

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Annual Report

Indigenous Relations

2019-2020

Indigenous Relations, Government of Alberta | Indigenous Relations 2019–2020 Annual Report

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Note to Readers: Copies of the annual report are available on the Alberta Open Government Portal website 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 21 ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta contains ministers' accountability statements, the consolidated financial statements of the province and *Measuring Up* report, which compares actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's strategic plan.

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.**

Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2020, 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 June 16, 2020, 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



It has been a privilege to serve as Minister of Indigenous Relations. Throughout the year, I have been able to visit more than 20 Indigenous communities, and my plan is to visit more of you when it is safe to do so.

Some leaders have left their positions during this time, and I extend my deep thanks to you for your guidance, time, sacrifices and compassion. For those Chiefs, Chairs and councillors who have recently taken on a new role, thank you for embracing the call to lead, especially as Alberta continues to face extraordinary challenges.

In this past year, Indigenous Relations has taken monumental steps to meet the government's priorities for shared prosperity with Indigenous Peoples, getting people back to work, revitalizing Alberta's economy and reducing red tape.

I am especially proud of the actions we took to fulfil our commitment to ensure greater prosperity for Indigenous Peoples in Alberta through the establishment of the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC).

The AIOC was formed to improve opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to invest in Alberta's natural resources sectors and build community prosperity. This \$1 billion backstop reduces barriers Indigenous communities face when accessing capital, ensuring they can benefit from the wealth of resources that lie on and beneath the lands they have called home for generations.

Establishing this first-of-its-kind corporation involved engaging with Indigenous, business and industry leaders, passing legislation and appointing a board of directors. I look forward to the AIOC opening its doors and doing business very soon.

In addition to the AIOC, our ministry took another bold step with the Indigenous Litigation Fund.

The \$10 million fund supports Indigenous voices in legal actions that affect responsible resource development in Alberta. It will help Indigenous communities like the Woodland Cree First Nation, who received the first grant to intervene in support of the Alberta government's constitutional challenge of Bill C-69, the *Impact Assessment Act*.

In fulfilling government priorities, we are also working on a series of actions to reduce red tape within our ministry. The Aboriginal Consultation Office updated and released the Government of Alberta's Proponent Guide to First Nations and Metis Settlement Consultation Procedures as part of the provincial Red Tape Reduction initiative. The guide clarifies existing steps and requirements, reduces administrative burden and provides best practices for industry applicants.

Underlying all of our actions is a real desire to build a true partnership with Indigenous leaders, which is also a priority for Premier Jason Kenney.

It has been my pleasure to sit with the Premier and Indigenous leaders multiple times to address mutual concerns and priorities. One of my ministry's first actions was to bring the Premier and the

Chiefs of Treaties 6, 7 and 8 together in an open forum, which had not occurred in the previous five years.

Métis people contribute to Alberta's economic, cultural and social life; and the Premier and I were also pleased to meet with the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Metis Settlements General Council to discuss their priorities and issues.

Last fall, I joined the Premier and the Chiefs of the Blackfoot Confederacy to renew the Alberta-Blackfoot Confederacy Protocol Agreement to work on agreed-upon issues ranging from education to environment and lands to economic development. We look forward to signing new protocol agreements in the coming year.

It has also been my privilege to meet some extraordinary individuals who are members of the government-appointed First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security. In addition, I have met Indigenous women whose day-to-day work helps women and girls in ways that include escaping violent situations to building better futures for themselves.

Some of these women, along with three Members of the Alberta legislature, have been appointed to the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Women. The working group will lead the critical work of developing Alberta's response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Indigenous women and girls need to know their government stands with them and hears their voices. This working group is integral to fulfilling our commitment to build an Alberta where Indigenous women and girls are valued, respected and lead lives filled with hope and promise.

Indigenous communities, alongside all Albertans, have faced the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19. Many communities also faced flooding emergencies with great resiliency. I want to once again emphasize the great work that many communities have done to prepare and respond to outbreaks and emergencies and to protect their members. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with all those affected.

In the days and months ahead, we will continue to reopen the province and shift to economic recovery. I know that we will continue to partner toward shared prosperity, rebuilding the economy, getting people back to work and building a promising and secure future for all Albertans.

I look forward to a productive and exciting year of partnership ahead.

[Original Signed By]

*Honourable Richard 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 and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation as of March 31, 2020.

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, including the financial information and performance results. The financial information and performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgements. 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 2019.

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 give 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

June 16, 2020

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 Women's Council on Economic Security, the Métis Women's Council on Economic Security and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation. The Department acts as a central point for the province's relationship with First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments, communities and organizations in Alberta.

