

Children and Families—Continued

- (iii) *Child Care Services*—provides for program development, management and support, grants and contributions for programs to stabilize, support and expand the infant and child care systems, program support for children with special needs, and child care subsidies to low income families; and
- (iv) *Services for Adults*—provides for community-based residential care for adults with mental and/or multiple disabilities. It also provides training and support services, alcohol, drug and gambling addiction services. Grants and contributions are provided to or on behalf of individuals, corporations, community groups, hospitals, municipalities and other organizations. Recoveries are received from the British Columbia Lottery Corporation for gambling addiction services and for repayable benefits and overpayments, and other organizations.

Statutory Accounts

Payments Based on Contributions

This account was established under the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 25(1)). This section of the Act authorizes payments “where under an Act, agreement or undertaking, money is payable to the government, or money has been received by the government, for the purpose of or as a contribution towards expenditures.”

Education

Vote 26—Minister’s Office

This vote provides for the office of the Minister of Education, and includes the salaries of the minister, the minister’s staff and related office expenses.

Vote 27—Ministry Operations

This vote provides for ministry programs and operations including:

(a) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

This sub-vote provides for:

- (i) *Corporate Services*—provides for executive direction for the ministry, and corporate support services to the ministry operating programs including financial, human resources, administrative services, information management, communications services, and freedom of information and privacy services. Also provides financial, human resources, information management, administrative services, freedom of information and privacy services, and general services and assistance to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, Ministry of Labour and the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission. Certain costs relating to supporting the Workers’ Compensation Review Board and Compensation Advisory Services on behalf of the Ministry of Labour are recovered from the Accident Fund established pursuant to the *Workers’ Compensation Act*. Recoveries are also received for participation in federal/provincial agreements and activities and from other miscellaneous sources.
- (ii) *Education Programs*—provides for management and program support for K–12 education programs. Grants and contributions are provided for education development and implementation activities. Recoveries are received from general educational development test fees, participation in federal/provincial agreements and activities, and other sources.

(b) K–12 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

This sub-vote provides for:

- (i) *Operating Contributions, Public Schools*—provides for provincial operating contributions and special grants, including technology, accreditation, pay equity programs, and the English as a Second Language initiatives; and support for the British Columbia Public School Employers’ Association;
- (ii) *School Support Contributions*—provides contributions for distance education programs, provincial resource programs, Francophone Education Authority, and special needs equipment and the forgivable loan program for teachers in remote areas. Recoveries are received from the federal government for support of francophone education;
- (iii) *Operating Contributions, Independent Schools*—provides for contributions to eligible independent schools for operating expenditures and contributions to support special education programs provided by eligible independent schools;
- (iv) *Debt Service Contributions*—provides for the payment of short and long term debt service costs for approved capital construction projects, bus and equipment purchases. Sinking fund assets, which are used to pay off existing debt obligations, earn interest that is netted against debt service contributions; and
- (v) *Amortization of Prepaid Capital Advances*—provides for the amortization of funds advanced for capital construction projects, bus and equipment purchases.

Statutory Account

Payments Based on Contributions

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 25(1)). This section of the Act authorizes payments “where under an Act, agreement or undertaking, money is payable to the government, or money has been received by the government, for the purpose of or as a contribution towards expenditures.”

Valuation Allowance

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 17, 18).

Employment and Investment

Vote 28—Minister's Office

This vote provides for the office of the Minister of Employment and Investment and Minister Responsible for Housing, and includes the salaries of the minister, the minister's staff and related office expenses.

Vote 29—Ministry Operations

This vote provides for executive direction, administrative services and operating programs of the ministry, including:

(a) CORPORATE SERVICES

This sub-vote provides for administration and ministry executive support, including:

- (i) *Management Services*—provides for the deputy minister's office, corporate relations, financial, human resources, legislation and administrative services; records management and information systems and resources; library and research services; communications services and public affairs; strategic projects; the Community Development Unit; the BC Trade and Investment Office in Ottawa; and payment of travel expenses outside of Canada, including prescribed allowances to members of the Executive Council, Parliamentary Secretaries and related staff. Contributions are provided for the Bladerunners Youth Employment Program and for initiatives that enhance employment and investment opportunities. Costs are partially recovered from parties supporting community development programs and parties external to government for ministry services.

