



# Ministry of Education

SERVICE PLAN SUMMARY

2006/07 - 2008/09



Ministry  
of Education

## Message from the Minister

The 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan lays out our goals for the next three years. We have set ambitious targets that will help government achieve its five great goals for a golden decade. Our key priorities are literacy, student health and physical activity, and improving Aboriginal student performance.

The Ministry of Education oversees the Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system and, following the May 2005 election, was given responsibility for early learning, literacy and libraries.

The Ministry of Education plays a key role in achieving government's first great goal, which is to make B.C. the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent. Since 2001, the Province has invested \$50 million in programs and resources to improve literacy rates. We will continue to work with community and educational literacy partners to help British Columbians read and write.

The Ministry of Education is also instrumental in helping the Province reach its second great goal: to lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness. The Ministry will introduce a healthy schools plan and work with other ministries, community partners, parents, addictions experts and school boards to develop a crystal meth awareness campaign.

The Ministry of Education is focusing on closing the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. While the school completion rate for Aboriginal students has increased by six per cent over the last five years, it still trails the non-Aboriginal rate. The ministry is working with school boards and Aboriginal communities to establish Aboriginal Enhancement Agreements, which emphasize shared decision-making and goal setting.

Our education system is already one of the best in the world. To continue to meet the needs of today's learners, we must always strive to improve. Our Service Plan sets out our goals and performance measures for our education system as we bring hope, prosperity and opportunity for all British Columbians.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Bond".

Honourable Shirley Bond  
Minister of Education and  
Minister Responsible for Early Learning  
and Literacy

February 2006



## Ministry Vision and Mission

### *Vision*

The Ministry's vision is to make B.C. the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.

### *Mission*

The mission of the Ministry of Education is to set the legal, financial, curricular and accountability frameworks so as to enable all learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous, sustainable economy.

# Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Education oversees the K-12 education system in British Columbia – this includes both public schools and independent schools. As well, in line with the Government’s new priorities following the provincial election in May 2005, the ministry’s mandate was expanded to include responsibility for Public Libraries, improving literacy rates across all segments of the population, and for Early Learning.

The Ministry of Education has a primary and substantive role in determining education policies. The roles and responsibilities of the ministry and its partners are set out under the *School Act*, the *Teaching Profession Act*, the *Independent School Act*, the *Library Act* and accompanying regulations.

The Ministry of Education co-governs K-12 education with school boards - education services are delivered locally through school boards, public schools and independent schools, while the ministry provides leadership, develops policy and legislation, oversees system governance, sets results-based standards and builds accountability frameworks in partnership with school boards. Public library services are provided through the Public Library Services Branch of the ministry.

The ministry’s Accountability Framework focuses school and school board attention and resources on improving student achievement. All school boards, in accordance with the Framework, are accountable to the Government and the public for their students’ achievement. The key components of the Accountability Framework are:

» **School Plans** – each school has in place a School Planning Council whose primary responsibility is to develop, monitor and review School Plans for student achievement, in consultation with the school community. School Planning Councils acknowledge the importance of parental involvement and formalize their role in the school planning process.

- » **Accountability Contracts** – each school district has in place an Accountability Contract, where each board’s responsibility for governing its schools to achieve the results targeted in its Contract is balanced with the flexibility to meet the unique needs of the local community.
- » **Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements** – an EA is a working agreement between a school board, all local Aboriginal communities and the ministry of Education. EAs acknowledge the essential role of Aboriginal communities in the education of their children.
- » **District Reviews** – up to 20 of the 60 school districts are reviewed annually by external review teams. District Reviews provide feedback and recommendations to the school district, the ministry and the public regarding the school district’s work in improving student achievement.

## Ministry Goals

The Ministry of Education has two main goals:

- » **Improved student achievement** - the ministry and its partners will focus on improving student achievement.
- » **A high-quality, performance-oriented education system** – the ministry will focus on access to education for all students, the growth of students into productive, fully participating members of society, and increased accountability for the education system.

Together, these goals provide the ministry with strategic direction and a clear focus on priorities.



## *Support for the Five Great Goals*

Continued progress toward the Province's Five Great Goals depends upon well-educated citizens. Graduates of the K-12 system should be able to demonstrate:

- » intellectual capacity/achievement through large scale provincial exams and assessments, such as Provincial Examinations and Foundation Skills Assessment;
- » the ability to make healthy life choices; and
- » career development skills through the successful transition to either post-secondary education or to the workforce.

## *Cross Ministry Initiatives*

The Ministry of Education works in partnership with other ministries and government organizations to address the priorities of Government. Ministries with common program areas, clients, services, or goals communicate with each other to reduce areas of overlap or duplication, and areas where there may be gaps in service. As the Government moves toward citizen-centered service delivery, the Ministry of Education will continue to collaborate with other social development ministries to identify areas where services from different ministries or agencies can be provided through a single point of service.

# Core Business Areas

To achieve its goals and objectives, the Ministry of Education focuses on the following core business areas:

**1. Public Schools** - As legislated under the *School Act*, the Ministry provides operating funding to school boards, partner groups and societies that support the Province's 1,666 public schools and approximately 570,910 public school students. The Ministry of Education does not provide services directly to students. The Ministry works in partnership with school boards in a co-governance structure in which school boards are responsible (in legislation) for providing educational programs to students.

**2. Independent Schools** - As legislated under the *Independent School Act*, the ministry provides funding to 353 independent schools. The independent school system serves approximately 63,709 student FTEs.