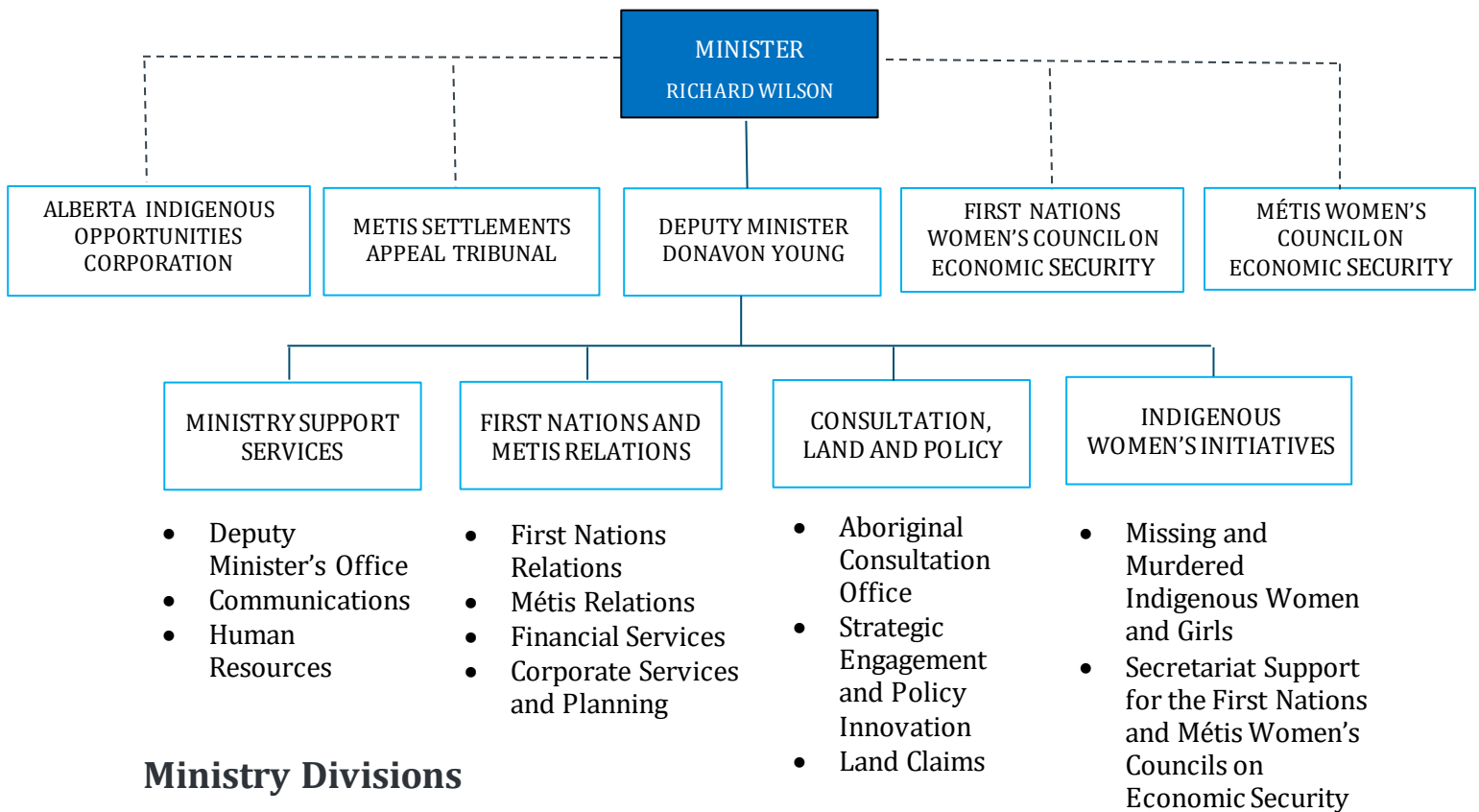
The Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that promotes self-governance, certainty and respect within the Metis Settlements through adjudication, mediation and education. The Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal operates at arm's length and is accountable to the Department of Indigenous Relations.

The First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security report to the Minister of Indigenous Relations and provide recommendations to government on how to improve the economic security of Indigenous women, their families and communities in Alberta.

Indigenous Relations provides opportunities for Indigenous ownership of major resource projects, advocates for responsible resource development and provides capacity support for Indigenous communities to participate in Alberta's consultation processes. More specifically, the ministry provides oversight to the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, a Crown corporation that works towards Indigenous groups' ownership in major resource projects.

Indigenous Relations provides expert advice, guidance and specialized knowledge to other Government of Alberta ministries to enhance the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programs and initiatives. The ministry leads the government's activities on fulfilling the duty to consult. Indigenous Relations also coordinates the province's participation in land-related negotiations with the federal government and First Nations toward settlement of outstanding land claims. Additionally, the ministry supports red tape reduction across all its programs and is taking action to make Alberta one of the freest and fastest-moving economies in the world.

Organizational Structure



Ministry Divisions

First Nations and Métis Relations

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

First Nations Relations

First Nations Relations builds government-to-government relationships with First Nations, which are formalized through protocol agreements that provide a framework for continued collaboration between the provincial government and First Nations in Alberta. The branch also provides advice and specialized knowledge to provincial departments, federal and municipal governments and industry, and participates in cross-ministry strategies affecting First Nations people. First Nations Relations also administers the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) grant program, which supports First Nations' economic, social and community development projects.

The branch builds partnerships between Indigenous communities, organizations, industry, other levels of government and non-Indigenous organizations to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the economy, through the administration of programs in economic development, and oversight of the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation.

In addition, First Nations Relations is the ministry lead on the First Nations Regional Drinking Water Tie-in Project and the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) projects.

Métis Relations

The Métis Relations branch coordinates the province's relationship with the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) and administers Alberta's unique Metis Settlements legislation. Indigenous Relations provides funding to the Metis Settlements, through the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement (LTA), and works closely with them to support the governance, accountability and long-term sustainability of the Settlements. The branch coordinates 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. This is done by providing a process through which the parties cooperatively develop and implement initiatives to address the needs and aspirations of MNA members.

The branch also 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 Partnership Program, which supports labour force development activities, including skills training and employment to increase workforce participation for Indigenous Peoples in Alberta.

The branch also provides advice to the Minister, other departments and Indigenous communities on matters related to the Sixties' Scoop and administers funding to the Alberta Native Friendship Centres. Métis Relations leads the ministry's collaboration with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, in their response to emergencies and disasters affecting Indigenous communities, which includes emergency prevention and preparedness planning.

Financial Services

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

Corporate Services and Planning

The Corporate Services and Planning branch leads and manages a number of corporate processes on behalf of Indigenous Relations, including the business plan, annual report, enterprise risk management planning and reporting, performance measures development, as well as the ministry contribution to the Government of Alberta's Strategic Plan and Measuring Up Report. Business planning and annual reporting, in particular, are legislative requirements as stipulated by the *Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency Act* and are completed under the directions of Treasury Board and Finance.

Corporate Services and Planning also delivers services to the ministry regarding information management, business continuity planning and accommodations planning and management, with a number of activities involving operational planning internal to the department.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives

Indigenous Women's Initiatives leads department actions to improve social and economic outcomes for Indigenous women in Alberta. The division collaborates with Alberta government ministries on initiatives that affect Indigenous women and families. The division 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 and advances the Councils' advice and recommendations within government on ways to achieve greater economic security for Indigenous women, their families and communities.

