

Aboriginal Relations

BUSINESS PLAN 2011-14

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of February 2, 2011.

original signed by

Len Webber, Minister
February 3, 2011

THE MINISTRY

The ministry consists of the Department of Aboriginal Relations, which is made up of three divisions. The First Nations and Métis Relations Division leads Alberta's relations with First Nations and supports government-to-government relationships with Treaty Grand Chiefs. This division coordinates the province's relationship with the Métis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association, including administration of Alberta's unique Métis Settlements legislation. This division also supports economic partnerships and promotes the well-being of Aboriginal people. The Consultation and Land Claims Division coordinates provincial government activities related to First Nations consultation on land management and resource development, administers the First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program, and manages provincial land claim obligations under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement. The Policy and Planning Division supports the development of recommendations regarding major policy issues, oversees implementation of the *Aboriginal Policy Framework*, and leads corporate planning and ministry participation in federal/provincial/territorial relations on Aboriginal matters.

Although not separate entities for reporting purposes, the ministry also supports two institutions established by Alberta's *Métis Settlements Act* that are accountable to the minister. The Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that promotes self-governance, certainty and respect within the Métis Settlements through adjudications, mediation and education. The Office of the Métis Settlements Ombudsman promotes the rights and responsibilities of Métis Settlement Councils, staff, entities and members through inspections, investigations and recommendations.

Aboriginal Relations' mission is to lead the development of government-wide policies, strategies and partnerships with Aboriginal organizations, governments and industry in support of healthy, vibrant Aboriginal communities and people, fully participating in a prosperous, competitive and diverse Alberta. The ministry's core business is Aboriginal relationships, policies and initiatives.

This business plan is aligned with the government's five goals and supports the government's core businesses as set out in the *Government of Alberta Strategic Plan*.

GOALS, PRIORITY INITIATIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

As a result of the ministry's review of its goals, environment, opportunities and challenges, a number of priority initiatives have been identified.

Goal One: **Aboriginal communities and people fully participate in Alberta's economy and society**

The ministry provides leadership on Aboriginal policy and oversees agreements between the Government of Alberta and Aboriginal governments and organizations. By building relationships with other ministries, Aboriginal communities and organizations, industry, governments and other partners, the ministry strengthens economic and social opportunities for Aboriginal people in Alberta. Aboriginal Relations provides advice, guidance and specialized knowledge to other ministries, governments and industry and works with Aboriginal communities and organizations to support the transfer of knowledge, skills and tools. The ministry also administers Alberta's Métis Settlements legislation and associated governance entities, and the First Nations Development Fund. The ministry's activities support effective relationships, policies and initiatives as well as healthy, vibrant Aboriginal communities and people.

Priority Initiatives:

- 1.1 Review the *Aboriginal Policy Framework* and participate in the development of Government of Alberta programs and services to support the well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal communities and people.
- 1.2 Lead the Government of Alberta in the implementation of the Protocol Agreement on Government-to-Government Relations to build effective relationships with First Nations.
- 1.3 Work with the Métis Settlements General Council towards the objectives of effective governance, enhanced accountability and sustainability.
- 1.4 Through the Alberta/Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNAA) Framework Agreement, work with the MNAA and other ministries towards enhancing the economic and community well-being of Métis people.
- 1.5 Strengthen strategic partnerships with Aboriginal organizations, governments, industry and others to address barriers and improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal people.
- 1.6 Co-lead the First Nations, Métis and Inuit workforce participation initiative and work with Aboriginal, government and industry partners to improve Aboriginal participation in the workforce and employment outcomes for Aboriginal people.
- 1.7 Administer the First Nations Development Fund to support economic, social and community development projects.
- 1.8 Support improved outcomes for urban Aboriginal people through policy development and collaboration with other ministries, Aboriginal organizations, other governments and private and non-profit sector partners.
- 1.9 Work with other ministry partners in the Safe Communities initiative and with Aboriginal communities and organizations to support safe and secure families and communities.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2009-10	Target 2011-12	Target 2012-13	Target 2013-14
1.a Number of strategic economic initiatives and economic capacity building projects undertaken by First Nations and First Nations organizations	32	20	20	20

Goal Two: Alberta’s coordinated approach to Aboriginal consultation and land claims enhances resource development certainty by reconciling the rights of Aboriginal communities and the interests of industry

The province has a duty to consult when constitutionally protected rights may be adversely affected by Crown decisions on land management and resource development. Aboriginal Relations oversees the development and alignment of Government of Alberta legislation, policies and initiatives that affect Aboriginal communities and their rights. The ministry provides leadership, advice and support to other ministries to develop and implement consultation policy and guidelines. The ministry supports First Nations to enhance their capacity for participation in land management and resource development consultations, which includes a single point of contact to ensure that project proponents and the provincial government have a designated consultation contact in First Nation communities. The ministry also coordinates Alberta’s participation in the settlement of treaty land entitlement claims. These initiatives support certainty for land management and resource development and promote greater economic competitiveness.

Priority Initiatives:

- 2.1 Lead implementation of Alberta’s First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development and the associated guidelines to increase the effectiveness of consultation processes.
- 2.2 Help to strengthen Alberta’s competitiveness by working with First Nations on a new approach which provides for mutual benefits and greater resource development certainty.
- 2.3 Work with First Nations on a government-to-government basis, and with industry and other ministries to better coordinate the consultation initiative.
- 2.4 Support consultation capacity and work with First Nations to enhance their participation in land management and resource development consultations.
- 2.5 Work with other ministries, the federal government and First Nations towards resolution of land-related negotiations, in particular treaty land entitlement claims for which Alberta has an obligation under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2009-10	Target 2011-12	Target 2012-13	Target 2013-14
2.a Number of First Nations with a single point of contact for consultation	44	44	44	44

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
Consolidated on a Fiscal Plan Basis

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable			2011-12 Estimate	2012-13 Target	2013-14 Target
	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Other Revenue	204	-	84	-	-	-
Total Revenue	204	-	84	-	-	-
EXPENSE						
Program						
Ministry Support Services	3,737	3,803	3,653	3,803	3,951	3,951
First Nations and Métis Relations	20,273	18,218	18,068	14,268	14,137	14,137
Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,067	1,119	1,119	1,119	1,163	1,163
First Nations Development Fund	105,576	118,000	110,000	115,500	123,000	131,000
Consultation and Land Claims	12,521	10,218	10,093	10,068	10,461	10,461
Policy and Planning	1,035	1,171	1,171	1,171	1,217	1,217
Land and Legal Settlement	60	-	41,000	-	-	-
Total Expense	144,269	152,529	185,104	145,929	153,929	161,929
Net Operating Result	(144,065)	(152,529)	(185,020)	(145,929)	(153,929)	(161,929)

CAPITAL INVESTMENT BY PROGRAM

Ministry Support Services	22	25	25	25	25	25
First Nations and Métis Relations	10	-	-	-	-	-
Total	32	25	25	25	25	25