

Declaration Act Action Plan: Planned Reporting

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1. Introduction

The Province of British Columbia is working to fulfill its commitments under the [Declaration Act Action Plan](#) (Action Plan).

The Action Plan outlines actions the Province will undertake in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples from 2022 until 2027. In the Action Plan, there are 89 actions, each led by a specific ministry, under four themes. The Action Plan commits the provincial government to initiating all 89 actions within five years, although not necessarily completing them. The Province is required to do collaborative [annual reporting](#) on the progress made on these actions by June 30 of each year.

The Province is taking a phased approach to action implementation, as not all actions can or should be implemented at the same time. This means that not all 89 actions report every year. Each action has a designated year for when it will begin reporting. The Province is currently in Year 2 (2023-2024) of the Action Plan. Most actions are required to report in this year’s annual report.

Section 2 of this document outlines when the Province is planning to begin reporting on all 89 actions. Section 3 lists the full names of all the ministries, as they are shown as acronyms in the Section 2 chart. Section 4 contains the full text of the actions that will begin reporting each year.

This document is intended to support First Nations in prioritizing engagement opportunities with the Province, supported by the capacity funding provided through the [Declaration Act Engagement Fund](#).

2. Overview of planned action reporting

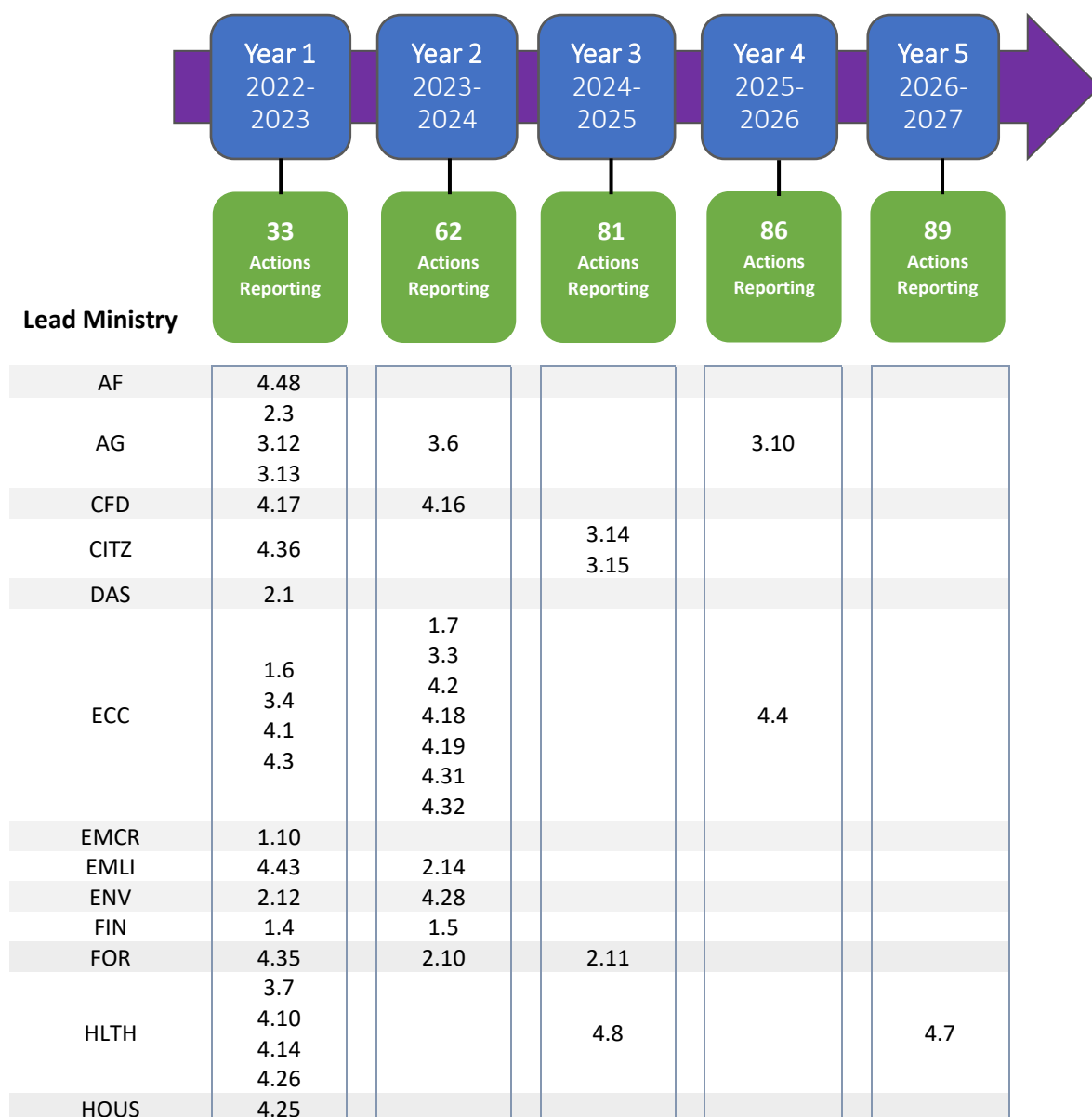
In the chart below, Years 1/2/3/4/5 refer to the five years of the Action Plan.