The division serves as Alberta's lead in developing a provincial response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report (Final Report). Working with other Alberta government ministries and Indigenous women and organizations, the division coordinates the examination of provincial initiatives aimed at reducing violence against Indigenous women and girls.

Consultation, Land and Policy

The Consultation, Land and Policy division consists of three branches: 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.

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 ministries and regulators to ensure that Alberta's duty to consult is met before an approval or disposition is given, allowing for development of Alberta's land and natural resources in a way that respects the Treaty rights and traditional use activities of First Nations and traditional use activities and harvesting of Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis organizations. Each year, the ACO reviews thousands of regulatory applications for a wide range of developments, including oil sands, conventional oil and gas, pipelines, mining, forestry, parks, public infrastructure, and flood 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 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, and supports consistent, coordinated and efficient consultation processes through technology and tools, including the geodata mapping project, which works directly with Indigenous communities toward the development of consultation area maps.

The SEPI branch also supports and collaborates with ministries across the Government of Alberta and with federal, provincial and territorial government partners to ensure Indigenous perspectives in Alberta are reflected in policies, programs and initiatives. The branch provides advice, guidance, and specialized knowledge to provincial ministries and supports cross-government committees to ensure the voices of Indigenous Peoples are heard in the development of the Government of

Alberta's strategic and operational policies and economic initiatives. Additionally, the branch collaborates with the Government of Alberta's Executive Council to coordinate a whole-of-government response to federal Indigenous initiatives, policies and legislation that impact Indigenous Peoples and Albertans. This allows the branch to oversee a strategic approach by the Government of Alberta to building and maintaining relationships that contribute to ensuring that Indigenous Peoples share in the economic 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 to allow the federal government to settle outstanding Treaty obligations with First Nations in regards to the provision of land for reserves.

Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Other Organizations

Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

The *Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) Act* received Royal Assent on November 26, 2019. The AIOC is a first-of-its-kind Crown corporation that operates at arm's length from government, with a mandate to facilitate job creation and investment by Indigenous groups in mid-to large-scale natural resource projects, and related infrastructure.

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. 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 in regards to matters including membership, land and surface access. MSAT is comprised of seven members: three appointed by the Minister of Indigenous Relations, three appointed by the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) and a chair appointed by the Minister of Indigenous Relations from a list provided by the MSGC. The department provides funding, administrative support and staffing. The current Chair of MSAT is Floyd Thompson, a member of Kikino Metis Settlement. Pursuant to the

Metis Settlements Act section 211, MSAT produces its own annual report, which is tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

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. 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.

Discussion and Analysis of Results

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

Key Objectives

1.1 Establish and provide oversight for the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation to work towards Indigenous Peoples' ownership in major resource projects.

The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) was established to support Indigenous communities seeking to make medium-to-large scale investments in major resource projects by addressing long-standing barriers to accessing capital and expertise.

To support the development of the AIOC legislation, Indigenous Relations led eight Ministerial engagements with nearly 200 leaders from Indigenous communities, the financial sector and natural resource development industry stakeholders. The Ministerial Advisory Committee, a group of investment and business professionals, was established to help guide the Honourable Richard Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations, through the early stages of development of the AIOC. On November 26, 2019, the *Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act* received Royal Assent.

Indigenous Relations supported board recruitment with the Public Agency Secretariat. In alignment with the *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act*, Premier Jason Kenney announced AIOC Board of Directors publicly on January 27, 2020. The ministry continues to collaborate with the AIOC Board of Directors on preliminary documents to ensure policy and regulatory framework supports. These documents include the Mandate and Roles, and Planning and Reporting Guidelines documents, which support the day-to-day operations of the AIOC going forward.

A list of the AIOC's Board of Directors is available at <https://www.theaioc.com/board>

The ministry also developed an approach to funding that allows the AIOC to set up and manage its operations, including the provision of capacity grants to Indigenous communities, and establishes effective ministerial oversight of the AIOC. To support this approach in 2019-20, the ministry funded \$2 million to the AIOC. This oversight, which is an ongoing role for Indigenous Relations, requires regular reporting by the AIOC to ensure that its regulatory requirements are adhered to, that it exhibits prudent financial management with respect to its operating funds and investments it supports on behalf of the Government of Alberta, and that it is robustly 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 member of the board. This role not only provides oversight to the AIOC, but also supports the AIOC to fulfil its mandate.

1.2 Establish and administer the \$10 million Indigenous Litigation Fund to support Indigenous Peoples' advocacy for responsible resource development that advances Alberta's interests.

In August 2019, the Government of Alberta created Alberta's Indigenous Litigation Fund. This Fund is a one-time commitment of \$10 million, anticipated to be distributed over two fiscal years (2019-2020 and 2020-2021).

The Litigation Fund was created to address the unique needs of Indigenous communities in Alberta who might not have the financial means to litigate for responsible resource development in their communities. For these communities and the organizations that support them, responsible resource development benefits them in various ways, especially in its ability to increase Indigenous participation in the economy.

The Indigenous Litigation Fund is unique in Canada in addressing a significant gap in access to financial support for Indigenous communities who support responsible resource development.

A streamlined grant review and approval process was created to minimize red tape for applicants while ensuring successful proposals met all the government's established financial guidelines and criteria. The first application to proceed successfully through the established review process was awarded on February 26, 2020 to the Woodland Cree First Nation for \$187,688. This grant will support the Woodland Cree First Nation to intervene in the province's court challenge to the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (Bill C-69).

The federal *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) replaces the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, (CEAA 2012). The legislation overhauls the federal environmental assessment system and is seen by the Government of Alberta as adding an unnecessary additional layer of red tape for the provincial natural resource sector. The Woodland Cree First Nation's support of the Government of Alberta's constitutional challenge to the IAA launched in September 2019 will ensure the Indigenous community's perspective is considered by the courts when they assess whether the federal government was acting within its Parliamentary authority in respect to Bill C-69, or whether the federal government infringed upon provincial jurisdiction.

The ministry will continue to provide funding in 2020-21 to enable Indigenous communities to apply for grants to support their efforts.

Indigenous Relations, along with Treasury Board and Finance, will continue to provide oversight to the Indigenous Litigation Fund to ensure reporting requirements, policy and legislation are adhered to.

1.3 Lead Alberta's legal duty to consult, including advocating for a streamlined federal Aboriginal consultation process to provide clear timeline and legal certainty for project proponents and Indigenous communities, and adding promotion of economic development to the preamble of Alberta's Indigenous consultation policies.

Indigenous Relations leads the Government of Alberta's adherence to policies on consultation in relation to land management and natural resource development with First Nations and Metis Settlements.

The Government of Alberta is committed to reconciliation through ensuring First Nations and Metis Settlements are able to participate in the pursuit of economic development opportunities enjoyed by all Albertans. To reflect this commitment, the Government of Alberta amended the preamble of *The Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management, 2013* and *The Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with Metis Settlements on Land and Natural Resource Management, 2015*. The amendment to the preamble added a new statement that reads: "Additionally, the provincial government strives to ensure [First Nations/Metis Settlements] have the chance to benefit from economic development opportunities and to enjoy Alberta's prosperity."

Indigenous Relations requested feedback on the proposed amendment from all First Nation Chiefs and Metis Settlement Chairs in January 2020. After considering the input provided, the Government

of Alberta proceeded with the amendment. The policy amendments were published on Indigenous Relations' website on April 1, 2020. In fulfilling this commitment, the Government of Alberta continues along the path of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Relations is committed to advocating for a federal Indigenous consultation process that provides clear timelines and legal certainty for project proponents, consistent with the federal government's constitutional obligations. Over the past year, Indigenous Relations corresponded with federal and provincial Ministers to advocate for a better process. The federal election in fall 2019 paused some of this activity. The advocacy process will be informed by provincial and territorial Ministers' efforts to develop a consensus on a national economic corridor that would include streamlined consultation processes. Talks continue with provincial governments, and the National Economic Corridor Report is anticipated early in the next fiscal year.

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 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 provided support by articulating Indigenous interests regarding the duty to consult, community engagement, economic development and Indigenous women's initiatives. The Report will be discussed at a future Council of the Federation meeting.

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

Indigenous Relations 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 Resources Transfer Agreement. These initiatives support responsible land and natural resource management that benefits all Albertans while respecting Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Types of Land Claims

In Alberta, there are three types of land claims:

- Comprehensive claims
- Specific claims
- Treaty Land Entitlement claims

Comprehensive Claims

Comprehensive claims arise where an Aboriginal title has not been extinguished by Treaty or legislation.

Specific Claims

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.

Comprehensive and Specific Claims are almost exclusively in the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada, so Alberta's role is limited.

Treaty Land Entitlement Claims

Treaty Land Entitlement claims arise where a Band has not received all of its reserve land, pursuant to the reserve clause of the Treaty.

Of the three types of claims, Alberta has the largest role in relation to Treaty Land Entitlement Claims, stemming from a constitutional obligation under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) (*Constitution Act*, 1930).

Treaty Land Entitlement Claims progress in 2019-20

Indigenous Relations coordinates Alberta's involvement in the negotiation and implementation of Treaty Land Entitlement claims. Treaty Land Entitlement claims are intended to settle an outstanding obligation for the provision of reserve land to those First Nations that did not receive all of the land they were entitled to under the reserve clause of a Treaty when their reserves were initially surveyed. Constitutionally, the resolution of land claims is a federal responsibility. Under paragraph 10 of the NRTA, *Constitution Act* (1930), Alberta has a constitutional obligation to transfer "unoccupied Crown lands" back to the federal government to enable Canada to fulfill its obligations under Treaties with First Nations.

Since 1986, Alberta has been successful in settling 14 Treaty Land Entitlement claims, the most recent of which was the Lubicon Lake Band settlement.

Alberta has a constitutional obligation to Canada under the *NRTA*. The only other avenue for resolution would be through the court system. Achieving negotiated settlements of Treaty Land Entitlement claims helps to foster relationships with First Nations and creates certainty for both governments and First Nations. This increased certainty can also serve to spur investment by business and industries related to resource development and other activities on Crown land.

Currently, there are four Treaty Land Entitlement claims accepted by Canada for negotiation in Alberta. These are:

- Fort McMurray First Nation (FMFN);
- Beaver (Boyer River) First Nation;
- Sunchild First Nation; and
- Stoney Nakoda Nation.

A Treaty Land Entitlement claim for Doig River First Nation has cross-border implications with British Columbia, as the First Nation is seeking approximately 5,000 acres of land in Alberta. Final agreements were being drafted in anticipation of a ratification vote by the First Nation in fall 2019. Progress was suspended by Canada with the call of the 2019 federal election.

1.5 Lead Alberta's response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

On June 3, 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry) released its Final Report, which contained 231 Calls for Justice directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians. Minister Wilson attended the closing ceremony in Gatineau, Quebec and accepted the Final Report on behalf of the Government of Alberta. Indigenous Relations led the development of Alberta's response to the National Inquiry's Final Report, with support from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women. The ministries began the process of collaboratively reviewing and analyzing the Final Report shortly after Minister Wilson received it. The initial review has been completed and will be brought to the Alberta Joint Working Group for further review and analysis.

Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

On March 5, 2020, the Government of Alberta formally responded to the National Inquiry Final Report when Minister Wilson and Minister Aheer of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women announced the establishment of the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Working Group). The following individuals were appointed to the Working Group on March 4, 2020 by Ministerial Order:

- Suzanne Life, co-chair, First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security;
- Rachelle Venne, chief executive officer, Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women;
- Josie Nepinak, executive director, Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society;
- Lisa Higgerty, co-chair, Métis Women's Council on Economic Security;
- Tracy Allard, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Grande Prairie;
- Martin Long, Member of the Legislative Assembly for West Yellowhead; and
- Whitney Issik, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Calgary-Glenmore.

The Working Group's mandate is to provide recommendations and advice to the Government of Alberta on actions that can be implemented to address the National Inquiry Final Report Calls for Justice and recommendations. The First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security, the Cross-Ministry Committee on the National Inquiry and a secretariat composed of officials from Indigenous Relations; Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women; and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General will support the Working Group to achieve its mandate.

