

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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# Annual Report

## Indigenous Relations

### 2020-2021

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Note to Readers: Copies of the annual report are available on the Alberta Open Government Portal website [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

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## Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 20 ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta contains ministers' accountability statements, the consolidated financial statements of the province and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's strategic plan, previously published as one volume entitled Measuring Up report.

**This annual report of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations contains the minister's accountability statement, the financial information of the ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan. This ministry annual report also includes:**

- the financial statements of entities making up the ministry including the Department of Indigenous Relations, the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation for which the minister is responsible; and
- other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*, as separate reports, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report.

**Each Ministry Annual Report should be considered along with the Government of Alberta Annual Report to provide a complete overview of government's commitment to openness, accountability and fiscal transparency.**

## *Minister's Accountability Statement*

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2021, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at May 31, 2021 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

[Original signed by]

*Honourable Richard Wilson*

*Minister of Indigenous Relations*

## Message from the Minister



This past year, we have faced an historic public health crisis, along with an economic crisis. My heart goes out to everyone who was directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Its effect has been profound, as we have had to adapt quickly to protect the lives and livelihoods of Albertans, while rising to the challenge of reducing the spread of the virus. With millions of Albertans now vaccinated, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we all look forward to life returning to normal once again.

People across the country faced a horrible reality with the discovery of a mass burial site at the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Though people have known for many years that some children did not find their way home after attending residential school, the reality of

this find is no less painful. It was a chance for Alberta's government to take action on two actions called for through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

- Funding research into the unmarked burial sites of former residential schools.
- Waiving legal name change fees for residential school and Sixties Scoop survivors who lost their traditional Indigenous names.

While 2020 has been difficult, we have also witnessed the best in people – a goodness that comes from the spirit of people in Alberta. I want to give my heartfelt thanks to First Nations and Métis leaders for their leadership over the past year and a half.

What I will remember most about 2020 is how Indigenous Peoples in Alberta and my ministry were able to pull together during this public health crisis. From the outset, we continued to communicate to find out how our government could best help. We will continue to share the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 pandemic response, the vaccine rollout, and the economic and social supports available to all Albertans.

Now, onto some highlights.

This year, the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, or AIOC, made great strides in supporting our economic recovery while partnering in prosperity with Indigenous Peoples.

The AIOC started taking applications last May, providing support to Indigenous groups on commercially viable natural resource projects by helping raise capital and reduce their cost of capital by way of loan guarantees and capacity grants.

In September, I was proud to stand with Premier Jason Kenney and leaders of six First Nations when the AIOC announced its first loan guarantee of \$93 million for an equity stake in the Cascade Power Project.

This investment will create more than 600 jobs, supply up to eight per cent of our province's electricity needs and help place the participating First Nations more firmly on the path to economic self-sufficiency.

This government ran on the promise of becoming partners in prosperity, and we continue to take action to ensure Indigenous communities have the tools they need to become more self-reliant and self-sustaining. As the fastest growing segment of Alberta's population, you are the future workforce and we want to ensure future generations are set-up for success.

That's why Alberta's government also made \$5 million available through the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) to support small, Indigenous-owned businesses, an important part of Alberta's economic recovery. These funds contribute to economic growth, jobs and strong communities across the province. There are a number of high profile businesses this program has helped, and we are excited to see more continued success.

Indigenous Relations also expanded job-training opportunities for Indigenous people through its Employment Partnership Program. We expect it will help hundreds of Indigenous people receive training or supports in the next year. We also believe thousands more will benefit from job fairs and industry engagement events.

In 2020, Alberta's government and four First Nations signed an historic agreement to build a brighter future for members of the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council. This agreement was signed in the spirit of reconciliation and goes beyond talk by committing our governments to engage in social and economic issues.

This agreement, along with the 2019 Blackfoot Confederacy Protocol, brings senior officials, Chiefs and ministers to formal tables to talk through economic and social issues. They also establish an annual meeting with the Premier. These agreements are one more way Alberta's government enters into formal partnership with First Nations as partners in prosperity.

Albertans also saw the Indigenous Litigation Fund in action when the province challenged the constitutionality of the federal government's Impact Assessment Act in the Alberta Court of Appeal. The Woodland Cree First Nation received funding to intervene in support of Alberta's appeal in February 2020. We hope to see more successful applicants in the future.

When it comes to Métis communities, I am proud to say that Alberta is home to the only Métis land base in Canada. Alberta's government wants to ensure the eight Métis Settlements continue to be home for Métis culture, tradition and growth. That's why this spring we proposed amendments to modernize the 30-year old *Métis Settlements Act*. These changes, made through Bill 57, will increase flexibility in local decision-making, and create greater governance, financial responsibility and accountability. These changes will provide Métis Settlements with the tools they need to be successful and sustainable for years to come.

Indigenous Relations, like the rest of Alberta's government, is cutting regulatory burdens and unnecessary processes. This year, we piloted an online system to simplify consultation steps and timelines, so communities, industry and Government of Alberta staff can spend more time consulting rather than filling out paperwork. We also streamlined the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) approval process to enable funding to flow more quickly to communities.

Eliminating violence toward Indigenous women, girls, and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQQA+) people continued to be a priority.



The Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMWIG) has been working to develop recommendations to inform our response to the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. With their input, we can build an Alberta where Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ can safely lead lives filled with hope and promise.

The First Nation and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security continued to provide advice to the Alberta government in areas such as education, post-secondary education, human trafficking and safety. Council advice came in different ways, including in meetings, at provincial engagements and in their role supporting the Alberta Joint Working Group on MMIWG. I value the Councils' knowledge and advice as we work together to improve the lives of Indigenous women and their families.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, we have managed to move forward to more safe, prosperous and sustainable Indigenous communities and I am optimistic that in the coming year, will we continue to work together and resume our journey along the path of reconciliation.

My door and phone lines are always open. I and my staff look forward to continuing to work with you.

Yours Truly,

[Original signed by]

Rick Wilson  
Minister of Indigenous Relations

## Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations includes the Department of Indigenous Relations, the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security, Métis Women's Council on Economic Security, and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation as of March 31, 2021.

The executives of the individual entities within the ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and strategic plan, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the accompanying ministry financial information and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Indigenous Relations. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, which includes financial information, performance results on all objectives and initiatives identified in the Ministry Business Plan, and performance results for all ministry-supported commitments that were included in the 2020-23 Government of Alberta Strategic Plan. The financial information and performance results, out of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial information is prepared using the government's stated accounting policies, which are based on Canadian public sector accounting standards. The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliability – Information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with the underlying source data for the current and prior years' results.
- Understandability – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- Comparability – the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- Completeness – outcomes, performance measures and related targets match those included in the ministry's *Budget 2020*.

As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I am responsible for the ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control, which gives consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under ministry administration;

- provide Executive Council, the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Indigenous Relations the information needed to fulfill their responsibilities; and
- facilitate preparation of ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives of the individual entities within the ministry.

[Original signed by]

*Deputy Minister Donavon Young*

*Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations  
May 31, 2021*

## Results Analysis

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## Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations includes the Department of Indigenous Relations, the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, the First Nations and Métis Women’s Councils on Economic Security and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation.

The Department of Indigenous Relations leads the province’s relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit governments, communities, groups, industries and organizations in Alberta.

The Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that operates at arm’s length from the department and promotes self-governance, certainty, and respect within the Metis Settlements through adjudication, mediation and education.

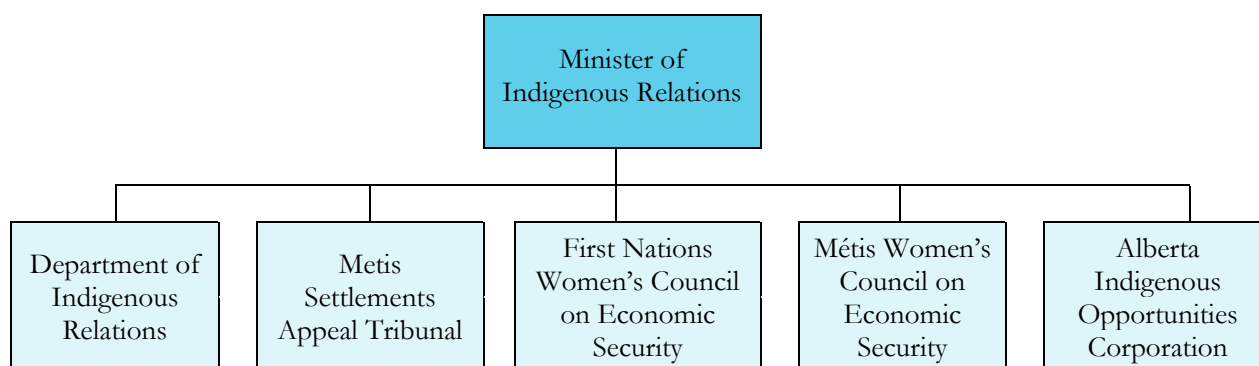
The First Nations and Métis Women’s Councils on Economic Security report to the Minister of Indigenous Relations and provide advice to the Government of Alberta on ways to improve socio-economic outcomes and security of Indigenous women and their families.

Indigenous Relations provides oversight to the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, a Crown corporation that works to improve Indigenous groups’ access to financial supports, ownership, and investment in mid- to large-scale natural resource projects, and related infrastructure. The ministry provides expert advice, guidance, and specialized knowledge to other Government of Alberta ministries to ensure Indigenous perspectives are heard in the development, implementation, and monitoring of policies, programs and initiatives, and to support engagement with Indigenous communities. The ministry also leads the government’s activities on fulfilling the duty to consult, and coordinates the province’s participation in land-related negotiations with the federal government and First Nations towards the settlement of outstanding land claims.

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations worked towards three outcomes:

- **Outcome One:** Improved economic security and prosperity of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta;
- **Outcome Two:** Improved Government of Alberta policies and direction that strengthen Indigenous communities and promotes Alberta’s interests; and
- **Outcome Three:** Increased opportunities for reconciliation with Indigenous leadership and organizations.

## Organizational Structure



## Department of Indigenous Relations

The Department of Indigenous Relations consists of the areas described below:

### *Office of the Deputy Minister*

The Deputy Minister's Office leads the department, provides advice and support to the Minister, and is the link to the Minister's Office to ensure the work of the department meets the goals and objectives outlined in the business plan and the priorities provided to the Minister by the Premier. The Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations also supports the Deputy Minister of Executive Council by contributing to policy development, planning and implementing cross-ministry initiatives and advocating for new ways to achieve government-wide goals.

### *First Nations and Métis Relations*

The First Nations and Métis Relations division consists of the First Nations Relations, Métis Relations, and Corporate Planning branches.

#### *First Nations Relations*

First Nations Relations builds government-to-government relationships with First Nations, many of which are formally set through protocol agreements. Protocol agreements provide a framework for continued collaboration between the Government of Alberta and First Nations. The branch also provides advice and specialized knowledge to Alberta provincial ministries, federal and municipal governments and industry, and participates in cross-ministry strategies affecting First Nations people.

Additionally, First Nations Relations administers the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) grant program that supports First Nations' economic, social and community development projects through revenues generated from government-owned slot machines located at Host First Nation casinos managed by the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC).

The branch builds partnerships between Indigenous communities, organizations, industry, other levels of government and non-Indigenous organizations. First Nations Relations is responsible for leading initiatives that promote the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the economy by administering economic development related programs, such as the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) and overseeing the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC).

First Nations Relations also works with its partner-ministries in Transportation and Infrastructure to manage relationships for the First Nations Regional Drinking Water Tie-in project and the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) projects. In addition, the branch assists with matters related to the Sixties Scoop.

#### *Métis Relations*

The Métis Relations branch coordinates the Government of Alberta's relationship with the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) and administers the province's unique Metis Settlements legislation. Alberta is home to the only recognized Métis land base in Canada. Through the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement (LTA), Indigenous Relations provides funding to implement the agreement and works closely with the MSGC and Metis Settlements to support the governance, accountability and long-term sustainability of the Settlements. Métis Relations also participates in tri-lateral discussions with the MSGC and Government of Canada focused on the long-term sustainability of the Metis Settlements. The branch coordinates the Government of Alberta's relationship with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) through a

framework agreement that promotes and facilitates the advancement of Métis people in Alberta. The branch does so by helping the parties to work together to develop and implement initiatives that address the needs and aspirations of MNA members.

The branch provides funding to the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation to support their goal of community self-reliance among the Grande Cache Enterprises and Cooperatives. Métis Relations also administers the Employment Partnerships Program, which supports labour force development activities, including skills training and employment initiatives to increase workforce participation of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta.

As the majority of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta live in urban centres, Métis Relations works primarily with the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) in their provision to support health, employment, housing, recreation, and cultural programs for Indigenous people in urban centres.

Métis Relations also leads the ministry's collaboration with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, in their response to emergencies and disasters affecting Indigenous communities. This work includes emergency prevention and preparedness planning.

### *Corporate Planning*

The Corporate Planning branch leads and manages a number of corporate processes, on behalf of Indigenous Relations, including the business plan, annual report, enterprise risk management, and the development of performance measures. The branch also manages the ministry's contribution to the Government of Alberta's Strategic Plan and Annual Report. The ministry's business plan and annual report are legislative requirements under the *Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency Act* and are completed under the direction of Treasury Board and Finance.

### ***Indigenous Women's Initiatives***

Indigenous Women's Initiatives leads department actions to address social and economic outcomes for Indigenous women in Alberta and collaborates with Alberta government ministries on initiatives that affect Indigenous women and families. Indigenous Women's Initiatives is responsible for providing secretariat support to the First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security and the Métis Women's Council on Economic Security. The division also advances the Councils' advice and recommendations within government on ways to achieve greater economic security for Indigenous women, their families and communities.

The division is Alberta's lead in developing a provincial response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report. Working with other Alberta government ministries and Indigenous women and organizations, Indigenous Women's Initiatives also supports provincial initiatives aimed at reducing violence against Indigenous women and girls.

### ***Consultation, Land and Policy***

The Consultation, Land and Policy division has three branches: the Aboriginal Consultation Office, Strategic Engagement and Policy Innovation, and Land Claims. Each branch works toward specific mandates and targets, including:

- management of Alberta's consultation process with First Nations, Metis Settlements, and credibly asserted Métis organizations;
- development and ongoing maintenance of Alberta's Indigenous consultation policies, guidelines and related tools;

- collaboration with federal and provincial partners to ensure Indigenous perspectives in Alberta are reflected in policies, programs and initiatives; and
- coordination of Alberta's role in negotiating and implementing Treaty Land Entitlement claims.

The division also administers the Litigation Fund, which helps Indigenous communities to be heard through legal actions that support responsible resource development in Alberta.

### *Aboriginal Consultation Office*

The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) manages the consultation process with First Nations, Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis organizations. This includes providing pre-consultation assessments, guiding the consultation process with First Nations, Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis organizations and proponents, and ultimately providing a Crown assessment of consultation adequacy for projects regulated by the Alberta Energy Regulator.

The ACO works closely with other Alberta government ministries and regulators to ensure that Alberta's duty to consult is met before an approval or disposition is given. Doing so allows the development of Alberta's land and natural resources in a way that respects the Treaty rights and traditional use activities of First Nations and the traditional use and harvesting activities of Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis organizations. Each year, the ACO reviews thousands of regulatory applications for a wide range of development projects in various areas, including oil sands, conventional oil and gas, pipelines, mining, forestry, parks, public infrastructure, and disaster recovery and mitigation.

### *Strategic Engagement and Policy Innovation*

The Strategic Engagement and Policy Innovation (SEPI) branch develops and delivers province-wide policies, guidelines and initiatives to ensure Alberta fulfills its duty to consult. SEPI does so while balancing the needs of all parties – First Nations and Métis, industry proponents, municipalities, and the provincial government. The branch supports Indigenous communities' participation in Alberta's consultation processes by providing consultation capacity funding to First Nations, Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis organizations. SEPI supports consistent, coordinated and efficient consultation and engagement processes through technology and tools. One tool is the Geodata Mapping Project, which works directly with Indigenous communities toward the development of consultation area maps.

Through the Policy Innovation and Intergovernmental Relations Unit, the branch provides advice, guidance and specialized knowledge on Indigenous policy to divisions in the ministry, other Government of Alberta ministries, along with provincial, territorial, and federal partners across Canada. The SEPI branch works to ensure Indigenous perspectives are reflected in Alberta's strategic and operational policies, programs, and initiatives, particularly those that are economically driven or related to land and natural resource management. The branch works collaboratively with the Government of Alberta's Executive Council to coordinate a whole-of-government response to federal Indigenous initiatives, policies and legislation that affect Alberta. All of these roles enable the branch to oversee a strategic, coordinated response to building and maintaining relationships that ensures Indigenous Peoples are able to share in the economic recovery and prosperity of Alberta.

### *Land Claims*

The Land Claims branch coordinates and represents Alberta's participation in land-related negotiations with the federal government and First Nations, particularly in Treaty Land Entitlement claims. Treaty Land Entitlement claims arise where obligations of the federal Crown to provide certain benefits, such as the setting aside of land as Indian reserve, have not been



fulfilled. Alberta has a constitutional obligation to transfer back to Canada such unoccupied Crown lands as are necessary. This allows the federal government to settle outstanding Treaty obligations with First Nations in regards to the provision of land for reserves.

### ***Financial Services***

Financial Services integrates key ministry support functions. The branch is responsible for developing the ministry's budget and providing financial advice and support related to planning, fiscal management and forecasting. The branch conducts Indigenous Relations' financial reporting and operations, including the preparation of the ministry's financial information, corporate financial processes and policies. In addition, the division performs internal controls audits, monitors compliance with policies, and implements financial management best practices for the department of Indigenous Relations.

### **Agencies, Boards and Commissions and Other Organizations**

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations includes the following agencies, boards, commissions and other organizations:

#### ***Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation***

The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is now operational and helping Indigenous communities participate in commercially viable, major resource projects, and will be an important tool for Alberta's economic recovery. The AIOC is a first-of-its-kind Crown corporation that operates at arm's-length from government, with an innovative mandate to facilitate prosperous investment by Indigenous groups. The AIOC produces its own annual report that is available online at [www.theaioc.com](http://www.theaioc.com).