The numbers inside the green shapes refer to how many actions are anticipated to be in the substantial implementation and reporting stage each year. Actions will continue to report each year.

The left-most column includes the acronyms of all the lead ministries. Please see section 3 for a list of acronyms with the corresponding full ministry names. The other columns indicate which actions each ministry will begin reporting on for each of the five years of the Action Plan.

As an example, the second row means that AG (Ministry of the Attorney General) is leading three actions (2.3, 3.12, 3.13) that will begin reporting in Year 1 (2022-2023); one action (3.6) that will begin reporting in Year 2 (2023-2024); and one action (3.10) that will begin reporting in Year 4 (2025-2026).

Please see section 4 for full descriptions of the actions.



	1.2		2.5		
	2.4	1.1	4.22		
IRR	4.20	1.3	4.23	2.2	
	4.21		4.29	4.24	
	4.30		4.49		
JEDI	4.45	4.39	4.42		
		4.40			
LAB				4.46	
MMHA	4.12		4.13*		
			*previously led by HLTH		
MOTI		2.13	3.9		
MUNI			4.27		1.11
PSA	3.1	3.2			
		4.44			
PSFS	1.8	1.9	4.5		
		4.41			
PSSG		3.11			
		4.11	3.8		
		4.47			
SDPR		4.15	4.9		
TACS	4.6	4.38	3.5	4.33	4.34
	4.37				
WLRS	2.6	2.7	2.8		
		2.9			

3. Ministry acronyms

Ministry Acronym (as seen in chart above)	Full Ministry Name (as seen in the Action Plan)
AF	Agriculture and Food
AG	Attorney General
CFD	Children and Family Development
CITZ	Citizens' Services
DAS	Declaration Act Secretariat
ECC	Education and Child Care
EMCR	Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
EMLI	Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation
ENV	Environment and Climate Change Strategy
FIN	Finance
FOR	Forests
HLTH	Health
HOUS	Housing
IRR	Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
JEDI	Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
LAB	Labour
MMHA	Mental Health and Addictions
MOTI	Transportation and Infrastructure
MUNI	Municipal Affairs
PSA	Public Service Agency
PSFS	Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
PSSG	Public Safety and Solicitor General

SDPR	Social Development and Poverty Reduction
TACS	Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
WLRS	Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

4. Full description of actions, by year

a. Actions to Begin Reporting in Year 1 (2022-2023)

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
AF	4.48	Work with the B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food and other Indigenous partners to identify opportunities to strengthen Indigenous food systems and increase Indigenous participation in the agriculture and food sector.	Year 1
AG	2.3	Issue guidelines from the Attorney General of B.C. to the Ministry of Attorney General legal counsel regarding the conduct of civil litigation involving the rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Year 1
	3.12	Prioritize implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy to reduce the substantial overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples involved in and impacted by the justice system. This includes affirming First Nations self-determination and enabling the restoration of traditional justice systems and culturally relevant institutions.	Year 1
	3.13	Prioritize endorsement and implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy to reduce the substantial overrepresentation of Métis Peoples in and impacted by the justice system. This includes affirming Métis self-determination, and enabling the restoration of traditional justice systems and culturally relevant institutions.	Year 1
CFD	4.17	In collaboration with B.C. First Nations and Métis Peoples, and Inuit, continue implementing changes to substantially reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care through increased prevention and family support services at all stages of contact with the child welfare system.	Year 1
CITZ	4.36	Ensure every First Nations community in B.C. has high-speed internet services.	Year 1
DAS	2.1	Establish a Secretariat to guide and assist government to meet its obligation to ensure legislation is consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and is developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.	Year 1
ECC	1.6	Co-develop an approach to deliver on the BC Tripartite Education Agreement commitment, in which the Ministry of Education and the First Nations Education Steering Committee will co-develop legislation that requires local education agreements (LEAs) with First Nations where a First Nation wants one, and that requires the application of the provincial LEA at the request of a First Nation.	Year 1
	3.4	Implement a mandatory course or bundle of credits related to First Peoples as part of graduation requirements in B.C. and co-create culturally relevant provincial resources with Indigenous people for use by all educators across the K-12 education system.	Year 1