Indigenous Relations continued to participate in a federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) working group on the National Inquiry throughout 2019-20. The working group amended its Terms of Reference following the release of the Final Report to focus on potential jurisdictional collaboration and information sharing. The work will help inform the development of a national action plan and facilitate information exchange on best practices for addressing violence against Indigenous women and girls. In addition, a Deputy Minister Federal Provincial Territorial (FPT) will work to provide strategic direction to the FPT working group.

Cross-Ministry Working Group on the National Inquiry

The Cross-Ministry Working Group met twice during 2019-20 to discuss the National Inquiry Final Report and Alberta's potential response. Indigenous Women's Initiatives continued to collaborate with its cross-ministry partners in the initial analysis of the National Inquiry Final Report.

Other Accomplishments

Sisters in Spirit Day

Each year on October 4, communities across Canada come together to honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and recognize Sisters in Spirit Day. On October 4, 2019, the Government of Alberta declared Sisters in Spirit Day in the Province of Alberta for the first time. At a vigil that day, Minister Wilson was presented with a red dress commissioned by Awo Taan Native Healing Lodge Society. Red dresses are displayed in public spaces to help honour, remember and raise awareness of the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The Minister accepted the red dress on behalf of the Government of Alberta, and on October 16, presented the red dress to his colleagues in the Legislature and spoke to the importance of addressing violence against Indigenous women and girls. The red dress was then placed in a display case at the Federal Building in Edmonton to raise public awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

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

First Nations Development Fund

The First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) is a Government of Alberta lottery grant program available exclusively to First Nations Band Councils in Alberta. The FNDF Grant Program is funded by a portion of revenues from government-owned slot machines located in First Nations' casinos in Alberta, and supports economic, social and community development projects in First Nations communities. Indigenous Relations delivers the FNDF Grant Program on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

The ministry works 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. Indigenous Relations continues to provide guidance and support on technical, administrative and delivery aspects of the FNDF program to First Nations, when required.

The 2019-20 FNDF lottery fund proceeds, excluding administration expenses, were \$103,102,576, which supported 337 economic, social and community development initiatives in First Nations across the province. First Nation Chiefs and Councils have implemented FNDF projects that support job readiness and job creation in First Nation communities. Some examples of these projects include:

- \$362,000 to support a Skills Training Program at Whitefish Lake First Nation;
- \$565,931 to support an Employment Readiness Program for community members between the ages of 18 to 24 at Tsuut'ina Nation;
- \$14,692,232 to support the construction of the two River Cree Crossing buildings at Enoch Cree Nation;
- \$147,000 to support the Capacity for Ermineskin Members Program at Ermineskin Cree Nation; and
- \$511,265 towards the start-up costs of a Fatburger Franchise at Enoch Cree Nation.

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

In 2018-19, the ministry conducted an internal review of the compliance review process to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its function. The internal review identified recommendations that were fully implemented in the following four First Nations in 2019-20: Beaver First Nation, O'Chiese First Nation, Kehewin First Nation, and Tallcree Tribal Government.

The enhanced compliance review function within the Ministry resulted in:

- significant cost savings, and less intrusion on the First Nations;
- less time spent in First Nations' offices analyzing their records and books of account, and more time spent in the ministry office; and
- a more streamlined process with various tools to support the work, while maintaining compliance with FNDF grant agreements.

In 2020-21, the FNDF Grant Program will enter its 14th year of operation. The 48 participating First Nations and the Government of Alberta, value the programs, which provides an opportunity to work together to address the economic, social and community development needs of First Nations in Alberta.

Employment Partnership Program

The Employment Partnership Program (EPP) supports labour force development activities, including skills and employment training to increase workforce participation for Indigenous Peoples in Alberta. The program primarily funds the Alberta Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program agreement holders, who partner with other organizations 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. In 2019-20, the EPP provided \$3.1 million towards 28 projects across Alberta. Through these projects, it is estimated that 271 Indigenous individuals in Alberta will receive direct training or employment supports, and more than 2,000 Indigenous community members and students will benefit from job fairs, labour market planning, and industry engagement events.

Some specific projects funded this year include a 12-week heavy equipment operator program; a hospitality and tourism program that combines hospitality and tourism courses, job-specific soft skills courses required for best-in-class service excellence; and a barbering program. As the funds were issued late in the 2019-20 fiscal year, many of the projects were anticipated to occur in early 2020-21; however, some may be postponed until later in the fiscal year, due to COVID-19.

Performance Measure: 1.a				
Number of Indigenous employment initiatives				
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Target 2019-20	Actual 2019-20
55	21	30	25	28

Performance Indicator: 1.b Percentage of off-reserve Aboriginal population (aged 15 years and over) unemployed compared to that of the non-Aboriginal population – percentage points higher (Actual)				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
5.9	5.9	4.3	4.1	4.5

Data for Performance Indicator 1.b is based on the monthly Labour Force Survey, which is generated by Statistics Canada.

Performance Indicator: 1.c Average employment income of Alberta's population aged 15 years and over who worked full-year, full time			
	2006	2011	2016
First Nations (Actual)	\$38,238	\$50,033	\$61,721
Métis (Actual)	\$46,293	\$60,296	\$69,889
Aboriginal Albertans (Actual)	\$43,003	\$55,668	\$66,254
Non-Aboriginal (Actual)	\$58,538	\$70,042	\$82,329

Data for Performance Indicator 1.c is based on Statistics Canada 2006, 2016 Census and the 2011 National Household Survey.

Performance Indicator: 1.d Percentage of Alberta's employed off-reserve Aboriginal population that has a university degree compared to that of the non-Aboriginal population (percentage points lower)				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
15.7	19.1	17.6	19.4	18.1

Data for Performance Indicator 1.d is based on the monthly Labour Force Survey, which is generated by Statistics Canada.