#### ***First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security***

The First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security provides strategic advice and recommendations to the Government of Alberta on how to improve socio-economic outcomes for First Nations women, their families, and communities. A spot is reserved for an Inuk woman to bring forward Inuit women's perspectives. The Indigenous Women's Initiatives division provides secretariat support to the Council and leads the Indigenous Women's Economic Security Cross-ministry Committee, which serves as a resource to the Council.

#### ***Métis Women's Council on Economic Security***

The Métis Women's Council on Economic Security provides strategic advice and recommendations to the Government of Alberta on how to improve socio-economic outcomes for Métis women, their families and communities. A spot is reserved for an Inuk woman to bring forward Inuit women's perspectives. The Indigenous Women's Initiatives division provides support to the Council and leads the Indigenous Women's Economic Security Cross-ministry Committee, which serves as a resource to the Council.

#### ***Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal (MSAT)***

The Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal (MSAT) is a quasi-judicial body established by the *Metis Settlements Act* that mediates and adjudicates disputes on Metis Settlements regarding matters that include membership, land, and surface access. MSAT comprises of seven appointed members: three by the Minister of Indigenous Relations, three by the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC), and a chair by the Minister of Indigenous Relations from a list provided by the MSGC. The department provides funding, administrative support and staffing for MSAT. The current MSAT Chair is Floyd Thompson, a member of Kikino Metis Settlement. Pursuant to the

*Metis Settlements Act* section 211, MSAT produces its own annual report that is tabled in the Legislative Assembly and is available online at [www.msat.gov.ab.ca](http://www.msat.gov.ab.ca).

### **Note to Reader:**

*For the purposes of this document, Indigenous Relations uses the term 'Indigenous' to refer to all First Nations, Métis, Inuit and other Indigenous Peoples, recognizing that not all people self-identify using the term Indigenous, as well the use of the term 'Indian' as it relates to the Federal Government's constitution. The Government of Alberta uses the term 'Aboriginal' when referencing data sources (e.g., Statistics Canada) programs and program area titles that use 'Aboriginal' or when required for historical or legal reasons. The accent on 'Métis' is used except when referring to the Metis Settlements, as per Metis Settlements' legislation, regulations or policies.*

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## Key Highlights in the Past Year

In 2020-21, the ministry supported the achievements of the following outcomes:

- Improved economic security and prosperity of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta.
- Improved Government of Alberta policies and direction that strengthen Indigenous communities and promote Alberta's interests.
- Increased opportunities for reconciliation with Indigenous leadership and organizations.

### Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

- The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is designed to help Indigenous communities participate in commercially viable, major resource projects, and will support Alberta's economic recovery. The AIOC is a first-of-its-kind Crown corporation that operates at arm's-length from the government.
- In 2020-21, the AIOC provided its first loan guarantee to six First Nations in Alberta for the Cascade Power Project, which will bring 600 jobs in the short-term.

### Litigation Fund

- The Litigation Fund addresses the unique needs of Indigenous communities in Alberta that may not have the financial capacity to litigate for responsible resource development in their communities.
- In 2020-21 the ministry worked to expand the Litigation Fund criteria to include seed funding, which supports Indigenous communities that want to undertake preliminary research before engaging in legal action or court challenges.

### National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

- Indigenous Relations has continued to lead the development of Alberta's response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report, with the support from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

### Aboriginal Business Investment Fund

- The Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) program is dedicated to supporting economic growth of Indigenous communities through capital grants for Indigenous-owned business development opportunities.
- In 2020-21, \$5 million in funding was awarded through the ABIF program to eight Indigenous community projects that span the province in industry sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, hospitality, construction, and others that will help to create jobs and stimulate local communities, and one Métis Crossing project.

### First Nations Development Fund

- The First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) grant program is funded by a portion of revenues from government-owned slot machines located in First Nations' casinos in Alberta and is available exclusively to First Nations Band Council in Alberta.
- In 2020-21, FNDF proceeds, excluding administration expenses was over \$60 million. This fund supported 27 economic, 87 social and 189 community development initiatives in First Nations across the province.

### **Employment Partnerships Program**

- The Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) provides funding to Indigenous organizations to help address systemic barriers to Indigenous employment through skills training, job search, and employment support for Indigenous Peoples in Alberta.
- In 2020-21, the EPP provided \$3.7 million towards 24 projects across Alberta.

### **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program**

- Alberta's allocation of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding from the Government of Canada is \$3.65 billion. In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations received federal approval for six ICIP projects.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Response**

- Indigenous Relations focused on a whole-of-government approach to working and connecting with Indigenous communities to support them through the COVID-19 pandemic by participating on the Pandemic Response Planning Team, the COVID-19 Indigenous Coordination Committee, and at the Provincial Operations Centre to ensure the Government of Alberta included and considered Indigenous issues and perspectives in its planning.

### **Protocol Agreements**

- In 2020-21, the Government of Alberta entered into two inaugural protocol agreements with Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council (also known as G4) and the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations.

### **Alberta-Métis Nation of Alberta Framework Agreement**

- In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations provided annual core funding to the Métis Nation of Alberta and worked directly with the Métis Nation of Alberta to implement the 10-year Framework Agreement and facilitate discussions between other government ministries and the Métis Nation of Alberta in order to address priorities as needed.

### **Métis Settlements Act**

- In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations tabled amendments to the 30-year old legislation under the *Metis Settlements Amendments Act, 2021* to enable sustainable and self-governing communities, create greater governance and fiscal autonomy, and increase Metis Settlement Council accountability.

### **Long-Term Governance Funding Arrangement Agreement**

- In 2020-21, the Government of Alberta provided \$5 million, in annual contribution to be used to support the Long-Term Governance Funding Arrangement Agreement implementation capacity, critical infrastructure projects, a capital reserve fund, Settlement consultation capacity, and Settlement policing.

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## Consultation

- Alberta's management and development of provincial Crown lands and natural resources is subject to its legal and constitutional duty to consult First Nations and accommodate their interests when Crown decisions may adversely impact their continued exercise of constitutionally protected Treaty rights and traditional uses. Alberta also consults with Metis Settlements on potential adverse impacts of Crown decisions on Métis members, and harvesting and traditional use activities.
- In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations processed about 10,000 consultation applications for natural resource activities, ensuring that First Nations and Metis Settlements had the opportunity to be meaningfully consulted in accordance with Government of Alberta's Policies and Guidelines. Of the roughly 10,000 applications processed, Indigenous Relations met application processing timelines for pre-consultation and adequacy of consultation assessments 100 per cent of the time.

## Red Tape Reduction

- In 2020-21, the ministry was awarded the Red Tape Reduction Champion Award, which recognized Indigenous Relations employees and teams for their ideas and implementation that have significantly contributed to the ministry's red tape reduction efforts.
- Indigenous Relations continued efforts to reduce red tape by developing the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) Digital Service and by focusing on streamlining the First Nations Development Fund application approval process.

Further details related to the results of the ministry in 2020-21 can be found in the analysis below.

## Discussion and Analysis of Results

### Red Tape Reduction

Over the past two fiscal years, Indigenous Relations has focused on reducing red tape to continue to provide better supports for Indigenous Peoples, communities, and businesses. The department has reduced administrative and regulatory burden and unnecessary processes to encourage and stimulate economic growth and recovery, and job creation in Alberta.

In 2019-20, the ministry achieved its one-third red tape reduction target. This reduction was accomplished in one year, versus the ministry's target of three years.

Key Red Tape Reduction successes in 2020-21 included the following:

- Continued to review programs and services to further reduce the ministry's regulatory requirement count which was down by 34 per cent by March 2020;
- Developed the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) Digital Service, which:
  - is a new online system to help reduce processing steps and timelines for Indigenous communities, industry proponents, and Government of Alberta staff involved in consultation;
  - creates a more user-friendly interface, which will allow proponents and Indigenous communities to focus on substantive aspects of consultation, and improve participation in the consultation process; and
  - will help reduce overall regulatory application timelines enabling proponents to successfully complete more projects and stimulate job creation efforts during Alberta's economic recovery.
- Participated in the oil and gas and forestry industry panels, where the ministry provided regular updates on red tape reduction progress to industry stakeholders, responses to industry's priority submissions, and discussed further opportunities for continued red tape reduction;
- Streamlined the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) application approval processes that allow for quicker reviews and approvals of FNDF applications, and creating more opportunities for approved First Nations to expedite their FNDF grant-funded projects; and
- Changed the timing of FNDF grant payments from quarterly to monthly, providing First Nations with quicker access that enables them to implement FNDF grant funded projects in a timelier manner.

For more information on Red Tape Reduction, see Key Objective 2.1 of this Annual Report.

## Outcome One: Improved economic security and prosperity of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta

Indigenous Relations is responsible for leading initiatives that promote economic security and prosperity for Indigenous Peoples and communities in Alberta. The ministry provides certainty to regulators, industry and Indigenous communities through the management of Alberta's consultation processes and upholds the honour of the Crown by developing policies and initiatives that ensure Alberta fulfils its duty to consult on land and natural resource management decisions. Indigenous Relations also provides opportunities for Indigenous ownership of major resource projects, advocates for responsible resource development and provides capacity support for Indigenous communities and organizations, and Metis Settlements to participate in Alberta's consultation processes.

### Key Objectives

#### 1.1 Provide oversight to the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation to work towards Indigenous groups' ownership in major resource projects

The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is designed to help Indigenous communities and organizations, and Metis Settlements participate in commercially viable, major resource projects. The AIOC is an important tool in Alberta's economic recovery as one of the most meaningful, innovative economic reconciliation initiative to be established in Canada. The Crown corporation has the potential to drive Indigenous prosperity by actively and strategically influencing industry players, financial experts, and key participants in the economy. This will result in shared value for all proponents and a thriving economy.

In March 2020, the Alberta government announced the COVID-19 pandemic as a public health emergency. Despite the challenges of the past year, the AIOC moved forward with the active participation of a highly skilled board and hiring of a Chief Executive Officer. The board engaged on more than 80 different proposals covering a wide-range of investment opportunities from mid-stream, power generation, to renewables that will drive regional economic recovery and the future strength of Indigenous communities in Alberta.

The AIOC's operations and capacity-building services are funded with a \$6 million operational grant from the Government of Alberta. In 2020-21, the AIOC provided its first loan guarantee to backstop an investment made by a group of six First Nations in Alberta, for the Cascade Power Project that will bring 600 jobs in the short-term and add up to 8 per cent of electricity in Alberta's power grid.

The ministry continues to support, guide, and provide advice to Indigenous groups and industry players on viable, meaningful business partnerships with the AIOC. Indigenous Relations also

### Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

#### Key Priority 2:

Making life better for Albertans

#### Objective 6:

Partnering with Indigenous Peoples to pursue opportunities

#### Ministry Contributions:

- The AIOC provided its first loan guarantee to six First Nations in Alberta for the Cascade Power Project, which will bring 600 jobs in the short-term.
- Processed about 10,000 consultation applications for natural resource activities, ensuring that First Nations and Metis Settlements had the opportunity to be meaningfully consulted.
- Supported Alberta Community and Social Services to increase access to supports for Indigenous families who have children with disabilities.
- Supported Alberta Health with the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.

continues to develop an approach to funding that allows the AIOC to set up and manage its operations. The ministry’s approach includes providing capacity grants to Indigenous communities and establishing effective ministerial oversight of the AIOC. This oversight, which is an ongoing role for the department of Indigenous Relations and Treasury Board and Finance, requires regular reporting by the AIOC to ensure that it is:

- adhering to its mandated regulatory requirements;
- exhibiting prudent financial management with respect to its operating funds and the investments it supports on behalf of the Alberta government; and
- pursuing its mandate to support Indigenous communities.

As per the *Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act*, the Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations also serves as a non-voting, or ex-officio, member of the board. This role not only provides oversight to the AIOC, but also supports the AIOC in fulfilling its mandate.

## 1.2 Administer the Litigation Fund to support Indigenous Peoples’ advocacy for responsible resource development that advances Alberta’s interests

The Government of Alberta is committed to ensuring Indigenous communities can participate in and benefit from responsible natural resource development projects and opportunities in the province. The Litigation Fund addresses the unique needs of Indigenous communities in Alberta that may not have the financial capacity to litigate for responsible resource development in their communities. For communities and the organizations that support them, responsible resource development provides a variety of benefits, especially the ability to increase Indigenous participation in the economy. The Litigation Fund is unique in Canada in addressing a significant gap in terms of access to financial support by Indigenous communities to advance responsible resource development opportunities.

As part of Budget 2019, the Government of Alberta established the Litigation Fund, with a total commitment of \$10 million for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 fiscal years. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and changes to the Litigation Fund criteria, delays in receipt and approval of credible applications during the fiscal year led to the Litigation Fund being extended as part of Budget 2021. The Litigation Fund commitment for 2021-22 is \$3 million. This fund is available to groups, coalitions, privately funded societies, or alliances that include Indigenous businesses, communities or groups.

In 2020-21, the ministry worked to expand the Litigation Fund criteria to include seed funding, which supports Indigenous communities that want to undertake preliminary research before engaging in legal action or court challenges.

The Litigation Fund helps finance legal expenses for Indigenous communities considering legal actions that advance Alberta’s interest by supporting:

### Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

**Key Priority 3:**  
Standing up for Alberta

**Objective 2:**  
Standing up to foreign influences on Alberta’s natural resources

**Ministry Contributions:**

- The Litigation Fund funding was awarded to Woodland Cree First Nation to intervene in the Alberta Court of Appeal case in support of the province’s constitutional challenge of Bill C-69, the *Impact Assessment Act*.
- Expanding the Litigation Fund criteria to include seed funding and increasing access to the Fund.



- efficient, safe, orderly and responsible development of Alberta's natural resources and increased market access for natural resources;
- Alberta's natural resource development, such as pipelines, forestry, oil and natural gas;
- the creation of fair and effective policies, legislation and market systems that support natural resources development and exporting from Alberta; and
- Indigenous groups' unique perspective in Alberta's interests.

The Litigation Fund awarded its first successful application in February 2020 to the Woodland Cree First Nation. The Woodland Cree First Nation received \$187,688 from the Litigation Fund and was able to intervene in the Alberta Court of Appeal case in support of the Government of Alberta's constitutional challenge of Bill C-69, the *Impact Assessment Act*.

In February 2021, the province challenged the constitutionality of the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) in the Alberta Court of Appeal. The federal IAA, often referred to as Bill C-69, overhauled the federal environmental assessment system and added an unnecessary, additional layer of red tape on top of Alberta's natural resource sector.

Indigenous Relations continues to help applicants develop their applications to the Litigation Fund, and to review applications against eligibility criteria. Indigenous Relations and Treasury Board and Finance also provide oversight to the Litigation Fund to ensure all reporting requirements, policy and legislation meet all government requirements.

### **1.3 Lead Alberta's legal duty to consult, including advocating for a streamlined federal Aboriginal consultation process to provide clear timelines and legal certainty for project proponents and Indigenous communities**

Alberta's management and development of provincial Crown lands and natural resources is subject to its legal and constitutional duty to consult First Nations and accommodate their interests when Crown decisions may adversely impact their continued exercise of constitutionally protected Treaty rights and traditional uses. Alberta also consults with Metis Settlements on potential adverse impacts of Crown decisions on Métis members, and harvesting and traditional use activities.

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations processed about 10,000 consultation applications for natural resource activities, ensuring that First Nations and Metis Settlements had the opportunity for meaningful consultation according to the Government of Alberta's Policies and Guidelines. Of the roughly 10,000 applications processed, Indigenous Relations met application processing timelines for pre-consultation, within four Government of Alberta working days, and adequacy of consultation assessments, within 10 Government of Alberta working days. These timelines were met 100 per cent of the time, which is a two per cent increase compared to those in 2019-20.

The Government of Alberta's first priority during the COVID-19 pandemic is public health and safety, and to keep a strong focus on building Alberta's economy, including working with Indigenous communities. As part of Indigenous Relations' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministry established consultation pauses for communities that needed to address and focus on their local COVID-19 outbreaks. At the beginning of the pandemic, about 50 per cent of all Indigenous communities were on consultation pauses. Later in the year, as per the direction of the Government of Alberta, Indigenous Relations transitioned from consultation pauses to consultation timeline extensions as a mitigation strategy to balance health needs with Alberta's economic recovery efforts. The timeline extension strategy increased consultation timelines for Indigenous communities who needed it by 10 to 15 Government of Alberta working days, depending on the level of consultation required.

By creating timeline extensions, the Government of Alberta allowed development projects on Crown lands that have met adequate consultation requirements for regulatory approval to move ahead. This kept Albertans working, while limiting harm to essential operations and addressing capacity strain in Indigenous communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, no community is on a consultation pause and only 30 per cent of communities have consultation timeline extensions. The ministry continues to be in regular contact with Indigenous communities to monitor and discuss their ability to continue consultation work.

In 2019, the Council of Federations agreed to explore solutions to enhance existing connections between provinces and territories to provide a coordinated, strategic approach to the transportation and transmission of resources across Canada from coast to coast. Alberta Energy is the lead on the development of a pan-Canadian Economic Corridor Report on behalf of all provinces and territories. Indigenous Relations contributed to the development of the Economic Corridor Report by providing information on the duty to consult, community engagement, economic opportunities and Indigenous women's initiatives. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, final report discussions at the Council of Federation were put on hold until a later date.

The Government of Alberta's Métis Credible Assertion process is specific to Métis organizations seeking consultation regarding Crown land management and resource development decisions that may have the potential to adversely impact credibly asserted Métis Aboriginal rights. The intention of the process is to identify whether asserted Métis Aboriginal rights are sufficiently credible to trigger such consultation. The Métis Credible Assertion process continued to be reviewed in 2020-21, with new applications being submitted on an ongoing basis. Indigenous Relations is responsible for receiving, storing, reviewing and assessing information and materials submitted by a Métis organization as part of this process.