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
	4.1	Identify and undertake concrete measures to increase the literacy and numeracy achievement levels of Indigenous students at all levels of the K-12 education system, including the early years.	Year 1
	4.3	Co-develop and implement a framework for the involvement of Indigenous Education Councils in school district financial planning and reporting.	Year 1
EMCR	1.10	Co-develop modernized emergency management legislation (replacing the <i>Emergency Program Act</i>) with First Nations.	Year 1
EMLI	4.43	Co-develop recommendations on strategic policies and initiatives for clean and sustainable energy. This includes identifying and supporting First Nations-led clean energy opportunities related to CleanBC, the Comprehensive Review of BC Hydro, and the BC Utilities Commission Inquiry on the Regulation of Indigenous Utilities.	Year 1
ENV	2.12	Collaboratively develop and implement CleanBC and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy to support resilient communities and clean economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples that benefit our shared climate and advance reconciliation.	Year 1
FIN	1.4	Co-develop with Indigenous Peoples a new distinctions-based fiscal relationship and framework that supports the operation of Indigenous governments, whether through modern treaties, self-government agreements or advancing the right to self-government through other mechanisms. This work will include collaboration with the Government of Canada.	Year 1
FOR	4.35	Work with First Nations to reform the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> to align with the UN Declaration, including shared decision-making and the protection of First Nations cultural, spiritual, and heritage sites and objects.	Year 1
HLTH	3.7	Implement recommendations made in the <i><u>In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in B.C. health care</u></i> report, striving to establish a health care system in B.C. that is culturally safe and free of Indigenous-specific racism.	Year 1
	4.10	Prioritize the implementation of Primary Care Networks, the First Nations-led Primary Health Care Initiative, and other primary care priorities, embedding Indigenous perspectives and priorities into models of care to increase Indigenous Peoples' access to primary care and other health services, and to improve cultural safety and quality of care.	Year 1
	4.14	Increase the availability and accessibility of resources to Indigenous partners in COVID-19 pandemic health and wellness planning and response, including the implementation of the <u>Rural, Remote, First Nations and Indigenous COVID-19 Framework</u> to ensure access for all Indigenous Peoples to immediate and culturally safe and relevant care closer to home.	Year 1
	4.26	Strengthen the health and wellness partnership between Métis Nation British Columbia, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and support opportunities to identify and work to address shared Métis health and wellness priorities.	Year 1

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
HOUS	4.25	Work with Indigenous Peoples to build more on- and off-reserve housing and pursue new federal contributions.	Year 1
IRR	1.2	Shift from short-term transactional arrangements to the co-development of long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-determination, decision-making and economic independence.	Year 1
	2.4	Negotiate new joint decision-making and consent agreements under section 7 of the Declaration Act that include clear accountabilities, transparency and administrative fairness between the Province and Indigenous governing bodies. Seek all necessary legislative amendments to enable the implementation of any section 7 agreements.	Year 1
IRR	4.20	Advance a collaborative, whole-of-government approach in the partnership between the Métis Nation of British Columbia and the Province of B.C., respecting Métis self-determination and working to establish more flexibility and sustainability in funding.	Year 1
	4.21	Bring together key Indigenous urban leaders to create a provincial urban Indigenous advisory table to develop and implement a five-year plan to address the priorities of urban Indigenous Peoples, including a focus on Elders, youth, children, women, men, 2SLGBTQQA+ and persons with disabilities.	Year 1
	4.30	Support Indigenous language revitalization through sustainable funding.	Year 1
JEDI	4.45	Prioritize and increase the number of technology sector training opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and other groups currently under-represented in B.C.'s technology sector.	Year 1
MMHA	4.12	Address the disproportionate impacts of the overdose public health emergency on Indigenous Peoples by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applying to the Government of Canada to decriminalize simple possession of small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use, and continuing campaigns and other measures to help end the stigma and shame associated with addiction; • expanding prescribed safer supply and other harm reduction measures; and • ensuring accessibility of recovery beds, and evidence-based, culturally relevant and safe services to meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples, including youth. 	Year 1
PSA	3.1	Develop essential training in partnership with Indigenous organizations, and deliver to the B.C. public service, public institutions and corporations that aims to build foundational understanding and competence about the history and rights of Indigenous Peoples, treaty process, rights and title, the UN Declaration, the B.C. Declaration Act, the dynamics of proper respectful relations, Indigenous-specific racism, and meaningful reconciliation.	Year 1

