

The following statement is provided in accordance with s.6(1) of the <u>Justice Reform and Transparency Act:</u>

Over the past year, the justice and public safety sector celebrated important successes while also navigating unprecedented challenges in serving the public. The Council recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic catalyzed sector leaders to come together in the spirit of collaboration to challenge long-standing conventions with the goal of meeting public need and maintaining the integrity of the sector during these difficult times.

Now is the time to recognize our accomplishments, and also consolidate our lessons from innovative pandemic initiatives to improve our sector for the benefit of all British Columbians.

To that end, our goal as a Council is to collaboratively set the course for the future by revitalizing our approach to justice reform and the strategic planning priorities for the sector. This will include a reconsideration of the future of justice summits, including their format and purpose.

As we move forward with this process, we will be careful to:

- Respect the statutory independence of sector partners
- Understand the priorities and public need across the sector
- Implement an approach that responds to partner and public need

Some of the strategies we will use include:

- Consulting with a broad and diverse range of sector partners through surveys and other information gathering initiatives
- Ensuring close communication with sector partners on changes, performance measures, and outcomes

The Council looks forward to candid conversations with sector participants throughout the coming year. Comments related to the Strategic Plan Statement can be forwarded to lusticeReform@gov.bc.ca.

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Chair, Justice and Public Safety Council

Deputy Attorney General and

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