(b) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This sub-vote provides for the development, analysis and preparation of provincial employment, and economic development policies, strategies and plans, including:

- (i) *Trade Policy*—provides for government-wide and ministry coordination, advisory and support services related to trade policy, national and international trade agreements, trade negotiations, trade disputes and related issues; and analysis of international economic trends;
- (ii) *Economics*—provides for the formulation and implementation of provincial electricity strategies and policies; utility regulation; development and analysis of provincial economic development and employment policies and program initiatives; review and assessment of government initiatives affecting employment, economic development and economic adjustment, support for government economic strategies, including aboriginal economic development, forest sector job strategy, Premier's summits, job strategy consultations, non-highway transportation and regulatory reviews, socio-economic impact assessments for government processes, and analysis and advice on a wide range of federal/provincial and intergovernmental economic issues and initiatives; and
- (iii) *Economic Partnerships*—provides for the review of alternative financing options; the development, evaluation, implementation and coordination of specific program and project initiatives, with other ministries and Crown corporations, aimed at facilitating economic, regional and sector development; the analysis of construction industry issues; the administration and management of the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program, in conjunction with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; the management and transfer of funds to the Build BC Special Account; and secretariat support to the Committee for Building British Columbia's Future (BC 21 Committee).

Grants and contributions are provided for economic and employment generating initiatives, including the Asia Pacific Foundation, the Agreement on Internal Trade Secretariat and the Canadian Energy Research Institute.

(c) BC TRADE AND INVESTMENT OFFICE

This sub-vote provides for the administration, operation and delivery of activities intended to stimulate provincial economic development, including:

- (i) *Investment Facilitation*—provides for promotion of British Columbia as a positive investment location; promoting key investment projects; management of strategic projects and their progress through government review and approval processes, including coordination of the provincial government's response to federal airport devolution; identifying and reducing impediments to investment in British Columbia, and managing the business immigration program;
- (ii) *Industry and Business Development*—provides for encouraging business development in the province; developing, delivering and evaluating programs, policies and services, which promote development and expansion of emerging industry sectors; designing and delivering sector strategies; fostering the competitiveness of the resource sector and encouraging value-added activities; and supporting economic institutional infrastructure;
- (iii) *Trade Development*—provides for promotion of British Columbia's export capabilities; facilitation of the entry of British Columbia companies into new markets; participation in intergovernmental and business/government initiatives; trade development services and initiatives, including international market intelligence and strategic partnering advice; supporting British Columbia's international offices and representatives; organizing international trade missions; and
- (iv) *Financial and Project Analysis and Industry Adjustment*—provides for administration of the Natural Resource Community Fund and the Industrial Incentive Fund; support for consultations, studies and issue resolution for specific advanceable projects; financial and project analysis services; and the coordination of industry adjustment and job preservation initiatives, including funding for initiatives such as the Job Protection Commission.

Contributions are made for business and trade development and industry adjustment. Costs for activities are partially recovered from clients through fees and project cost-sharing.

Employment and Investment—Continued

(d) RESERVES FOR DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS AND CONCESSIONARY LOANS

This sub-vote provides for reserves for doubtful loans, write-downs of investments, and the interest expense for concessionary loans made under the *Industrial Development Incentive Act*. This sub-vote also provides for reserves for potential payments and the concessionary interest expense pertaining to loan guarantees made under ministry programs and the *Financial Administration Act*.

(e) BRITISH COLUMBIA RACING COMMISSION

This sub-vote provides for operation of the commission, and the rules and regulations of horse racing in British Columbia, through the *Horse Racing Act* and rules and regulations, to promote a high standard of harness and thoroughbred racing. Contributions are provided to the Horse Racing Improvement Fund. Costs are fully recovered from wagering under the authority of the *Horse Racing Tax Act*.

(f) BRITISH COLUMBIA GAMING COMMISSION

This sub-vote provides for licensing and regulating gaming events and activities under paragraph 207(1), (b), (c), (d) and (f) of the Criminal Code of Canada; establishing terms and conditions of licenses; establishing policies and standard procedures for gaming activities and the conduct of gaming events; and conducting hearings concerning denials, suspensions and revocations of licenses and the location of bingo and casino sites. Contributions may be made to the benefit of charitable and religious organizations deemed eligible to receive contributions to further the charitable purposes or objectives set out in their applications to the British Columbia Gaming Commission. Recoveries are from revenues paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund by the British Columbia Lottery Corporation; and hearing and application fees.

(g) HOUSING PROGRAMS

This sub-vote provides for a contribution to the British Columbia Housing Management Commission for the protection and enhancement of the supply of adequate and affordable housing; and administration of the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters program, which provides contributions to eligible seniors for assistance with their shelter costs.

Vote 30—British Columbia Utilities Commission

This vote provides for the operation of the commission, as authorized under the *Utilities Commission Act*. The commission is responsible for the regulation of energy utilities to ensure rates charged are fair, and that utility operations provide safe and secure services. It reviews expansions proposed by utilities and their issuance of securities, and reports on energy related matters referred to it by Cabinet. Provision is made for contributions to reimburse participants for costs related to public hearings. Costs are recovered from hearing and project proponents, regulated utilities and others.

Statutory Account

Williston Reservoir Compensation Costs

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 21(2)) for the purpose of sharing mitigation costs associated with deep water drawdowns by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority at Williston Reservoir.

Special Accounts

Build BC

This Special Account was established in 1993 by the *Build BC Act*. The purpose of the account is to provide for projects and initiatives that facilitate the expansion and diversification of the British Columbia economy in a manner consistent with the Act. Revenue is received through a transfer from the Ministry Operations Vote. Expenditures are for the development and implementation of Build BC projects and initiatives.

No financing transactions are provided for under this account.

Special Fund

Natural Resource Community Fund

This Special Fund was created in 1992 by the *Natural Resource Community Fund Act*. Administered by the Ministry of Employment and Investment, the purpose of the fund is to assist communities, in large part dependent on a single resource industry, to adjust to severe economic dislocations arising from industry closures.

Fund revenue represents 0.5 per cent of annual petroleum, natural gas, mineral and forest revenues, and interest earned on fund investments.

Expenditures are for training and skill development, worker relocation, job creation and maintenance and other costs which may be deemed necessary. Administration costs are funded through the Ministry Operations Vote.

The fund balance is capped at \$25 million, and any surplus in excess of \$25 million is transferred to the General Fund.

Valuation Allowance

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 17, 18).

Energy and Mines

Vote 31—Minister's Office

This vote provides for the office of the Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Northern Development, and includes the salaries of the minister, the minister's staff and related office expenses.

Vote 32—Ministry Operations

This vote provides for executive direction, administrative services and operating programs of the ministry, including:

(a) CORPORATE SERVICES

This sub-vote provides for administration and ministry executive support, including the deputy minister's office, communications and public affairs, the administration and transfer of funds to the Northern Development Fund Special Account, and for administrative support services which are provided under an agreement with the Ministry of Employment and Investment.

(b) ENERGY AND MINERALS

This sub-vote provides for administration of the province's oil, gas, coal and mineral resources and for the regulation of the industries that explore for and develop these resources, including:

- (i) *Resources Management*—provides for the determination of petroleum, natural gas, coal, geothermal and mineral reserves in British Columbia; the maintenance of databases, maps, surveys, and prospecting reports on the geology of British Columbia, including the storage of well cores, logs and records; the administration and disposition of petroleum, natural gas and geothermal resource rights; the collection of fees, leases and tender bonuses; administration of title to mineral and coal resources of the province; the preparation of reports on the industry; the provision of support services to industry and information to the public. Grants are provided for resource studies and projects and resource roads. Costs are partially recovered from industry for administration of resource roads;
- (ii) *Regulation, Inspection and Enforcement*—provides for the administration of and compliance with provincial legislation, regulations and guidelines relating to exploration, production, transportation and reclamation activities of the oil and gas, coal, geothermal and mining industries to ensure safe operations, environmental responsibility and prudent resource management; and
- (iii) *Exploration*—provides training support and grants to prospectors to stimulate mineral exploration.

(c) RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

This sub-vote provides for the development, analysis and preparation of provincial resource development policies, strategies and plans, including:

- (i) *Revenue Administration*—provides for the collection and audit of minerals, petroleum and natural gas taxes and royalties, and the collection of the levy under the *Natural Gas Price Act* and Mine Safety Inspection Fee; and
- (ii) *Resource Development*—provides for formulation and implementation of provincial minerals, oil and natural gas strategies and policies, including infrastructure, regulation of removals, utility regulation policy, project assessments, strategic studies and analyses, collection and dissemination of statistics, coordination of ministry input into environmental assessment project reviews, economic analysis of environmental initiatives; coordination of ministry policies into land use planning processes; First Nations consultation on resource management; administration of the province's participation in the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline project, and for costs associated with the Northern Development Agency.

Grants and contributions are provided for the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Agreements, participant assistance and in support of resource industry and northern economic development initiatives.

(d) CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FERRY CORPORATION

This sub-vote provides for contributions to compensate the corporation for operating losses incurred in providing ferry services in British Columbia's coastal waters.

Vote 33—Resource Revenue Sharing Agreements

This vote provides for agreements reached with First Nations to share revenue received from petroleum, natural gas and minerals extraction. Provision is made for payments made in accordance with the federal/provincial agreement, as specified under the *Fort Nelson Indian Reserve Minerals Revenue Sharing Act*, and agreements with other First Nations.

Statutory Accounts

Payments Based on Contributions

This account was established under the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 25(1)). This section of the Act authorizes payments "where under an Act, agreement or undertaking, money is payable to the government, or money has been received by the government, for the purpose of or as a contribution towards expenditures."

Interest on Revenue Refunds

This account was established under the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 27(1)(c)).

Mine Improvement

This account was established under the authority of the *Mines Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 293, sec. 17(2)).

Energy and Mines—Continued

Special Accounts

Northern Development Fund

This account was created by the *BC-Alcan Northern Development Fund Act*. The purpose of the account is to promote sustainable economic development in northwestern British Columbia. Revenue is received from Alcan Aluminium Ltd., a transfer from the Ministry Operations Vote, and interest or other income of the account. Expenditures are to support investment in new or existing businesses, to create new employment or stabilize existing employment, to support other goals consistent with the Act, and for advisory board expenses.

Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline

This account was created by authority of the *Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act*. Of the original \$80 million authorized for this account, \$25 million was disbursed as loans in 1990/91 and 1991/92 for capital construction of the pipeline to Vancouver Island. No loan repayments are expected in 1998/99. The balance of the account is for the provision of financial assistance for the conversion of oil, propane and other fuel fired appliances to the use of natural gas.

Expenditures consist of grants to persons that have applied and qualified for financial assistance. No interest or other revenue is credited to the account. Administration costs are funded through the Ministry Operations Vote.

No financing transactions are provided for under this account.

Environment, Lands and Parks

Vote 34—Minister's Office

This vote provides for the office of the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, and includes the salaries of the minister, the minister's staff and related office expenses.

Vote 35—Ministry Operations

This vote provides for the ministry's resource planning, environmental, conservation and recreational programs, including support for sustainable land use planning and cooperative relationships with First Nations. This vote also provides for management, finance and administrative services. Functions related to these programs and initiatives include:

(a) CORPORATE SERVICES

This sub-vote provides for executive direction, policy development, coordination of legislation, environmental reporting, program evaluation, communications, finance, administration, personnel, information systems, freedom of information and privacy, special and corporate program coordination, and trust fund management for ministry operations and programs. Grants and contributions are provided for activities concerned with use, protection and management of the environment, Crown land, provincial parks and ecological reserves. Costs are recovered for some program services from within the ministry, other ministries, other levels of government, organizations and individuals.

(b) ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS HEADQUARTERS

This sub-vote provides for programs to manage, protect and enhance wildlife and its habitat while balancing ecological, cultural and recreational interests; manage ground and surface water resources, ensure public safety from floods through regulation of dams and dykes, issue and manage water licences for power, regulate privately owned water utilities and manage appeals under the *Water and Utilities Act*; manage Crown land appraisal, acquisitions and exchanges, valuation, administration, development and marketing; manage and coordinate land, air, water and natural resource inventory and data management, river flow forecasting and floodplain mapping; manage the provincial cadastral survey system, the Crown land registry and the issuance of Crown grants; manage land related information through LandData BC including the Terrain Resources Information Management program, the Provincial Baseline Digital Atlas, the Geo-spatial Reference System and the distribution of mapping products and airphotos; administer and manage environmental protection and stewardship programs; and provide consultation and support on program matters with First Nations. It also provides for the management, protection and enhancement of natural resources and biodiversity throughout the province; and support to treaty and pre-treaty negotiations with First Nations. Grants and contributions are provided for activities concerned with use, protection and management of the environment and Crown lands. Costs related to the Sustainable Environment Fund are recovered from the Special Account. Costs are recovered for some program services from within the ministry, other ministries, other levels of government, organizations and individuals.

(c) ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS REGIONAL OPERATIONS

This sub-vote provides for management, administration and delivery of fisheries, wildlife, water management, Crown land, environmental protection, assessment, enforcement and emergency programs through regional, sub-regional and district offices. Grants and contributions are provided for activities concerned with use, protection and management of the environment and Crown lands. Costs related to the Sustainable Environment Fund are recovered from the Special Account. Costs are recovered for certain program services from within the ministry, other ministries, other levels of government, organizations and individuals.

(d) BC PARKS

This sub-vote provides for management, operation and development of the provincial park and ecological reserve systems, outdoor recreation opportunities, costs related to parkland acquisition, participation in the Canadian and Provincial Heritage Rivers program, and commercial river rafting and small boat regulations. Grants and contributions are provided for outdoor recreation, education and safety programs. Funds generated from parks producing net revenue are used to partially fund the operating costs of the parks systems. Costs of some program services are recovered from other ministries, other levels of government, organizations and individuals.

Environment, Lands and Parks—Continued

(e) ENVIRONMENT YOUTH TEAM

This sub-vote provides for the administration and delivery of the internship, eco-education and work crew programs focused on improving the environment and public outdoor recreation, including the development of new campground sites and giving training and employment opportunities to youth.

Statutory Accounts

Payments Based on Contributions

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 25(1)). This section of the Act authorizes payments "where under an Act, agreement or undertaking, money is payable to the government, or money has been received by the government, for the purpose of or as a contribution towards expenditures."

Special Accounts

Crown Land Account

This account was originally created as a fund by authority of section 7 of the *Department of Housing Act*, 1973, was replaced by the Crown Land Fund effective July 31, 1979 pursuant to the *Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act*, and was changed to a Special Account under the *Special Appropriations Act*, 1982.

Revenue sources (net of direct costs) include land sales, land exchanges, land tenures, interest income, and fees. Expenditures include non-recoverable disbursements associated with program related costs such as reporting, clean-up, servicing, development and disposition of Crown land; the sale or disposal of assets on Crown land; acquisitions for parkland, ecological reserves and critical fish and wildlife conservation projects; the write-down of uncollectible loans; and the write-down of land inventory values to the lower of cost or net realizable value. Contributions are provided to other levels of government, organizations and individuals for the acquisition of lands for environmental, conservation, recreational or sustainable land use purposes.

Receipts represent repayment of outstanding loans and deposits made on pending sales. Disbursements reflect recoverable disbursements associated with the acquisition, servicing, development and disposition of Crown land.

Habitat Conservation Fund

This account was originally created by the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2)*, 1981 which amended the *Wildlife Act* to establish a fund for the enhancement of fish and wildlife and their habitat. The fund was changed to a Special Account by the *Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act*, 1988.

Amendments to the *Wildlife Act* in 1996 created the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. Revenue which was previously credited to the Habitat Conservation Fund is now credited to the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. Expenditures previously made from the Habitat Conservation Fund are now made from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and consist of projects to enhance fish and wildlife populations, habitat acquisitions, promotional and educational projects and other expenses. Expenditures from the Habitat Conservation Fund will be made for habitat enhancements and acquisition until this Special Account is exhausted. These expenditures include contributions to organizations and individuals concerned with protection, management and use of the environment.

No financing transactions are provided for under this account.

Sustainable Environment Fund

This account was created by the *Sustainable Environment Fund Act*, 1990, and subsequent amendments. It provides for the protection of the air, land and water and for environmental renewal by preventing pollution, controlling pollutants and undertaking remediation activities through administration of the *Waste Management Act*, the *Litter Act*, *Pesticide Control Act*, the *Environment Management Act*, and related regulations.

Revenue is derived from environmental levies, fees, licences and contributions from the federal government and other organizations and individuals.

Expenditures represent a transfer to the Ministry Operations Vote for administration, the development of policies, legislation and regulations, and standards and criteria for discharges and emissions; monitoring and understanding the receiving environment; education, and encouragement of activities to prevent pollution; waste reduction; laboratory services; air and water quality; the clean-up of contaminated sites; special waste management; and soil and water remediation projects; and grants and contributions to local governments, other organizations and individuals to assist in waste management, clean-up of contaminated sites and to support various environmental protection initiatives.

No financing transactions are provided for under this account.

Valuation Allowance

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 17, 18).

Finance and Corporate Relations

Vote 36—Minister's Office

This vote provides for the office of the Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations, and includes the salaries of the minister, the minister's staff and related office expenses.

Vote 37—Ministry Operations

This vote provides for operations and programs of the ministry, including:

(a) CORPORATE SERVICES

This sub-vote provides for:

- (i) policy analysis and advice on financial sector issues, corporate sector issues and legislation;
- (ii) executive, financial, administrative, personnel, information systems, communications support, freedom of information and privacy services, and general services to ministry operations and programs, and to the Office of the Premier, Public Sector Employers' Council, the Public Service Employee Relations Commission, the Corporate Accounting System, the Information, Science and Technology Agency, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Insurance and Risk Management Special Account. The cost of information systems, freedom of information, personnel and other services is partially recovered from other divisions of the ministry, other ministries, special offices, organizations, agencies and individuals;
- (iii) certain expenses incurred by the Legislature and the Office of the Premier; operation and maintenance costs of the Legislative Buildings; occupancy and related costs for the Executive Council and Intergovernmental Relations; reimbursement of certain expenses to Members of the Legislative Assembly under section 6 of the *Legislative Allowances and Pensions Act*; and Cabinet committee expenses and travel expenses within Canada for members of the Executive Council, Parliamentary Secretaries, and related staff;
- (iv) initiatives intended to improve the organizational development of the BC public service, including funding for staff and operating expenses of the Public Service Development Office;
- (v) analysis and advice on capital issues including public-private partnerships and administration of social capital projects; and
- (vi) administration of the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund.

(b) TREASURY BOARD STAFF

This sub-vote provides for:

- (i) analysis and advice on fiscal, budgetary, administrative, economic, capital and taxation policy issues;
- (ii) policy, research, analysis and advice on intergovernmental fiscal relations;
- (iii) monitoring, analyzing and forecasting of economic activity and the government's fiscal position;
- (iv) production of various financial and economic documents, including the *Estimates* and *Budget*;
- (v) review of government programs to assess effectiveness, efficiency and relevance; and
- (vi) operation and maintenance of financial and economic models to support decision-making within government.

(c) OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL

This sub-vote provides for payment, recording, reporting and auditing of government accounts and trust funds; development and implementation of financial administration policies and procedures; analysis and advice on administrative policy issues and accountability initiatives; and the evaluation of accounting and financial management systems throughout government. Recoveries are received from ministries and Crown corporations for internal audit services.

