedness, response and recovery is regulated under the EMA, see [this website](#). In addition to the EMA, there is other [provincial](#) and [federal](#) legislation that pertains to spills, industrial accidents and other environmental emergencies.

Policy

- [Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure](#)⁶ prescribes common requirements and procedures for all staff to ensure consistent and risk-based assessment and response to non-compliance
- For more information on spill management roles and responsibilities, [see this website](#)
- [Compliance Management Framework](#)

C and E Roles and Authorities

If there is a hazardous material or harmful substance spill, the responsible person (the spiller) is obligated to report the spill and ensure all actions are taken to address a threat or hazard caused by the spill. Once reported, an Environmental Emergency Response Officer (EERO) would assess and monitor the spill, acting as the eyes and ears on the ground to identify potential contraventions and/or failures of the spiller to comply with legislative and [regulatory requirements](#). This may involve activities such as entering upon land; examining records, works and materials; taking samples; and assessing sites to ensure that spill response actions satisfy legislative and regulatory requirements.

In the event that the spiller does not fulfill the [spill response requirements](#), an EERO would document observations and findings and refer the issue to CEEB, as it would become a C and E matter. CEEB staff are responsible for conducting compliance

⁶ Please note, this is now the Ministry of Environment and Parks

inspections for late reporting, lack of spill response actions implementation, and non-submission of information in relation to a spill. CEEB staff may rely on the EERO's observations from the field to assist with the verification of compliance during office review inspections.

If CEEB staff verify non-compliance with legislative requirements under the EMA, they may issue an advisory, a warning or an administrative monetary penalty referral. Other enforcement actions may include issuing an Order (for example: Spill Response Actions Order) by a statutory decision maker. As the ministry enforcement program, the Conservation Officer Service (COS) supports EEB's C and E effort by conducting investigations which may also lead to an administrative response, restorative justice measure or prosecutorial response (violation ticket or formal charges for a court appearance).

- Response Officers (e.g., EEROs) and Compliance Officers, along with several EEB staff, are designated as "Officers" under EMA and as such, have a variety of powers and authorities (e.g., [EMA s. 109](#) highlights general powers of an Officer for inspections)
- Based on [EMA s. 91.4\(1\)](#), Response Officers have the authority to take over a spill response, meaning they can carry out response actions described in [EMA s. 91.2 \(2\)](#) where a responsible person is unknown or unwilling or unable to undertake the actions necessary to mitigate the risks associated with a spill

Reporting

- See [this website](#) for annual reports from the Environmental Emergency Program, including spill statistics and profiled spills showcasing spill response throughout B.C.
- The [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database](#) (NRCED) is a searchable application containing compliance and enforcement actions issued by NRS agencies

Partnerships with First Nations

In 2021, EEB released a [Reconciliation Strategy](#), based on engagement with First Nations, outlining a commitment to develop a spill notification process that adheres

to the Declaration Act and integrates and supports First Nations to respond to environmental emergencies. EEB worked with 12 Coastal First Nations to co-develop an [automated system and app](#) that alerts coastal B.C. First Nations about oil or hazardous chemical spills on their lands and waters. The spill notification service is now being rolled out to all First Nations across B.C. Reach out to spillresponse@gov.bc.ca to learn more.

Affected First Nations are also included in spill response and recovery planning via co-ordination calls or [unified command](#) when a spill occurs in their territory. The unified command process includes consensus decision-making around response actions and objectives, teamwork, sharing or delineating activities, and sharing responsibilities rather than the more traditional 'command and control' approach with only one authority.

In some instances, such as when a spill is anticipated to have long-lasting impacts, First Nations and B.C. may formalize the Nation's integration into the spill management process through an agreement. For example, following a prolonged [sewage spill into the Williams Lake River](#) in 2020, the B.C. Spill Recovery section developed a tripartite agreement with Williams Lake First Nation and the City of Williams Lake outlining expectations for environmental recovery and protection of the Nation's resources from long-lasting impacts. In addition, B.C. is party to an agreement with Canada and 14 First Nations on the Pacific North Coast called the Northern Shelf Bioregion Marine Incident Preparedness, Response and Recovery Framework (NSB Framework). The NSB Framework was endorsed by all parties in 2023 as the foundation for collaborative marine incident preparedness, response, and recovery in the Northern Shelf Bioregion.

Looking for more information? Contact spillresponse@gov.bc.ca or see the Ministry of Environment and Parks' [regional office contacts here](#).

Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

C and E Mandate

All mining activities in B.C. are regulated under the [Mines Act](#), the [Health, Safety and Reclamation Code](#), and the conditions of any permit issued for the mining activities,

collectively known as the “regulatory requirements.” The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) provides oversight of mining activities in B.C. MCM’s regulatory authority applies to all metal mines, including precious and base metal mines, coal mines, industrial mineral (e.g. silica, limestone) mines, mineral exploration projects, rock quarries, sand and gravel (aggregate) operations, and placer mines.

MCM’s regulatory activities take place during all phases of the mining life cycle including exploration, development, construction, production, reclamation, closure, and post-closure. Regulatory oversight includes approving mining activities (including reclamation programs) through the [issuance of permits](#) under the Mines Act and establishing site-specific requirements (such as permit conditions). Regulatory oversight also includes activities to verify compliance (like compliance reviews and inspections) and enforcement activities (investigations, for example), which are the areas of focus for this section.

Regulated parties (owners, agents, managers or permittees) must be aware of and maintain compliance with regulatory requirements throughout the life of the mine. Within MCM, the Mines Competitiveness and Authorizations Division (MCAD) and the Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement Division (MHSED) actively promote and verify compliance, and enforce applicable regulatory requirements when compliance is not achieved.

MCM’s oversight under the [Mines Act](#) generally apply within the mine site boundary defined in the [Mines Act permit](#). MCM Inspectors of Mines conduct field inspections to ensure mines are complying with regulatory requirements. Some MCM inspections are specialized (for instance occupational health inspections, geotechnical inspections) while others are more general.

Learn more about [mining C and E here](#). See how [other agencies work together with MCM](#) to provide compliance oversight of mining activities in B.C.

Legislation Enforced

The [Mines Act](#) and [regulations, Health, Safety and Reclamation Code](#) for Mines in British Columbia, and Mines Act permits (collectively referred to as regulatory requirements) apply to all mines in B.C.

Some mines may also be subject to additional laws such as the Environmental Assessment Act (Major Project Review), Environmental Management Act (air, water and waste discharge and/or storage), Water Sustainability Act (water use, changes in/about a stream), Forest and Range Practices Act (timber cutting and transportation), and Wildlife Act (impacts on habitat).

Learn more about [mining legislation in B.C.](#)

The Chief Inspector of Mines (CIM) is the Statutory Decision Maker, designated by the Minister under [s.3 of the Mines Act](#), for mining activities in B.C. The CIM appoints Mines Inspectors ([s.5 of the Mines Act](#)), and delegates (in writing) powers to these inspectors ([s.6 of the Mines Act](#)).

C and E activities are a core responsibility of all Inspectors, which they fulfill through assessing site-specific requirements (including permits and variances), conducting inspections, and undertaking enforcement actions and investigations.

Policy

The ministry's Mining [Compliance and Enforcement Policy](#) (C and E Policy) sets out the tools available to inspectors when addressing incidents of non-compliance, and it includes the Non-Compliance Decision Matrix, a risk-based tool designed to assist inspectors in assessing the actual or potential impact of the non-compliance as well as likelihood of achieving compliance in a given situation.

MCM's compliance oversight is also guided by the Natural Resource [Compliance Management Framework](#).

C and E Roles and Authorities

Mines Inspectors are responsible for verifying compliance and taking enforcement action as necessary, pursuant to the Mines Act, the [Health, Safety and Reclamation Code](#), and the permit issued for the site.

Mines Inspectors verify compliance through inspections (on-site and office-based document review) and, where necessary, take appropriate compliance action. Inspectors may also observe and discuss operational practices and conditions with the mine operator. Inspectors may co-ordinate compliance management activities with other B.C. agencies to ensure that operations are following regulatory requirements.

Learn more about the mine inspection process on [this website](#).

The inspector will complete an inspection report, summarizing the areas inspected, observations of any non-compliances and the remedial action required. The observations may result in a compliance action, such as an advisory, warning or order. Orders include remedial action and a timeline for remedying the non-compliance. Failure to respond to an inspection report and/or an order may lead to escalated enforcement action, pursuant to the Mines Act and the [C and E Policy](#).

Learn more about [mining inspection reports](#).

Reporting

- Inspection reports and related enforcement actions for major mines are publicly reported on the [BC Mine Information Website](#)
 - On this website, MCM, EP and the EAO collaborate to make information on B.C.'s oversight of major mines publicly accessible
 - See [enforcement action records](#)
- The [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database](#) (NRCED) is a searchable application containing C and E actions issued by natural resource agencies

Partnerships with First Nations

B.C. strives to adopt a collaborative approach to land and resource management, seeking input from First Nations into decision-making processes in accordance with [legal obligations](#) and [UNDRIP principles](#). MCM engages First Nations in all phases of the mining life cycle, including [environmental assessment](#) and [permitting](#), reclamation planning, site monitoring and inspections, closure, and stewardship.

More information on how [MCM works with First Nations across the mining life cycle](#).

MCM has developed an Accompanied Inspection Program (AIP) which engages First Nations in C and E activities via:

- **Compliance-focused training and education:** Informing First Nations' staff of B.C.'s compliance practices, sensitive to the interests and needs of First Nations
- **Inspection Planning Input:** Incorporating First Nations' insights into compliance inspection strategies
- **Site Visits:** Facilitating mine tours at permitted mine sites (at the discretion of the mine manager) or First Nation participation in inspections (accompanied inspections) to foster transparency and mutual understanding
 - [Section 15 \(1.1\) of the Mines Act](#) states, "an inspector who enters a place under subsection (1) may bring any persons and equipment that the inspector considers necessary for the purposes of the inspection"

AIP was developed to enable a collaborative approach to compliance oversight activities in B.C.'s mining sector, engaging First Nations in regulatory processes (for instance, mines inspections) while ensuring compliance and active oversight of mining activity in First Nations' territories. Inclusion of First Nations' representatives on inspections links consultation, permit requirements and field verification processes together in a transparent and effective manner. The AIP seeks to meaningfully integrate First Nations' perspectives into mining compliance processes across the mine life cycle, which extends beyond the permitting engagement processes.

For more information on the program, contact AIP@gov.bc.ca. For additional contact information, see [MCM regional offices](#).

Ministry of Forests - Natural Resource Officer Service (NROS)

C and E Mandate

B.C. has a wide range of legislation to protect land, water, forests, and cultural resources. [Natural Resource Officers](#) (NROs) work throughout B.C. to promote compliance with these laws and take enforcement actions. NROs work in the [Ministry of Forests](#) and provide compliance and enforcement services to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and the Ministry of Forests.

NROs conduct inspections to assess compliance, investigate non-compliance, and take appropriate enforcement measures, including investigating:

- Industrial Operations, commercial business operations
- Activities of individual members of the public

NROs also enforce compliance with government regulations that have been established to:

- Protect the environment
- Prevent revenue loss
- Protect economic or social interests
- Improve health and safety

Legislation Enforced

NROs are designated authority under s.2(1) of the [Natural Resource Compliance Act](#) and are authorized to enforce a broad range of environmental and natural resource laws as set out under the [Natural Resource Office Authority Regulation](#). For example, NROs have lead responsibility enforcing the following laws:

- [Forest Act](#)
- [Forest and Range Practices Act](#)
- [Water Sustainability Act](#)
- [Heritage Conservation Act](#)
- [Land Act](#)
- [Forest Act](#)
- [Wildfire Act](#)

Some NROs have also been appointed as Special Provincial Constables under [s.9 of the Police Act](#). See [the Natural Resource Officer Service website](#) to understand which legislation NROs have primary and secondary responsibility for enforcing.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/laws-policies-standards-guidance/transfer-of-authority>

Policy

- [Compliance Management Framework](#)

NRO Roles and Authorities

NROs actively patrol, inspect, investigate and enforce a broad cross-section of resource management laws.

NROs use a range of tools and actions to enforce B.C.'s resource management laws, including:

- Educating the public and maintaining a presence in the field
- Completing compliance inspections including:
 - Routine inspections, in response to complaints or incidents
 - Scheduled inspections (coordinated with Natural Resource Sector partners), in response to the ministry's identified priorities
 - Note: while conducting inspections, NROs are authorized by specific legislation to undertake certain activities such as entering land and premises, stopping and inspecting vehicles, examining records, works and materials
- Investigating alleged non-compliance with legislation when an NRO has reasonable grounds to believe a contravention or offence has occurred or may be about to occur and the NRO is contemplating enforcement action
- Taking enforcement actions when an NRO determines that laws have been contravened and a formal sanction is warranted

- Actions could include issuing violation tickets, monetary penalties, orders and prosecution
- Parties may appeal enforcement actions

For more information, see the natural resource [enforcement actions](#) web page.

Reporting

- The [Natural Resource Officer Service Annual Reports](#) provide insight into the tools and options for NROs to deal with alleged contraventions of B.C.'s natural resource laws
- The [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database](#) (NRCED) is a searchable application containing C and E actions issued by natural resource agencies

Partnerships with First Nations

NROs partner with many First Nations to conduct joint monitoring, patrols and, where appropriate, inspections in First Nations' respective territories. NRO-First Nation collaboration enables two-way learning and capacity building, aligned with the priorities of B.C. and participating Nations.

In addition to joint patrols and inspections, NROs's Strategic Engagement Team delivers NRO-related training to interested First Nations. This training is delivered jointly with the COS where possible and can take up to four days to complete. Training is often tailored to the interests of participating First Nations. For example, training may focus on streams, forests and culturally significant sites within a Nation's territory. Training enables Guardians and stewardship personnel to effectively observe, record and report potential natural resource violations, supporting a more co-ordinated and timely response by the appropriate Compliance and Enforcement agency.

A standard training session would include topics like: how to observe, record and report potential infractions; how to collect evidence that will be admissible in court; tactical communications training (for instance, how to engage/interact with the public and licensees); as well as field scenarios and understanding NRO and CO legislation, such as protection of cultural heritage sites under the Heritage Conservation Act or

an overview of the hunting and trapping regulations synopsis. Participants receive a certification of attendance upon completion. Natural Resource Officers also participate in two-way training, where First Nations train NROs in Indigenous laws and perspectives.

NROS may also enter into agreements with First Nations for enhanced collaboration on shared priorities for C and E, for example:

- NROS and Musqueam Indian Band (MIB) Agreement in 2022 committing to a two-year secondment of an MIB Guardian to work as a fully authorized NRO while remaining an employee of their Nation
- Tla'amin Nation and NROS signed an [Information Governance Agreement](#) in 2023 which allows NROS to proactively share inspection and investigation information with Tla'amin Nation more efficiently
 - It also allows Tla'amin to provide NROS with culturally important and sensitive information that will aid in planning NROS activities in the territory
- NROS and Maa-nulth First Nations signed an Enforcement Agreement in 2013 and a Letter of Expectations (LOE) in 2014 in which the NROS agreed to support enforcement of certain Maa-nulth First Nations laws on their treaty lands, grounded in shared enforcement objectives, priorities and approaches
- NROS continues to work collaboratively with Tsilhqot'in National Government to implement the shared vision for the Tsilhqot'in role in C and E activities as articulated in [The Gwets'en Nilt'I Pathway Agreement](#) (renewed in 2024)
- Aligned with this vision, NROS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Xeni Gwet'in First Nation in 2018 (renewed in 2021) which outlined shared commitments around C and E training and activities in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area

For more information about First Nations partnerships with NROs, please contact the NROS Indigenous Relations and Restorative Justice inbox: IRRJ@gov.bc.ca

Find [additional contacts for the Ministry of Forests](#), including [regional and district office contacts](#).

Environmental Assessment Office

C and E Mandate

When a major project is proposed in B.C. that meets or exceeds the thresholds specified in the [Reviewable Projects Regulation](#), it must undergo an [environmental assessment](#) managed by the [Environmental Assessment Office](#) (EAO) prior to construction. Once a project is approved, an Environment Assessment Certificate or Exemption Order is issued with conditions to prevent and mitigate assessed impacts to environment, health, culture and other values.

EAO's Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) ensures that authorized projects are designed, built, operated and decommissioned or reclaimed in compliance with the applicable certificate or order. This is achieved through ongoing compliance oversight, including compliance inspections and, where required, enforcement actions.

Learn more about [C and E for environmental assessment projects](#).

Legislation Enforced

Both Environmental Assessment Certificates and Exemption Orders are legally binding and contain requirements that must be followed for the life of an authorized project to mitigate potential adverse effects. In addition to a project's EA certificate or exemption order, EAO's Compliance and Enforcement Officers use the Environmental Assessment Act and its regulations to guide their C and E activities.

The [Environmental Assessment Act](#), (2018) provides a mechanism for reviewing major projects to assess their potential impacts. See [the Act, regulations and agreements web page](#) for applicable regulations under the EA Act.

Policy

- [EAO Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure](#) (2020): Explains the C and E policy of the EAO's Compliance and Enforcement Branch, including how C and E Officers determine appropriate enforcement action in response to a non-compliance

- Find additional C and E guidance documents on the [compliance and enforcement for environmental assessment projects web page](#)

C and E Roles and Authorities

EAO's C and E Officers are appointed by the EAO's Chief Executive Assessment Officer under [s.49\(1\) of the EA Act](#).

Under the EA Act, C and E Officers have the following powers and authorities:

- Inspection Power ([s.49](#)): Two types of inspections are conducted:
 - administrative (desk-based) and field-based (on site)
 - Administrative inspections occur when sections of a certificate or order are selected for compliance verification based on a review of documentary evidence
 - Field Inspections occur when officers attend a project site to verify compliance with the certificate or order, which can be planned or spontaneous
- Investigative Power ([s.52](#)): Officers may investigate to gather evidence of a non-compliance for the purposes of supporting an enforcement action, such as a recommendation for prosecution under the Act
 - Investigations vary in effort and length of time depending on the nature and complexity of the non-compliance
- Enforcement Powers: There are a range of enforcement measures available to C and E Officers, the Chief Executive Assessment Officer, and the Minister for resolving cases of non-compliance
 - C and E Officers (in conjunction with partner agencies when applicable) assess each case of non-compliance and determine the appropriate enforcement measure
 - For a comprehensive overview of enforcement measures available to C and E Officers, the CEO or the Minister, see [Section 6.0 of the EAO's C and E Policy](#).

Every year, C and E Officers go through an inspection planning process to determine which projects will be inspected, resulting in an inspection plan that guides routine inspections for the year. Inspections may also be conducted following a complaint,

information received from a First Nation, other government agencies, the public, or as follow-up to previous inspections. If a project is found to be out of compliance, C and E officers at the EAO determine the appropriate enforcement response.

Through inspections, investigations, self-reports and working closely with partners, C and E Officers independently and objectively ensure certificate or exemption holders are adhering to the legally binding requirements of the Act, including any orders within their certificate or exemption. See [EAO's C and E Policy](#) or the [C and E website](#) to learn more about how the C and E Branch carries out its roles and responsibilities.

Reporting

Once complete, inspection records and enforcement orders are publicly posted to the [EAO's Project Information Centre](#) (EPIC) website.

Partnerships with First Nations

EAO C and E Branch enhances the effectiveness and transparency of compliance oversight by engaging First Nations in C and E activities within their traditional territories and treaty lands. EAO's C and E Indigenous Liaison Program aims to:

- Engage with First Nations on all EAO-involved projects within the First Nation's respective traditional territory or treaty lands to increase EAO C and E's accountability to Nations, support consistency of practice throughout B.C., and provide continuity of engagement with First Nations throughout the life of a project
- Establish formal dialogue with First Nations throughout the inspection process and encourage First Nation participation in inspections to the greatest extent practicable

EAO's C and E Branch views First Nations' participation in inspections as critical for linking the consultation, certificate requirements and field verification processes together in a transparent and effective manner.

For more information on EAO's C and E Indigenous Liaison Program, see the [Indigenous Nation Guide to EAO Compliance and Enforcement](#) and [Inspections with EAO Compliance and Enforcement – A Guide for Indigenous Nations](#).

For additional information on how C and E works with First Nations in C and E, please contact eaocompliance@gov.bc.ca or 250-387-0131. Additional contacts can be found on the [EAO Contacts page](#).