The inspector of independent schools is responsible to the Minister of Education for the administration of the *Independent School Act*. The Inspector may authorize the inspection and evaluation of independent schools, teachers, educational programs provided by independent schools, and educational resource materials.

**3. Debt Service and Amortization** - The Ministry provides funding to school boards to finance capital projects including seismic upgrades, renovations, expansions, new facilities and buses, and as well, is responsible for debt service and amortization costs.

The Ministry also works with school boards to optimize capital budgets through multi-year planning, provides funds for high priority projects and monitors progress through cash flow reporting, project updates and audits.

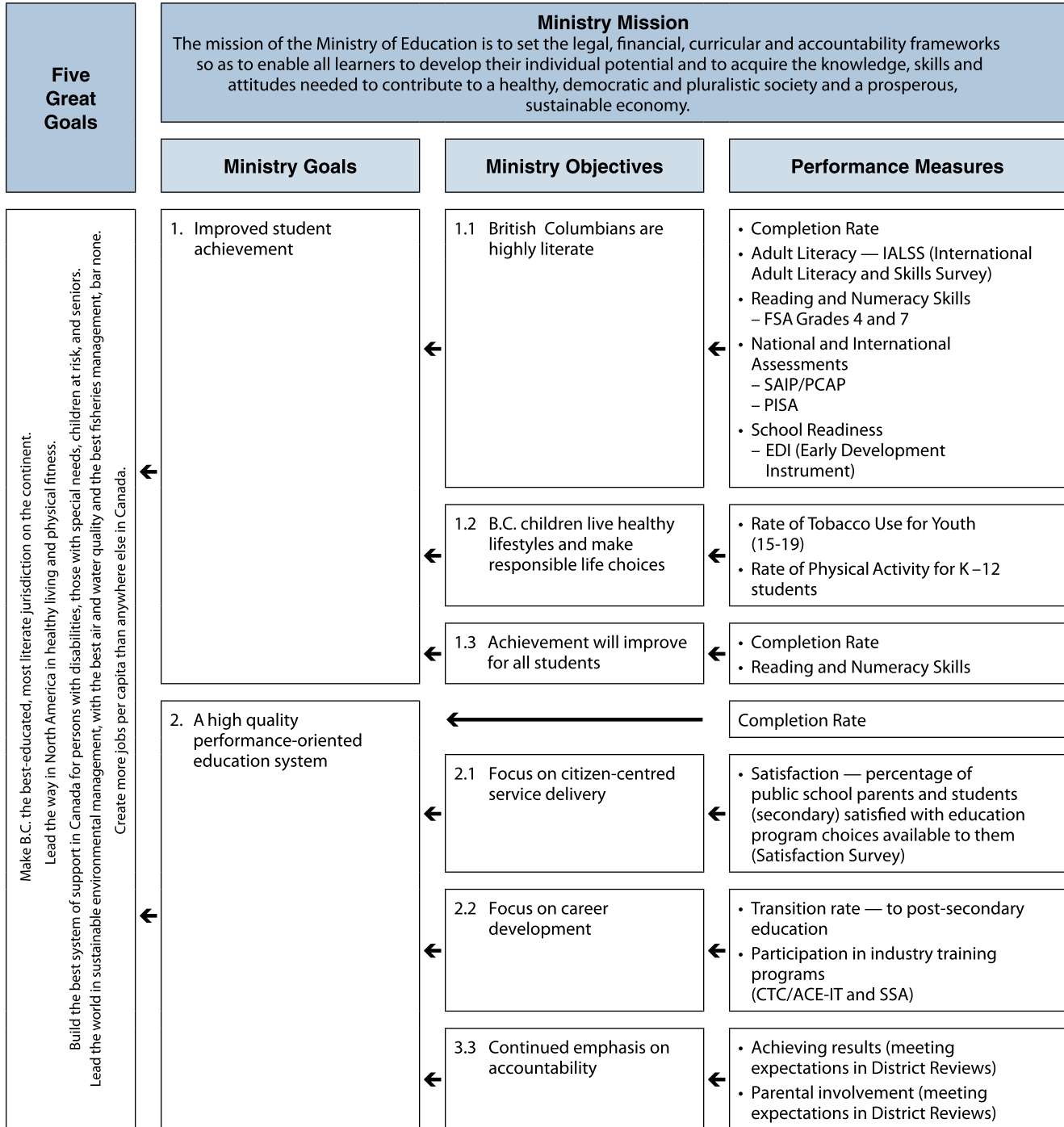
**4. Early Learning and Literacy** - When young children get a strong start learning in early childhood, it helps them get a good start in life and in school. Early learning addresses the five domains crucial to early childhood development: physical development, social and emotional development, and language and cognitive development. The Ministry of Education, in partnership with the Ministry of Children and Family Development has responsibility for improving Early Learning. The Ministry also supports programs that promote literacy through libraries, communities, and schools. In addition, as legislated under the *Library Act*, the Ministry provides government transfers to support the public library system.

**5. Management Services** - This core area provides corporate services to operating programs, including financial, budget, human resources, information management, administrative services, freedom of information and privacy services, and general services for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education.

**6. Executive and Support Services** - The Ministry provides leadership, develops policy and legislation, oversees system governance, sets results-based standards and develops accountability frameworks. This business area includes the Minister's Office and Ministry Program Management responsibilities.

# 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.



Note: Some performance measures are used as indicators of more than one goal or objective.



## Contact Information

For more information on the British Columbia  
Ministry of Education, contact us toll-free at:  
1 888 879-1166

or visit our website at [www.bced.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca)