

## NEWS RELEASE

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Public Guardian and Trustee

## PGT releases 2015-2016 Annual Report

**Vancouver –** The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) today released its 2015-2016 Annual Report.

This year, the PGT met all 20 publicly reported performance targets. The PGT also moved forward with its plan to replace its legacy trust accounting system in order to meet modern trust accounting standards and to support efficient service to clients. The new system is expected to be in place and fully operating by May 2017.

"This year the PGT also initiated activities to streamline processes and improve client communications," said Catherine Romanko, Public Guardian and Trustee. "The continued development in these areas will allow the PGT to serve clients who rely on the PGT for assistance and management of increasingly complex legal, financial, and property issues."

The PGT also contributed to consultations concerning potential law reform in areas impacting PGT clients, including work undertaken to develop British Columbia's online civil resolution tribunal and participated on a broad variety of provincial and national committees considering such diverse issues as providing services to Aboriginal children in government care, developing of strategies to reduce elder abuse, best practices in public guardianship and trusteeship and developments in estate planning law and practice.

## About the Public Guardian and Trustee

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) is a corporation sole established under the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act* with a unique statutory role to protect the interests of British Columbians who lack legal capacity to protect their own interests. The mandate of the PGT is to:

- Protect the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19 years;
- Protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who require assistance in decision making; and
- Administer the estates of deceased and missing persons.

The PGT served approximately 26,700 clients in 2015-2016 and administered almost \$897 million of client trust assets. For more information see the PGT website at <u>www.trustee.bc.ca</u>. The 2015-2016 Annual Report is available by clicking <u>here</u>.

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