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
PSFS	1.8	Recognize the integral role of Indigenous-led post-secondary institutes as a key pillar of B.C.'s post-secondary system through the provision of core funding, capacity funding and the development of legislation. This includes institutes mandated by First Nations, as well as a Métis post-secondary institute being developed by Métis Nation BC.	Year 1
TACS	4.6	Promote culturally relevant sport, physical activity and recreation initiatives and opportunities that increase Indigenous engagement, participation and excellence in both traditional and mainstream sports for individuals in both urban and rural or remote areas.	Year 1
	4.37	Provide funding to assist Indigenous tourism businesses that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to further support recovery of the Indigenous tourism sector in B.C.	Year 1
WLRS	2.6	Co-develop strategic-level policies, programs and initiatives to advance collaborative stewardship of the environment, land and resources, that address cumulative effects and respects Indigenous Knowledge. This will be achieved through collaborative stewardship forums, guardian programs, land use planning initiatives, and other innovative and evolving partnerships that support integrated land and resource management.	Year 1

b. Actions to Begin Reporting in Year 2 (2023-2024)

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
AG	3.6	Introduce anti-racism legislation that addresses Indigenous-specific racism.	Year 2
CFD	4.16	Co-develop a B.C.-specific fiscal framework, in partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit, and in consultation with key Indigenous organizations, to support and move forward with jurisdiction over child and family services.	Year 2
ECC	1.7	Update the Bilateral Protocol agreement between the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care and the First Nation Education Steering Committee for relevancy, effectiveness, and consistency with the UN Declaration to support First Nation students in the K-12 education system.	Year 2
	3.3	Conduct an external review of Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in the provincial public education system, and create a strategy, including resources and supports, to address findings.	Year 2
	4.2	Develop and implement an effective recruitment and retention strategy to increase the number of Indigenous teachers in the K-12 public education system.	Year 2
	4.18	As committed to in the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol, co-develop and implement measures to support improved education outcomes of current and former First Nation children and youth in care, including meaningful data collection to inform policy planning and service delivery.	Year 2
	4.19	As part of a commitment to an inclusive, universal childcare system, work in collaboration with B.C. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples to	Year 2

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
		implement a distinctions-based approach to support and move forward jurisdiction over child care for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who want and need it in B.C.	
	4.31	Develop full-course offerings in First Nation languages and implement the educational Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the K-12 education system.	Year 2
	4.32	Co-develop a K-12 First Nations Language Policy and associated implementation plan for the public education system with the First Nations Education Steering Committee, including ensuring that the language and culture of the local First Nation(s) on whose territory(ies) a board of education operates schools are the ones primarily reflected in any First Nations language and culture programs and services of the board.	Year 2
EMLI	2.14	Modernize the <i>Mineral Tenure Act</i> in consultation and cooperation with First Nations and First Nations organizations.	Year 2
ENV	4.28	Draft a report with recommendations for how BC Parks can better reflect Indigenous Peoples' histories and cultures in provincial parks and protected areas.	Year 2
FIN	1.5	Co-develop and implement new distinctions-based policy frameworks for resource revenue-sharing and other fiscal mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples.	Year 2
FOR	2.10	Reform forest legislation, regulations and policy to reflect a shared strategic vision with First Nations that upholds the rights and objectives of the UN Declaration.	Year 2
IRR	1.1	In partnership with the Government of Canada, establish a new institution designed and driven by First Nations to provide supports to First Nations in their work of nation- and governance-rebuilding and boundary resolution in accordance with First Nations laws, customs and traditions.	Year 2
	1.3	Utilize sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act to complete and implement government-to-government agreements that recognize Indigenous self-government and self-determination.	Year 2
JEDI	4.39	Work with the Province's Economic Trusts and First Nation partners to develop a mechanism that ensures inclusion of First Nations at a regional decision-making level.	Year 2
	4.40	Ensure Indigenous collaboration in the development and implementation of the BC Economic Plan, including a technology and innovation roadmap.	Year 2
MOTI	2.13	Identify and advance reconciliation negotiations on historical road impacts and road accessibility with First Nations on reserve, treaty and title lands, including reporting-out on the completion and implementation of these negotiations collaboratively with First Nations partners.	Year 2
PSA	3.2	Establish an operational approach to set and achieve targets for equitable recruitment and retention of Indigenous Peoples across the public sector, including at senior levels.	Year 2
	4.44	Review, evaluate and improve B.C.'s Indigenous Youth Internship Program.	Year 2

