

## OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

The government of British Columbia has 20 ministries, each responsible for a specific area of public policy, government function, or service delivery. They are: Advanced Education, Skills & Training; Agriculture; the Attorney General; Children & Family Development; Citizens' Services; Education; Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources; Environment & Climate Change Strategy; Finance; Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development; Health; Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation; Jobs, Economic Development & Competitiveness; Labour; Mental Health & Addictions; Municipal Affairs & Housing; Public Safety & Solicitor General & Emergency BC; Social Development & Poverty Reduction; Tourism, Arts & Culture; and Transportation & Infrastructure.<sup>1</sup> Below are overviews of the four ministries most relevant to our benchmarking work.

### *Ministry of Education*

The **Ministry of Education** is responsible for British Columbia's K-12 education system, including public schools, independent schools (which in British Columbia receive government funding), and homeschooling. Its mandate is to develop the "Educated Citizen," defined as the intellectual, human, social, and career development of students. Specifically, the Ministry's role is to provide leadership and funding to the K-12 education system, through governance, legislation, policy, and standards. Roles and responsibilities are outlined in the [School Act](#), the [Independent School Act](#), the [Teachers Act](#), the [Library Act](#), and the [First Nations Education Act](#), and related regulations.<sup>2</sup>

The Minister of Education is [Rob Fleming](#). His mandate from British Columbia Premier John Horgan, outlined in his appointment letter, includes: enhancing K-12 education funding; reviewing the funding formula to establish a stable and sustainable model for the K-12 education system; providing additional funding to ensure students have the school supplies they need; working in partnership to build and upgrade schools in every region of the province; implementing the new First Nations history curriculum, developing full-course offerings in Aboriginal languages and implementing the educational Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and implementing the new provincial curriculum and providing new technology, lab

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2019/sp/pdf/ministry/educ.pdf>

equipment, learning materials, and professional development support for teachers.<sup>3</sup> The Deputy Minister of Education is Scott MacDonald.

#### *Ministry of Children and Family Development*

The **Ministry of Children and Family Development** is responsible for supporting children and youth in British Columbia. Services include child care, services for children and youth with special needs, child and youth mental health services, and services for Indigenous children and families. Current priorities include a major expansion of child care in the province (see "Child Care BC: Caring for Kids, Lifting Up Families" in this briefing packet).

The Minister of Children & Family Development is [Katrine Conroy](#). Her mandate includes: enhancing child protection services; hiring additional social workers and staff to support them, including in rural and underserved areas; and improving supports for Aboriginal children, with a focus on keeping children cared for at home rather than in the public care system.<sup>4</sup> The Minister of State for Child Care is [Katrina Chen](#). Her mandate includes: working to implement a universal child care plan, starting with infant/toddler programs before gradually expanding; investing in the early childhood educator workforce through training, education, and fair wages; and creating new child care spaces across the province.<sup>5</sup> The Ministry's Deputy Minister is Allison Bond.

#### *Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Competitiveness*

The **Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Competitiveness** manages government services that help support and maintain British Columbia's economy for long-term prosperity. The mandate of the Ministry includes growing British Columbia's technology sector; supporting innovation, small businesses, and economic development across the province; and promoting the province internationally as a desirable place to invest and do business.

The Minister of Jobs, Economic Development, and Competitiveness is [Michelle Mungall](#). Her mandate includes: leading cross-government initiatives that support competitiveness across all sectors in British Columbia's economy; engaging with industry associations and major sectors on the government's approach to economic growth; supporting the future of the "made-in-B.C." technology sector; working with rural and northern communities and underrepresented groups to invest in innovation

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/premier-cabinet-mlas/minister-letter/fleming-mandate.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/premier-cabinet-mlas/minister-letter/conroy-mandate.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/premier-cabinet-mlas/minister-letter/chen-mandate.pdf>

and job growth; establishing a new international engagement framework for British Columbia's trade and investment representatives in Asia, Europe, and the U.S.; and reviewing provincial immigration policy and programs with a focus on strengthening the economic success pathways for newcomers, including working with the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills, and Training to improve credential assessments.<sup>6</sup> The Minister of State for Trade is [George Chow](#), and the Ministry's Deputy Minister is Christine Kennedy.

#### *Ministry of Labour*

The **Ministry of Labour** promotes fair, healthy, and safe labor and employment relationships, and has overall responsibility for British Columbia's labor and employment statutes and their enforcement (e.g., workers' compensation). The Ministry is also involved in managing complaints and issues related to labor and employment.<sup>7</sup>

The Minister of Labour is [Harry Bains](#). His mandate includes: establishing a Fair Wage Commission to support the work of implementing the CAN\$15-per-hour minimum wage by 2021 and make recommendations for closing the gap between the minimum wage and livable wages; updating employment standards to reflect the changing nature of workplaces; and reviewing the Labour Code to ensure workplaces support a growing, sustainable economy with fair laws for workers and businesses.<sup>8</sup> The Deputy Minister of Labour is Trevor Hughes.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/premier-cabinet-mlas/minister-letter/mungall-mandate-2020.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2019/sp/pdf/ministry/lbr.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/premier-cabinet-mlas/minister-letter/bains-mandate.pdf>