The Geodata Mapping Project works with Indigenous communities and an internal cross-ministry working group to develop consultation area maps, one of the tools that may be used for informing consultation decisions about which Indigenous communities to consult in what geographic area.

In 2020-21, the Geodata Mapping Project engaged with 18 First Nations and 4 Metis Settlements on possible revisions to the geographic extent the Government of Alberta ordinarily uses to direct consultation to them. Alberta proposed five revisions. Additionally, after a successful credible assertion, the Geodata Mapping Project provided guidance regarding the geographic extent that Alberta would ordinarily use to direct consultation for the community and a process for potential revision.

General information about the geographic extent consultation area revisions and current work with Indigenous communities can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/indigenous-consultation-areas-in-alberta.aspx>

To support cross-government collaboration efforts, Indigenous Relations participated in the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Indigenous Consultation and Accommodation, and virtually attended the group's 15<sup>th</sup> annual workshop in December 2020. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss emerging issues and share best practices through information sharing and collaborative problem-solving between all jurisdictions. Indigenous Relations will continue to participate in these cross-government collaboration efforts in 2021-22.

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, and Intergovernmental Relations coordinated the government's response to federal Bill C-15 *An Act Respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The responses focuses on seeking

clarity on Bill C-15 with reasonable amendments to mitigate the impact on certainty and timelines, particularly for the natural resource sector.

#### **1.4 Lead Alberta's response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry) released its Final Report on June 3, 2019. The Final Report is comprised of the truths of more than 2,380 family members, survivors of violence, experts and Knowledge Keepers from across the country. The Final Report contains 231 Calls for Justice, which are directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians. Since the release of the Final Report in 2019, Indigenous Relations has led the development of Alberta's response to the National Inquiry's Final Report, with support from Justice and Solicitor General and Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

The Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Working Group) was established on March 4, 2020. Reporting to the Ministers of Indigenous Relations, Justice and Solicitor General and Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, the Working Group will recommend actions to respond to the National Inquiry Calls for Justice, and provide advice to the Government of Alberta on the following:

- Options to address issues and Calls for Justice identified in the Final Report;
- Actions to address violence against Indigenous women and girls, including options for sustainable solutions for successful implementation; and
- Opportunities for collaboration with Alberta government ministries, Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, and other governments to leverage actions.

In 2020-21, the Working Group's activities were severely impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions. This affected the group's ability to initially meet in person and develop interpersonal group dynamics and structural processes. As a result of the impacts of the pandemic, the Working Group was granted a nine-month extension for providing their Final Report, which is now due on December 4, 2021.

To date, the Working Group has held 19 days of meetings and have achieved the following:

- Developed a terms of reference and procedures related to engagement, media relations and remuneration;
- Established ten priority areas to be examined;
- Examined issues around the justice system and Indigenous women, girls and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual people; and
- Recommended that the Government of Alberta declare October 4 as Sisters in Spirit Day to honour and commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

The ministry also led the Government of Alberta's participation in discussions on a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women and girls through a federal/provincial/ territorial working group.

#### **Sisters in Spirit Day**

Consistent with the Working Group's recommendation, the Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations on behalf of the Government of Alberta declared October 4, 2020 as Sisters in Spirit Day in Alberta, and participated in an event in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Sisters in Spirit Day honours the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and demonstrates

support to their families and loved ones. Sisters in Spirit Day also focuses on raising awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and encourages all Albertans to take a stand against violence towards Indigenous women and girls.

### Red Dress Ceremony

To acknowledge the government’s 2019 Sisters in Spirit Day declaration, Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society gifted the Minister of Indigenous Relations a Red Dress. The Red Dress symbolizes missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. In accepting the Red Dress, the Government of Alberta also committed to follow protocol to honour the Red Dress and the spirits of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls it represents. On October 26, 2020, Minister Wilson hosted a ceremony at the Federal Building in Edmonton, Alberta where the Red Dress remains on public display.

## 1.5 Work with other government ministries, the federal government and First Nations to resolve land-related negotiations

Alberta has a constitutional obligation under the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (*Constitution Act, 1930*) to transfer back to Canada unoccupied Crown lands necessary to allow Canada to fulfil its treaty obligations with First Nations. Since 1986, Alberta has settled 14 treaty land entitlement claims involving more than 400,000 acres of unoccupied provincial Crown land, including mines and minerals.

The ministry coordinates the province’s participation in land-related negotiations with the federal government and First Nations, particularly Treaty Land Entitlement claims for which Alberta has obligations under the Natural Resource Transfer Agreement. Achieving negotiated settlements of Treaty Land Entitlement claims supports the province to foster relationships with First Nations, and to create certainty for both governments, industry and First Nations.

Types of Land Claims in Alberta	
<b>Treaty Land Entitlement claims</b>	Treaty Land Entitlement claims arise where a Band has not received all of its reserve land, pursuant to the reserve clause of the Treaty.
<b>Specific claims</b>	Specific claims arise when the federal government has failed to meet its responsibilities, typically in relation to the administration of Indian lands or Indian monies.
<b>Comprehensive claims</b>	Comprehensive claims arise where an Aboriginal title has not been extinguished by Treaty or legislation.

### Treaty Land Entitlement Claims progress in 2020-21

#### *Bigstone Cree Nation*

The Bigstone treaty land entitlement claim was one of the largest claims in Canada at the time and included claims for not only the Bigstone Cree Nation at Wabasca but also any and all claims related to the communities of Peerless Lake, Trout Lake, Chipewyan Lake and Calling Lake. Under the settlement, Alberta agreed to transfer not less than 140,000 acres of provincial Crown land, including mines and minerals. Given the quantum of land involved, a phased transfer was contemplated. The conditions precedent under the agreement provide that the transfer can take place only once survey of the lands has been completed and all third party interest have been

addressed – both Canada’s responsibility under the terms of the December 13, 2010 Canada-Alberta Agreement respecting the settlement of the Bigstone treaty land entitlement claim.

In 2020-21, Alberta transferred 31,000 acres of provincial Crown lands, including mines and minerals, to Canada for reserve creation which represents the first significant transfer of land under the December 13, 2010 Canada-Alberta Agreement. These lands will be set aside by Canada as Indian reserve for the use and benefit of the Bigstone membership. The lands are located in the vicinity of Chipewyan Lake and Calling Lake. As surveys are finalized and third parties are addressed, Alberta will initiate transfer of the balance of the settlement lands to Canada for reserve creation.

### ***Doig River First Nation***

After many years of negotiations, work began in 2019-20 on drafting of the final agreements intended to settle the outstanding treaty land entitlement claims for the Doig River First Nations and Blueberry River First Nation.

Early on in the treaty land entitlement process, the Doig River First Nation expressed an interest in selecting some of their land in Alberta. Alberta was asked to provide up to 5,000 acres of provincial Crown land pursuant to our constitutional obligations under paragraph 10 of the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement. Lands have been identified for settlement adjacent to the British Columbia border and consultation with neighbouring Indigenous communities was concluded. The majority of the claims were addressed by Canada, the Province of British Columbia, Doig River and Blueberry River with lands on the British Columbia side of the border.

During 2020-21, work continued on drafting agreements in order to have them ratified by the membership of the Doig River and Blueberry River in 2021-22.

### **Status of Treaty Land Entitlements in Alberta**

Currently, there are six Treaty land entitlement claims accepted by Canada for negotiation in Alberta. These Treaty land entitlement claims include:

- Fort McMurray First Nation;
- Beaver (Boyer River) First Nation;
- Sunchild First Nation;
- Stoney Nakoda Nation;
- Horse Lake First Nation; and
- Kehewin Cree Nation.

The claims for Horse Lake and Kehewin are recent validations and were only accepted for negotiations by Canada in 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress on most negotiations was slowed during 2020-21.

## **1.6 Support the economic, social and community self-reliance of Indigenous communities by funding projects through the First Nations Development Fund, the Employment Partnerships Program, and the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund**

Indigenous Relations administers funding for the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund, First Nations Development Fund, Employment Partnerships Program, and the Alberta Native Friendships Centre Association. Funding on these projects help to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the economy, and support First Nations’ social, and community development projects.

## Business Investment Fund

The Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) program supports the economic growth of Indigenous communities through capital grants for Indigenous-owned business development opportunities. The annual program budget is \$5 million and can fund up to 100 per cent of eligible capital costs to a maximum of \$500,000.

For the 2020-21 intake, Indigenous Relations supported the following eight Indigenous community projects that span the province in industry sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, hospitality, construction, and others that will help to create jobs and stimulate local communities.

Applicant	Community	Project
<b>Isteymaw Wholesale Corporation</b>	Enoch Cree Nation	Enoch Cree Nation Wholesale Tobacco Company
<b>Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Assn</b>	Lac Ste. Anne Métis	Lac Ste. Anne Métis Greenhouse
<b>Piikani Nation</b>	Piikani Nation	Piikani Travel Centre
<b>Kainai Forage, LP</b>	Blood Tribe / Kainai Nation	Processing Plant Expansion
<b>Alexander Business Centre Inc.</b>	Alexander First Nation	Alexander RV Campground
<b>Little Red River Cree Nation</b>	Little Red River Cree Nation	Modular Flexi Float Barge Purchase
<b>Casino Dene Limited Partnership</b>	Cold Lake First Nations	Live Entertainment, Lounge and Restaurant Renovation
<b>Kikino Metis Settlement</b>	Kikino Metis Settlement	Silver Birch Resort - Expansion of Accommodation Services

In 2020-21, a business development project for the Métis Nation of Alberta to construct a 40-guestroom boutique lodge at Métis Crossing, featuring Métis craftsmanship and artwork was also supported by the ABIF program for \$1 million as it aligned with program criteria and guidelines.

Since 2014, ABIF has supported 47 Indigenous businesses with \$30 million and has created over 300 permanent jobs for Indigenous people in a variety of industries, such as oil and gas, construction, agriculture, tourism, and health care. This is exactly the type of growth that Alberta's economy needs to recover from the pandemic, serious oil fluctuations, and a global economic decline.

## First Nations Development Fund

The First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) is a Government of Alberta grant program that is available exclusively to First Nations Band Councils in Alberta. Funded by a portion of revenues

from government-owned slot machines located in First Nations' casinos in Alberta, FNDF helps fulfill First Nations economic, social, and community development priorities.

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, Indigenous Relations administers the FNDF grant program by working with First Nations to ensure all approved projects align with the terms and conditions of the 2006 FNDF Grant Agreement between First Nations in Alberta and the Government of Alberta. The ministry also provides guidance and support on technical, administrative and delivery aspects of the FNDF program to First Nations, when required.

In 2020-21, all First Nations casinos closed twice during the pandemic to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. First on March 17, 2020 and again on December 13, 2020 resulting in a \$71.4 million decrease in funds. Casinos will not be allowed to re-open until the province communicates it is safe to do so.

In 2020-21, FNDF fund proceeds, excluding administration expenses was \$62,525,452. This funding supported 27 economic, 87 social, and 189 community development initiatives in First Nations across the province. Some examples of these projects included:

- \$40,812 for an Elder's Liaison Worker at Kehewin Cree Nation;
- \$266,250 for an Employment Skills Development Program at Whitefish Lake First Nation;
- \$150,000 to support Community Development at Duncan's First Nation; and
- \$2,449,301 to support the Fire Department at Tsuut'ina Nation.

The FNDF Grant Agreement includes a requirement for Indigenous Relations to conduct compliance reviews in First Nations to account for grant funding provided to their community, as part of continuous improvement efforts to the program, and to ensure compliance with grant agreements.

In 2020-21, the ministry completed compliance reviews on the following First Nations:

- Kehewin Cree Nation;
- Whitefish (Goodfish) First Nation; and
- Tallcree Tribal Government.

### **Employment Partnerships Program**

The Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) provides funding to Indigenous organizations to help address systemic barriers to Indigenous employment through skills training, job research, and employment supports for Indigenous Peoples in Alberta. This funding will assist in expanding employment opportunities, connections, and skills needed locally and regionally, to increase Indigenous participation in Alberta's workforce.

The EPP is funded through two federal-provincial agreements, collectively referred to as the Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs), and include the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) and the Workforce Development Agreement (WDA). Indigenous Relations works with eligible Indigenous organizations and provides funding for Indigenous workforce development.

In 2020-21, the EPP provided \$3.7 million towards 24 projects across Alberta. Some of which included:

- \$157,000 to Enoch Cree Nation for a Gazebo Project: Carpentry and Electrical Training Program;
- \$118,912 to Ermineskin Cree Nation for a Class 1 Driver Education Program; and
- \$100,000 to Kee Tas Now Tribal Council for Security Training.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government allowed additional flexibility for eligible expenses that permitted EPP grant recipients to utilize the new flexibilities to help meet provincial health guidelines, when offering Indigenous employment and training initiatives.

### **Friendship Centres and Urban Indigenous Peoples**

Urban Indigenous people are the youngest and fastest growing population in Canada. In 2020-21, the ministry maintained its funding commitment of \$720,000 to support the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA), and its 21 local community Friendship Centres, to assist Indigenous Peoples in urban centres to access programs and services across the province.

In addition to annual funding to the ANFCA, Indigenous Relations supported three urban Indigenous organizations for their employment and training projects, which included:

- \$50,000 to Red Deer Urban Aboriginal Voices Society to assist Indigenous job seekers;
- \$50,000 to the Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth in Calgary to promote technology careers for Indigenous youth aged 14 to 21; and
- \$100,000 to the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society in Edmonton to support release planning for Indigenous men in incarceration with supports and access to job readiness services.



**Performance Measure 1.a:  
Number of Indigenous employment initiatives**

Prior Years' Results				2020-21 Target	2020-21 Actual
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20		
55	21	30	25	25	24

The Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) supports labour force development activities to increase workforce participation of Indigenous people in Alberta. The program develops and supports projects with Indigenous communities and industry sectors to improve employment outcomes and labour force development. The EPP supports demand-driven skills training and helps build collaborative partnerships between Indigenous communities and the private sector.

The Government of Canada through the Canada-Alberta Labour Market Development Agreement and the Canada-Alberta Workforce Development Agreement funds EPP. Indigenous Relations primarily works with the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISETP) through the EPP in order to best leverage the available funding. The 20 Alberta ISETP agreement holders provide training opportunities to Indigenous people through Alberta. Grants will help expand employment opportunities, research, jobs and skills needed locally and regionally, and help train and improve Indigenous Peoples' employment outcomes.

In 2020-21, the EPP provided \$3.7 million in funding to 24 projects. Indigenous organizations with eligible employment and training initiatives that are receiving funds are located in areas across Alberta, including Edmonton, Calgary, and Slave Lake. Projects funded in 2020-21 were in the areas of health care, driver's training, early childcare, security training, pre-trades and apprenticeship training.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EPP has had to push project completion dates to the end of 2022 to ensure the health and safety of all individuals participating or providing training. Organizations have had to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions by using different training delivery methods, decreasing cohort sizes and increasing the number of cohorts, to be able to provide safe in-person training. Organizations are also identifying issues related to rural living that impacts an individual's ability to receive meaningful and impactful training to either re-enter or enter Alberta's workforce. These issues include a lack of rural broadband connectivity, training providers that are unwilling to travel to rural areas, or training participants wary of leaving the community due to the pandemic.

**Performance Measure 1.b:**

**Percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that pre-consultation assessments are issued within established timelines, which is four days upon receipt of complete application**

Prior Years' Results				2020-21 Target	2020-21 Actual
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20		
94%	49%	78%	98%	95%	100%

This performance measure monitors the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) performance in meeting established timelines for completing pre-consultation assessments, and demonstrates the efficiency of the consultation process, particularly in its adherence to the timelines provided in the:

- *Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land and Natural Resource Management*, July 28, 2014; and
- *Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with Metis Settlements Land and Natural Resource Management*, 2016.

This performance measure also provides key information regarding the desired outcome to ensuring resource development benefits from a timely, consistent and efficient consultation process.

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, the ACO met its performance timelines for this measure 100 per cent of the time. Success in this performance measure was due to multiple factors including, but not limited to:

- organizational restructuring to meet changing needs due to variations in geographical caseload distribution and continuous improvement goals;
- staff training, skillset maturity and experience within the ACO;
- maintenance of ACO staff complement; and
- a non-increase in caseloads.

While the COVID-19 pandemic did influence ACO operations due to more staff and clients working remotely, as well as consultation timeline pauses and extension for impacted Indigenous communities, the ACO utilized remote working tools, communication channels, and agile operations management to ensure that the pandemic did not impact performance on this measure.

Note: This performance measure only reflects the results from Level 1 (Streamlined Consultation) and Level 2 (Standard Consultation) pre-consultation assessments issued for *Public Lands Act* (PLA) applications.

**Performance Measure 1.c:**

**Percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that consultation adequacy assessments are issued within established timelines, which is 10 working days upon receipt of completed consultation summary documents**

Prior Years' Results				2020-21 Target	2020-21 Actual
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20		
87%	10%	88%	98%	95%	100%

This performance measure monitors the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) performance in meeting target timelines for completing consultation adequacy assessment, and demonstrates the efficiency of the consultation process, particularly in its adherence to the timelines provided in the:

- *Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land and Natural Resource Management*, July 28, 2014; and
- *Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with Metis Settlements Land and Natural Resource Management*, 2016.

The performance measure also provides key information regarding the desired outcomes of ensuring resource development benefits from a timely, consistent and efficient consultation process.

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, the ACO met its performance timelines for this measure 100 per cent of the time. Success in this performance measure was due to multiple factors including, but not limited to:

- organizational restructuring to meet changing needs due to variations in geographical caseload distribution and continuous improvement goals;
- staff training, skillset maturity and experience within the ACO;
- maintainance of ACO staff complement; and
- a non-increase in caseloads.

While the COVID-19 pandemic did influence ACO operations due to more staff and clients working remotely, as well as consultation timeline pauses and extension for impacted Indigenous communities, the ACO utilized remote working tools, communication channels, and agile operations management to ensure that the pandemic did not impact performance on this measure.