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

Key Objectives

2.1 Support the Red Tape Reduction Task Force in reducing administrative burden, increasing regulatory efficiencies and streamlining land and natural resource management.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations is committed to the ongoing review of programs and services to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes for Albertans. As part of this ongoing review, the ministry is committed to reducing red tape to make life easier for hard-working Albertans, including Indigenous Peoples, communities, and businesses. This includes reducing regulatory burden and unnecessary processes to encourage economic growth and job creation, and make Alberta's one of the freest and fastest-moving economies in the world.

In 2019-20, Indigenous Relations reviewed all regulatory requirements in its statutes, regulations, policies, and forms in place as of May 1, 2019, and undertook a baseline count to determine the number of requirements Albertans faced to access Indigenous Relations' programs and services. In the ministry's post-baseline count for the 2019-20 fiscal year, Indigenous Relations identified administrative efficiencies and regulatory reduction opportunities, meeting the Government of Alberta's four-year goal of one-third reduction within the first year.

A baseline count is the number of all in-scope regulatory requirements within a ministry that existed as of May 1, 2019. Any changes in the number of requirements since then are measured against the baseline number.

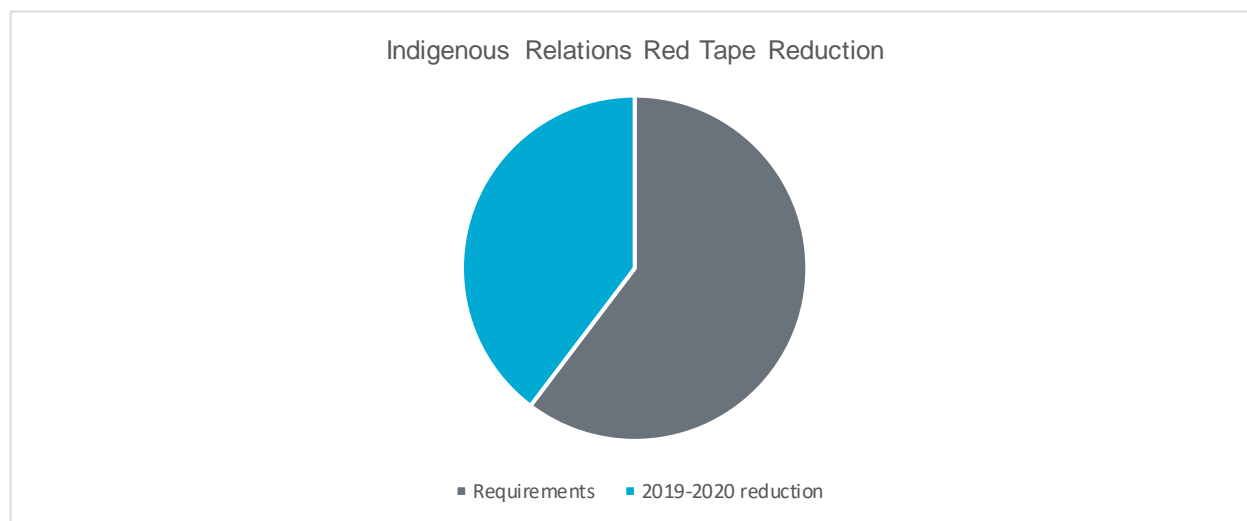


Figure 1. Indigenous Relations' Red Tape Reduction Efforts in 2019-20

To improve ministry programs and services by reducing regulatory burden, Indigenous Relations worked with industry panels, stakeholders and associations, and Indigenous communities to identify and implement key red tape reduction initiatives that contribute to reducing the ministry's overall red tape count. The ministry also reviewed public and community submissions for red tape reduction suggestions and took action where feasible. Additionally, Indigenous Relations undertook

internal reviews to identify opportunities for regulatory reductions and improved access to programs. Key initiatives implemented in 2019-20 included the following:

- Updating the Government of Alberta's Proponent Guide to First Nations and Metis Settlements Consultation Procedures, updates to the 2016 guide responded to suggestions for improvement to Indigenous consultation. This guide describes the current regulatory and consultation processes from an operational perspective to help improve confidence in the system, minimize duplication, and reduce regulatory timelines. This release marks the third major update to the proponent guide, with previous updates in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Educating clients on submission standards provides the Aboriginal Consultation Office with higher quality First Nations Consultation Adequacy decision requests, which aid in expediting the file review period.
- Training with proponents was conducted in January and February of 2020 for carrying out delegated consultation, in order to provide clarity on the Government of Alberta's expectations for proponents to deliver delegated consultation. Information sessions were also provided to First Nations and Metis Settlements.
- The Aboriginal Consultation Office, in partnership with Executive Council, Digital Innovation Office and Service Alberta, has collaborated on an innovative digital transformation project to develop a consultation digital service. The new online service will create a more efficient, transparent, and user-friendly way for industry proponents, First Nations, Metis Settlements, credibly asserted Métis organizations, and Government of Alberta staff to manage their Indigenous consultation files. The digitized service will reduce errors, duplication and administrative burdens. This project is currently in the beta release phase and the Aboriginal Consultation Office Digital Service has already begun providing users with improved tools for managing their consultation files. Phase 2 will involve implementing more improvements through 2020.
- The Aboriginal Consultation Office is working with the Alberta Energy Regulator to better harmonize processes through a joint committee to address regulatory gaps or overlaps, improve process efficiency, and reduce overall regulatory timelines.
- The Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP) has moved towards a more efficient multi-year agreement process that will save reporting time for Indigenous communities and will reduce Indigenous Relations' regulatory count.
- The First Nations Development Fund has simplified its application and guide, contributing to Indigenous Relations' regulatory count reduction and reducing the time Indigenous communities spend on paperwork.

These initiatives highlight some of the more substantial red tape reduction efforts pursued, as Indigenous Relations continues to explore opportunities for efficiencies and modernization throughout all of its programs and services to improve outcomes for Indigenous Peoples.

2.2 Collaborate with other Alberta government ministries to develop a unified response to federal Indigenous initiatives.

Through a variety of legislative and policy mechanisms, the federal government is attempting to redefine Indigenous rights in Canada. These efforts seem to present a major change in the Canadian legal and jurisdictional landscape.