(d) REVENUE OPERATIONS

This sub-vote provides for administration of activities including:

- (i) taxation statutes which are the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations;
- (ii) ministry responsibilities under the *School Act* regarding residential and non-residential school property taxes collected by municipalities on behalf of the province;
- (iii) advances to local governments in respect of property taxes collected on their behalf;
- (iv) the *Land Tax Deferment Act* and related costs;
- (v) the *Home Owner Grant Act* as it relates to the non-municipal areas of the province; and
- (vi) payment of interest or refunds of taxation revenues under statutes administered by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations.

(e) FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COMMISSION

This sub-vote provides for:

- (i) operation of the Financial Institutions Commission and the Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation under the *Financial Institutions Act*;
- (ii) administrative costs of regulating credit unions, trust companies, insurance companies, and captive insurance legislation;
- (iii) administration of the *Real Estate Act*, the *Mortgage Brokers Act* and the *Condominium Act*;
- (iv) administrative costs of credit union stabilization, the Credit Union Deposit Insurance Fund, and related activities. These costs are fully recovered from the Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation; and
- (v) recoveries are received from fees, licensing and other charges.

Finance and Corporate Relations—Continued

(f) GOVERNMENT SERVICES

This sub-vote provides for executive direction and procurement services by authority of the *Purchasing Commission Act*, the development and administration of public sector purchasing policy to stimulate economic activity in the province, and the negotiation and implementation of the procurement chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade, in addition to the following functions:

- (i) *Purchasing Commission*—provides for a purchasing service, including an electronic bidding system linking government buyers and suppliers; planning, evaluation and consultation to ministries and public sector agencies; and assisting British Columbia businesses in obtaining a larger share of the public sector market. Travel alternatives are investigated and travel information is published in a guide. In addition, provides for costs on matters pertaining to the government's light vehicle fleet, including contract management, and policy direction. A portion of the costs is recovered from special offices, ministries and participating bodies;
- (ii) *Government House*—support for the exercise of the Lieutenant-Governor's constitutional responsibilities, and the ceremonial, diplomatic, hospitality and other activities of the Vice-Regal Office; the operation and maintenance of Government House as the official residence and offices of the Lieutenant-Governor; and official functions including support for government-sponsored events;
- (iii) *Protocol and Events*—costs of official ceremonies, programs for visiting dignitaries, government hosted functions, government honours and awards by authority of the *Provincial Symbols and Honours Act*, Parliament Buildings visitor services, the carillon tower, and grants for the Queen Elizabeth II British Columbia Centennial Scholarships by authority of the *Scholarship Act* and to the Inter-governmental Conference Secretariat; logistical support for the Premier and Cabinet in participation in First Ministers' Conferences, Premier's Conferences and ministerial conferences. A portion of the costs may be recovered from special offices, ministries and participating bodies; and
- (iv) *BC Stats*—provides for the production of economic, social, business and demographic statistical information, data dissemination, and analytical services for government under the *Statistics Act*. Costs incurred for statistical services to ministries and other parties are partially recovered, as are the costs of publications and releases to external users.

Costs are fully recovered for the provision of direct procurement services for participating public sector agencies.

(g) PROVINCIAL TREASURY OPERATIONS

This sub-vote provides for debt management, banking and cash management, and loan administration services on a cost recovery basis to its clients, including Crown corporations and the government. Recoveries are received for the cost of services provided to ministries and government entities. Prior to 1998/99 this program was operated through the Provincial Treasury Operations Special Account.

(h) OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER

This sub-vote provides funds management services for trust funds, the province and government bodies. The cost of the management services is recovered directly from funds under administration.

(i) CABINET OPERATIONS

This sub-vote provides for salaries and other expenses incurred in providing policy, planning and operational support to Cabinet and its committees.

(j) CABINET POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARIAT

This sub-vote provides for:

- (i) coordination of strategic policy initiatives and public consultation activities for the Premier and Cabinet; coordination and management of key corporate initiatives; and
- (ii) planning, coordination and implementation of communications programs and policies, advertising and information services for ministries, special offices and certain bodies, and for the public liaison function of government.

(k) COORDINATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

This sub-vote provides for the coordination of appointments to government agencies, boards and commissions.

(l) PUBLIC SERVICE APPEAL BOARD

This sub-vote provides for fees and salaries of the board members and staff, and expenses of the board in the processing and hearing of appeals under the *Public Service Act*.

Vote 38—Registries (Special Operating Agency)

This vote provides for expenditures of the Special Operating Agency responsible for: creation and registration of all business entities, non-profits and cooperatives operating in British Columbia; registration of security interests in personal property in British Columbia; registration of ownership and location of manufactured homes in British Columbia; and the operation of the Auditor Certification Board under the *Company Act*. Revenue represents fees and licences charged by Registries for the provision of its service and is credited to the General Fund.