Note: This performance measure only reflects the results from Level 1 (Streamlined Consultation) and Level 2 (Standard Consultation) consultation adequacy assessments issued for *Public Lands Act* (PLA) applications.

## Outcome Two: Improved Government of Alberta policies and direction that strengthen Indigenous communities and promote Alberta's interests

Indigenous Relations provides expert advice, guidance and specialized knowledge to other Government of Alberta ministries to enhance the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies, programs and initiatives. The ministry is central to facilitating cross-government collaboration, responding to major Indigenous policies and drivers, and supports government engagements with Indigenous communities across a range of priorities. The ministry also focuses on reviewing legislation, regulations and program delivery to reduce the regulatory burden and ensure it supports and encourages economic growth.

### Key Objectives

#### 2.1 Support red tape reduction efforts to reduce administrative burdens, increase regulatory efficiencies and streamline land and natural resource management

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations is committed to the ongoing review of programs and services to ensure that the best possible outcomes are being achieved for Albertans. As part of this ongoing review, the ministry is committed to making life easier for hard-working Albertans and job creators by reducing regulatory requirements by one-third by 2023, and eliminating administrative burden through more efficient processes. This work will improve service delivery for Albertans; foster economic growth, innovation and competitiveness; create a strong and attractive investment climate; and make Alberta one of the freest and fastest moving economies in North America.

Since 2019, Indigenous Relations has focused on reducing red tape to ensure that the ministry can better support Indigenous Peoples, communities and businesses by reducing regulatory and administrative burden and unnecessary processes to encourage and stimulate economic growth and job creation in Alberta. Indigenous Relations committed to conducting ongoing reviews of the ministry's programs and services, which help achieve the best outcomes for Albertans, including Indigenous Peoples, communities and businesses. In the past two years, Indigenous Relations regulatory count decreased by 34 per cent, from 3,125 to 2,056. In 2019-20, Indigenous Relations led all other ministries in meeting its one-third red tape reduction target in one year, versus the three years target. During 2020-21, the department of Indigenous Relations increased its regulatory count slightly to 2,121 due to addition of certain requirements within the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation and Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program. The department still maintains its lead with an overall reduction of 32.13 per cent.

### Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

**Key Priority 1:**  
Supporting job creation

**Objective 3:**  
Reducing red tape

#### Ministry Contributions:

- Developed the ACO Digital Service, a new online system to reduce processing steps and timelines for Indigenous communities, industry proponents, and government staff involved in consultation.
- Reducing overall regulatory application timelines allows proponents to successfully complete more projects and stimulate job creation efforts in the province.
- Streamlined the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) application approval process to help support First Nations projects with quicker reviews and approvals of their FNDF applications.

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The ministry was awarded the Red Tape Reduction Champion Award, which recognized Indigenous Relations employees and teams for their ideas and implementation that have significantly contributed to the ministry's red tape reduction efforts. Indigenous Relations will continue to work towards finding new opportunities for further count reduction and improve process efficiencies for all Indigenous Peoples, communities, businesses and project proponents.

Indigenous Relations released an updated Proponent Guide for First Nations and Metis Settlement consultation. The guide provides a more efficient and effective application process. Guided by provincial Consultation Policies and Guidelines, engagement has started with Indigenous communities to develop a consultation guide that draws on Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and insights of the consultation processes.

In 2020-21, Proponent Guide training and information sessions were delivered to about 500 consultation professionals from industry, Indigenous communities, and government ministries. The ministry also delivered presentations regarding 'Consultation in Alberta' at several post-secondary institutions, including Mount Royal University, University of Alberta, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Lakeland College and Olds College etc. These training and information sessions ensure that aspiring consultation professionals have sufficient understanding of the consultation process and its requirements. Additionally, the ministry published four ACO bulletins to enhance outreach and transparency of the consultation process for Indigenous communities, industry proponents and government departments.

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations continued efforts to reduce red tape by developing the ACO Digital Service. The new online system will help reduce processing steps and timelines for Indigenous communities, industry proponents and government staff involved in consultation. The ACO Digital Service will provide a more user-friendly interface that reduces the administrative burden of participants. This will enable proponents and Indigenous communities to focus on the substantive aspects of consultation, improving participation in the consultation process. This in turn will help reduce overall regulatory application timelines, allowing proponents to successfully complete more projects and stimulate job creation efforts in the province. An anticipated reduction of roughly 20 per cent in red tape from the new online system will save Indigenous communities and industry proponents time and money. In turn, this will help industry proponents activate their investments more quickly, and help Indigenous communities focus more time on meaningful consultation. The ministry continued its collaboration with the Digital Innovation Office on the ACO Digital Service to secure \$1 million in funding for 2021-22 to support further system enhancements.

A beta release of the ACO Digital Service is available online now at <https://aco.beta.alberta.ca>. The beta release allows users to more easily manage their regulatory consultation file information, search and sort active and completed files, and quickly find application information, documents and contacts. The ACO Digital Service is being continuously updated based on user feedback, with improved versions to be made available throughout the 2021-22 fiscal year.

For more information visit <https://aco.beta.alberta.ca>.

Red tape reduction efforts continue to be a cross-government focus for the Alberta government. Indigenous Relations continued to participate on the oil and gas, and forestry industry panels, where the ministry provided regular updates on Indigenous Relations' progress on red tape reduction submissions from industry stakeholders. The ministry also continued to streamline the consultation and regulatory process with Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) as part of ACO-AER Harmonization. The goal was to further improve process efficiency and alignment between the two organizations, and reduce overall regulatory timelines. The AER is responsible for ensuring natural resource development projects meet all required regulations, while Indigenous Relations works to

ensure adequate consultation with Indigenous communities, which are potentially impacted by projects.

In 2020-21, the ministry also focused on streamlining the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) applications approval process. The Minister delegated approval to the FNDF Director for FNDF project applications under \$5 million. This change supports First Nations projects with quicker review and approvals of their FNDF applications. These streamlining efforts have decreased the timeframe for ministerial approval from 2 to 4 weeks to 1 to 2 weeks, a 50 per cent reduction. Additionally, the timing of FNDF grant payments was changed from quarterly to monthly allowing First Nations to implement their FNDF grant funded projects in a timelier manner. The FNDF is a provincial grant program designed specifically for First Nations in Alberta to fund economic, social and community projects.

For more information on the First Nations Development Fund, see Key Objective 1.6 of this Annual Report.

## **2.2 Collaborate with other provincial and territorial governments and other Government of Alberta ministries to respond to federal Indigenous initiatives**

The federal government's proposed legislation and policy initiatives continue to evolve. These federal efforts have the potential to impact and refine Indigenous rights in Canada, and change the Canadian legal and jurisdictional landscape. These changes also have the potential to impact Indigenous Peoples and communities in Alberta. As a result, the ministry is focused on providing support and guidance to other Alberta government ministries in responding to these emerging issues.

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations provided guidance to the Ministry of Children's Services as it negotiated the implementation of federal Bill C-92: *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families*, which was enacted on June 21, 2019 and came into effect on January 1, 2020. Indigenous Relations also supported Alberta Environment and Parks in its response to the federal Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas initiative.

Additionally, the ministry collaborated with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and with Intergovernmental Relations on Alberta's response to federal Bill C-15, *An Act Respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Efforts included advocating for amendments to the Bill, and greater engagement with Indigenous communities and other organizations in Alberta, as well as the provincial and territorial governments, before enacting the proposed legislation.

## **2.3 Work with other Government of Alberta ministries to engage the federal government to provide equitable funding for key services such as health care and education, and advocate for on-reserve services for persons with disabilities, addiction and/or mental health issues**

### **On-Reserve Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

The Government of Alberta is working as a whole to increase access to supports for Indigenous families who have children with disabilities, by working with First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and disabilities communities.

Community and Social Services leads this body of work and engagement with the federal government, with support from Children's Services and Indigenous Relations, whose role is to promote discussions with Indigenous Peoples. Alberta Community and Social Services worked with First Nations to identify and remove barriers to providing the Persons with Developmental Disabilities program on-reserve.

Indigenous Relations monitored the progress of these initiatives to ensure targeted engagement and evaluation took place. The ministry also promoted discussions with Indigenous Peoples that would identify and work toward reducing barriers and increasing access to the appropriate supports. These are ongoing efforts, and the ministry will continue to monitor the progress of the initiative through direct involvement, where needed, within communities across Alberta.

Indigenous Relations will also continue to share information and participate in the cross-ministry analysis of effects for Indigenous communities and the Government of Alberta.

### **On-Reserve Services for Addiction and Mental Health Issues**

Indigenous Peoples face many barriers when accessing appropriate mental health and addiction services and programs, particularly in isolated rural communities. As a result of those barriers, Indigenous Peoples' health outcomes are disproportionately affected. Some concerns include:

- high addiction rates on-reserve; and
- a rise in opioid use among First Nations people.

Culturally relevant and strategically targeted programs and services that can be accessed by all Indigenous Peoples, regardless of where they reside, are likely to have significant and positive effects on their lives and futures. It is likely to result in increased education, employment and social outcomes and decreased long-term dependence on social support. Through participation on the Indigenous Integration Committee, led by Alberta Health, Indigenous Relations has supported and influenced the development of an Alberta Addiction and Mental Health Strategy that reflects and addresses the needs of Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Relations continues to meet with Alberta Health and the staff supporting the *Mental Health and Addictions Strategy* to identify next steps and Indigenous Relations' role.

## **2.4 Work with other Government of Alberta ministries, the federal government and industry to provide advice, support and investment pathfinding for Indigenous communities and organizations**

Alberta's allocation of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding from the Government of Canada is \$3.65 billion. Alberta Infrastructure administers ICIP for the province; while Indigenous Relations' role is to manage relationships with, and provide support to Indigenous applicants with their federally-endorsed ICIP projects by helping to guide their public infrastructure applications towards completion.

ICIP is based on three key objectives, to:

- create long-term economic growth;
- support a low carbon, green economy; and
- build inclusive communities.

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations received federal approval for six ICIP projects. The first project to commence construction was the Red Crow Community College's new campus that will produce new

space for classrooms, a state-of-the-art library, museum, archival space, a cultural gathering space, and a central space for Elders. Eighty-five per cent of Red Crow Community College's construction workers on-site are either Blood Tribe members, or Indigenous workers from surrounding communities. The college anticipates the creation of 270 long-term jobs, once construction is complete.

Indigenous Relations will continue to work with the following Indigenous applicants that received federal approval for their ICIP projects:

- Métis Cultural Centre (Métis Nation of Alberta Association Fort McMurray Local Council 1935);
- Meander River Essential Power Upgrade (Dene Tha' First Nation) will replace the single-phase radial circuit power line from High Level to the Town of Meander River;
- The Fort McMurray Métis Cultural Centre Project consists of constructing a new approximately 34,088 square foot building located on 4.3 acres of land in Fort McMurray, Alberta;
- Saddle Lake Cree Nation Broadband and Cellular Connectivity Upgrade and Resilience project (Saddle Lake Cree Nation) will improve the resiliency of Saddle Lake Cree Nation's connectivity by upgrading its underperforming internet and cellular infrastructure;
- The Cold Lake First Nations Broadband Expansion and Long-Term Evolution (LTE) Fixed Wireless Upgrade Project (City of Cold Lake) will install LTE-fixed wireless equipment using the Community Broadband Radio Service band on both existing and new towers located on all three of Cold Lake First Nations' populated reserves; and
- The Yellowhead Tribal College G.R.O.W. Project will renovate and improve classrooms and laboratories at Yellowhead Tribal College to better utilize spaces for science experiments and technological classes.

### **Indigenous Tourism Strategic Partnership Initiative**

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations provided cross-ministry committee support to the Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Innovation, for the design, development, and selection process that will help to modify the Indigenous Services Canada Indigenous Tourism Strategic Partnership Initiative (ITSPI).

From 2019 to 2023, nearly \$3.1 million in federal ITSPI funding will help six selected Indigenous-owned businesses grow as authentic, sustainable and culturally rich Alberta Indigenous tourism experiences. The partnership is led by Indigenous Services Canada and includes Indigenous Tourism Alberta, the Ministry of Alberta Jobs, Economy and Innovation, Western Economic Diversification Canada, the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, and Travel Alberta.

### **Economic Corridors**

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations participated on the cross-ministry Economic Corridors Task Force, led by Alberta Jobs, Economy and Innovation with MLA Shane Getson as Chair. The ministry focused on incorporating Indigenous perspectives from the beginning of planning development for Economic Corridors. The corridors will provide strategic infrastructure to help Canada's goods and services reach new domestic and international markets.



## **2.5 Advise other Government of Alberta ministries on Indigenous perspectives to support the development of policies, programs and initiatives, as requested**

The ministry of Indigenous Relations leads and supports government's engagement with Indigenous communities in Alberta, on a wide range of land and natural resource management priorities. In 2020-21, the ministry also provided advice, guidance and specialized knowledge to initiatives led by other Government of Alberta ministries in the Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS). The IRMS involves multiple government departments, including Indigenous Relations, working together to enable the sustainable use of land and responsible resource stewardship. The IRMS supports management of multiple resources and land uses in an area to achieve environmental, economic and social objectives.

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations provided engagement support to Government of Alberta IRMS priority projects. This included developing the Caribou Sub-Regional Plans feasibility assessment of the Bow River Reservoir options, and the Alberta's Crown Land Vision and Engagement on Sustainable Recreation and Trails.

### **Caribou Sub-Regional Planning**

Indigenous Relations provided ongoing advice and extensive support to Environment and Parks (EP) in establishing the Sub-regional Task Forces, and advancing the development of Sub-regional plans for Bistcho Lake and Cold Lake. In collaboration with EP, Indigenous Relations acted as a primary point of contact with Indigenous communities and organizations participating in caribou sub-regional planning.

Ongoing opportunities for Indigenous inclusion in these priority initiative include the collection of Traditional Land Use information, review of agreements between Alberta and Canada, consideration of management direction, development of management options, and development of recommendations to guide sub-regional plans.

### **Bow River Reservoir Options**

Indigenous Relations supported EP to assess the feasibility of several options for flood and drought mitigation along the Bow River basin in southern Alberta. The ministry provided ongoing advice and engagement support through the first and second phases. Phase 1 included early engagement with potentially affected Indigenous communities concluded in March 2020. In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations continued providing full support to EP in the planning of Phase 2 activities. These activities focused on the initiation of feasibility studies to inform recommendations for options, with estimated completion by March 2023.

### **Alberta's Crown Land Vision and Engagement on Sustainable Recreation and Trails**

In November 2020, EP announced Alberta's Crown Land Vision, which includes initiatives such as red tape reduction and legislation modernization. This vision recognizes that Crown lands support Indigenous Peoples as they practise traditional land uses. Indigenous Relations worked collaboratively with EP to deliver province-wide Indigenous engagement on the Sustainable Recreation and Trails initiative in December 2020 and January 2021.

### **Site Rehabilitation Program**

Indigenous Relations supported industry and Indigenous livelihoods related to natural resource development through the Site Rehabilitation Program. The ministry coordinated Indigenous

perspectives on government policy and program development by including the Indian Resource Council, who brought a First Nation viewpoint to this cross-ministry work with Alberta Energy.

Indigenous Relations helped Alberta Energy create an Indigenous-specific round for the Site Rehabilitation Program of \$100 million for First Nations and Metis Settlements. This funding helped them work with licensees to close off and reclaim oil and gas sites on or near their lands to help future generations use the lands in traditional ways.

### **Indigenous Housing Capital Program (IHCP)**

Indigenous Relations is a member of the Cross-Ministry Joint Review Panel for the Indigenous Housing Capital Program (IHCP), led by the Ministry of Seniors and Housing. The IHCP will increase the supply of affordable housing units for Indigenous Peoples in need through construction, purchase or repurposing units. IHCP ensures a flexible, autonomous approach that encourages public and private developers to partner with Indigenous governments and organizations.

In 2020-21, the Joint Review Panel evaluated applications and recommended a number of projects in Edmonton, Calgary, Elizabeth Metis Settlement, Lac Ste. Anne, and Victor Lake near Grande Cache, Alberta for funding.

### **Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement**

Through the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement (LTA), the ministry collaborates with Advanced Education to provide cost-shared learning initiatives on seven Metis Settlements. Grants provided for Settlement programming focus on improving numeracy, literacy and digital skills on-Settlement, and allows programming to be tailored to each community.

In addition, Transportation sits on the LTA's Capital Infrastructure Program Technical Team to provide advice and support.

In 2020-21, the ministry provided engagement advice to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General for the *Police Act Review* and for the Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defence (RAPID) Response. Indigenous Relations continued to participate on the COVID-19 Indigenous Coordination Committee led by Health.

## **2.6 Work with the First Nations, the federal government, municipalities or water commissions and other Government of Alberta ministries to improve access to safe and clean drinking water**

The Government of Alberta is working to bring clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to First Nations communities by connecting them to existing regional drinking water systems through the First Nations Regional Drinking Water Tie-in Project.

The ministry collaborated with First Nations, municipalities or water commissions, and Alberta's provincial and federal government partners to work towards completing two projects to First Nation reserve boundaries. Eight other projects are in the construction, detailed design or feasibility study phases.

In June 2020, Indigenous Relations succeeded in encouraging Transportation to provide an additional \$13 million Water Infrastructure Grant for the Ermineskin waterline project. Transportation holds the funding and is responsible for project management, while Indigenous Relations is responsible for relationship management. In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations regularly met with Ermineskin and the water commission to help establish a technical working group.

## 2.7 Lead the disaster response and recovery in Indigenous communities in collaboration with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency

Indigenous Relations supports the recovery phase of a disaster event in Indigenous communities by helping community members navigate government services and programs and by supporting a whole-of-government response, as required.

During a disaster event, Indigenous Relations provides Consequence Management Officers (CMOs) to support disaster response efforts by the province. The ministry's CMOs participate in Alberta's coordinated response by providing information to, and from, the ministry to the Provincial Operations Centre.