Indigenous Relations is co-leading a cross-government working group with Intergovernmental Relations, with support from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, to identify and monitor the effects of these federal efforts on Alberta. As part of this whole-of-government approach to recent federal efforts, Indigenous Relations worked with Children's Services on the implementation of federal Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nation, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, which came into force on January 1, 2020. Indigenous Relations will work with all Government of Alberta ministries to manage the effects of federal efforts in the interests of all Albertans.

Indigenous Relations' supported this whole-of-government approach by arranging a February 2020 meeting between the Premier and Ministers from Children's Services, Justice and Solicitor General, and Indigenous Relations with First Nations Chiefs. This first-of-its-kind meeting resulted in a respectful discussion about the federal government's recent legislation and policies from the perspective of First Nations, and informed the Government of Alberta's response. The Premier also met with the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Metis Settlement General Council for a similar discussion.

2.3 Work with other government 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.

Indigenous Relations collaborates with Alberta Education and Health to carry out this mandate. Ministry representatives met with the First Nations Women's Economic Security Council and the Métis Women's Economic Security Council about this issue. They also monitor federal activities in relation to Indigenous health legislation, identify and receive advice on opportunities, potential effects and benefits for streamlining services.

Opportunities arise under the Government of Alberta's First Nations Protocol Agreements. The Minister of Indigenous Relations can use protocol agreement tables to have political discussions with Indigenous leaders. The Minister can also engage with Indigenous leaders through sub-tables on federal legislation and funding implications for technical and expert discussions with ministry staff

A sub-table is a sector-specific table that stems from a larger table, for example: a table on social issues could lead to a sub-table on women and children.

Sub-tables led by Alberta Health, and the Métis Nation of Alberta's Framework Agreement, seek to understand community health needs and gaps.

Alberta Community and Social Services (CSS) worked with First Nations to identify and remove barriers to the provisions of Persons with Developmental Disabilities programs on reserve. Indigenous Relations monitored the progress of the initiative to ensure targeted engagement and evaluation took place, and promoted discussions

with Indigenous Peoples that would identify and work toward reducing barriers and increasing access to the appropriate supports. This is an ongoing effort, and Indigenous Relations will continue to monitor the progress of the initiative through direct involvement, where needed, within communities across Alberta.

The Government of Alberta as a whole is working to increase access to supports for Indigenous families who have children with disabilities by working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and the disabilities community. The Alberta CSS leads this body of work with support from Alberta Children's Services and Indigenous Relations, whose role is to promote discussions with Indigenous Peoples. The ministry continues to monitor the progress of the initiative and become directly involved, where needed.

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

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

- high addiction rates on reserves; and
- rise of 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 ministries, the federal government and industry to provide advice, support and investment pathfinding for Indigenous communities and organizations.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

The Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta are working together to make long-term infrastructure investments through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). ICIP is based on three key objectives:

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

These projects will be cost-shared with the Government of Alberta, municipalities and other partners.

The ICIP is administered by Alberta Infrastructure. It is the responsibility of Indigenous Relations to manage the relationships with and provide support to Indigenous communities, and to assist with the federal application process.

Eligible organizations submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) application for funding under one of three streams:

- the Green Infrastructure stream for projects that protect the environment and support Canada's transition to a clean economy;
- the Community, Culture, and Recreation stream to support projects that build stronger communities and improve social inclusion; and
- the Rural and Northern Communities Stream to support projects that improve infrastructure in small, rural and remote communities.

The Government of Alberta conducted a coordinated review and decision-making process for applications submitted before intake closure on July 31, 2019.

In the 2019-20 fiscal year, Indigenous Relations evaluated 77 EOIs submitted by Indigenous communities in Alberta. The Government of Alberta continues to support eight provincially endorsed applicants with projects that will help to address key infrastructure needs identified by communities across the province.

The project timelines are based on these targets:

- Early 2020: Projects that are endorsed to proceed to the next stage will work with the province to submit a federal application; and
- Spring/Summer 2020: The target is to have federal approvals in place in time for the 2020 construction season; however, the federal application and approval process can take several months.



Figure 2. Expression of Interest for Funding Stages

Indigenous Tourism Strategic Partnership Initiative

In the last year, Indigenous Relations provided committee support and participated in the design, development and selection process to modify the Indigenous Services Canada Indigenous Tourism Strategic Partnership Initiative. The partnership is led by Indigenous Services Canada and includes Indigenous Tourism Alberta; Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism; Western

Economic Diversification Canada; the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada; and Travel Alberta. From 2019 to 2023, nearly \$3.1 million in federal initiative funding will help six selected Indigenous-owned businesses grow as authentic, sustainable and culturally rich Alberta Indigenous tourism experiences.

2.5 Advise other Alberta government ministries on Indigenous perspectives on policies, program and initiatives.

In 2019-20, Indigenous Relations provided support and guidance, and shared specialized knowledge on Indigenous issues at cross-ministry committee and working group meetings, as well as advocated for Indigenous women's and urban perspectives to be considered when developing and implementing government policies, programs and services. The ministry has supported cross-ministry committees this past fiscal year, including:

- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Cross-ministry Committee;
- Sexual Violence Knowledge Exchange Committee;
- Cross-ministry Committee on Gender Equality; and
- Interdepartmental Committee on Family Violence.

The ministry also supported the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General with the Victims of Crime Financial Benefits Program, and on human trafficking legislation.

The ministry supported Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women's Community Initiative Program as a grant review panel member. The Community Initiatives Program funds initiatives that enhance communities throughout Alberta.

Alberta Indigenous Intern Program

Indigenous Women's Initiatives leads the Alberta Indigenous Intern Program (AIIP). This program supports interns with their Government of Alberta jobs in various ministries and coordinates community placements with Indigenous or Indigenous-serving community partners.

The mission of the AIIP is to provide hands-on learning, work experience and professional development, and to support cultural exchange and relationship building between government, Indigenous people and stakeholders. The AIIP is a two-year program that includes a six-month community placement at an Indigenous or Indigenous-serving organization in the province of Alberta. Intake for the AIIP has been on hold since April 2019.