Vote 39—Pensions Administration

This vote provides for administrative costs incurred by the Superannuation Commission in the administration of nine pension plans, as authorized by the following authorities:

- *Pension (Public Service) Act*;
- *Pension (Municipal) Act*;
- *Pension (Teachers) Act*;
- *Pension (College) Act*;
- *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act*;

Finance and Corporate Relations—Continued

- BC Rail Ltd. Pension Plan rules;
- British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority Pension Plan regulations;
- Westel Telecommunications Ltd. Pension Plan rules; and
- Workers' Compensation Board Superannuation Plan regulations.

Costs are fully recovered from the pension funds.

Vote 40—Product Sales and Services

This vote provides for acquisitions for and services to special offices, ministries, other levels of government, participating public sector bodies and for the general public, the administration of the *Queen's Printer Act*, mail services, and purchases, disposals and storage under the *Purchasing Commission Act*. Major activities include:

(a) QUEEN'S PRINTER AND PUBLISHING

This sub-vote provides for government printing which includes publishing the British Columbia Gazette Parts I and II and other publications, administration of the government's copyright, distribution of information, the acquisition and distribution of stationery, paper, office products, forms, and protocol giftware, and the operation of a centralized inventory and distribution system for publications.

(b) POSTAL AND DISTRIBUTION SERVICES

This sub-vote provides for province-wide mail processing, courier, mail preparation, mail list services, employee relocation services, and production and distribution of driver licences and other identification cards.

(c) WAREHOUSING AND ASSET INVESTMENT RECOVERY

This sub-vote provides for disposal of surplus assets and material, operation of the intangible property program, establishment and operation of consolidated warehouses for storage of assets, material and inventory.

(d) PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

This sub-vote provides for the acquisition of inventory and distribution of health, medical, safety-related and general goods for resale to ministries and public sector agencies.

(e) RECOVERIES

This sub-vote provides for cost recovery for products and services supplied.

Vote 41—British Columbia Transit

This vote provides for the annual contributions to British Columbia Transit including:

(a) OPERATING CONTRIBUTIONS

This sub-vote provides for contributions towards the operating costs of public passenger and transportation services, including transportation services for the disabled in various communities throughout the province.

(b) DEBT SERVICING CONTRIBUTIONS

This sub-vote provides for contributions towards the interest and principal repayment of debt related to the capital expenditures for public passenger transit services, including transit services for the disabled in communities throughout the province.

Statutory Accounts

Payments Based on Contributions

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 25(1)). This section of the Act authorizes payments "where under an Act, agreement or undertaking, money is payable to the government, or money has been received by the government, for the purpose of or as a contribution towards expenditures."

Unclaimed Money Act

This account was established under the authority of the *Unclaimed Money Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 467, sec. 4).

Interest on Revenue Refunds

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act*, (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 27(1)(c)).

Special Accounts

Provincial Home Acquisition

This account was created as a fund by the *Provincial Home Acquisition Act*, 1967, and was changed to a Special Account under the *Special Appropriations Act*, 1982. The purpose of the account was to pay grants to qualified British Columbia residents constructing or purchasing a home, and to make loans secured by second mortgages. Currently, mortgage financing is provided from this account to qualified British Columbia residents for the conversion of existing housing into rental suites under the *Home Conversion and Leasehold Loan Act*, 1979.

Most of the BC Second Mortgage program portfolio has been sold to private sector lenders. The province re-purchases mortgage accounts which become more than 90 days in arrears.

Revenue consists of interest on outstanding mortgage principal. Expenditure includes statutory rebates and other miscellaneous program costs.

Receipts represent repayment of outstanding mortgage loan principal. Disbursements represent new conversion mortgages, repurchased mortgage accounts and guarantee claims paid under the mortgage assistance program.

Valuation Allowance

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 17, 18).

Fisheries

Vote 42—Minister's Office

This vote provides for the office of the Minister of Fisheries, and includes the salaries of the minister, the minister's staff and related office expenses.

Vote 43—Ministry Operations

This vote provides for operations and programs of the ministry, including:

(a) CORPORATE SERVICES

This sub-vote provides for executive direction of the ministry, including deputy minister's office; other executive and related management services. Grants are provided to stakeholder groups, individuals and business groups in the development and implementation of strategies to enhance fish habitat and to further industry development in British Columbia. Financial, human resources, information resources, administrative services, freedom of information and privacy services and general services and assistance are provided to the Ministry of Fisheries by other ministries.

(b) FISHERIES POLICY, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND LIAISON

This sub-vote provides for provincial fisheries policy activities and international initiatives including:

- (i) development and coordination of federal-provincial policy initiatives relating to the management of the fishery resource and habitat;
- (ii) communication and consultation with First Nations and stakeholders with interests in the fishery sector including commercial, recreational and aquaculture industries;
- (iii) providing support to the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, the Groundfish Development Authority, the Fisheries and Seafood Diversification Board and other activities under the federal-provincial fisheries agreements; and
- (iv) development of resource management policies and programs with respect to aboriginal, resource use and environmental issues.