For information about how First Nations are engaged in the Environmental Assessment process pre-authorization, visit EAO's [Indigenous Nation Guidance Page](#). EAO's [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) also has information on [free, prior and informed consent \(FPIC\) in the EA process](#), consent-based processes, providing notice of consent on behalf of an Indigenous Nation, and consensus and seeking consensus.

BC Energy Regulator

C and E Mandate

The BC Energy Regulator (BCER) is a single-window regulatory agency with responsibilities for regulating oil, gas, hydrogen, ammonia and methanol activities, and overseeing exploration, development, operations and restoration. BCER also oversees refineries, value added gas and liquids manufacturing processes and aspects of geothermal power. In Spring 2025, B.C. passed [legislation](#) to transfer the regulation of renewable energy projects, such as wind and solar, to the BCER. The legislation [also enables](#) the BCER to be the primary regulatory authority for authorizations associated with the construction of the North Coast Transmission Line (NCTL) and other high-voltage electricity transmission projects.

BCER's C and E branch ensures activities are conducted in compliance with the Energy Resource Activities Act (ERAA), the Regulator's specified enactments and all related regulations.

BCER ensures industry compliance through regular inspections, audits and resulting investigations of alleged non-compliance. In addition, permit-holders are expected to use formal systems within their day-to-day operations to ensure compliance with the ERAA. Where alleged non-compliances occur, BCER takes appropriate actions.

To learn more and BCER's C and E roles and responsibilities, visit the [BCER compliance web page](#) or watch [this webinar](#) from 2019 about BCER's role in C and E (sourced from [BCER's resources website](#)).

Legislation Enforced

The [Energy Resource Activities Act](#) (ERAA) regulates energy resources and related activities in B.C., including wells, facilities, oil refineries, natural gas processing plants, pipelines and energy resource roads, through permits, authorizations, orders and regulations. The ERAA enables the BCER to act as a one-window regulator by giving it responsibility for provincial authorizations required for oil, gas, hydrogen, ammonia and methanol activities, and overseeing exploration, development, operations and restoration.

[Section 48 of ERAA](#) establishes the scope of the BCER's C and E activities in relation to its specified provisions. BCER has authority under the following provisions: sections 9, 14, 15 of the [Environmental Management Act](#), sections 47.4, 117 of the [Forest Act](#), section 12 of the [Heritage Conservation Act](#), sections 11, 14, 38, 39, 40, 96(1) of the [Land Act](#), and sections 10, 11, 24 [Water Sustainability Act](#). The BCER also regulates geothermal resources through the [Geothermal Resources Act](#) and associated regulations and additional authorities.

See [BCER's legislative framework](#), including a list of ERAA regulations and provincial and federal acts and statutes referenced under ERAA. Visit [What We Regulate](#) for a better understanding of what BCER regulates and how.

Policy

- The [Compliance and Enforcement Manual](#) is intended to provide information about the Regulator's Compliance Management System and processes
- More resources can be found on BCER's [C and E Documentation and Guidance website](#)

C and E Roles and Authorities

If a permit is issued, BCER C and E officers monitor the project from initial startup until operations cease and the land is returned to its pre-activity state. BCER C and E officers are designated "officials" under [s.7\(4\) of the ERAA](#). [Part 5 of the ERAA](#) defines the powers and duties of an "official" regarding C and E.

BCER ensures compliance through inspections of permit holder activities, audits and management of alleged non-compliances. Alleged non-compliances with ERAA,

permits or authorizations may be investigated by BCER. Investigations result in an Investigation Report, which triggers BCER's C and E determinations process.

The enforcement process encompasses an array of tools and actions that work to keep activities and operations in compliance with laws, including the issuance of orders, findings of contravention, and execution of administrative penalties.

Inspection results are tracked and shared with permit holders for action. The BCER has authority to order corrective work or shut down operations not in compliance with the law.

See BCER's [compliance verification](#), [field inspections](#), and [enforcement](#) web pages for more information, or navigate to the [Compliance and Enforcement website](#).

Reporting

C and E documentation can be found [here](#), including [Annual Compliance Plan Reports](#), findings of BCER [inspection reports](#), tickets, warning letters, enforcement orders, administrative penalties, and reviews and appeals.

Questions regarding the BCER enforcement actions may be directed to CandE@bc-er.ca.

Partnerships with First Nations

The BCER, as an agent of the Crown, fulfills the Crown's obligation to consult with First Nations prior to the authorization of activities under the ERAA and related specified enactments for which the BCER is the responsible decision-maker. BCER seeks opportunities to effectively engage with communities across B.C. to enable First Nations to participate in processes affecting them. You can learn more about [BCER's engagement with First Nations on their web site](#).

The [Aboriginal Liaison Program](#) (ALP) was established in 2014 as a pilot project initiated by the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC), now BCER, with Doig River First Nation to support improved relations in the context of proposed pipelines and energy infrastructure that intersected their territory. ALP has since expanded, offering the program to ten Nations (encompassing fifteen First Nations) whose territories are situated near energy projects from the Peace River region to Prince

Rupert. The ALP funds participating Nations to hire liaison staff to support co-ordination between regulators and C and E officers, industry, and First Nations. In addition to BCER, other NRS agencies participate in the ALP including:

- Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
- Ministry of Environment and Parks (EAO and COS)
- Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals
- Ministry of Forests (NROs, BC Wildfire Service, and Fish and Wildlife Branch)
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- Canada Energy Regulator

Through the ALP, First Nations join in C and E inspections, as well as critical incident and emergency management planning, and work with BCER and other natural resource agencies as partners in regulatory compliance across the NRS. Joint enforcement activities are also part of ALP.

See more information about the [ALP here](#).

Agricultural Land Commission

C and E Mandate

The provincial [Agricultural Land Commission](#) is an independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and encouraging farming in B.C.

The [C and E Program](#) is the enforcement arm of the [ALC](#). The C and E Program's main purpose is to strengthen delivery of the ALC's legislative mandate to ensure that activities taking place within the ALR are consistent with the Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALC Act). This is achieved by using a combination of education, compliance assessment and enforcement.

Legislation Enforced

- [Agricultural Land Commission Act](#)
- [Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation](#)
- [Agricultural Land Reserve General Regulation](#)

Policy

- See [ALC's Approach to Ensuring Compliance](#)

C and E Roles and Authorities

Officials designated under the ALC Act have authority to enforce provisions of the ALC Act on ALR lands, including entering and inspecting land, requesting records and issuing orders to stop work that contravenes (or has potential to contravene) provisions of the ALC Act, ALR Use Regulation, or orders of the ALC. Please see sections [49-55](#) of the ALC Act for a detailed description of these authorities. The ALC's chief executive officer can designate officials from other agencies (see [s.8](#) of the ALC Act).

ALC's C and E Officer key functions include:

- Responding to reports of alleged ALC contraventions on private or public ALR land, for residential, commercial or industrial-based activity
- Conducting inspections
- Seeking voluntary compliance when contraventions are found and taking enforcement actions when needed
- Developing and maintaining partnerships with municipalities and regional districts, Provincial agency staff, First Nation governments, ALR landowners and the public

Reporting

ALC C and E inspection records and orders relating to private or public organizations can be reviewed at the [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database \(NRCED\)](#).

Partnerships with First Nations

The ALC may enter into an agreement with a First Nation to exercise some or all of the ALC's power to determine use or subdivision applications⁷ in respect of

⁷ The ALC Act defines a “**use or subdivision application**,” as, “an application for permission made under any of the following: (a) [section 20 \(2\)](#) for a non-farm use; (b) [section 20.1 \(2\)](#) (a) for a non-adhering residential use; (c) [section 20.3 \(5\)](#) for a soil or fill use; (d) [section 21 \(2\)](#) for subdivision.”

settlement lands within the First Nation's jurisdiction⁸ (see [s.26](#) of the ALC Act). These agreements would include the application of enforcement powers captured in sections 49-55 of the ALC Act (see [s.56](#) of the ALC Act).

Contact the C and E team at ALRLandUseConcern@gov.bc.ca.

⁸ The *ALC Act* defines “**settlement lands**” as, “land, other than land located within a reserve as defined in the *Indian Act* (Canada), that is subject to the legislative authority of a First Nation under (a) a treaty and land claims agreement within the meaning of sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, (b) a governance agreement among the Province, Canada and the First Nation, or (c) an enactment of the Province or Canada.”

Section 2 – Stewardship

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is a priority for B.C. Guided by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. The Province is working in partnership with many First Nations on shared stewardship objectives and priorities. Through many existing initiatives and collaborative frameworks, information about the environment and resources collected through the activities of First Nations Guardians, are helping to inform better stewardship, planning and decisions in B.C.

Land Use Planning

The B.C. government has developed a set of [land use planning principles \(PDF, 801KB\)](#) in collaboration with First Nations. Land use planning supports preservation of cultural values, healthy ecosystems, and opportunities for economic activities by setting broad strategic direction for plan areas — providing clarity for ‘what’ can occur ‘where’ on land and water. Over time, various planning programs have been developed including land use planning (LUP), forest landscape planning (FLP), water sustainability and planning (WSP). Additionally planning for species at risk, conservation and habitat may be done in collaboration with First Nations. These are transparent and inclusive processes to protect certain environmental and cultural values, while providing certainty for land use and stewardship including economic investments, and can be modified over time to address changing needs.

Learn more about [Land Use Planning for Provincial Public Land](#)

Collaborative Stewardship Framework

The Collaborative Stewardship Framework (CSF) represents the B.C. government’s fundamental, partnership-based approach to natural resource stewardship in British Columbia.

Through CSF, partner First Nations work together with the Government of B.C., as well as industry, interested parties and the public to advance a regional approach to environmental stewardship and resource management. Regional ‘forum’ tables, which are co-led by First Nations and Provincial representatives, deliver stewardship projects and plans, each tailored to local needs and priorities.