In 2019, Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement and Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement were affected by wildfires. Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement also experienced flooding. As recovery can be long-term, Indigenous Relations continues to monitor the Settlement's recovery, and assist communities with ongoing issues.

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations worked with staff at the Alberta Emergency Management Agency to monitor, support, participate, and assist with:

- the status of recovery on Buffalo Lake and Paddle Prairie Metis Settlements;
- the 2020 Flood Mitigation Working Group; and
- Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement's Business Case submission for consideration to reimburse expenses related to losses incurred from the 2019 Chuckegg Creek wildlife.

Additionally, Indigenous Relations facilitated funding to Fort Vermillion Métis Local #74 to assist with flood recovery efforts from the 2020 ice jams.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Response

On March 17, 2020, the Government of Alberta declared the COVID-19 pandemic a provincial health emergency. As a result, Indigenous Relations shifted their focus to supporting the province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic while also maintaining normal business activities.

Indigenous Relations focused on a whole-of-government approach to working and connecting with Indigenous communities to support them through the COVID-19 pandemic by participating on the Pandemic Response Planning Team, the COVID-19 Indigenous Coordination Committee, and at the Provincial Operations Centre to ensure the Government of Alberta included and considered Indigenous issues and perspectives in its planning.

In addition, two internal committees were struck up to proactively ensure clear communication with Indigenous communities during the pandemic response and their participation in post-pandemic recovery.

The ministry led the coordination of engagement with Indigenous leadership, communities and organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic response through 147 virtual meetings, teleconferences, and visits – when it was safe to do so – and focused its work with Health, Alberta Health Services, Indigenous Services Canada, and Indigenous leadership on ensuring that accurate and timely information was provided on:

- confirming federal and provincial roles and responsibilities for the pandemic response;
- verifying available provincial and federal supports for First Nations and Métis communities in Alberta;

- resolving emerging issues; and
- determining how the Alberta government could help.

When the Government of Alberta was distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic, Indigenous Relations identified the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association as an urban Indigenous organization that could assist in the provincial rollout of 800,000 PPE to First Nations communities and Metis Settlement in July 2020. An additional 1.5 million PPE were offered to social services organizations that support Alberta’s most vulnerable.

Some outcomes achieved from the Indigenous Relations COVID-19 Response team include:

- accurate and timely updates provided on provincial and federal roles and responsibilities for the COVID-19 pandemic response, vaccine roll-out, and pathfinding supports available to First Nations and Métis people in Alberta;
- inclusion of Cabinet discussions regarding the Provincial Response at the Emergency Management Cabinet Committee (EMCC);
- consideration of Indigenous perspectives and challenges in response planning;
- Minister and Senior Management’s awareness of emerging issues faced by Indigenous communities and organizations;
- connecting Indigenous Peoples and communities to available provincial and federal COVID-19 supports, including mental health and addictions grants; and
- engaging, tracking, and sharing emerging issues, such as food security, road blocks, distribution of PPE, and outbreak reporting with working groups to collaboratively address and respond to emerging issues.

The Government of Alberta recognizes that Indigenous Peoples are particularly vulnerable due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact all Albertans, including Indigenous Peoples, the ministry has been actively working to ensure that First Nations communities and Metis Settlements across the province are prioritized in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as part of the province’s phased roll-out of the vaccine.

**Performance Measure 2.a:**

**Percentage of Indigenous communities participating in an enhanced engagement process contributing to land-use planning**

Prior Years’ Results				2020-21 Target	2020-21 Actual
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20		
61%	71%	73%	53%	53%	0%

This performance measure was developed in 2018 based on enhanced engagement processes intended to facilitate the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in provincial land-use planning processes. These processes evolved over several years and reflected ongoing efforts by the Land Use Secretariat, Indigenous communities, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and land and natural resource management ministries within the Government of Alberta to develop and implement structures and processes to support Outcome 7 of Alberta’s Land-use Framework: “Inclusion of Aboriginal peoples in land-use planning”. This performance measure only includes engagement that occurred at formally established Regional Indigenous Tables, led by the Land Use Secretariat, and

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does not include engagement or consultation activities that occurred for other purposes, including those related to land use planning.

The performance measure “Percentage of Indigenous communities participating in an enhanced engagement process contributing to land-use planning” was intended as a direct measure of the number of Indigenous communities participating in processes that were specifically intended to support the inclusion of their perspectives.

Results for this performance measure are reported on a calendar year basis to align with reporting under the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*. Results showed an increase each year from 2016 until 2019, reflecting the efforts of all parties to build relationships to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta’s land-use planning processes. Results also reflected the expansion of land-use planning to additional regions of the province, providing more opportunities for Indigenous communities to participate.

In 2019, land-use planning activities were paused pending assessment of government priorities leading up to and following the provincial election.

Results for 2019 decreased compared to the previous year as the pause on land-use planning activities continued during a change of government, development of interim business plans and a focus on immediate priorities including addressing a severe economic downturn in the province. Results for 2019 are based on activities for the first three months of the calendar year.

The target for the 2020-23 Ministry Business Plan was developed in 2019, based on the assumption that land-use planning activities would resume in 2020. However, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a continued pause in activities throughout the 2020 calendar year.

Results for this performance measure are based on attendance at meetings and no meetings were held during the 2020 calendar year. Therefore, the results for this performance measure are zero for the 2020 reporting year.

The Government of Alberta remains committed to implementing the Land Use Framework, the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*, and its elements such as regional and sub-regional planning and land stewardship tools. The Government of Alberta recognizes that Indigenous Peoples are uniquely positioned to inform land-use planning, and remains committed to their inclusion in planning.

## **Outcome Three: Increased opportunities for reconciliation with Indigenous leadership and organizations**

Indigenous Relations provides forums for the government to build and maintain relationships with Indigenous governments, communities, groups, industry, and organizations. The ministry leads and coordinates with other government ministries to implement or renew existing Protocol Agreements and discuss the development of new Protocol Agreements with First Nations organizations, and maintains and strengthens Alberta's relationships with the Métis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta. Additionally, Indigenous Relations supports the First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security, which provide recommendations to Alberta's government on how to improve the economic security of Indigenous women, their families, and communities in Alberta.

### **Key Objectives**

#### **3.1 Lead the government in supporting First Nations through Protocol Agreements to improve economic, social and environmental outcomes**

##### **Protocol Agreements**

Protocol Agreements create a framework for collaboration between the Government of Alberta and First Nations in Alberta. Elected official-signed protocol agreements function as a broad umbrella agreement, under which meaningful discussion, information sharing, and exploration of issues of mutual concern can occur. Issues discussed include economic development, health, education, environment, justice, child and family services can occur.

In February 2021, Minister Wilson committed to monthly teleconference calls with the Chiefs who signed protocol agreements, and other Ministers as needed, to discuss progress and gain greater insight into the respective communities' priority issues. In 2020-21, the ministry budgeted \$1 million to support the Protocol Agreements and Tables. The allocated budget provided \$200,000 each for the Blackfoot Confederacy and Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council (G4) and \$300,000 each for the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations of Alberta and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, once agreement is in place.

##### **Blackfoot Confederacy**

On September 23, 2019, Premier Kenney and Minister Wilson renewed the Blackfoot Confederacy Protocol Agreement. The Blackfoot Confederacy's Protocol Agreement has six out of seven Table Work Plans signed by Ministers and Chiefs.

##### **Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council**

On October 2, 2020, Premier Kenney and Minister Wilson entered into an inaugural protocol agreement with the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council (also known as G4).

Currently, the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council Protocol Agreement Tables are under discussion, with Tables anticipated to be implemented by summer 2021.

##### **Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations**

On December 16, 2020, Premier Kenney and Minister Wilson entered into an inaugural protocol agreement with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations.

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Currently, the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations' Protocol Agreement Tables are under discussion with Tables anticipated to be implemented by summer 2021.

### **3.2 Lead the coordination of the Annual Joint Meeting of the Premier, provincial Cabinet and the First Nation Chiefs of Alberta**

A strong relationship with Indigenous Peoples benefits all Albertans. The Government of Alberta has been forging relationships with Indigenous communities, so First Nations, Métis and Inuit people have every opportunity to participate in all aspects of Alberta's society, while maintaining their cultures and unique identities. Addressing the concerns, aspirations and priorities of Indigenous Peoples, and encouraging their full participation in matters of concern is integral to strong and vibrant communities in Alberta.

Indigenous Relations led the coordination of the Annual Joint Meeting held on February 12, 2020. Attendees included Premier Kenney, the Honourable Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Children's Services, the Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health, Minister Wilson, and First Nations Chiefs. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss children in care in Alberta and Federal Bill C-92, *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families*, and hear First Nations concerns.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Alberta postponed the 2020-21 Annual Joint Meeting. Once health restrictions are lifted, the ministry will begin working with the Minister's Office to begin plans for coordinating the next Premier's meeting.

### **3.3 Work with the Métis Nation of Alberta and other Government of Alberta ministries to ensure a government-wide approach to the Alberta-Métis Nation of Alberta Framework Agreement**

Alberta is home to over 114,000 Métis people, the largest Métis population in western Canada, and second largest in Canada.

Indigenous Relations provided \$1,536,672 in annual core funding to the Métis Nation of Alberta. Through a 10-year Framework Agreement, in 2020-21 the ministry worked directly with the Métis Nation of Alberta to implement the agreement and facilitate discussions between other government ministries and the Métis Nation of Alberta, to address priorities as needed.

### **3.4 Support the First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security to provide advice to government on ways to improve the economic security of Indigenous women and families**

The First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security provide the Government of Alberta with input and recommendations on policies, programs, initiatives and services to improve the lives of Indigenous women, their families and communities. As such, the First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security offer invaluable knowledge, insight and a cultural lens into the meaning and goals of economic security to the Government of Alberta. Economic security empowers Indigenous women to provide for themselves and their families in safe and secure communities and to participate fully in the economy. The First Nations and Métis Women's Councils also inform the work of the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to impact all Albertans, at the request of Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations, both Councils identified barriers and challenges related to COVID-

19 and economic recovery for Indigenous women, their families and communities. This included issues related to online education (lack of internet connectivity, computer equipment and supports for students); need for more supports due to the increased incidents of family violence and mental health issues; and the need for improved information reach to community members. Ministries in the Alberta government responded to the Councils on the issues raised.

### **First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security**

The First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security (First Nations Council) held meetings in September 2020, February and March 2021. As a result of these meetings, the First Nations Council developed information sheets to raise awareness of First Nations women's perspectives on human trafficking and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The First Nations Council also established priorities for 2021 on human trafficking, racism, safety, mental health and addiction.

The First Nations Council presented to the Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF), led by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General. The HTTF is a special task force that works to find ways to protect and empower survivors of human trafficking. Its mandate includes:

- providing guidance and recommendations on supports for survivors;
- enhancing collaboration among all stakeholders and organizations that work with survivors of human trafficking to prevent, protect and ensure their safety;
- engaging experts to identify what actions are needed to bring transformational and sustainable change; and
- providing recommendations to help government implement the nine-point action plan and lobby other levels of government to take coordinated action.

### **Métis Women's Council on Economic Security**

The Métis Women's Council on Economic Security (Métis Council) held meetings in September and November 2020, and January 2021 to continue examining priority areas. In 2020-21, the Métis Council developed resource materials to address Indigenous women entrepreneurs and workplace safety initiatives. The entrepreneurship resource will provide Indigenous women with information to assist them in pursuing opportunities to develop or expand businesses. The workplace safety initiative is intended to assist the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in its examination of reducing violence against Indigenous women.

For more information on the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, see Key Objective 1.4 of this Annual Report.

## **3.5 Work with the Metis Settlements General Council to modernize the *Metis Settlements Act***

The Minister of Indigenous Relations has legislative responsibility for the *Metis Settlements Act* (MSA), enacted in 1990. The MSA provides a structure and system for local governance on Settlements.

In spring 2021, Indigenous Relations tabled amendments to the 30-year old legislation under the *Metis Settlements Amendments Act, 2021* to enable sustainable and self-governing communities, create greater governance and fiscal autonomy, and increase Metis Settlement Council accountability.



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The end of the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement (LTA) on March 31, 2023 brings to a conclusion Alberta's \$85 million, 10-year commitment to the Settlements, and making these arrangements now provides time to assist Settlements to make a smooth transition to the new changes.

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations facilitated and supported Minister's engagement with Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) Assembly, MSGC Executive, and Metis Settlement Chairs to discuss proposed changes to the MSA. A \$20,000 grant was provided to the MSGC to support their analysis of proposed amendments. In addition, the Minister held a town hall for Settlement members to discuss the proposed amendments.

### **3.6 Work with the Metis Settlements General Council and the federal government on the long-term economic sustainability of Metis Settlements**

#### **Long-Term Governance Funding Arrangements Agreement**

With the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangement (LTA) Agreement coming to an end in two years, now is the time to plan for the future. To assist Metis Settlements to succeed financially, and to reach the effective governance they desire, Indigenous Relations participated in four tri-lateral discussions, with the Metis Settlements General Council and the Government of Canada, focused on the long-term sustainability of the Metis Settlements.

Since the LTA was signed in 2013, Indigenous Relations has provided \$75 million to advance long-term sustainability of the Settlements through contributions to Settlement infrastructure, supporting safe and healthy communities, and initiatives to improve educational outcomes.

In 2020-21, the Government of Alberta provided \$5 million, in annual contribution to be used to support LTA implementation capacity, critical infrastructure projects, a capital reserve fund, Settlement consultation capacity, and Settlement policing. Further achievements include:

- implementation of year eight of the 10-year LTA, including the completion of an eight-year evaluation plan and review, concluding with an interim report;
- Settlement capacity development program; and
- delivery of programming to address Adult Literacy Program and other adult learning initiatives.

**Performance Measure 3.a:  
Number of Protocol Agreements renewed or developed**

Prior Years' Results				2020-21 Target	2020-21 Actual
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20		
N/A	N/A	0	1	4	2

This performance measure demonstrates how the ministry is increasing opportunities for reconciliation with Indigenous leadership and organizations through the creation of protocol agreements that are bi-lateral government-to-government relationship agreements that strive to advance both government and First Nations' interests.

The main purpose of Protocol Agreements are:

- to provide a framework for continued collaboration between the First Nation and the Government of Alberta;
- to provide a broad umbrella agreement under which meaningful discussion, information sharing and to address issues of mutual concern;
- to establish mechanisms by which First Nations and the Government of Alberta can work together in the determination of joint strategies to address priority areas; and
- to meet regularly at the senior official level, at the Chiefs and Ministers level, and annually between the Premier of Alberta, lead Ministers, Chiefs and designated senior officials.

On July 2, 2019, the Cabinet approved a mandate in principle to renew two existing Protocol Agreements with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and the Blackfoot Confederacy; and to enter into two new Protocol Agreements with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council.

The Blackfoot Confederacy Protocol Agreement was renewed on September 23, 2019. In 2020-21, the Government of Alberta signed two inaugural Protocol Agreements with the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council on October 2, 2020, and with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations on December 16, 2020. Between 2019-20 and 2020-21, a total of three Protocol Agreements were signed or renewed.

**Performance Indicator 3.b:**

**Average employment income of Alberta's Aboriginal population aged 15 years and over who worked full-year, full time**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Male (Actual)</b>	\$50,131	\$63,933	\$78,079	Updated every 5 years*
<b>Female (Actual)</b>	\$34,438	\$45,236	\$53,136	

**Data for Performance Indicator 3.b is based on Statistics Canada 2006 Census and the 2011 National Household Survey.**

The Government of Canada conducts the 2021 Census, which is undertaken every five years. Census information is used to make informed decisions about communities, provinces, territories, and the country as a whole. Statistics Canada launched the 2021 Census in May 2021. Data from the 2021 Census will be available in 2022.

\*At the time of the publication of the Indigenous Relations 2020-21 Annual Report, the last available data for Performance Indicator 3.b "Average employment income of Alberta's Aboriginal population aged 15 years and over who worked full-year, full time" is from 2016.

## *Other Indigenous Relations 2020-21 Accomplishments*

### **National Indigenous Peoples Day**

In 2020-21, Indigenous Relations virtually celebrated the 24<sup>th</sup> annual National Indigenous Peoples Day. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, the event was posted on the [Indigenous Relations Facebook page](#), and was co-emceed by the Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations, and the Honourable Leela Aheer, Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

The 20-minute video was viewed over 2,000 times and featured traditional contemporary entertainment by:

- Debbie Houle and Sheryl Sewepagaham, formally with Asani;
- Rocky Morin from Enoch Cree Nation;
- Bobby and Robin Hunter with the Heavenly Skies Society; and
- Cindy and Lindy Paul from Buttertown, Alberta.

### **The Indigenous Introductory Training Program**

In February 2021, the Indigenous Learning Initiative (ILI) and Indigenous Introductory Training (IIT) Program moved from the Public Service Commission to the Ministry of Indigenous Relations. This core training is open to all Government of Alberta employees, under the corporate Professional Development Framework.

Since its launch in June 2018, 13,738 Government of Alberta employees have participated in IIT training. Approximately, 13,446 Government of Alberta employees received IIT training during the first two fiscal years of the program in 2018 to 2020, which is over 50 per cent of government employees. Utilizing a blended approach of both virtual and in-person training, the ILI will continue to develop and offer innovative training to build Indigenous competency for all Government of Alberta employees for a renewed relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Albertans.

In 2020-21, a total of 292 Government of Alberta employees received the IIT training through 24 sessions delivered over a nine month period between July 2020 and March 2021. The number of training sessions are lower in 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in no training sessions being held between April and June 2020. To adapt to the province's new reality, the program implemented a virtual and limited in-person learning model and approach with the first session taking place in July 2020.

The Indigenous Cultural Protocol training is a new half-day virtual and limited in-person session offered to all Government of Alberta employees on the understanding of the diversity of Alberta's Indigenous Peoples, role of Elders and cultural protocol when engaging with First Nations and Métis groups across Alberta. In 2020-21, five sessions were held beginning in August 2020.

### **Métis Week**

From November 15 to 21, Minister Wilson promoted Métis Week by encouraging Albertans to join in the celebration of Métis culture, language, and history, and to learn more about the contributions of the Métis people of Alberta.