(c) FISHERIES PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

This sub-vote provides for:

- (i) planning, management, protection, conservation and regulation of fresh water and marine and anadromous fisheries under the *Wildlife Act*, the *Fisheries Act*, and the Canada/British Columbia Agreement on the Management of Pacific Salmon Fishery Issues;
- (ii) the technical review of applications for tenure and licenses for the licensing and enforcement of regulations as required under the *Fisheries Act*, and *Fisheries Inspection Act*;
- (iii) administration of relevant sections of the *Fisheries Act*; and
- (iv) operating costs for sector and community development including development of strategies to create jobs and enhance the competitiveness of British Columbia's seafood and sports fishing sectors.

Grants and contributions are provided to support fish sector development under the Urban Salmon Habitat Program, the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, local governments and community based stewardship groups to restore salmon habitat, and stakeholder groups including aboriginal interest groups. Recoveries are received from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and BC Hydro for fisheries conservation, restoration and management purposes.

Forests

Vote 44—Minister's Office

This vote provides for the office of the Minister of Forests, and includes the salaries of the minister, the minister's staff and related office expenses.

Vote 45—Ministry Operations

This vote provides funding for the forest and range stewardship and management activities of the ministry and for general management, and administrative services. Functions related to these activities and services are performed at provincial, regional and district levels and include:

(a) CORPORATE SERVICES

This sub-vote provides for senior executive direction and coordination of central ministry services including corporate policy, personnel, finance, audit, information technology, communications, and public information for ministry initiatives. Grants are provided for activities which promote prudent forest management. Costs are partially recovered from parties external to government for ministry services.

Forests—Continued

(b) FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This sub-vote provides for provincial forest and range land stewardship and management at provincial, regional and district levels. Grants and contributions are provided for the promotion of integrated management of the forest and range lands and to agencies or groups involved in cooperative forestry research. Costs related to the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program are recovered from the Small Business Forest Enterprise Special Account. Costs related to the provision of supplies and services may be recovered from other ministries, and levels of government agencies, organizations and individuals. This sub-vote is comprised of the following activities:

- (i) *Headquarters Resource Management*—provides for headquarters functions associated with the Chief Forester; aboriginal affairs; resource tenures and engineering; compliance and enforcement; timber supply; revenue; forest practices; research; resources inventory; operation of the tree nurseries and the seed centre; and
- (ii) *Region and District Operations*—provides for regional and district activities; land and resource inventories; aboriginal relationships; higher level planning; timber supply review; tenure administration; operational plan review and approval; cutting permit approval; revenue; compliance and enforcement; recreation site and trail development and maintenance; road and bridge development and maintenance; forest health; research extension; basic silviculture, and regional and district administration.

Vote 46—Fire Suppression

This vote provides for fire prevention, control and suppression as prescribed by the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*. Functions related to these programs and services are performed throughout the province, and include:

(a) DIRECT FIRE FIGHTING

This sub-vote provides for control and suppression of wild fires and ex gratia payments relating to these activities. Costs related to the provision of supplies and services may be recovered from other ministries and levels of government, provinces, countries, agencies, organizations and individuals.

(b) FIRE PREPAREDNESS

This sub-vote provides for fire prevention; the infrastructure, personnel, equipment and supplies required to maintain a consistent state of readiness to control and suppress wild fires; associated research and development. Contributions are provided to promote fire safety and awareness. Costs related to the provision of supplies and services may be recovered from other ministries and levels of government, provinces, countries, agencies, organizations and individuals.

Statutory Accounts

Payments Based on Contributions

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 25(1)). This section of the Act authorizes payments “where under an Act, agreement or undertaking, money is payable to the government, or money has been received by the government, for the purpose of or as a contribution towards expenditures.”

Interest on Revenue Refunds

This account was established under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, chap. 138, sec. 24(1)(c)).

Special Accounts

Forest Stand Management Fund

This account was originally established as a fund by the *Forest Stand Management Fund Act*, 1986, and was changed to a Special Account under the *Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act*, 1988. Revenue is provided by contributions from municipalities, the forest industry, forest sector unions and others and through money collected under section 70.1 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*. Expenditures provide for enhanced management of British Columbia's forest and range lands and for silviculture work performed under section 70.1 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*.

No financing transactions are provided for under this account.

Small Business Forest Enterprise Program

This account was established in 1988 through an amendment to section 87.1 of the *Forest Act*. The purpose of the account is to identify all revenues incidental to the operation of the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program and to provide an ongoing source of funds to defray the costs of the program.

Revenue is collected from the following sources: upset stumpage; bonus stumpage; annual fees and billings (annual rent, trespass charges, scaling fees, and registration fees) incidental to the operation of the program; and sales of logs.

Expenditure is for program administration; construction and maintenance of logging roads and bridges; costs of selling timber and logs; basic silviculture to restock logged lands; and other activities incidental to the operation of the program.

Revenue in excess of current expenditures and future basic silviculture requirements is transferred to the General Fund.

No financing transactions are provided for under this account.