Through this collaborative, regional approach, CSF has successfully advanced land and resource management goals that serve all people living in British Columbia, including:

- Field-based monitoring and ecosystem enhancement
- Improving permitting efficiencies
- Providing a central table for engagement
- Informing major projects with trusted data and information
- Cumulative effects assessments
- Advancing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and delivery of Action 2.6 of the Declaration Act Action Plan
- First Nations Guardians programs
 - CSF started with a single pilot forum in 2012, after which it expanded into two programs that brought more regions on board (Environmental Stewardship Initiative and Collaborative Stewardship Framework), and has now grown to 15 regional forums joined under one ‘CSF’ umbrella
 - CSF now spans more than 80% of the province’s land base and involves over 150 First Nations. Find out more about CSF from the links below

[Learn more about Collaborative Stewardship in British Columbia](#)

Coastal Policy and Planning

In B.C. coastal marine management is complex, with First Nations, federal, provincial, and local governments having responsibilities and interests in different ocean activities and values.

In 2024, B.C. co-developed the Coastal Marine Strategy (CMS) with many coastal First Nations. The CMS is a coast-wide vision that aims to improve the health and stewardship of coastal marine environments, build climate change resiliency, nurture

a sustainable blue economy, support coastal community well-being, and advance reconciliation with First Nations.

B.C. manages and authorizes activities that require access to the seabed and the coastline such as aquaculture, clean energy, docks and wharves, log handling sites, and underwater utilities. B.C. is also accountable for land use planning and management (such as parks and protected areas), seafood development and aquatic plant culture and harvesting.

Read the [B.C. Coastal Marine Strategy](#)

Important collaborative coastal policy and planning is happening in the Northern Shelf Bioregion, extending from Campbell River to the Alaskan border and out to Haida Gwaii. In this region, B.C. works with 17 partner First Nations through the Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) and Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network. These initiatives are co-governed between B.C. and partner First Nations and provide stable funding for partner Nations. Some of the funding is used to support First Nation Guardian programs to monitor shared indicators identified through the MaPP planning process. MaPP has also worked with guardian programs to develop and deliver cultural awareness training for Natural Resource Officers and other provincial staff. The MaPP initiative overlaps with other provincial initiatives such as the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) on the North Coast. Both MaPP and ESI develop cumulative effects indicators and reports.

The MPA Network advances First Nations, provincial, and federal commitments to marine conservation in the Northern Shelf Bioregion. The MPA Network provides a collaborative platform to advance conservation priorities identified by First Nations through IPCAs and advances other marine protected areas jointly identified by the planning partners. All new sites identified through the MPA Network action plan will be co-managed under a collaborative governance agreement signed between partner First Nations, Canada, and B.C. Both the MPA Network and MaPP use consensus decision-making models requiring participation by B.C. and First Nations partners. The MPA Network further expands consensus decisions by partnering with Canada on design and implementation of the MPA Network.

[Learn more about the Marine Plan Partnership here](#)

[Learn more about the Marine Protected Area Network here](#)

Cumulative Effects Framework

B.C. is committed to considering cumulative effects in NRS decision-making. Improving cumulative effects assessment and management will be a vital part of sustainable and integrated resource management.

The Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF) includes policy, procedures, and decision support tools that complement current land management achieved through B.C.'s laws, land use plans and various best practices and processes. The framework provides important foundational information that can be used in a number of ways, including potentially informing consultation with First Nations where a proposed decision or activity by B.C. may affect Aboriginal or treaty rights. CEF aims to transparently report on cumulative effects assessment information and management considerations in order to enable co-ordinated, consistent management of cumulative effects across the NRS.

[Learn more about the Cumulative Effects Framework](#)

Climate Change

B.C.'s responsibility for stewarding resources is being impacted by a changing climate but also offers opportunities to mitigate the impacts. B.C. is helping NRS professionals manage for a changing climate by gathering and analyzing climate data, developing decision support tools and researching and applying best management practices.

[Learn more about how B.C. is preparing for climate change](#)

[Learn more about disaster and climate risk and resilience assessments](#)

The climate crisis is having profound impacts on B.C.'s ecosystems, affecting our safety, cultures, and livelihoods. B.C. has established the Future Forest Ecosystems Centre to forecast ecological disruptions, which aims to anticipate climate impacts in order to improve B.C.'s response to the changing climate.

[Learn more about the Future Forest Ecosystems Centre](#)

B.C. has been researching how the Province can adapt the NRS to a changing climate.

[Learn more about applied science in British Columbia](#)

CleanBC is B.C.'s plan to lower climate-changing emissions by 40% by 2030. B.C. is collaborating with partners, industry, Indigenous communities and local governments to protect nature, reduce emissions and build a cleaner economy.

[Learn more about CleanBC and how B.C. is collaborating with partners, industry, Indigenous communities and local governments to take climate action](#)

Wildlife, Species at Risk, Fisheries

Wildlife stewardship

B.C. is responsible for the management and health of wildlife. Through conservation and wildlife health programs, B.C. aims to ensure wildlife and their habitats thrive, are resilient, and support and enrich the lives of all British Columbians.

Wildlife stewardship is the responsible care of wildlife and habitat, including:

- Protection
- Conservation
- Restoration
- Recovery
- Regulation of human activities
- Administration
- Enforcement

Wildlife stewardship accounts for the interests of current societies and future generations.

Wildlife stewardship planning

To date, wildlife stewardship planning has focused on species that are of cultural and social significance, and/or are hunted or trapped. Historically this planning has relied

primarily on western science. B.C. is working with First Nations to make wildlife stewardship more collaborative and inclusive of First Nations' values, perspectives, knowledge, and governance authorities.

Learn more about [wildlife stewardship planning](#)

Wildlife health

Healthy wild animal populations are important, as wild animals contribute to healthy environments and tourism and recreation economies. Wildlife diseases are a health risk to wild animals, domestic animals, and the humans they interact with.

Learn more about [wildlife health](#)

Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program

B.C. has some funding to help local governments and First Nations manage conflicts between humans and deer in urban areas. To be considered for funding, applicants submit a project proposal to the Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share (PUDOCS) program.

The PUDOCS applications are evaluated by the Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee (PUDAC). The PUDAC includes representatives from B.C., local governments, Union of B.C. Municipalities, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Details on the program and information on how to apply is available in the [Program and Application Guide \(PDF, 848KB\)](#) and [Application Form \(PDF, 1MB\)](#)

Wildlife Data and Information

Wildlife Species Inventory (WSI) data and information include any survey performed to determine the presence or abundance of a wildlife species. Wildlife species include mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and plants, as well as their habitats. B.C. collects, stores, and provides access to data and information on all wildlife species.

Wildlife species data and information include counts, population parameter estimates (density, sex ratios), biological samples (hair, blood, DNA), animal capture locations, telemetry, and habitat features such as mineral licks, as well as associated reports, maps, and spatial files. The WSI also manages data on rare plant, lichen, and other vegetation surveys.

The intent of a central repository for wildlife species inventory data is to facilitate access to survey data and results to inform management decisions and improve conservation efforts.

[Search for wildlife data](#)
[Wildlife standards and guidelines](#)
[Submit wildlife data](#)

Secure Data

Wildlife data submitted to B.C. is generally publicly available; however, some data may be secured to protect a species or ecosystem from persecution or harm, for proprietary reasons or to protect government interests.

[Find out more about the Species and Ecosystems Data and Information Security Policy](#)

Wildlife Habitat Protection

Access scientific data related to provincial species, ecological communities and environmental trends:

[HabitatWizard](#)
[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#)
[Environmental Reporting BC](#)
[Species and Ecosystems at Risk in B.C.](#)

Together for Wildlife

The diversity of wildlife in B.C. is one of the province's greatest treasures. The variety of species, ecosystems and habitats is greater than in any other province in Canada, and some species are not found anywhere else on earth.

The Together for Wildlife strategy commits to [5 goals and 24 actions \(PDF 0.7MB\)](#) to achieve its vision.

The 5 goals of Together for Wildlife

- Goal 1: All British Columbians have a voice in wildlife stewardship
- Goal 2: Data, information, and knowledge drive better decisions
- Goal 3: Stewardship actions achieve tangible benefits for wildlife
- Goal 4: Accountability and transparency build trust and confidence
- Goal 5: Collaboration advances reconciliation with Indigenous governments

Goal 5, particularly Action 21, of the [Together for Wildlife Strategy](#) supports First Nation guardian and compliance programs. B.C. has committed to evaluating, in collaboration with participating First Nations, existing guardian and compliance projects with a focus on wildlife and habitat stewardship. Building on successes identified in the evaluation, B.C. commits to developing an approach for a formal compliance program that will be implemented locally with First Nation governments at their request.

Learn more about Together for Wildlife on the [Wildlife Project Dashboard](#)

Species and Ecosystems at Risk

Species or ecosystems that are at risk of being lost can be assessed as endangered, threatened or of special concern. B.C. has an internationally important role in conservation with its diverse ecosystems and landscapes that provide homes for many regionally, nationally, and globally significant species.

As the number of species at risk continues to grow, co-operation between all levels of government is more important than ever. Working together is essential to protect species, their habitats, and biodiversity overall.

Most species-at-risk programs across Canada and internationally follow a similar approach: assess the status of species to determine if they are endangered or threatened, establish a list of species that are legally considered to be at risk, plan for recovery actions, apply protection and recovery measures, and report on the actions that have been taken.

[Learn more about how B.C. is taking action to support species and ecosystems at risk](#)

[Learn more about conservation projects and partnerships in the province](#)

[Learn more about environmental monitoring and standards in B.C.](#)

[Learn more about riparian areas](#)

BC Parks is responsible for protecting the natural environment and cultural values of B.C.'s outdoor areas. BC Parks is committed to honouring B.C.'s natural heritage and working to ensure its healthy future, for decades to come.

[Learn more about how BC Parks is working to mitigate climate change, maintain ecosystems, and protect biodiversity](#)

Forest And Range Evaluation Program (FREP)

The Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) measures the effectiveness of forest and range practices by monitoring and evaluating the condition of resource values under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA).

[Learn more about FREP](#)

[Learn more about FREP reports and publications](#)

FREP Training

Self-guided online training material for riparian and wetlands values was created to provide foundational knowledge to FREP assessors. It is publicly accessible for anyone interested in riparian or wetlands monitoring to gain an understanding of the riparian and wetland FREP protocols.

[Learn more about FREP Riparian and Wetlands Monitoring Training](#)

NRS regional staff invite First Nations technical representatives, such as Guardians, to FREP training and assessments during the field season for many of the FREP values of interest to First Nation communities (riparian, wetlands, water quality, stand level retention, cultural heritage, visual quality).