### **Riel Commemoration**

Every year on November 16, the Métis Nation of Alberta hosts a Louis Riel Commemorative Ceremony. This major event is held during Métis Week in Alberta, symbolizing the commitment Métis people share in striving for and promoting the visions and dreams of Louis Riel.

In November 2020, Minister Wilson posted a Louis Riel Day video on social media to acknowledge and commemorate the Honourable Louis Riel and his contributions.

### **Metis Settlement Proclamation Day**

In October 2020 Minister Wilson hosted an outdoor flag raising ceremony at the Federal Building on the Alberta Legislature Grounds in Edmonton, Alberta to honour the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Metis Settlement Proclamation Day.

### **Meetings**

In 2020-21, the Minister of Indigenous Relations worked to build relationships and gain firsthand knowledge of the priorities of Indigenous communities by meeting them virtually or in person. The minister met with the Fort McMurray Métis Locals, and the Lethbridge, Lac St. Anne (Gunn), and Willow Lake Métis communities. Additionally, Indigenous Relations prepared and planned Minister community visits to seven First Nations and four Metis Settlements.

## Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology

### **Performance Measure 1.a: Number of Indigenous employment initiatives**

This performance measure is calculated based on the number of applications received through the Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) call for proposals and other avenues. Indigenous Skills Employment and Training Program (ISETP) agreement holders are eligible to receive funding through EPP. Tribal Councils, First Nations, Metis Settlements, Indigenous organizations, and registered non-profit organizations may be eligible to receive special project funding through EPP for projects that fit the program criteria. Projects must include one or more partner(s) to contribute financial or in-kind resources to the project.

The EPP is flexible and allows grant applicants to set their priorities based upon their knowledge and experience providing employment training and labour market opportunities in their geographic location as well as their knowledge of the participants they serve.

### **Performance Measure 1.b: Percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that pre-consultation assessments are issued within established timelines, which is four days upon receipt of complete application**

This performance measure reports on the percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that pre-consultation assessments are completed within the established timeline, which is four Government of Alberta working days upon receipt of a complete application. The established timelines for pre-consultation assessments issued are defined in the *Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land and Natural Resource Management*, July 28, 2014 and the *Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with Metis Settlements Land and Natural Resource Management*, 2016.

Assessment requests files are electronic submissions carried out by a proponent via the Electronic Deposition System (EDS) in order to seek information on the consultation requirements of a proposed project. The EDS is a web portal that is owned and operated by Alberta Environment and Parks. The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) and Alberta Environment and Parks enhanced the EDS system to increase the effectiveness of the consultation process by making the system more user friendly and allowing for additional activity types to be submitted electronically. The EDS includes a number of features that allows proponents to submit applications, amendments, plans, record of consultation (consultation summary documents), and view completed assessments.

The electronic submission is then reviewed by an Approval Specialist on behalf of the ACO, and will result in a pre-consultation assessment. Pre-consultation assessments will indicate whether or not consultation is required. If consultation is required, the pre-consultation assessment will identify both the level of consultation and the First Nation(s) and Metis Settlement(s) to be consulted.

The ACO manually tracks, reviews, analyze and reports on the data collected through the EDS. The result of this performance measure are generated manually from an internal tracking spreadsheet. The data consists of the number of files received and processed, and associated with timelines each week. The ACO's Consultation Administrator calculates the result by tracking the data. The application processing timelines are measured at the beginning of each week, for the previous week, which is the Monday of every week.

The following is how the result for the percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that pre-consultation assessments are issued within the established timelines is calculated:

### Pre-consultation Assessment Issued (PAI) Equation:

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of weeks} - \# \text{ of weeks where PAI} > 4 \text{ working days} \times 100}{\text{Total \# of weeks}} = \% \text{ of PAI} \leq 4 \text{ working days}$$

The ACO began tracking the pre-consultation assessments in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the fiscal year. For 2020-21, 50 weeks were counted due to the Christmas break.

Note: This performance measure only reflects the results from Level 1 (Streamlined Consultation) and Level 2 (Standard Consultation) pre-consultation assessments issued for *Public Lands Act* (PLA) applications.

#### Performance Measure 1.c:

**Percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that consultation adequacy assessments are issued within established timelines, which is 10 working days upon receipt of completed consultation summary documents**

This performance measure reports the percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that consultation adequacy assessments are completed within the established timelines, which is 10 Government of Alberta working days upon the receipt of completed consultation summary documents.

The established timelines for consultation adequacy assessments completed are defined in the *Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land and Natural Resource Management*, July 28, 2014, and the *Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with Metis Settlements Land and Natural Resource Management*, 2016.

Assessments requests are electronic submissions carried out by a proponent via the Electronic Disposition System (EDS) in order to seek information on the consultation requirements of a proposed project. The EDS is a web-based portal that is owned and operated by Alberta Environment and Parks. The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) and Alberta Environment and Parks enhanced the EDS system to increase the effectiveness of the consultation process by making the system more user friendly and allowing for additional activity types to be submitted electronically. The EDS includes a number of features that allows proponents to submit applications, amendments, plans, record of consultation (consultation summary documents), and view completed assessments.

Once the pre-consultation assessments are issued has indicated to the proponent the level of consultation, the proponent will notify the First Nation(s) and/or Metis Settlement(s) by sending an information package in accordance with the Guidelines and Proponent Guide. The information package includes the list of criteria on page 7 of the Proponent Guide. When the proponent is seeking a consultation adequacy decision, a copy of the Record of Consultation (ROC) log (one for each First Nation or Metis Settlement) must be submitted through the EDS for adequacy review, including any supporting letters and documents to substantiate the consultation activities in the log. The proponent must send the ROC log to First Nations and Metis Settlements to review for any errors or omissions (giving them five Government of Alberta working days and Level 1 and Level 2 consultation files) prior to submitting it to the ACO. For ACO review of the consultation summary for adequacy assessment, the 10 Government of Alberta working day period begins upon receipt of the completed consultation summary documents.

The results of this performance measure are generated manually from an internal tracking spreadsheet. The data consists of a number of files received and processed, and associated timeline each week. The ACO's Consultation Administrator calculates the results by tracking the data. The

application processing timelines are measured at the beginning of the week for the previous week, which is the Monday of every week.

The following is how the results for the percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that consultation adequacy assessments are compiled within the established timelines is calculated:

**Consultation Adequacy Assessment (CAA) Equation:**

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of fiscal weeks} - \text{\# of weeks CAA >10 working days}}{\text{Total \# of CAA weeks}} \times 100 = \% \text{ of CAA } \leq 10 \text{ working days}$$

The ACO began tracking consultation adequacy assessments in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the fiscal year. For 2020-21, 50 weeks were counted due to the Christmas break.

Note: This performance measure only reflects the results from Level 1 (Streamlined Consultation) and Level 2 (Standard Consultation) consultation adequacy assessments issued for *Public Lands Act* (PLA) applications.

**Performance Measure 2.a:**

**Percentage of Indigenous communities participating in an enhanced engagement process contributing to land-use planning**

This performance measure counts the number of Indigenous communities that are participating in enhanced engagement processes to support the development and/or implementation of regional land-use plans.

Indigenous Relations calculation is as follows:

$$PM(\%) = \left(\frac{w}{i}\right) \times 100$$

Where:

PM = Percentage of Indigenous communities participating in an enhanced engagement process contributing to land-use planning.

w = number of Indigenous communities participating in enhanced engagement to support land-use planning in the calendar year.

i = number of Indigenous communities recognized for consultation in Alberta.

**Calculation Procedure:**

Determine the denominator by adding together all communities expressing an interest in participating in land-use planning.

- The Denominator is **59**:
  - # of First Nations (51) plus
  - # of Metis Settlements (8) plus

**NOTE:** For the calendar year 2020, the denominator increased to **60** with the addition of the Fort McKay Métis Nation as a credibly asserted Métis community, effective March 26, 2020.



Determine the numerator by adding together all First Nations and Metis Settlements participating in an enhanced engagement process to support land-use planning in a calendar year (based on attendance at engagement sessions):

- For the calendar year 2016, the Numerator was 36.
- For the calendar year 2017, the Numerator was 42.
- For the calendar year 2018, the Numerator was 43.
- For the calendar year 2019, the Numerator was 31.
- For the calendar year 2020, the Numerator was 0.

Divide the numerator by the denominator and multiply by 100 to get the percentage:

$$2016 \text{ Indigenous Community participation (\%)} = \left(\frac{36}{59}\right) \times 100 = 61.01 \%: \text{ rounded down to } 61\%$$

$$2017 \text{ Indigenous Community participation (\%)} = \left(\frac{42}{59}\right) \times 100 = 71.18 \%: \text{ rounded down to } 71\%$$

$$2018 \text{ Indigenous Community participation (\%)} = \left(\frac{43}{59}\right) \times 100 = 72.88 \%: \text{ rounded up to } 73\%$$

$$2019 \text{ Indigenous Community participation (\%)} = \left(\frac{31}{59}\right) \times 100 = 52.54\%: \text{ rounded up to } 53\%$$

$$2020 \text{ Indigenous Community participation (\%)} = \left(\frac{0}{60}\right) \times 100 = 0 \%$$

### **Performance Measure 3.a:**

#### **Number of Protocol Agreements renewed or developed**

This performance measure demonstrates how the ministry is increasing opportunities for reconciliation with Indigenous leadership and organizations through the creation of protocol agreements that are bi-lateral government-to-government relationship agreements that strive to advance both government and First Nations' interests.

This performance measure is based on the signing of Protocol Agreements with the following organizations:

- Treaty 8 of First Nations of Alberta;
- The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations;
- The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council; and
- The Stoney Nakoda – Tsuut'ina Tribal Council.

### **Performance Indicator 3.b:**

#### **Average employment income of Alberta's Aboriginal population aged 15 years and over who worked full-year, full time**

The Government of Canada conducts the 2021 Census, which is undertaken every five years. Census information is used to make informed decisions about communities, provinces, territories, and the country as a whole. Statistics Canada launched the 2021 Census in May 2021. Data from the 2021 Census will be available in 2022.

At the time of the publication of the Indigenous Relations 2020-21 Annual Report, the last available data for Performance Indicator 3.b "Average employment income of Alberta's Aboriginal population aged 15 years and over who worked full-year, full time" is from 2016.

## *Financial Information*

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## Introduction

The annual report of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations (the ministry) contains the financial information, including the audited financial statements of other reporting entities within the ministry (i.e. regulated funds, provincial agencies and Crown-controlled corporations), and a comparison of actual performance results to planned results set out in the ministry business plan.

The financial information includes the transactions and affairs of entities making up the ministry including the Department of Indigenous Relations, the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) and the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal (MSAT) for which the Minister of Indigenous Relations is responsible.

The ministry annual report also includes other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act (FAA)* and *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*, as separate reports, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report.

## *Reporting Entity and Method Consolidation*

The financial information is prepared in accordance with Government of Alberta's stated accounting policies, which are based on Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

The reporting entity is the Ministry of Indigenous Relations (the ministry) for which the Minister of Indigenous Relations is accountable. The accounts of the ministry, which includes the department and the entities making up the ministry, are consolidated using the line-by-line method.

Under this method, accounting policies of the consolidated entities are adjusted to conform to those of the government and the results of each line item in their financial statements (revenue, expense, assets and liabilities) are included in government's results. Revenue and expense, capital, investing and financing transactions and related asset and liability balances between the consolidated entities have been eliminated.

A list of the individual entities making up the ministry are shown on the "Management's Responsibility for Reporting" statement included in this annual report.

## Ministry Financial Highlights

### Statement of Revenues and Expenses

End of the year March 31, 2021

	2021		2020	Change from	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	2020 Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>			<i>In thousands</i>	
<b>Revenues</b>					
Government Transfers					
Federal and Other Government Grants	\$ 11,778	\$ 1,539	\$ 95	\$ (10,239)	\$ 1,444
Labour Market Development	3,664	3,664	3,100	-	564
Other Revenue					
Internal Government Transfer of Liability	-	1,389	-	1,389	1,389
Other	-	3,746	4,916	3,746	(1,170)
Ministry Total	15,442	10,338	8,111	(5,104)	2,227
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	(1,389)	-	(1,389)	(1,389)
Adjusted ministry total	15,442	8,949	8,111	(6,493)	838
<b>Expenses - directly incurred</b>					
<b>Programs</b>					
Ministry Support Services	4,942	4,157	4,962	(785)	(805)
First Nations and Métis Relations	22,155	20,600	19,955	(1,555)	645
Indigenous Women's Initiatives	1,355	1,158	1,144	(197)	14
First Nations Development Fund	135,000	63,598	104,424	(71,402)	(40,826)
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,171	1,000	1,133	(171)	(133)
Consultation, Land and Policy	17,758	15,995	31,985	(1,763)	(15,990)
Investing in Canada Infrastructure	11,778	1,539	95	(10,239)	1,444
Land and Legal Settlements	7,670	113	-	(7,557)	113
Indigenous Litigation Fund	9,750	-	188	(9,750)	(188)
Climate Change Initiatives	-	-	577	-	(577)
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	10,000	2,565	1,125	(7,435)	1,440
Ministry Total	221,579	110,725	165,588	(110,854)	(54,863)
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustments	-	(114)	(41)	(114)	(73)
Adjusted Ministry Total	221,579	110,611	165,547	(110,968)	(54,936)
<b>Annual deficit</b>	<b>\$ (206,137)</b>	<b>\$ (101,662)</b>	<b>\$ (157,436)</b>	<b>\$ 104,475</b>	<b>\$ 55,774</b>

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## Revenue and Expense Highlights

### Revenues

- Ministry revenues totaled \$10 million in 2020-21, which was \$2 million higher than in 2019-20 and \$5 million lower than Budget 2020.
- The \$5 million decrease from *Budget 2020* is attributed to the following:
  - **Federal and Other Government Grants:** \$10 million reduction in revenues from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). ICIP is a federal grant program where Canada reimburses Alberta for payments made to third party grant recipients based on the work that has been completed on approved ICIP projects. As a result of project delays, work on ICIP projects did not progress as anticipated during the 2020-21 fiscal year.
  - **Other Revenue:** \$5 million increase in other revenues resulting mainly from a liability adjustment and a one-time internal Government transfer of liability to the Department of Seniors and Housing. These liability adjustments were associated with the conclusion of repairing and rebuilding all Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nation homes affected by the June 2013 Southern Alberta floods.
- The year-over-year increase of \$2 million was mainly from an increase in federal government funding for the ICIP program as more projects were federally approved in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20.

### Expenses

- Ministry expenditures were \$111 million in 2020-21, which was \$111 million lower than budgeted and \$55 million less than 2019-20 actuals.
- The decrease from *Budget 2020* of \$111 million was primarily due to reductions in the following programs:
  - **First Nations Development Fund:** \$71 million reduction in funding provided through the First Nations Development Fund program due to lower gaming revenues collected from government-owned slot machines operating at First Nations casinos following closures of casinos as a result of mandatory, province wide restrictions that were put in effect to protect the health system and slow the spread of COVID-19;
  - **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP):** \$10 million reduction in spending in the federally funded ICIP program due to project delays during the 2020-21 fiscal year;
  - **Indigenous Litigation Fund:** \$10 million reduction in spending on the Indigenous Litigation Fund program resulting from program changes and fewer than anticipated applications being received. During the 2020-21 fiscal year the ministry worked to expand the Litigation Fund criteria to include seed funding which supports Indigenous communities that want to undertake preliminary research before engaging in legal action or court challenges;
  - **Land and Legal Settlements:** \$8 million reduction in third-party treaty land entitlement settlement cost payments and land remediation costs in order to ensure the transfer of unoccupied Crown lands to the Canadian Government can occur as

- 
- part of the Lubicon Lake Band and Bigstone Cree Nation land claims. The land claims were settled in 2018 and 2010 respectively, however delays in land remediation and third party negotiations as a result of the COVID -19 pandemic occurred in 2020-21;
- **Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC):** \$8 million reduction in spending by the AIOC. The Corporation was proclaimed in late 2019-20, and during the 2020-21 fiscal year the first-of-its kind Crown corporation continued to develop and set-up its investing, engagement and operating teams in order to become fully operational and help Indigenous communities participate in commercially viable, major resource projects that will be an important tool for Alberta's economic recovery; and
  - **Various Programs:** a general reduction of \$4 million in operating expenses from employing cost containment measures and from savings achieved due to a shift in the way the ministry conducts its business as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.
- The decrease from 2019-20 of \$55 million resulted from the following program changes:
    - **First Nations Development Fund:** a decrease of \$41 million resulting from First Nations casinos being closed for a longer periods during the 2020-21 fiscal year as compared to the 2019-20 year;
    - **Consultation, Land and Policy:** a reduction of \$16 million in one-time funding provided during the 2019-20 fiscal year for the Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP);
    - **Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC):** A \$1 million increase in spending by the AIOC as the new Crown corporation continued to set up its operations during the 2020-21 fiscal year and issue its first loan guarantee; and
    - **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP):** A \$1 million increase in ICIP grant funding as more projects were federally approved in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20.

