



Ministry of Environment

SERVICE PLAN SUMMARY

2006/07 - 2008/09



Ministry of
Environment

Message from the Minister

As the Minister of Environment, I am pleased to report on how we are acting to deliver on the government's goal to lead the world in sustainable environmental management. The ministry has received a broader mandate and increased responsibility to address government priorities and provide excellent client service, which is responsive to current realities and resource use, while also protecting B.C.'s rich environmental legacy.

We are promoting increased stewardship and collaborative approaches to environmental management. This approach will help ensure that the quality of water, land and air is maintained, and that we have a greater role in the stewardship of ocean and marine resources. We are expanding our relationships with governments (federal, provincial, local), First Nations, the private sector, communities and citizens and encouraging information sharing, education and best practices.

We are promoting healthy environmental lifestyle choices by individuals and best environmental practices and decision-making by communities, industry and all levels of government. We are encouraging the collection of scientific information for informed decision-making. We are providing more education opportunities to encourage citizens to become better environmental stewards and more guidance on compliance with environmental regulations. These approaches will enable us to provide greater client service, which is vital for meeting the needs of all British Columbians, and to ensure a healthy environment.

We continue to protect and manage a wide variety of outstanding parks and protected lands, which represent the best natural features and diverse wilderness environment of the province. To enhance health and an awareness of our natural environment, we are seeking to attract greater participation in outdoor activities and continuing to develop provincial-wide opportunities for a diversity of high quality and safe outdoor recreation.

Providing memorable outdoor opportunities and effective air, water and land management will encourage investment, draw tourists and create jobs. In supporting the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, we can showcase our outstanding parks, and work with partners and communities to strengthen our provincial economy and safeguard our natural legacy for future generations.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Penner'.

Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment and
Minister Responsible for Water Stewardship and
Sustainable Communities

February 2006

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Environment provides leadership in environmental management through innovative legislation and programs, compliance activities and shared stewardship initiatives. Our mandate is to protect human health and safety, and maintain and restore the diversity of native species, ecosystems and habitats. Through partnerships across government, and with First Nations, the private sector and communities, we work to enhance the protection and stewardship of water, land and air resources, advance sustainable use of environmental resources, and provide exceptional outdoor park and wildlife services and opportunities.

Ministry Goals

Our goals reflect an effective and balanced approach to environmental management, encourage collaboration across ministry divisions, and indicate the long-term results we intend to achieve.

1. Clean and safe water, land and air

This goal reflects our commitment to enhanced protection of water resources, reduced contamination of land and air and effective responses to climate change and environmental emergencies.

2. Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems

We will develop, manage, regulate and enforce environmental programs and legislation that will ensure healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems, and provide benefits to B.C. and its people.

3. British Columbians understand that they share responsibility for the environment

Environmental sustainability depends on the collective knowledge, commitment and actions of individuals, organizations, communities and all levels of government as a whole. This requires partnerships with industry and stakeholders, and an environmentally conscious public.

4. Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources

Sustainable use of B.C.'s environmental resources promotes job creation, contributes significantly to the quality of life of residents and visitors, and ensures the resource is available for present and future generations.

5. A high performance organization

A high performance organization is reflected in its leadership, people, culture and the services it provides. It is flexible, able to adapt to situations and events, and is responsive to the needs of its clients and its staff.

Support for the Five Great Goals

Through sustainable environmental management, partnerships, healthy living programs and job creation opportunities, the ministry continues to support the government's objectives under three of its five Great Goals:

- » Lead the world in sustainable management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.
- » Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.
- » Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

Cross Ministry Initiatives

We lead several cross ministry initiatives to support the government's goal of sustainable environmental management:

- » Climate Change Action Plan
- » B.C. Water Strategy
- » Clean Air Strategy
- » Provincial Fisheries Strategy
- » Oceans Policy Framework
- » Sustainable Communities Initiative



Ministry Vision and Mission

Vision

A clean, healthy and naturally diverse environment.

Mission

Lead, inform, involve and support British Columbians to achieve the best environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Core Business Areas

Environmental Stewardship develops, promotes and measures achievements in the conservation of living resources, management of protected areas, and provision of park, freshwater fish and wildlife recreation opportunities. Our staff uses science-based information and knowledge to develop policy, legislation and regulations setting clear environmental standards and performance expectations. We continue to work with our stakeholders, partners and the public, and emphasize shared stewardship and facilitate community initiatives to protect and restore local environments.

Water Stewardship provides leadership in ensuring the water resources and ecosystems of B.C. are safe, sustainable and valued by all. Our staff foster innovative approaches to water governance, develop and deliver science and information critical to understanding and managing the water resource, and carry out regulatory and non-regulatory functions that support public safety, sustainable water allocation and source water protection. Our work places a high priority on promoting stewardship through public awareness, education, partnerships and capacity building.