For more information, please contact FREP@gov.bc.ca

Wetlands email inbox: Wetlands@gov.bc.ca

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Freshwater habitat data tools and resources

Learn more about fish habitat data search and submission tools, digital base maps, and fish inventories:

Review [fish and fish habitat data and information](#)

B.C. is responsible for the management of freshwater fish habitat and the upland resources that can impact or alter their environment:

Review [aquatic habitat management](#)

B.C. is home to nearly 70 different freshwater fish species, as well as more than a dozen introduced species that exhibit a range of unique characteristics and life histories:

Review [fish and aquatic species](#)

Water quality guidelines are benchmarks for fresh and marine water quality that are used to assess and manage the health and sustainability of B.C.'s aquatic resources:

Review [water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life](#)

Freshwater fish, fish habitat data and information

Fish data and information can include fish distribution, population status, and condition/capability of supporting habitats for all freshwater fish species in B.C.

Much of this information is gathered in fish inventory surveys that determine the presence or abundance of a species, as well as targeted habitat assessments. Fish data and information include counts, occurrences, inventory results, habitat descriptions, reports, maps and spatial files.

The intent of having a central repository for fish data and information is to facilitate access to data and results to support informed management decisions and improved conservation efforts.

[Search for fish and fish habitat data and information](#)

[Fish and fish habitat standards and guidelines](#)

[Submit fish and fish habitat data](#)

Aquaculture

Aquaculture contributes significantly to B.C.'s economy. With its mild climate, good water quality and sheltered bays, the province's coastline is well suited to all forms of aquaculture.

Three main groups currently cultured are:

- Finfish (including salmon)
- Shellfish
- Aquatic plants

Aquaculture in Canada is a shared responsibility, with the federal government leading on salmon aquaculture. Fisheries and Oceans Canada works closely with other federal government departments, the provinces and territories, and the aquaculture industry to support sustainability in Canada's farmed fish and shellfish sectors.

[Learn more about aquaculture in B.C.](#)

Marine commercial fisheries

Commercial fisheries are a significant contributor to the provincial economy and the social fabric of numerous coastal communities. This industry includes the commercial

harvesting of more than 80 different species of finfish, shellfish, and marine plants from both freshwater and marine environments.

Federal and provincial jurisdiction over fisheries is complex. Canada has primary jurisdictional responsibility for conservation and management of the tidal-water fisheries. However, Canada has delegated some responsibilities for recreational and commercial fisheries to B.C. Due to the shared responsibility over fisheries management, the two levels of government have entered into various formal agreements to promote co-operation and co-ordination in the delivery of our respective mandates.

[Find out how the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada \(DFO\) manages fisheries](#)

[Apply for a commercial fisheries licence from the DFO](#)

Seafood industry licensing

To ensure seafood is safe for human consumption, individuals and businesses in the seafood industry must be licensed. B.C. licenses and regulates activities involving commercially-caught fish after the fish leave the fisher's possession.

Commercial fisheries are regulated by the [Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#) (DFO).

Which seafood industry activities require a licence?

The following activities within the seafood industry have specific licensing requirements:

- First receivers of commercially-caught fish from a commercial fisher require a fish receiver licence
- Fish, seafood, and aquatic plant processors require a seafood processor licence
- Commercial fishers selling their catch to the general public directly from their harvest vessel, or to restaurants or retail stores, require a fisher vendor licence

What are seafood industry licensing requirements?

While certain activities within the seafood industry may not require a licence, the following activities are subject to certain requirements:

- Individuals transporting seafood
- Individuals transporting live bivalve molluscs (e.g., live oysters)
- Individuals receiving live bivalve molluscs.

Find out more about [seafood industry licensing](#)

Contact local health authorities for further information about selling fish and seafood at farmers' markets or at road-side:

- [Vancouver Island Health Authority](#)
- [Vancouver Coastal Health Authority](#)
- [Fraser Health Authority](#)
- [Interior Health Authority](#)
- [Northern Health Authority](#)
- [First Nations Health Authority](#)

Licensing and reporting requirements

Fish and Seafood Act and Regulations came into effect on January 1, 2017.

Licence application forms are available for B.C. seafood processors, fish receivers and fisher vendors:

[Fish receiver licence application form \(PDF, 168KB\)](#) updated October 29, 2024
[Seafood processor licence application form \(PDF, 228.3KB\)](#) updated October 29, 2024
[Fisher vendor licence application form \(PDF, 129 KB\)](#) updated October 29, 2024

All seafood processors licensed by the B.C. government are required to develop, maintain and follow a written food safety and sanitation plan.

[Discover resources and assistance to help you comply with the Fish and Seafood Act and Regulations](#)

All B.C. seafood processors, fish receivers and fisher vendors must submit annual reports.

[Access reporting documents and guidance](#)

Aquatic plant harvesting

B.C. has more than 600 species of marine aquatic plants, including the greatest diversity of kelps found anywhere in the world. Marine aquatic plants are culturally, ecologically, and economically valued coastal resources.

The B.C. Aquatic Plant Program regulates and licenses the culture and harvest of aquatic plants.

Aquatic Plants in the marine environment are shared resources that are managed to balance the environmental and economic benefits that aquatic plants provide. B.C. is responsible for regulating and licensing the wild harvest and culture of aquatic plants in B.C. under the [Fish and Seafood Act](#) and the [Fish and Seafood Licensing Regulation](#).

Information on application fees, harvesting requirements, terms and conditions on a licence, record-keeping requirements, and royalty fees are outlined in regulations:

More information about [wild aquatic plant harvesting](#), [aquatic plant culturing](#), and [aquatic plant management](#).

Recreational fishing (sport fishing)

Sport fishing occurs both in tidal and non-tidal (fresh) waters throughout B.C.

Freshwater (non-tidal) fishing

Management of freshwater recreational fishing

Non-tidal (freshwater) fishing in B.C. is regulated by law, and the majority of anglers must be licensed. The Province establishes legislation, policies and procedures for managing fishing and hunting activities, and for allocating fish and wildlife resources for recreational and commercial use.

Read more on [Non-Tidal \(Fresh Water\) Fishing](#)

Tidal-water fishing

Management of tidal-water recreational fishing

In B.C., approximately 300,000 licence holders participate in the tidal-water recreational fishery. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for managing tidal-water recreational fishing.

The recreational fishery and associated businesses are major contributors to local economies, benefiting those that provide direct fishing services and service providers such as transportation and accommodation providers.

[Visit Fisheries and Oceans Canada to learn more](#)

Recreational shellfish harvesting

British Columbia provides policy advice on issues such as commercial and recreational allocation and catch monitoring and is responsible for recreational shellfish harvesting reserves.

[Read more on Recreational Shellfish Harvesting](#)

Sustainable seafood

Food safety, traceability, and sustainability practices are the cornerstones of our seafood sector and have earned B.C. an international reputation for safe, sustainable and high-quality seafood products.

Seafood stewardship certifications

Seafood certifications build consumer confidence by identifying sustainably caught or produced products in the marketplace. B.C. fishers and aquaculture producers have gained greater market access and competitiveness by participating in a wide variety of stewardship certification programs.

Learn more about [seafood stewardship certifications](#)

Traditional Stewardship Activities

Cultural and prescribed fire

Cultural and prescribed fire is one of many land stewardship practices that can help reduce the intensity of naturally occurring wildfires while returning an integral and culturally significant process to the land base. B.C.'s use of the term "cultural and prescribed fire" is intended to acknowledge Indigenous cultural burning as distinct from prescribed burning, while also acknowledging the intersection of Indigenous and Western fire management as both are practiced today.

The importance of fire

Fire is a natural, normal process for many ecosystems in B.C. and is necessary to maintain a healthy forest and the diversity of plant and animal life.

At the same time, the use of fire on the land carries risk and the safety of practitioners, communities, and the public is the primary consideration. B.C. helps mitigate this risk by ensuring there is a plan in place to avoid harm to sensitive values (such as species at risk), keep burns within an identified area, and ensure there are sufficient resources available to respond if circumstances change. These burn plans are typically developed using a partnership-based approach, with First Nations, the BC Wildfire Service, land management agencies, tenure holders, and others contributing knowledge and resources to successful burn delivery.

The history of aggressive and highly effective wildfire suppression in B.C. has resulted in:

- Significant build-up of forest fuels
- Greater tree encroachment on grasslands
- In-filling of once open, dry forests

This has both increased the risk of devastating wildfires and negatively impacted biodiversity and forest health.

Cultural burning

B.C. has amended the Wildfire Regulation under the Wildfire Act to remove barriers to First Nations' use of fire on the landscape. Indigenous governing bodies have the option to enter into agreements with B.C. under s.60 of the Wildfire Act rather than submitting and obtaining an official's approval for a burn plan. BC Wildfire Service may also assist First Nations and other partners with burning projects when requested. This shift to a partnership-based framework is intended to help remove existing barriers to Indigenous uses of fire, in alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Prescribed fire

Prescribed fire is the planned and intentional use of fire on a specific land area. It is an ecologically appropriate and efficient means to achieve a variety of land management objectives, such as public safety and wildfire risk reduction, preserving Indigenous cultural values, improved wildlife habitat, forest health, preparation for tree planting, or disease eradication.

Prescribed fire can also contribute to improving air quality and meeting climate action targets by preventing large, intense wildfires and replacing them with more frequent, well-timed, low-intensity fires.

These fires can take many months to plan and are managed to minimize the chance of escape and smoke impacts while maximizing the benefits to the site.

Read more [information on planning a burn](#)

Guiding principles

The Ministry of Forests is committed to working in partnership with First Nations to support the expanded use of cultural and prescribed fire. Cultural and prescribed fire is an important tool for the advancement of reconciliation, as well land stewardship and public safety.

[Learn more about cultural and prescribed fire resources](#)

For information on specific projects, search posted [information bulletins](#)

The safety and success of prescribed fire projects depends on appropriate weather and site conditions. If required conditions do not become available, projects will be postponed.

Visit prescribedfire.ca to view case study videos and learn more about the planning and delivery of prescribed fire projects.

Funding

There are many pathways to fund cultural and prescribed burning projects:

- [Community Resiliency Investment \(CRI\) program](#)
- [Forest Enhancement Society of BC \(FESBC\)](#)
- Learn more about [wildfire prevention funding streams](#)

Food Security and Sovereignty

Indigenous food systems and agriculture

Indigenous food systems are diverse across B.C. and have a foundational and interconnected role in providing for cultural, social, environmental and economic well-being.

B.C. works to support Indigenous communities and peoples to meet their food security, food sovereignty and economic development goals and increase equitable participation in the agriculture and food sectors.

B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service

The [B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service](#) offers a single point of contact to help navigate the information, tools, and resources to start or expand activities in Indigenous food systems, food sovereignty, food security, and the agriculture and food sector in B.C. Staff provide wayfinding services and program referrals as required to connect people to existing programs, services and funding opportunities.

Contact IndigenousFoodSystems@gov.bc.ca for more information

Indigenous Food Security and Food Sovereignty program

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) is working with [New Relationship Trust](#) to deliver the Indigenous Food Security and Food Sovereignty program. The Indigenous Food Security and Sovereignty Grant provides non-repayable funding contributions to First Nation communities, Indigenous organizations, businesses, and entrepreneurs in B.C. to develop, expand, or strengthen Indigenous food systems, enhance sustainability, and grow Indigenous agriculture and food sovereignty.

The Indigenous Food Security and Food Sovereignty program supports sustainable food production, community food security and traditional food practices. It also aims to support Indigenous communities and businesses to participate in the agriculture and food sectors.

Visit New Relationship Trust's [program webpage](#) for more information.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Archaeology assessments and studies

In B.C., archaeological sites are investigated and protected for their historical, cultural, scientific, and educational value to the general public, local communities and First Nations. Archaeology assessments and studies help identify and assess archaeological sites to determine whether proposed projects will impact archaeological resources.

Download this [Table Comparing Archaeological Studies and Permits](#) for a quick side-by-side comparison of the different archaeology assessments and studies. Or [learn more about archaeology assessments and studies](#).

Archaeological Overview Assessments

Archaeological Overview Assessments are a desktop assessment of several variables (for example known archaeological sites, traditional land use, or environmental variables) to identify and assess the potential of an area for as-yet unrecorded archaeological sites. An Archaeological Overview Assessment may be a large-scale

GIS model or small-scale map review. The Ministry of Forests Archaeology Branch has established guidelines for Archaeological Overview Assessments.

Learn more about [Archaeological Overview Assessments](#)

Preliminary Field Reconnaissance

Preliminary Field Reconnaissance studies (PFRs) are a field evaluation of archaeological potential and may be completed without a permit. Non-permitted preliminary field reconnaissance studies should follow [Best Practices for Recording Results of Non-permitted Preliminary Field Reconnaissance \(PFR\) Studies](#).

Archaeological Impact Assessments

Archaeological Impact Assessments are conducted by archaeologists under permit and allow for subsurface investigations, artifact collections, and other activities.

Learn more about [Archaeological Impact Assessments](#)

Report an archaeological find

Every year in B.C., archaeological artifacts, sites and human remains are discovered.

[Report finding an archaeological artifact or human remains](#)

Heritage inspection and permit activities

Altering an archaeological site without a permit is prohibited under the Heritage Conservation Act. This applies to sites on public and private land, regardless of whether the site has been recorded or disturbed.

Learn more about the [types of archaeological permits in B.C.](#)

Request archaeological data

Contact the Archaeology Branch in the Ministry of Forests if you have questions about archaeological assessment and information. Their email is Archaeology@gov.bc.ca 250-953-3334.

Learn more about [requesting archaeological data](#)

Water Planning and Strategies

The [Water Sustainability Act](#) (WSA) manages the diversion and use of water resources in B.C and contains a number of area-based tools, such as Water Sustainability Plans and Water Objectives, to support watershed planning, regional water management and watershed governance.

[Learn more about the Water Sustainability Act](#)

Water Sustainability Plans

Water Sustainability Plans (WSPs) are enabled under sections 64 - 85 of the WSA. WSPs can be developed to address conflict between users, environmental flow needs, risks to water quality or aquatic ecosystem health, or to identify restoration measures in relation to a damaged aquatic ecosystem. WSPs can lead to extensive change in how a watershed is managed on both public and private land within the WSP area.

WSPs can include regulations that apply to all of part of the plan area. These plan regulations are described in [WSA ss. 76-85](#).

[Learn more about Water Sustainability Plans](#)

Water Objectives

Water Objectives are enabled under section 43 of the WSA. They are an area-based planning tool that can promote positive outcomes for water and communities across a range of land and water planning and decision processes. Water Objectives can be established to sustain water quality and quantity for specified uses of water and to sustain aquatic ecosystems. WSA Objectives are considered by decision makers for a variety of decisions and statutes. There are currently no WSA Objectives in effect.

The [WSA Objectives Interim Policy](#) describes B.C.'s approach to developing Water Objectives.

The [WSA Objectives Technical Guidance](#) provides technical guidance to support the WSA Objectives development process as described in the WSA Objectives Interim Policy.

[Learn more about Water Objectives under the Water Sustainability Act.](#)

Watershed Security Fund

In March 2023, B.C. invested \$100 million in the Watershed Security Fund to be co-developed and co-managed by the Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Water Caucus (First Nation delegates from the B.C.-First Nation Water Table form the Water Caucus). Annual funding for a grants program is expected to be \$3-5 million per year. Co-developed funding priorities include:

- Watershed collaboration, planning and governance
- Watershed ecosystems and restoration
- Nature-based infrastructure
- Watersheds and food systems
- Monitoring and assessment
- Land and water-based learning, intergeneration knowledge

The first grant intake in 2024 supported 26 projects across B.C. Up-to-date information can be found on the Watershed Security Fund website.

[Learn more about water planning and strategies](#)

[Learn more about the Watershed Security Fund](#)

Water licensing, rights, and approvals

The right to divert and use surface water or groundwater is authorized by a licence or approval. Licenses and approvals are granted in accordance with the requirements of the WSA.

[Learn more about water licensing and rights](#)

[Learn more about water licenses and approvals](#)

Drought

During times of water scarcity or drought, response actions focus on water conservation through education and outreach; agricultural sector engagement; requests for voluntary water-use reductions; and mitigation actions for fish and ecosystems, such as increasing access to spawning grounds. However, if necessary,

B.C. can take regulatory actions, alone or in combination, to protect the rights of water users, aquatic ecosystems and fish populations.

[Learn more about water use during scarcity](#)

[Learn more about drought preparation and response](#)

Learn more about current drought [conditions](#)

Section 3 - Emergency Management and Public Safety

Emergency Management System

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is B.C.'s lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including mitigation, preparation, response and recovery.

B.C. aims to give emergency personnel and emergency management representatives the tools to ensure a coordinated and organized approach to emergencies and disasters. This is achieved through innovative legislation, full-scale emergency response exercises, and the B.C. Emergency Management System – a comprehensive framework that provides a structure for a standardized approach to developing, coordinating and implementing emergency management programs across the province.

[Learn more about implementing emergency management programs across the province](#)

[Learn more about Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program \(IERFP\) for funding of the implementation of the Indigenous Engagement Requirements within the Emergency and Disaster Management Act \(EDMA\).](#)

Incident Command System

Emergency management and climate readiness in B.C.

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standard on-site command and control system used to manage emergency incidents and planned events.

ICS Canada is a network of organizations working co-operatively to maintain the standards used in incident management response. Through this network and with the support of trainers within these organizations, ICS Canada offers courses that are recognized across the country.

ICS Canada instructors in B.C. must be recognized by the Province and meet the requirements set by ICS Canada.

[Learn more about Emergency Management training and ICS](#)

[Learn more about the Introduction to the Incident Command System](#)

Wildfires

The BC Wildfire Service receives local support from several partners around B.C. Partnering with local and provincial stakeholder groups allows the BC Wildfire Service to receive input and expertise from a diverse set of professionals and enables more informed decision making.

The BC Wildfire Service Incident Management Team (IMT) program has a long history of providing emergency management response in B.C. IMTs consist of a diverse group of skilled personnel dedicated to a common goal of managing complex wildfire events.

BC Wildfire Service IMTs follow the [Incident Command System](#) (ICS). The IMT aims to relieve pressure on local fire centres and zones, allowing them to focus on responding to new fire starts. It is built around five major management activities:

- Command
- Operations
- Planning
- Logistics
- Finance and administration

Mitigation

Mitigation helps communities reduce the risk of climate and natural disasters. Many areas of B.C. are at a high risk for wildfire, drought and flooding, and these risks are

made worse by climate change. Mitigation efforts can save money compared to the cost of post-disaster recovery.

[Disaster and climate risk and resilience assessment](#)

[Learn more about disaster mitigation programs in BC](#)

The Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program provides funding to First Nations and local governments to enhance their capacity to withstand and adapt to natural and climate-driven hazards through:

- Activities that bolster community resilience by providing data, building partnerships, and supporting long-term disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation planning, and
- Structural and non-structural disaster risk-reduction projects.

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies and to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks.

[Learn more about Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding](#)

[Learn more about Community Emergency Preparedness Funding](#)

Preparation

EMCR promotes preparedness through engagement activities like expert-led discussions on upcoming emergencies and the PreparedBC program, which supports public emergency planning, resource education, and assistance during crises.

PreparedBC offers downloadable guides and fill-in-the-blank plans to help British Columbians prepare for emergencies.

[Learn more about PreparedBC](#)

Response

In an emergency, communities are responsible for activating their emergency plans and requesting provincial assistance, while EMCRC leads the response by mobilizing

resources and co-ordinating support for affected communities. Using B.C. Emergency Management System goals, EMCR aims to ensure the safety of responders, save lives, and minimize the impact on health, infrastructure, and the environment.

[Learn more about local emergency response operations](#)

First Nations in B.C. qualify for federal assistance. Canada and B.C. work together in assisting First Nations for eligible expenditures. Through an agreement with Indigenous Services Canada, claims and payments are administered through the Provincial Emergency Program for First Nations in the same manner as for local authorities. The same eligibility and documentation requirements for disaster financial assistance in B.C. that apply to local authorities also apply to First Nations.

[Learn more about emergency management financial supports](#)

Recovery

EMCR aids disaster recovery by helping communities repair and rebuild with a focus on disaster risk reduction and long-term resilience. This stage supports evacuees' return, provides psychosocial supports, and facilitates the gradual restoration of normalcy.