## Breakdown of Revenues

Year Ended March 31, 2021

	2021		2020
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>		
Government Transfers			
Federal and Other Government Grants	\$ 11,778	\$ 1,539	\$ 95
Labour Market Development	3,664	3,664	3,100
	15,442	5,203	3,195
Other Revenue			
Refund of Expenditure - First Nations Housing	-	2,593	4,607
Refund of Expenditure - Other	-	394	308
Internal Government Transfer of Liability	-	1,389	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	759	1
	-	5,135	4,916
<b>Total Ministry Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 15,442</b>	<b>\$ 10,338</b>	<b>\$ 8,111</b>

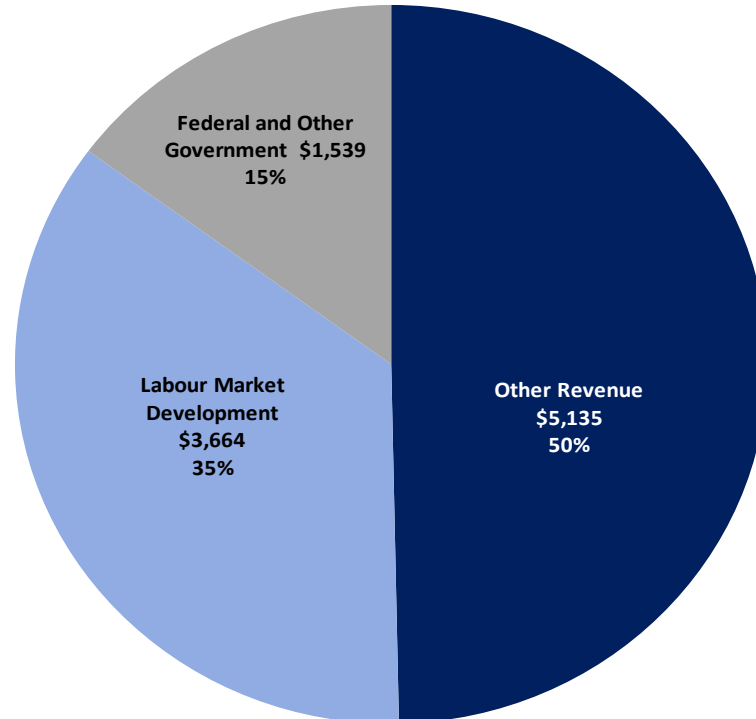


## Breakdown of Revenues

The following information presents detailed revenues of the ministry. The objective of detailed revenues disclosure is to provide information that is useful in understanding and assessing the financial effects of government's revenue raising and for enhanced legislative control.

- Other Revenue:** \$5 million is mainly due to a liability adjustment and a one-time internal Government transfer of liability to the Department of Seniors and Housing. These liability adjustments were associated with the conclusion of repairing and rebuilding all Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nation homes affected by the June 2013 Southern Alberta floods. The 2013 Alberta Flood program is described below.
- Labour Market Development:** \$3.7 million is part of the Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTA) between Alberta and the federal government which provides funding for the delivery of skilled training and employment programs to increase workforce participation of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta through the ministry's Employment Partnerships Program.
- Federal and Other Government Grants:** \$1.5 million is part of the federally funded Investing in Canada Plan Program (ICIP) that provides funding to Indigenous applicants to make long-term infrastructure investments on federally-endorsed ICIP projects.

**2021 Actual**  
*In thousands*



**2013 Alberta floods**

- The Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) through its Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) administers the province's flood recovery initiative, which falls within the responsibility of the ministry of Municipal Affairs. *Alberta Regulation 51/94* of the *Alberta Emergency Management Act* allows the province to provide disaster recovery assistance to residents, small business, agriculture operations, and provincial and municipal governments if the event meets regulation's criteria.
- In the event of a large-scale natural disaster, the Government of Canada provides financial assistance to provincial and territorial governments through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program, administered by Public Safety Canada. Under the *Constitution Act*, S 91(24), First Nation lands are under federal jurisdiction. The 2013 Alberta flood was recognized as a provincial emergency of concern to the Government of Canada through its Order in Council on July 3, 2013. This triggered the recognition of an estimated revenue and a related receivable through the federal DFAA program as well as other federal programs. Changes in estimated recoveries are recorded in the current year.
- The Government of Alberta signed a memorandum of understanding with flood impacted First Nations to repair and rebuild First Nation residences to provincial standards, which may be above DFAA eligibility.
- Management's 2021 estimate of the expected amount to be recovered from the federal government for DFAA eligible expenses is \$98.4 million (2020 - \$98.4 million). The nature of the uncertainty for the Government of Canada accounts receivable and Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) accrued liabilities arises from changes between actual eligible disaster costs and estimated disaster costs.
- During the 2020-21 fiscal year, accounts payable and accrued liabilities in Indigenous Relations were reduced from \$6 million to nil. This reduction is attributed to the conclusion of repairing and rebuilding all Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nation homes affected by the 2013 Alberta floods and a transfer of liability to Alberta Seniors and Housing.
- Initial estimates of damages on First Nation lands was \$191.5 million. As inspections of damages were performed, cost estimates were refined and eligibility of recovery under the DFAA was reassessed.
- If factors considered by management in establishing the estimates change significantly, the ministry's accounts receivable could change substantially from current estimates.

The following table provides an overview of the 2013 Alberta flood program:

(in thousands)	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Revenue DFAA (Reversal)	\$-	\$-	(\$177)	\$42	(\$4,174)	(\$61,644)	\$-	\$164,366
Accounts Receivable from Government of Canada	\$98,413	\$98,413	\$98,413	\$98,590	\$98,548	\$102,722	\$164,366	\$164,366
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$-	\$5,955	\$14,157	\$33,300	\$56,824	\$79,313	\$118,213	\$156,600

## Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object

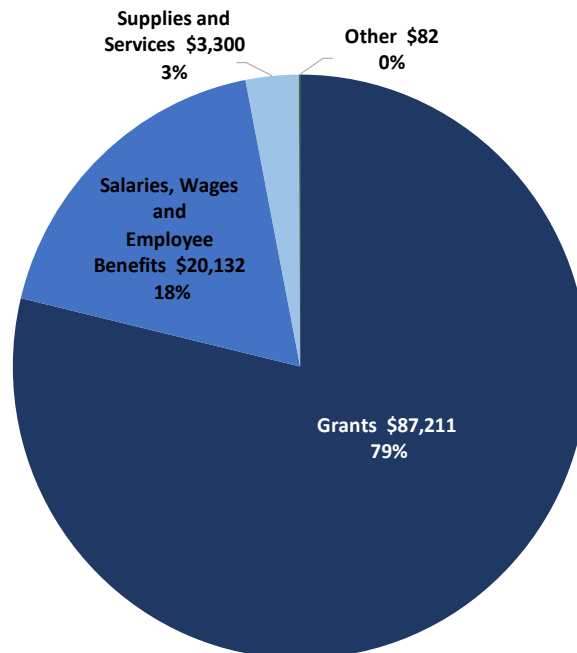
Year Ended March 31, 2021

	2021		2020
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>		
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	\$ 23,391	\$ 20,132	\$ 22,145
Grants	184,136	87,211	140,236
Supplies and Services	13,925	3,300	3,131
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	63	21	14
Financial Transactions and Others	64	61	62
<b>Total Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 221,579</b>	<b>\$ 110,725</b>	<b>\$ 165,588</b>

The following information presents expenses of the ministry directly incurred by object. Disclosure of expenses by object provides information that is useful in evaluating the economic effect of government acquiring or consuming various types of resources.

### 2021 Actual

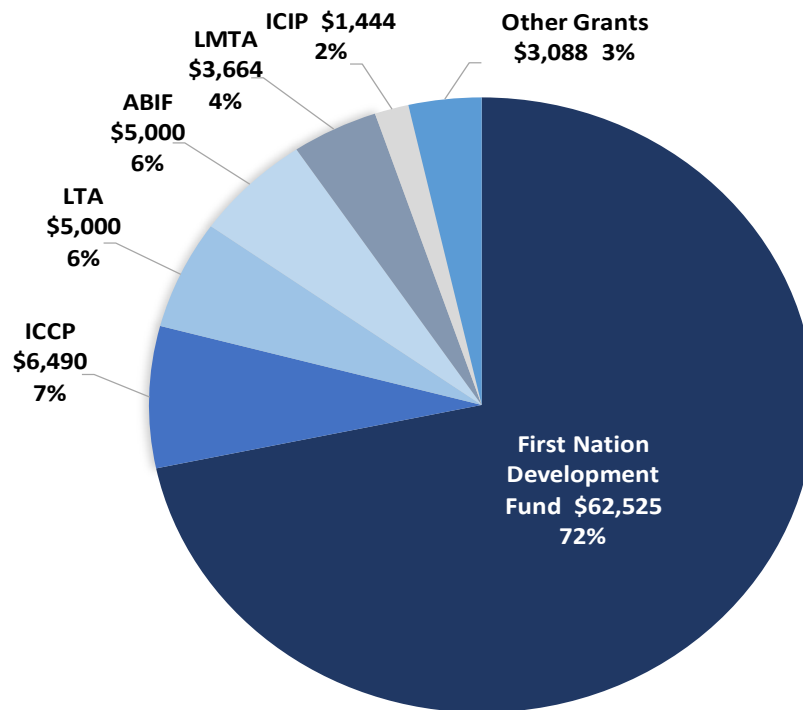
*In thousands*



- Grants remained the ministry's largest operating expense at 79 per cent of the total. In 2020-21, the ministry provided \$87.2 million to support organizations and Indigenous communities through the following grant initiatives:
  - \$62.5 million - First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) program

- \$6.5 million - Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP)
- \$5 million - Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangement Agreement (LTA)
- \$5 million - Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF)
- \$3.7 million - Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTA)
- \$3.1 million – various other grant initiatives within the ministry
- \$1.4 million – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)

**2021 Actual**  
*In thousands*



- Salaries, wages and employee benefit expenses totaled \$20.1 million or 18 per cent of the total ministry expense and were primarily to administer grant programs and support initiatives that strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities and Peoples.
- Supplies and services of \$3.3 million or 3 per cent included travel and ongoing operating cost requirements for the ministry.
- The remainder of ministry expenses were classified as amortization of tangible capital assets (\$21 thousand) and other expenses (\$61 thousand).

## Supplemental Financial Information

### Tangible Capital Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2021

	Equipment <sup>(1)</sup>	Computer Hardware and Software	Other <sup>(2)</sup>	2021 Total	2020 Total
	3-40 years	3-10 years	3-50 years		
<i>In thousands</i>					
<b>Estimated Useful Life</b>					
<b>Historical Cost</b>					
Beginning of Year	\$ 169	\$ 437	\$ -	\$ 606	\$ 600
Additions	55	76	18	149	6
	<u>\$ 224</u>	<u>\$ 513</u>	<u>\$ 18</u>	<u>\$ 755</u>	<u>\$ 606</u>
<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>					
Beginning of year	104	431	-	535	521
Amortization Expense	13	7	1	21	14
	<u>117</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>556</u>	<u>535</u>
<b>Net Book Value at March 31, 2021</b>	<u>\$ 107</u>	<u>\$ 75</u>	<u>\$ 17</u>	<u>\$ 199</u>	
<b>Net Book Value at March 31, 2020</b>	<u>\$ 65</u>	<u>\$ 6</u>	<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ 71</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Equipment includes office equipment and furniture.

<sup>(2)</sup> Other tangible capital assets include leasehold improvements.

## *Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities*

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# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

Financial Statements

March 31, 2021

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## MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The accompanying Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) financial statements have been prepared and presented by management, who is responsible for the integrity and fair presentation of the information.

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The financial statements necessarily include certain amounts based on the informed judgments and best estimates of management.

In fulfilling its responsibilities and recognizing the limits inherent in all systems, the AIOC has developed and maintains a system of internal control to produce reliable information for reporting requirements. The systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that AIOC transactions are properly authorized, assets are safeguarded from loss and the accounting records are a reliable basis for the preparation of the financial statements.

The Auditor General of Alberta, the AIOC's external auditor appointed under the *Auditor General Act*, performed an independent external audit of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and has expressed his opinion in the accompanying Independent Auditor's Report.

AIOC's Board of Directors are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal controls. In both the presence and absence of management, the Board meets with the external auditors to discuss the audit, including any findings as to the integrity of financial reporting processes and the adequacy of our systems of internal controls. The external auditors have full and unrestricted access to the members of the Board.

[Original signed by]

Alicia Dubois  
Chief Executive Officer

[Original signed by]

Michael Matishak  
Acting Senior Financial Officer



# Independent Auditor's Report



To the Board of Directors of the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Report on the Financial Statements

### Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (the Corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2021, and the results of its operations, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Emphasis of matter – corresponding information

I draw attention to the March 31, 2021 financial information which is for 12 months and the March 31, 2020 corresponding information which is for four months in the statement of operations, statement of change in net financial assets, statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the *Annual Report*, but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The *Annual Report* is expected to be made available to me after the date of this auditor's report.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise

appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I will perform on this other information, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

### **Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless an intention exists to liquidate or to cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to

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draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

[Original signed by]

W. Doug Wylie FCPA, FCMA, ICD.D  
Auditor General

May 26, 2021  
Edmonton, Alberta

## Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

### Statement of Operations

	For the Twelve Months ended March 31, 2021		For the Four Months ended March 31, 2020
	Budget (Note 4)	Actual	Actual
<i>(in thousands)</i>			
<b>Revenues</b>			
Government of Alberta grants (Note 4)	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,000
Loan guarantee revenue	-	753	-
	10,000	6,753	2,000
<b>Expenses (Note 2(a) and Schedules 1 and 3)</b>			
Indigenous opportunities initiatives	6,000	118	600
Operating costs	4,000	2,447	525
	10,000	2,565	1,125
<b>Operating surplus</b>	-	4,188	875
<b>Accumulated surplus at beginning of year</b>	875	875	-
<b>Accumulated surplus at end of year</b>	\$ 875	\$ 5,063	\$ 875

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2021

(in thousands)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Cash (Note 5)	\$ 4,941	\$ -
Due from Government of Alberta (Note 8)	1,500	2,000
	<u>6,441</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Due to Government of Alberta (Note 8)	69	1,125
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities (Note 9)	1,458	-
	<u>1,527</u>	<u>1,125</u>
<b>Net financial assets</b>	<u>4,914</u>	<u>875</u>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Tangible capital assets (Note 14)	142	-
Prepaid expenses (Note 6)	7	-
	<u>149</u>	
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>\$ 5,063</u>	<u>\$ 875</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Accumulated surplus (Note 15)	<u>5,063</u>	<u>875</u>
	<u>\$ 5,063</u>	<u>\$ 875</u>

Contractual rights (Notes 7)  
 Contingent liabilities (Note 11)  
 Contractual obligations (Note 12)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Approved by

Approved by

[Original signed by]

[Original signed by]

Chair – Board of Directors  
 Cody Church

Chair – Audit and Risk  
 Aroon Sequeira

## Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

	For the Twelve Months ended March 31, 2021		For the Four Months ended March 31, 2020
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
<b>Annual surplus</b>	\$ -	\$ 4,188	\$ 875
Acquisition of tangible capital assets (Note 14)	-	(150)	-
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 14)	-	8	-
(Increase) in prepaid expenses	-	(7)	-
Increase in net financial assets	-	4,039	875
<b>Net financial assets at beginning of year</b>	-	875	-
<b>Net financial assets at end of year</b>	\$ -	\$ 4,914	875

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Statement of Cash Flows

	<b>For the Twelve Months ended March 31, 2021</b>	<b>For the Four Months ended March 31, 2020</b>
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
<b>Operating transactions</b>		
Annual surplus	\$ 4,188	\$ 875
Non-cash items included in annual surplus		
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 14)	8	-
	(7)	-
(Increase) in prepaid expenses	500	(2,000)
Decrease (increase) in due from Government of Alberta	1,458	-
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(1,056)	1,125
(Decrease) increase in due to Government of Alberta	5,091	-
Cash provided by operating transactions	-	-
<b>Capital transactions</b>		
Acquisition of capital assets (Note 14)	(150)	-
Cash (applied to) capital transactions	(150)	-
<b>Increase in cash</b>	4,941	-
<b>Cash at beginning of year</b>	-	-
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	\$ 4,941	\$ -

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2021, WITH COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FOR THE FOUR MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

### Note 1 AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is a provincial corporation established on November 26, 2019 and operates under the authority of the *Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act*, Chapter A-26.3 of the Statutes of Alberta, 2019.

The mandate of the AIOC is to facilitate investment by Indigenous groups in natural resource projects and related infrastructure, subject to the regulations.

The AIOC is exempt from income taxes under the *Income Tax Act*.

### Note 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

#### (a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, which is part of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations (Ministry) and for which the Minister of Indigenous Relations (Minister) is accountable. The Ministry Annual Report provides a more comprehensive accounting of the financial position and results of the Ministry's operations for which the Minister is accountable.

#### (b) Basis of financial reporting

##### Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Cash received for which goods or services have not been provided or performance obligations have not been fulfilled by year end is recognized as unearned revenue and recorded in accounts payable and other accrued liabilities.

##### Loan Guarantees

The AIOC charges a set-up fee in connection with the issuance of loan guarantees. The set-up fee covers all costs of providing the proponent transaction advisory services and a defined term loan guarantee. The set-up fee related to transaction advisory services is recognized as revenue on issuance of the loan guarantee while the set-up fee related to the defined term loan guarantee is recognized over the term of the loan guarantee. For the year ended March 31, 2021, the AIOC has estimated that transaction advisory services represent 25% of set-up fees while loan guarantee services represent 75% of set-up fees.



# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Revenues Con'd

#### Government transfers

Transfers from all governments are referred to as government transfers.

Government transfers and the associated externally restricted investment income are recognized as deferred contributions if the eligibility criteria for use of the transfer, or the stipulations together with the AIOC's actions and communications as to the use of the transfer, create a liability. These transfers are recognized as revenue as the stipulations are met and, when applicable, the AIOC complies with its communicated use of the transfers.

All other government transfers, without stipulations for the use of the transfer, are recognized as revenue when the transfer is authorized and the AIOC meets the eligibility criteria (if any).

### Expenses

Expenses are reported on an accrual basis. The cost of all goods consumed and services received during the year are expensed.

Grants and transfers are recognized as expenses when the transfer is authorized and eligibility criteria have been met by the recipient.

### Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The AIOC's financial assets and liabilities are generally measured as follows:

Financial statement component	Measurement
Cash	Cost
Accounts receivable	Lower of cost or net recoverable value
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	Cost

The AIOC has no financial assets or liabilities in the fair value category, and has no derivatives or unsettled exchange gains or losses therefore the statement of re-measurement gains or losses is not included in these financial statements.

### Financial Assets

Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations and are not for consumption on the normal course of operations.

Financial assets are the AIOC's financial claims on external organizations and individuals, at the year end.

# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### **Financial Assets Con'd**

#### Cash

Cash is comprised of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid, investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Cash equivalents, when held, are held for the purpose of meeting short-term commitments rather than for investment purposes.

#### Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are recognized at the lower of cost or net recoverable value. A valuation allowance is recognized when recovery is uncertain. A loan loss recovery is recorded as an accounts receivable when it is determined that a loan loss has occurred and there is reasonable assurance that the amount can be recovered.

### **Liabilities**

Liabilities are present obligations of the AIOC to external organizations and individuals arising from past transactions or events occurring before the year end, the settlement of which is expected to result in the future sacrifice of economic benefits. They are recognized when there is an appropriate basis of measurement and management can reasonably estimate the amounts.

#### Loan guarantee loss provisions

A liability and expense for the provision for losses on loan guarantees is recognized when it is determined that a loss is likely.

### **Non-Financial Assets**

Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed, or developed assets that do not normally provide resources to discharge existing liabilities, but instead:

- (a) are normally employed to deliver government services;
- (b) may be consumed in the normal course of operations; and
- (c) are not for sale in the normal course of operations.

Non-financial assets include tangible capital assets, inventories of supplies and prepaid expenses.

#### Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets of the AIOC are recorded at historical cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. An asset acquired, other than computer software, with a life of more than one year and a cost of \$5,000 or more is capitalized. Computer software acquired from external sources at a cost of \$100,000 or more are capitalized.

Tangible capital assets are recognized at cost less accumulated amortization, which includes amounts that are directly related to the acquisition, design, construction, development, improvement or betterment of the assets. Cost

# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Non-Financial Assets Con'd

#### Tangible capital assets Con'd

includes overhead directly attributable to construction and development, as well as interest costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or construction of the asset.

The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets, excluding land, is amortized on a straight- line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Furniture and equipment	5 Years
Computer hardware and software	3 Years
Leasehold improvements	4 Years

### Note 3 FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES

The Public Sector Accounting Board issued the following accounting standards:

- PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations (effective April 1, 2022)**  
 Effective April 1, 2022, this standard provides guidance on how to account for and report liabilities for retirement of tangible capital assets.
- PS 3400 Revenue (effective April 1, 2023)**  
 This standard provides guidance on how to account for and report on revenue, and specifically, it addresses revenue arising from exchange transactions and unilateral transactions.

Management is currently assessing the impact of these standards on the financial statements.

### Note 4 BUDGET

The \$10 million budget was included in the 2020-21 Government Estimates under the Ministry of Indigenous Relations. The Corporation's funding for the year ended March 31, 2021 was subsequently reduced to \$6 million.

### Note 5 CASH

*(in thousands)*

Cash consists of:

	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2020
Cash held at bank	\$ 4,941	\$ -
	\$ 4,941	\$ -

## Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

### Notes to the Financial Statements

#### Note 6 PREPAID EXPENSES

(in thousands)

	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2020
Rent deposit	\$ 7	\$ -
	\$ 7	\$ -

#### Note 7 CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS

(in thousands)

Contractual rights are rights of AIOC to economic resources arising from contracts or agreements that will result in both assets and revenues in the future when the terms of those contracts or agreements are met.

	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2020
Contractual rights from loan guarantee contract	\$ 4,026	\$ -
	\$ 4,026	\$ -

Estimated amounts that will be received or receivable for each of the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

	Contracts	
2021-22	\$	335
2022-23		336
2023-24		335
2024-25		336
2025-26		335
Thereafter	<u>2,349</u>	
	\$	<u>4,026</u>

#### Note 8 DUE FROM/TO GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

(in thousands)

	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2020
Due from the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000
Due to the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 69	\$ 1,125

# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Note 8 DUE FROM/TO GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA Con'd

Amounts due from the Department of Indigenous Relations are in respect of the fourth quarter grant revenue of \$1,500 recognized but not received. The amount due of \$69 to the Department of Indigenous Relations is in respect of expenses charged by the Department to the AIOC and was settled after March 31, 2021.

### Note 9 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER ACCRUED LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2020
Accounts payable	\$ 56	\$ -
Unearned revenue	1,168	-
Other accrued liabilities	234	-
	\$ 1,458	\$ -

Unearned revenue includes the unrecognized portion of fees received related to loan guarantees that will be recognized over the term of the loan guarantee. During the year ended March 31, 2021, AIOC received fees related to the issuance and administration of loan guarantees totaling \$1,758 (2020 \$-)

### Note 10 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The AIOC has the following financial instruments: accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The AIOC has exposure to the following risks from use of financial instruments:

#### (a) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk the AIOC will not be able to meet its obligations as they fall due. Liquidity risk is associated with the AIOC's financial liabilities. The AIOC's exposure to liquidity risk arises due to its cash flow requirements to fulfill payment of its account payable and accrued liabilities. The AIOC manages this risk by obtaining adequate funding from the Department of Indigenous Relations.

### Note 11 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At March 31, 2021, the AIOC was not named as defendant in any specific legal actions and there are no other known contingent liabilities.

Pursuant to an agreement dated August 27, 2020, the AIOC provided a loan guarantee of \$93 million ("Cascade Loan Guarantee") in favour of ATB Financial as Agent and other Secured Creditors ("Creditor Group") to enable a consortium of six Alberta First Nations ("First Nations Group") participation in the Cascade Power Project ("Cascade"). In the event there is a breach of loan conditions between the Creditor Group and the First Nations Group and that breach remains uncured, the Creditor Group has a right against AIOC to call on the

# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Note 11 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES Con'd

Cascade Loan Guarantee up to a maximum value of \$93 million to offset any losses incurred by the Creditor Group with respect to amounts loaned by the Creditor Group to the First Nations Group in respect of Cascade. AIOC's obligation under the Cascade Loan Guarantee in turn is guaranteed by the Government of Alberta. As of the date of these financial statements, there have been no known breaches that could lead to a call on the Cascade Loan Guarantee.

### Note 12 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

(in thousands)

Contractual obligations are obligations of AIOC to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of the contracts or agreements are met.

	2021	2020
Obligations under operating leases contracts and programs	\$ 573	\$ -

Estimated payment requirements for each of the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

Operating leases, contracts and programs	
2021-22	\$ 203
2022-23	130
2023-24	128
2024-25	83
2025-26	29
Thereafter	-
	<u>\$ 573</u>

### Note 13 BENEFIT PLAN

(in thousands)

The AIOC provides benefits whereby it makes available contributions for Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) on behalf of employees of the AIOC. The contributions are calculated based on a fixed percentage of the employee's salary to a maximum of the RRSP contribution limit as specified in the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*. The expense of \$86 (2020-\$14) included in these financial statements represents the current contributions made on behalf of these employees.

# Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Note 14 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (in thousands)

	Furniture & Equipment	Computer Hardware & Software	Leaseholds	2021 Total	2020 Total
Estimated Useful Life	5 years	3 years	4 Years		
Historical cost					
Beginning of year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Additions	55	77	18	150	-
	55	77	18	150	-
Accumulated amortization					
Beginning of year	-	-	-	-	-
Amortization expense	1	6	1	8	-
	1	6	1	8	-
Net Book Value at March 31, 2021	\$ 54	\$ 71	\$ 17	\$ 142	\$ -
Net Book Value at March 31, 2020	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

### Note 15 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (in thousands)

	Unrestricted surplus	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2020
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 875	\$ 875	\$ -
Annual surplus	4,188	4,188	875
Balance at end of year	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	\$ 875

### Note 16 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the AIOC provided Frog Lake First Nation ("Frog Lake") with a \$27 million loan guarantee to support Frog Lake's ownership of a cogeneration facility.

## Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Notes to the Financial Statements

**Note 17    COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

Certain prior period figures have been reclassified, where necessary, to conform to the current year presentation.

**Note 18    APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Board of Directors approved the financial statements of the AIOC.



## Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

### Schedule 1 – Expenses – Detailed by Object

	For the Twelve Months ended March 31, 2021		For the Four Months ended March 31, 2020 <sup>(1)</sup>
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,010	\$ 112
Supplies and services	2,250	1,429	413
Grants	6,000	118	600
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 14)	-	8	-
Total expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,565	\$ 1,125

1) The Department of Indigenous Relations settled expenses incurred during the period on behalf of the AIOC.

## Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Schedule 2 – Salary and Benefits Disclosure

	For the Twelve Months ended March 31, 2021			For the Four Months ended March 31, 2020	
	Base salary <sup>(1)</sup>	Other cash benefits <sup>(2)</sup>	Other non-cash benefits <sup>(3)</sup>	Total	Total
<i>(in thousands)</i>					
<b>Board of Directors</b>					
Chair <sup>(4 5)</sup>	\$ -	\$ 31	\$ -	\$ 31	8
Board Members <sup>(4 5)</sup>	-	73	-	73	22
<b>Executive</b>					
Chief Executive Officer <sup>(6)</sup>	145	-	43	188	-
Acting Chief Executive Officer	110	-	19	129	82
Chief Operating Officer <sup>(7)</sup>	105	-	23	128	-
Chief Investment Officer <sup>(8)</sup>	120	-	26	146	-
Vice-president Engagement <sup>(9)</sup>	25	-	5	30	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 505</b>	<b>\$ 104</b>	<b>\$ 116</b>	<b>\$ 725</b>	<b>\$112</b>

Other than honoraria referenced below, the Chair and Members of the Board receive no remuneration for participating on the Board.

- (1) Base salary includes regular salary.
- (2) Other cash benefits include honoraria payments. There were no bonuses paid in 2021.
- (3) Other non-cash benefits include employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including RRSP, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, car allowance, training fees, conference fees and fair market value of parking.
- (4) The board was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council by Order in Council on January 27, 2020.
- (5) Remuneration and expenses of the Board are prescribed as that specified in Schedule 1, Part A of the Committee Remuneration Order.
- (6) Position filled on September 1, 2020.
- (7) Position filled on October 16, 2020. Prior to this role, the incumbent filled the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer.
- (8) Position filled on October 8, 2020.
- (9) Position filled on February 15, 2021.

## Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

### Schedule 3 – Related Party Transactions

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Government of Alberta's Consolidated Financial Statements. Related parties also include key management personnel and close family members of those individuals in the AIOC. There were no transactions between the AIOC and its key management personnel or close family members during the year.

The AIOC had the following transactions with related parties reported in the Statement of Operations and the Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties. The amount of \$69 payable to the Department of Indigenous Relations was paid after March 31, 2021.

	<u>For the Twelve Months ended March 31, 2021</u>		<u>For the Four Months ended March 31, 2020</u>	
	<u>Entities in the Ministry</u>	<u>Other Entities</u>	<u>Entities in the Ministry</u>	<u>Other Entities</u>
	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
<b>Revenues</b>				
Grants from the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ -
	<u>\$ 6,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Other Services	180	114	-	32
	<u>\$ 180</u>	<u>\$ 114</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 32</u>
<b>Receivable from</b>				
Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 1,500	-	\$ 2,000	-
<b>Payable to</b>				
Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 69	\$ -	\$ 1,093	\$ -
Energy Efficiency Alberta	-	-	-	32
	<u>\$ 69</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,093</u>	<u>\$ 32</u>

*Other Financial Information*

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## Statement of Credit or Recovery

### Department of Indigenous Relations Year Ended March 31, 2021 *In thousands*

The following has been prepared pursuant to Section 24(3) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

	Authorized <sup>(2)</sup>	Actual Revenue Recognized <sup>(3)</sup>	Unearned Revenue <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Actuals <sup>(4)</sup>	(Shortfall)/ Excess
EXPENSE AMOUNT					
First Nations Development Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 135,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,603	\$ 71,397
	\$ 135,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,603	\$ 71,397

<sup>(1)</sup> Revenue from government-owned slot machines located at licensed First Nations casinos is used for the First Nations Development Fund grant program which supports First Nations to create social, economic and community development projects their communities need. Program 4.

<sup>(2)</sup> Only expenditures are authorized.

<sup>(3)</sup> The revenue is collected by the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission which falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance and is not included in this schedule or in Indigenous Relations Statement of Operations.

<sup>(4)</sup> The actual expenses presented in this schedule are included in the Ministry's Statement of Operations.

## Lapse/Encumbrance

## Department of Indigenous Relations

Year Ended March 31, 2021

In thousands

	Voted Estimate <sup>(1)</sup>	Supplementary Estimate <sup>(2)</sup>	Adjustments <sup>(3)</sup>	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actual <sup>(4)</sup>	Over Expended (Unexpended)
<b>EXPENSE VOTE BY PROGRAM</b>						
<b>Program - Operational</b>						
<b>1. Ministry Support Services</b>						
1.1 Minister's Office	\$ 870	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 870	\$ 672	\$ (198)
1.2 Deputy Minister's Office	693	-	-	693	579	(114)
1.3 Strategic and Corporate Services	3,316	-	-	3,316	2,897	(419)
	<u>4,879</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,879</u>	<u>4,148</u>	<u>(731)</u>
<b>2. First Nations and Métis Relations</b>						
	<u>15,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,055</u>	<u>13,468</u>	<u>(1,587)</u>
<b>3. Indigenous Women's Initiatives</b>						
	<u>1,355</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,355</u>	<u>1,138</u>	<u>(217)</u>
<b>4. First Nations Development Fund</b>						
	<u>135,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>135,000</u>	<u>63,603</u>	<u>(71,397)</u>
<b>5. Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal</b>						
	<u>1,171</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,171</u>	<u>988</u>	<u>(183)</u>
<b>6. Consultation, Land and Policy</b>						
6.1 Program Support and Land Claims	2,348	-	-	2,348	1,633	(715)
6.2 Aboriginal Consultation Office	5,526	-	-	5,526	4,887	(639)
6.3 Strategic Engagement and Policy Innovation	9,884	-	-	9,884	9,477	(407)
	<u>17,758</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,758</u>	<u>15,997</u>	<u>(1,761)</u>
<b>8. Investing in Canada Infrastructure</b>						
	<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>(5)</u>
<b>9. Land and Legal Settlement</b>						
	<u>7,670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,670</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>(7,557)</u>
<b>10. Indigenous Litigation Fund</b>						
	<u>9,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,750)</u>
<b>12. Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation</b>						
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>(4,000)</u>
<b>Program - Capital Grants</b>						
2. First Nations and Métis Relations	7,100	-	-	7,100	7,100	-
8. Investing in Canada Infrastructure	11,678	-	-	11,678	1,444	(10,234)
	<u>18,778</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,778</u>	<u>8,544</u>	<u>(10,234)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 221,516</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 221,516</u>	<u>\$ 114,094</u>	<u>\$ (107,422)</u>
Lapse						<u>\$ (107,422)</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" pages 127-135 of the 2020-21 Government Estimates.

<sup>(2)</sup> Per the Supplementary Supply Estimates approved on December 9, 2020.

<sup>(3)</sup> Adjustments include encumbrances, capital carry over amounts, transfers between votes and credit or recovery increases approved by Treasury Board and credit or recovery shortfalls. An encumbrance is incurred when, on a vote-by-vote basis, the total of actual disbursements in the prior year exceed the total adjusted estimate. All calculated encumbrances from the prior year are reflected as an adjustment to reduce the corresponding voted estimate in the current year.

<sup>(4)</sup> Actuals exclude non-voted amounts as no cash disbursement is required (non-cash amounts), or because the Legislative Assembly has already provided the funding authority pursuant to a statute other than an appropriation act. Non-cash amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments are excluded as these amounts do not require any expenditure or payment of public money.

## Lapse/Encumbrance

### Department of Indigenous Relations

Year Ended March 31, 2021

In thousands

	Voted Estimate <sup>(1)</sup>	Supplementary Estimate <sup>(2)</sup>	Adjustments <sup>(3)</sup>	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actual <sup>(4)</sup>	Over Expended (Unexpended)
<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT VOTE BY PROGRAM</b>						
<b>1. Ministry Support Services</b>						
1.3 Strategic and Corporate Services	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ (25)
Total	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ (25)
<b>Lapse</b>						\$ (25)
<b>FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS VOTE BY PROGRAM</b>						
<b>7. 2013 Alberta Flooding</b>						
7.1 First Nations Housing	\$ 3,000	\$ 500	\$ (1,389)	\$ 2,111	\$ 1,972	\$ (139)
Total	\$ 3,000	\$ 500	\$ (1,389)	\$ 2,111	\$ 1,972	\$ (139)
<b>Lapse</b>						\$ (139)

<sup>(1)</sup> As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" pages 127-135 of the 2020-21 Government Estimates.

<sup>(2)</sup> Per the Supplementary Supply Estimates approved on December 9, 2020.

<sup>(3)</sup> Adjustments include encumbrances, capital carry over amounts, transfers between votes and credit or recovery increases approved by Treasury Board and credit or recovery shortfalls. An encumbrance is incurred when, on a vote-by-vote basis, the total of actual disbursements in the prior year exceed the total adjusted estimate. All calculated encumbrances from the prior year are reflected as an adjustment to reduce the corresponding voted estimate in the current year.

<sup>(4)</sup> Actuals exclude non-voted amounts as no cash disbursement is required (non-cash amounts), or because the Legislative Assembly has already provided the funding authority pursuant to a statute other than an appropriation act. Non-cash amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments are excluded as these amounts do not require any expenditure or payment of public money.

## *Annual Report Extracts and Other Statutory Reports*

### *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection Act)*

Section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* reads:

- 32(1) Every chief officer must prepare a report annually on all disclosures that have been made to the designated officer of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature for which the chief officer is responsible.
- (2) The report under subsection (1) must include the following information:
- (a) the number of disclosures received by the designated officer, the number of disclosures acted on and the number of disclosures not acted on by the designated officer;
  - (b) the number of investigations commenced by the designated officer as a result of disclosures;
  - (c) in the case of an investigation that results in a finding of wrongdoing, a description of the wrongdoing and any recommendations made or corrective measures taken in relation to the wrongdoing or the reasons why no corrective measure was taken.
- (3) The report under subsection (1) must be included in the annual report of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature if the annual report is made publicly available.

There were no disclosures of wrongdoing filed with my office for your department between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.