Oceans and Marine Fisheries leads the development and implementation of the provincial government's ocean resources and marine fisheries initiatives. We focus on sustainable and integrated management and use of B.C.'s ocean resources, foster a stable and diverse marine fishery that provides broad social and economic benefits, support growth and diversification of a seafood sector that offers strong competition in global markets, and strive to ensure a stronger provincial role in the management of marine fisheries and ocean resources.

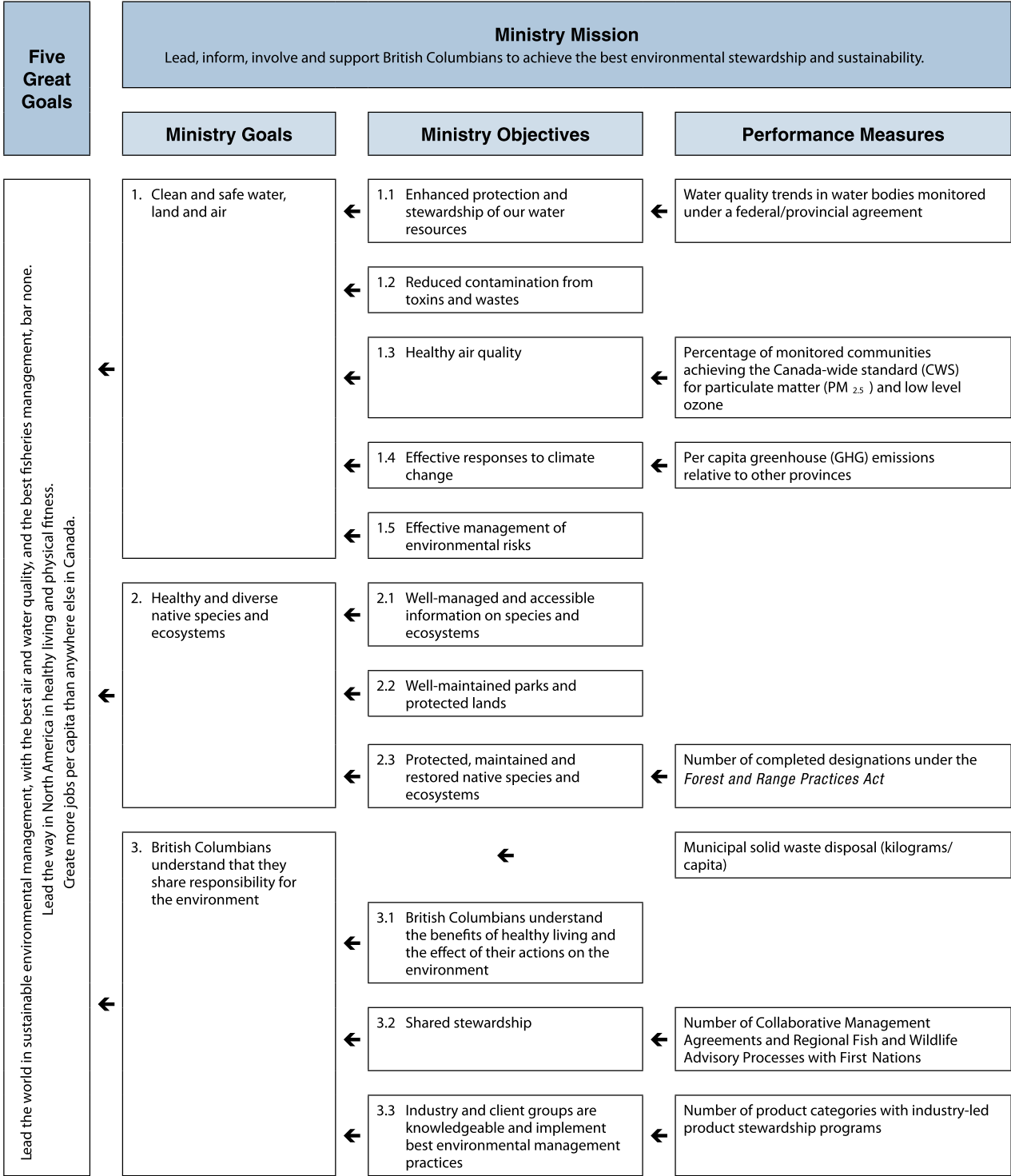
Environmental Protection works to protect human health and the quality of water, land and air. Our goal is to improve B.C.'s air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve surface and ground water quality, coordinate the reduction and removal of toxins and waste, and enhance environmental stewardship. We are committed to science-based policies, legislation and environmental contracts/covenants, and monitoring and reporting of results to ensure that guidelines and standards are continuously met.