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
PSFS	1.9	Work with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, and the Urban Native Youth Association to co-develop an urban Indigenous centre that supports the childcare, housing and post-secondary needs of Indigenous learners, and strengthen the capacity of the Native Education College to provide culturally relevant post-secondary educational opportunities for urban Indigenous learners	Year 2
	4.41	Work with First Nations, Métis chartered communities and urban Indigenous organizations to provide funding for self-determined, community-led programs for Indigenous peoples to upgrade skills, obtain credentials, secure employment, and develop and support community economies.	Year 2
PSSG	3.11	Develop and implement comprehensive policing reforms to address systemic biases and racism. This will include: updating the Police Act, <u>BC Provincial Policing Standards</u> and mandatory training requirements; enhancing independent oversight; clarifying the roles and responsibilities of police officers in the context of complex social issues such as mental health, addiction and homelessness; and contributing to the modernization of the federal First Nations Policing Program.	Year 2
	4.11	Increase the availability, accessibility and the continuum of Indigenous-led and community-based social services and supports that are trauma-informed, culturally safe and relevant, and address a range of holistic wellness needs for those who are in crisis, at-risk or have experienced violence, trauma and/or significant loss.	Year 2
	4.47	Advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction between First Nations and the Province that reflects common objectives to protect youth, prioritize public health and safety, strengthen First Nations governance capacity and secure economic benefits for First Nations.	Year 2
SDPR	4.15	Incorporate Indigenous experiences and knowledge of poverty and well-being into ongoing poverty reduction efforts and the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy. The strategy will recognize the ongoing impacts of colonialism and include Indigenous-identified actions and progress measures.	Year 2
TACS	4.38	Provide investments to Indigenous Tourism B.C. to support Indigenous tourism, Indigenous job creation, preservation of Indigenous languages, celebration of Indigenous cultures and the stewardship of territories, and to tell the stories of Indigenous Peoples in B.C. in their own words.	Year 2
WLRS	2.7	Collaborate with First Nations to develop and implement strategies, plans and initiatives for sustainable water management, and to identify policy or legislative reforms supporting Indigenous water stewardship, including shared decision-making. Co-develop the Watershed Security Strategy with First Nations and initiate implementation of the Strategy at a local watershed scale.	Year 2
	2.9	Develop new strategies to protect and revitalize wild salmon populations in B.C. with First Nations and the federal government, including the development and implementation of a cohesive B.C. Wild Pacific Salmon Strategy.	Year 2

c. Actions to Begin Reporting in Year 3 (2024-2025)

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
CITZ	3.14	Advance the collection and use of disaggregated demographic data, guided by a distinctions-based approach to Indigenous data sovereignty and self-determination, including supporting the establishment of a First Nations-governed and mandated regional data governance centre in alignment with the First Nations Data Governance Strategy.	Year 3
	3.15	Adopt an inclusive digital font that allows for Indigenous languages to be included in communication, signage, services, and official records.	Year 3
FOR	2.11	Integrate traditional practices and cultural uses of fire into wildfire prevention and land management practices and support the reintroduction of strategized burning.	Year 3
HLTH	4.8	In alignment with the tripartite health plans and agreements, continue to strengthen and evolve the First Nation health governance structure in B.C. to ensure First Nations are supported to participate as full and equal partners in decision-making and service delivery at local, regional and provincial levels, and engage First Nations and the Government of Canada on the need for legislation as envisioned in the tripartite health plans and agreements.	Year 3
IRR	2.5	Co-develop and employ mechanisms for ensuring the minimum standards of the UN Declaration are applied in the implementation of treaties, agreements under sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act and other constructive arrangements with First Nations.	Year 3
	4.22	Ministers and executives across the provincial government social sector will meet annually with urban Indigenous service organization leaders, such as the provincial urban Indigenous advisory table (see Action 4.21), to discuss successes, innovations, and challenges of supporting the social, cultural and economic needs of urban Indigenous Peoples.	Year 3
	4.23	Undertake a cross-government review of provincial supports and services for Indigenous Peoples in urban settings and develop a plan with clear timelines that will provide greater collaboration and coordination to meet needs.	Year 3
	4.29	Establish an Indigenous-led working group to develop a strategy for the revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C., including potential legislative supports.	Year 3
	4.49	Review existing provincial mandates to enhance treaty and self-governing Nations' fiscal capacity to deliver services to their citizens.	Year 3