[Learn more about how to support citizens to recover from an emergency event.](#)

[Learn more about how your community can recover from an emergency event.](#)

Emergency Support Services

Emergency Support Services (ESS) provides short-term basic support to people affected by disasters. ESS can help with essential needs like food, clothing and accommodation.

The program is financed by the provincial government and administered by Indigenous communities and local governments.

[Learn more about the ESS Program](#)

Cultural safety and humility in emergency management

EMCR and First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) have a signed Declaration of Commitment that highlights a shared intention to embed cultural safety and cultural humility across all four pillars of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery). This shared intention recognizes that the manner in which emergency management is conducted can have a lasting impact on First Nations health and wellness.

[Learn more about Appendix 4: Community Navigator & First Nations Community Navigator for Emergency Support Services](#)

[Learn more about Appendix 5: Cultural activity locations support \(CALS\)](#)

Wildfire Preparedness Guides

On average there are more than 1,600 wildfires in B.C. every year. Sometimes they burn in areas away from houses or infrastructure, with ecological benefits to the landscape. At other times, they can threaten homes, businesses, and livelihoods. The probability of damaging wildfires has increased in recent years, due in part to the effects of climate change. The Wildlife Preparedness Guide helps people in British Columbia prepare their households, protect their property and understand what to do if a wildfire is close to their community.

[Learn more about Wildlife Preparedness Guide](#) and [FireSmart BC](#)

Concerned about water quality after a wildfire? [HealthLink BC has up-to-date information that may be helpful.](#)

Flood Preparedness

Flooding can be caused by many factors. When they overlap, the impacts are often worse. B.C. aims to reduce the impacts of flooding on people, communities and infrastructure in the province.

Learn about the [B.C. Flood Strategy](#)

[Learn more about understanding flood risk](#)

[Learn more about enhancing flood preparedness, response and recovery](#)

Drinking Water

Source water protection

Water used for drinking is protected by numerous agencies, legislation and policies. In B.C., the multi-barrier approach is used to ensure water is protected from the source to the tap. Multiple NRS ministries have responsibilities to regulate activities on the land and in watersheds that can affect source drinking water. The Drinking Water Protection Act and regulation set out the requirements for water suppliers who are responsible for delivering safe drinking water.

[Learn more about shared roles and responsibilities in protecting drinking water](#)

Groundwater wells

Some people in B.C. get their drinking water from groundwater wells:

[Find a laboratory to test your drinking water well](#)

[Care for and maintain your water supply well to protect water quality](#)

[Well water testing information](#)

Section 4 - Knowledge and Data Sharing

How Data is Used in B.C.

B.C. collects and creates data for numerous provincial programs and initiatives. Data helps detect trends, identify issues and develop better programs.

[Find out how to access, explore and use government data and statistics.](#)

For questions or comments regarding data management or data management policy more broadly, please contact: BC Data Service Division in the Ministry of Citizens' Services at data@gov.bc.ca or on the [Data Systems and Services Client Hub](#)

Finding and Sharing Data

B.C. has many programs, applications and services available to access or share data. See [finding and sharing data](#) for information about what's available and how to access it.

Information Sharing Agreements

An Information Sharing Agreement is mandatory when there is a regular and systematic exchange of personal information between an external organization or person and B.C. or any public sector agency. ISAs are used to help outline conditions on the collection, use and disclosure of personal information in provincial work.

To learn more about Information Sharing Agreements and available guidance for ministries please [visit this Sharing Personal Information page](#)

Mapping

B.C. has invested in spatial data infrastructure to be able to share important information. Learn about [geographic data, tools, and mapping applications](#).

Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD)

Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD) is an online GIS application that lets authorized users view and download spatial and tabular data about B.C.'s archaeological sites in a variety of formats.

[Learn more about Remote Access to Archaeological Data \(RAAD\)](#)

Data Initiatives in B.C.

Indigenous languages in government systems

B.C. is taking steps to ensure that Indigenous languages are available in all [government systems and official records](#). This is a vital step towards reconciliation and is included in B.C.'s Declaration Act Action Plan, Action 3.15.

The [Indigenous Languages Technology Standard](#) (ILTS) outlines the IM/IT technical requirements for government systems to read, write, store, process, and display Indigenous language. This standard is available for all organizations to use and reference in updating their systems.

BC Geographical Names Office

The BC Geographical Names Office (BCGNO) is responsible for naming geographical features and managing all official place names in B.C. The BCGNO is committed to working respectfully with First Nations and communities to better recognize their geographical names, languages, orthographies, and naming conventions.

The BC Geographical Names Information System includes a web service (the BC Geographical Names Web Service). The web service can be used by third-party application developers to incorporate name searches into other web sites and applications.

FOIPPA Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The purpose of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) is to protect personal privacy and to make public bodies more accountable to the public by giving the public a right to access records.

In response to a request for records under FOIPPA, the head of a public body is empowered to refuse to disclose information to an applicant for a number of reasons, as set out in Division 2 of FOIPPA. Importantly, this includes:

- Section 18: **Disclosure harmful to the conservation of heritage sites, etc.**
The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in damage to or interference with the conservation of fossil sites, natural sites or sites that have an anthropological or heritage value, an endangered, threatened or vulnerable species, subspecies or race of plants, vertebrates or invertebrates, or any other rare or endangered living resources.
- Section 18.1: **Disclosure harmful to interests of an Indigenous people**
The head of a public body must also refuse to disclose information if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the rights of an Indigenous people to maintain, control, protect or develop any of the following with respect to the Indigenous people: cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, or manifestations of sciences, technologies or cultures. The one exception is if the Indigenous people has consented in writing to the disclosure.

Provincial Data Plan

Through direction under the [Provincial Data Plan](#), B.C. has initiated collaborative discussions with Indigenous Peoples about data governance in order to better support reconciliation and Indigenous Peoples with how data is collected and used.

Heritage Conservation Act and Transformation Project

The [Heritage Conservation Act](#) recognizes the historical, cultural, scientific, spiritual, and educational value of archaeological sites to First Nations, local communities, and the public.

The [Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project](#) is currently underway in collaboration with Indigenous rights and title holders and Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous ways of knowing

Through B.C.'s commitment to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, there is emphasis on including and incorporating Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing into the work of the government of B.C.

Visit [shared knowledge in action](#) to see examples from two First Nation communities and stewardship plans where First Nations perspectives are incorporated. Each First Nation community is independently governed, so collaboration and consultation are unique.

There are a variety of projects throughout B.C. that aim to ensure Indigenous knowledge and ways of being are included.

[Learn more about the Province's work including Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing here](#)

Shared Decision-Making

Shared decision-making encompasses a broad range of processes, focused on building collaborative and lasting government-to-government relationships and respectful of First Nations knowledge, self-determination and jurisdiction. Shared decision-making processes vary and may be implemented through many types of arrangements and relationships, depending on the circumstances and objectives of the First Nation and Provincial governments.

Section 7 of the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) enables B.C. and Indigenous governing bodies to enter into agreements that recognize Indigenous decision-making with the provincial statutory decision-making framework.

These agreements outline the processes for joint or consent-based decision-making while clarifying the roles and responsibilities of B.C. and Indigenous governing bodies.

The intent of these agreements is to provide certainty and stability in statutory decision-making and to recognize and implement Indigenous jurisdiction as part of B.C.'s decision-making process.

[Learn more about Section 7 agreements](#)

Section 5 - Outreach and Relationship Building

Local Government and First Nations Relations

Productive government-to-government relationships between local governments and First Nations, which include collaboration and proactive communication, can result in more inclusive decision making by local governments and can support the reconciliation process in B.C. Local governments are encouraged to engage with First Nations and build practical relationships based on recognition of First Nations' rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.

Learn more about [local government and First Nations relations](#)

Community to Community program for local government and First Nations

The Community to Community (C2C) program helps local governments and First Nations connect and build relationships.

The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs (HMA) provides funds to the Union of BC Municipalities to administer the C2C Program with the support of the First Nations Summit. The program is also supported by federal funding which typically matches the provincial contribution.

C2C funding helps neighbouring local governments and First Nations develop relationships by jointly hosting forums to discuss common issues, challenges and mutual opportunities for the benefit of their communities. More specifically it can also be used to support developing agreements (such as protocols, memoranda of understanding (MOUs), and service agreements, plans and strategies), and jointly reviewing bylaws or policies.

The Union of BC Municipalities and the First Nations Summit have convened province-wide events, open to all local governments and First Nations to attend, to discuss shared experiences and best practices. By building relationships, local governments and First Nations can work together on mutual interests, provide or share services, and explore partnering opportunities on economic and community development projects.

Since 1999, nearly 700 events have been held across B.C. Many forums have led to MOUs, protocol agreements and service agreements between local governments and First Nations. As well as improving relationships and helping build stronger understanding between communities, the forums also help support reconciliation.

Generally, the Union of BC Municipalities accepts applications from local governments and First Nations twice a year.

[Learn more about the Community to Community Program](#)

BC Parks

B.C.'s provincial protected areas system covers over 14% of the land base and includes many diverse, unique and sacred places. The BC Parks system is also part of the province's colonial legacy as many of the older parks were established with little to no consultation or consideration for the Indigenous Peoples who have used these areas and whose deep connections to the land continue to this day. BC Parks' goal is that reconciliation guides the work of BC Parks and is a shared responsibility of everyone in the agency.

BC Parks has partnered with First Nations on hundreds of projects that nurture common interests in stewardship, management and appreciation of these special places. BC Parks is committed to building and growing partnerships with First Nations to advance our common goals of environmental stewardship. These partnerships range from on-the-ground operations to formal agreements on visitor use management, park operations, and the collaborative management of protected areas.

Find out more about [BC Parks' commitment to reconciliation](#).

Mountain Resorts and Ski Areas

The majority (33 of 39) of B.C.'s operating ski areas and mountain resorts are located on provincial (Crown) land. The Mountain Resorts Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport develops long-term agreements with resort operators and oversees land management within the controlled recreation areas at the ski areas and mountain resorts.

The Mountain Resorts Branch works with many partners to provide timely decisions for new mountain resort proposals, major resort expansions and other existing projects, such as large marinas.

Services for all resorts on Crown land are available, including:

- Answering public requests for information
- Consulting with local and provincial governments
- Explaining policies and procedures
- Promoting tourism and sustainable resort development in the B.C.
- Ensuring the [All-Seasons Resort Policy \(PDF 532 KB\)](#) and Guidelines ([Chapter I \(PDF 1.6 MB\)](#) and [Chapter II \(PDF 1.6 MB\)](#)) are updated in response to changing industry and government initiatives

The Mountain Resorts Branch is committed to strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities, built on a foundation of respect, rights, and reconciliation. This includes consulting and engaging with First Nations communities about major resort development projects being proposed within First Nations territories.

Learn more about [mountain resort development in B.C.](#)

Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) supports B.C.'s tourism, arts, culture, sport, creative, and heritage sectors. Indigenous tourism is an essential component of B.C.'s tourism economy.

In December 2022, the Indigenous Tourism Accord was renewed and signed between B.C. and Indigenous Tourism British Columbia (ITBC). The accord aims to strengthen collaboration on Indigenous tourism development across B.C. The accord outlines

objectives such as increasing Indigenous participation in tourism, revitalizing Indigenous cultures, and fostering collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous tourism operators.

TACS oversees five Crown corporations, including Destination British Columbia.

Indigenous Tourism British Columbia (ITBC)

ITBC is a non-profit, partner-based organization that is committed to growing and promoting a sustainable, culturally rich Indigenous tourism industry. ITBC is mandated by the First Nations Leadership Council as the voice of Indigenous tourism interests in B.C. ITBC supports Indigenous tourism partners in experience development, training, funding access, networking opportunities, marketing programs, and current industry research.

Indigenous Tourism Training Initiative

The Indigenous Tourism Training Initiative is an Indigenous-led tourism training initiative to support current and aspiring tourism workers and employers by providing Indigenous-led and culturally focused training. Examples of programs supported include First Aid Certifications as well as Occupational, Marine and Wilderness First Aid.

To learn more, visit ITBC's Learning Hub: [Learning Hub | Indigenous Tourism BC](#)

Regional Indigenous Tourism Specialists

ITBC has a dedicated team of Regional Indigenous Tourism Specialists who provide pathfinding assistance, offering one-on-one support to Indigenous communities, businesses and entrepreneurs in their relative tourism region.

To learn more, visit: [Regional Indigenous Tourism Specialists | Indigenous Tourism BC](#)

Destination British Columbia

Destination British Columbia is a provincially funded, industry-led Crown corporation that supports a strong and competitive future for B.C.'s tourism industry through a

combination of global marketing, destination development, industry learning, co-operative community-based programs, and visitor servicing.

Industry Learning Centre

In Destination BC's Industry Learning Centre, free resources, and tools, featured articles, videos, guides and templates can be accessed 24/7.

To learn more, visit: [Industry Learning Centre](#)

B.C. Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative (BCTCRI)

The B.C. Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative is a provincial project that aims to improve climate resiliency of the tourism sector. The program provides free, tailored support to tourism businesses, tourism-related non-profits and Indigenous organizations looking to incorporate environmental sustainability or climate adaptation measures into their operations.

To learn more, visit: [BC Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Important Contact Numbers

- Police, Ambulance, Fire: **911**
- HealthlinkBC: **811**
- BC Racist Incident Helpline⁹: **1-833-457-5463**
- Emergency Coordination Centre: **1-800-663-3456**
- Report wildfire: **1-800-663-5555**, or ***5555** on a cell phone, or from the BC Wildfire Service App
 - Consider adding the BC Wildfire Service App from the App store
- Report a Spill: **1-800-663-3456**
- Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) hotline (toll-free in B.C.): **1-877-952-7277 (1-877-952-RAPP)**
- First Nations Health Authority; **Phone: 604-693-6500 Toll-free: 1-866-913-0033**
- Natural Gas Leaks: Contact EMBC and utility company (if known):
 - FortisBC **1-800-663-9911** (Northeast, Fraser Valley, South), Pacific Northern Gas (Northwest and Northeast)
 - **1-800-663-1173**, Enbridge (Northeast and Fraser Valley) **1-800-663-993**
- CANUTEC (Canadian Transport Emergency Centre): **1-613-996-6666 or *666 on cell phone**
- WorkSafeBC: **1-888-621-7233**
- Joint Rescue Coordination Centre: **1-800-567-5111 or cell #727**
- Poison Control Centre: **1-800-567-8911**

⁹ Government acknowledges that discussing, documenting and relaying experiences of racism can be difficult. The [Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network](#) offers support and resources on how to respond to and report hate crimes and incidents. Additionally, people in B.C. who witness or experience a racist incident can call the [Racist Incident Helpline](#). The helpline is a toll-free, accessible service that offers trauma-informed, culturally appropriate support in more than 240 languages. It was created for people who have been subjected to discrimination based on the colour of their skin, culture, ethnicity or place of origin. Callers will receive support and guidance, which could include referrals to local community support services, such as counselling.

- FrontCounterBC: **1-877-855-3222**
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO): **1-800-465-4336**
- Archaeology Branch: **250-953-3334**
- Search and Rescue BC: **Toll Free: 1-800-567-5111 Telephone: 250-413-8933**
- Report Marine Pollution: **Toll-free: 1-800-889-8852**

Appendix 2: Table of Abbreviations

AIA - Archaeological Impact Assessments

AOA - Archaeological Overview Assessment

BCEMS - BC Emergency Management System

BCGNO- BC Geographical Names Office

BCGW- BC Geographic Warehouse

C and E - Compliance and Enforcement

CEF - Cumulative Effects Framework

CRI - Community Resiliency Investment

CSF - Collaborative Stewardship Framework

DFO - Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

DRIF - Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding

EEB - Environmental Emergency Branch

ESI - Environmental Stewardship Initiative

FESBC - Forest Enhancement Society of BC

FOIPPA - Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

FREP - Forest and Range Evaluation Program

IFS - Indigenous Food Security and Sovereignty

ILTS- Indigenous Languages Technology Standard

ITBC- Indigenous Tourism BC

NRCED - Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database

PFRs - Preliminary Field Reconnaissance

PUDAC - Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee

PUDOCs - Provincial Urban Deer Cost Share Program

RAPP - Report all Poachers and Polluters

WSI - Wildlife Species Inventory

Appendix 3: Maps

iMapBC is an online mapping tool that allows users to view and analyze thousands of geographic datasets. Users can upload their own map data and print or email the results of their work.

[Learn more about iMapBC](#)

Natural Resource District Maps

Ministry of Forests organizes regional offices by District. Below is a map of these districts. Other NRS agencies have different regional boundaries.

[Learn more about Natural Resource Districts](#)

Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Regions

When working with BC Government staff regarding emergency management, you may interact with regional emergency management staff.

[Learn more about Emergency Management and Climate Readiness office contacts.](#)

British Columbia Hazard Map

The first step is knowing which hazards could happen within your territory.

[Learn more about British Columbia hazard map](#)

Appendix 4: Acknowledgments

First Nations are leading the way in stewarding their territories throughout B.C., through a variety of Guardian and stewardship programs. First Nation Guardians and stewardship staff play an important role in collaborative stewardship of B.C.'s territories and natural resources. Guardian and stewardship staff are guided by the priorities and objectives of their respective First Nation; therefore, their work priorities and functions will be unique for each Nation.

The Guardians Working Group has supported the development of this document, aligning it with the needs and experiences, applied knowledge and recommendations of First Nation Guardians. Direct technical guidance from this group informs updates to the content, ensuring relevance and cultural appropriateness.

This resource has also been shaped in partnership with B.C. natural resource ministries: Water, Land and Resource Stewardship; Forests; Environment and Parks; Energy and Climate Solutions; Emergency Management and Climate Readiness; Agriculture and Food. This document is also informed by other resources to support Guardians, such as [Environmental Laws: A Field Guide for BC's North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii](#), which was co-developed by the Coastal Stewardship Network (CSN) and the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre.

Guardians Working Group:

3Nations Society
ALP - Takla Nation
Blueberry River First Nation
Great Bear Initiative Society
Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly
First Nations Emergency Services Society
First Nations Energy and Mining Council/ Indigenous Leadership Initiative
First Nations Fisheries Council
Laxyip Management Office Society
Kitsumkalum Indian Band
Ktunaxa Nation Council

Malahat First Nation
McLeod Lake Indian Band
Metlakatla Stewardship Society
Nak'azdli Whut'en
Nanwakolas Council Society
Nuxalk Nation
Saulteau First Nation
Skeetchestn Natural Resource LLP
Stó:lō Service Agency
St'at'imc Government Services
Sts'ailes
Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe Society
Tsilhqot'in National Government
West Moberly First Nation

B.C. Cross-Agency Working Group:

Agriculture and Food

Indigenous Food Systems, Industry Competitiveness Division

British Columbia Energy Regulator

Safety and Compliance Division, Aboriginal Liaison Program

Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Indigenous Strategic Initiatives

Training and Exercises, Disaster Resilience Division

Environment and Parks

Conservation Officer Service, Conservation and Recreation Division

Conservation and Recreation Division, Stewardship, Planning and
Infrastructure, Indigenous Relations

Strategic Services and Indigenous Partnerships Division, Strategic Policy
Branch

Regulatory Effectiveness and Sector Integration, Strategic Services and
Indigenous Partnerships Division
Conservation and Recreation Division
Environmental Protection Division
Environmental Emergency Branch
Environmental Assessment Office - Compliance and Enforcement

Forests

Natural Resource Officer Service, Provincial Operations Division
Regional Operations Division – South Area
Regional Operations Division – North Area
Forest Science Planning and Practices Branch)
Regional Operations
BC Wildfire Service
Archaeology Branch, Provincial Operations Division

Housing and Municipal Affairs

Homelessness and Supportive Housing Policy Branch

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliations

Integrated Negotiations Branch, Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and
Legislation Division

Mining and Critical Minerals

Regulatory Management and Enforcement, Mines Health, Safety and
Enforcement Division

Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

Tourism Branch, Tourism Sector Strategy Division

Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Reconciliation Programs and Agreements (Lead)
Collaborative Stewardship and Cumulative Effects Management, Land Use
Planning and Cumulative Effects Division

Appendices

Provincial Planning and Conservation Branch, Land Use Planning and
Cumulative Effects Division

Coastal Marine Stewardship, Fisheries, Water, Fisheries and Coast Division

Aquatic Ecosystems and Freshwater Fisheries Branch, Water, Fisheries and
Coast Division

Water, Fisheries and Coast Division

Wildlife Partnership Programs, Resource Stewardship Division