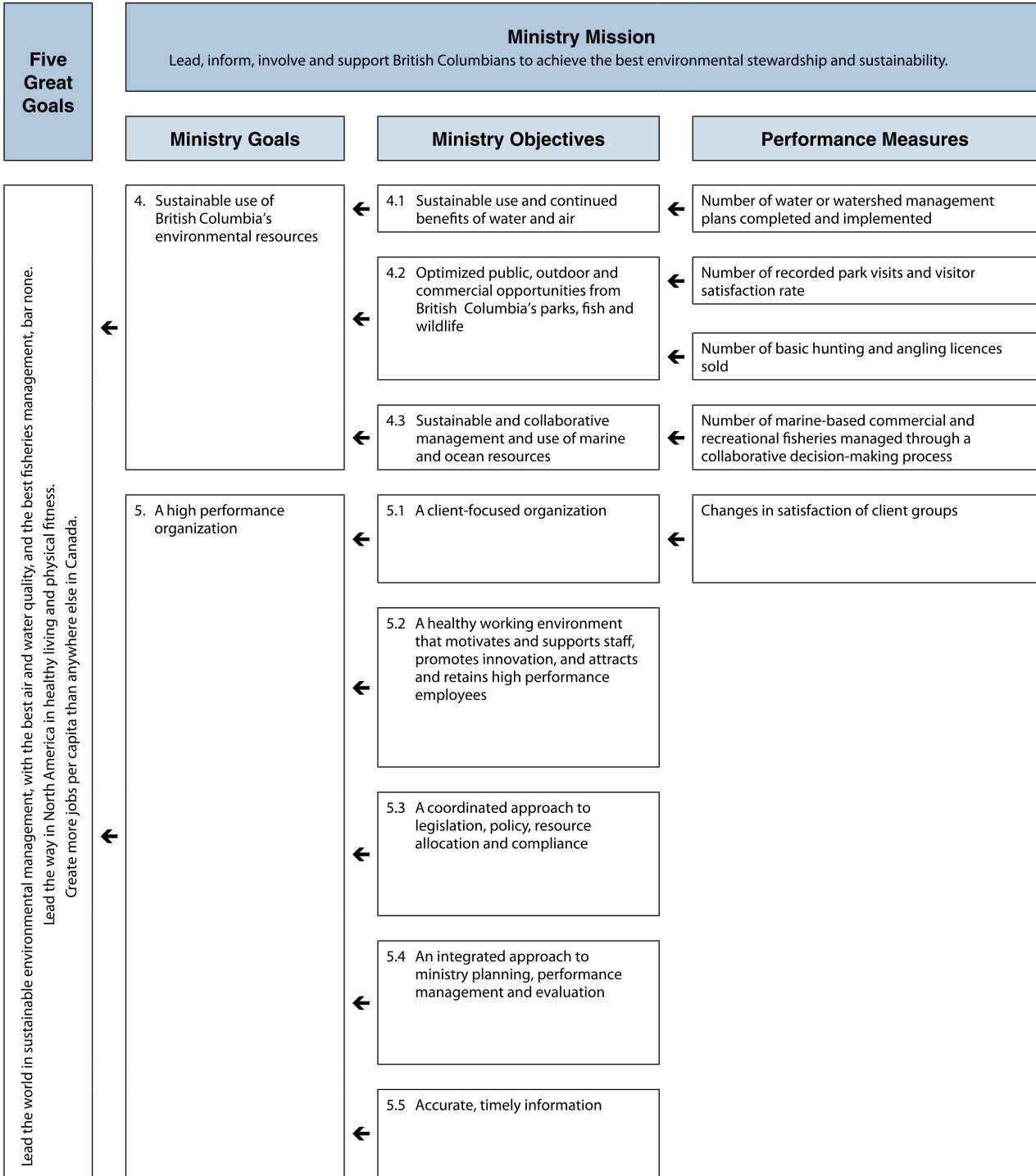
Compliance provides ministry-wide leadership, innovation and services in support of the ministry's compliance goals. We deliver a full range of compliance-related activities, including educating citizens to be better stewards, promoting the understanding of, and compliance with, regulatory requirements, conducting investigations, and working with ministry programs on a range of enforcement options. We also support the management and delivery of compliance activities in a manner that is timely, appropriate and consistent with the mandate of the ministry.

Executive and Support Services, led through the Deputy Minister's Office, Strategic Policy Division and Corporate Services Division, is responsible for strategic planning and policy development. Key programs include planning, performance management and evaluation, risk assessment within decision-making, economic analysis, State of the Environment Report and the Sustainable Communities Initiative. We support the work of the ministry with a full range of financial, human resource, administration and information systems services.

Ministry Performance Plan Summary

This section details each of the ministry’s goals, objectives and performance measures and illustrates how they contribute to government’s Five Great Goals.







Contact Information

For more information on the British Columbia
Ministry of Environment visit our web site at:
www.gov.bc.ca/env

The complete ministry Service Plan 2006/07-2008/09
including other related planning resources is available
at: www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2006/sp/env