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
JEDI	4.42	Co-develop economic metrics to help evaluate progress as reconciliation is advanced. The baseline data will begin to address the persistent gap in Indigenous-specific economic metrics and through this co-designed effort, build a comprehensive set of data to measure Indigenous economic well-being and track progress over time.	Year 3
MMHA	4.13*	Increase the availability and accessibility of culturally safe substance use services, including through the renovation and construction of Indigenous-run treatment centres and the integration of land-based and traditional approaches to healing.	Year 3
MOTI	3.9	Identify and implement multi-modal transportation solutions that provide support and enable the development of sustainable, safe, reliable and affordable transportation options for First Nations communities.	Year 3
MUNI	4.27	Review the principles and processes that guide the naming of municipalities and regional districts, and evolve practices to foster reconciliation in local processes.	Year 3
PSFS	4.5	Co-develop a policy framework for Indigenous post-secondary education and skills training that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting post-secondary institutions to be more culturally relevant and responsive to the needs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners and communities; • expanding the Aboriginal Service Plan program to all 25 public post-secondary institutions; • ensuring that Indigenous learners have access to student housing that is safe, inclusive, and enables them to thrive personally, academically, and culturally; • developing mechanisms for First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners and communities to play an integral role in public post-secondary institutions' decision-making, and identifying legislative amendments needed to ensure all public post-secondary institution boards include at least one Indigenous person.	Year 3
PSSG	3.8	Develop and implement community-driven activities to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, beginning with the foundational activities in <i>A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C.</i> and steps towards achieving the mandate commitment to develop a gender-based violence action plan.	Year 3
SDPR	4.9	As a part of the implementation of the <i>Accessible British Columbia Act</i> , support the identification, prevention and removal of barriers for Indigenous persons with disabilities. This includes ensuring that the development of accessibility standards considers the rights recognized and affirmed by the UN Declaration.	Year 3
TACS	3.5	Provide resources to Indigenous organizations to improve public understanding of Indigenous histories, rights, cultures, languages and the negative impacts of Indigenous-specific racism.	Year 3

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
WLRS	2.8	Collaborate with Indigenous partners on issues related to conservation and biodiversity in B.C. including the protection of species at risk.	Year 3

d. Actions to Begin Reporting in Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
AG	3.10	Implement improvements to public safety oversight bodies and complaints processes, such as enhanced investments in the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal and new models for including Indigenous laws in complaints resolution.	Year 4
ECC	4.4	Identify, develop and implement mechanisms and approaches to enable boards of education to better support Indigenous students, including increasing and ensuring equitable access to education and safe environments.	Year 4
IRR	2.2	Finalize the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples .	Year 4
	4.24	Expand support to Aboriginal Friendship Centres and other urban Indigenous organizations that serve the needs of urban Indigenous people in B.C. while also acknowledging that Aboriginal Friendship Centres and other urban Indigenous organizations play a vital role for those that wish to connect to their cultures and traditions.	Year 4
LAB	4.46	Improve economic supports for Indigenous workers and employers by increasing access for Indigenous clients to the Ministry of Labour's services and programs, including employment standards, workers' compensation and workplace safety.	Year 4
TACS	4.33	Co-develop a policy framework to support repatriation initiatives.	Year 4

e. Actions to Begin Reporting in Year 5 (2026-2027)

Lead Ministry	#	Action	Reporting
HLTH	4.7	Demonstrate a new and more flexible funding model and partnership approach that supports First Nations to plan, design and deliver mental health and wellness services across a full continuum of care and to address the social determinants of health and wellness.	Year 5
MUNI	1.11	Support inclusive regional governance by advancing First Nations participation in regional district boards.	Year 5
TACS	4.34	Reset the relationship between the Royal BC Museum and Indigenous Peoples in B.C. by ensuring that Indigenous voices are prioritized and inform the development of narratives, exhibitions and learning programs.	Year 5