In August 2019, the ministry organized a recognition event for 32 interns from Cohort Two and Cohort Three of the AIIP who completed the internship program with the Government of Alberta.

The ministry continued to provide support to interns in AIIP Cohort Four by securing community placements with organizations such as the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women and the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations. Throughout the year, the ministry updated program policies and frameworks to enhance program features and outcomes. Indigenous Relations maintained relationships with municipalities (i.e., City of Edmonton and City of Calgary) to share information on issues and initiatives related to Indigenous Peoples in urban centres.

Investment Growth Strategy

The ministry supported the development of the Investment Growth Strategy with Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, which will create a framework to lead investment growth in key enabling sectors and improve Alberta's overall investment reputation. Indigenous Relations provided advice and support through the Stampede Investment Forum to encourage Indigenous participation.

Alberta Indigenous Natural Gas Technician Working Group

Indigenous Relations worked with Alberta Energy on the Alberta Indigenous Natural Gas Technician Working Group, which provides an opportunity to develop a shared understanding and establish an ongoing dialogue about the evolution of the natural gas development in Alberta, including the natural gas sector, markets, and other issues.

Technicians from interested regions, organizations, communities, and key agencies and ministries, including the Alberta Energy Regulator; Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism; and Indigenous Relations were brought together to develop a shared understanding of the evolving natural gas market and the opportunities for Indigenous participation.

Continuing Care Capital Program

Indigenous Relations provided advice and support to Alberta Health with respect to their ministry's Continuing Care Capital Program in Indigenous Communities. The Continuing Care Capital Program intends to establish continuing care beds on First Nations, or within a reasonable distance of a First Nation community, to support elder care.

Alberta Health will provide successful applicants with \$10,000 in grant funding if the organization submits a completed business case template. The template, along with the required documentation of needs assessments and funding supports, serves as the application for this competitive capital grant.

Framework agreements between Alberta Education and the Kee Tas Kee Now Education Authority and the Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

Indigenous Relations provides strategic advice to Government of Alberta ministries on appropriate protocols and methods to successfully plan, communicate and conduct engagements with Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Relations participated in committee work and provided support and advice to Alberta Education on, framework agreements between Alberta Government and the Kee Tas Kee Now Council Education Authority (KTCEA) and another with the Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESCC). These agreements are the first of their kind in Alberta, and provide an example for other First Nations to determine how they can collaborate to develop strategies for improving the educational outcomes of Indigenous students within their respective jurisdictions.

In 2019-20, Indigenous Relations participated in the joint minister annual meeting supporting the requirement for elected officials identified in the framework agreements.

Alberta Education's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Directorate is currently leading a ministry-wide working group to develop an approach with options for education services agreements standards to present to the Minister of Education. Indigenous Relations participated in committee work and

provided support and advice to Alberta Education and continues to provide assistance as requested and required.

Indigenous perspectives in land and natural resource policies, programs and initiatives

The ministry’s mandate includes *The Government of Alberta’s Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management (2013)* and associated *Guidelines (2014)*, and *The Government of Alberta’s Policy on Consultation with Metis Settlements on Land and Natural Resource Management (2015)* and associated *Guidelines (2016)*. These documents provide guidance for all parties involved in consultation, including Alberta ministries that consult with First Nations, Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis organizations on land and natural resource management decisions.

Indigenous Relations supports the implementation of consultation across the Government of Alberta by developing spatial analysis tools that support consistency in the application of Alberta’s consultation policies. Indigenous Relations also provides training to government employees to enhance cross-cultural awareness, as well as knowledge of Alberta’s consultation policies and guidelines.

The ministry leads and supports government engagements with Indigenous communities across a range of land and natural resource management priorities. In the fiscal year 2019-20, Indigenous Relations provided advice, guidance and specialized knowledge to 24 different initiatives led by ministries in the Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS), as illustrated below.

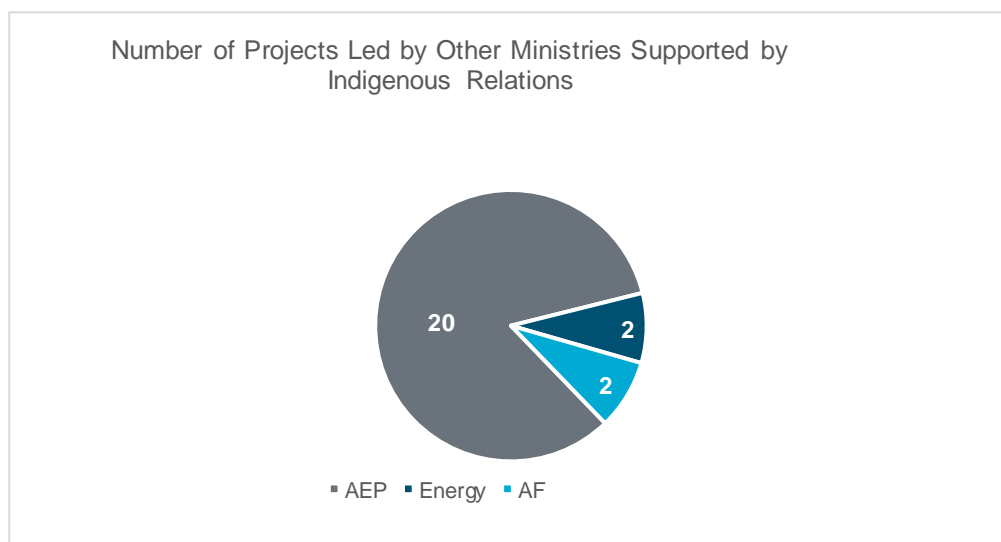


Figure 3: Number of Projects Led by Other Ministries Supported by Indigenous Relations

Note: AEP – Alberta Environment and Parks; AF – Alberta Forestry

Indigenous Relations supported the following priority initiatives during the last fiscal year:

- Caribou Sub-Regional Planning
Indigenous Relations has provided ongoing advice and extensive support to AEP to establish sub-regional task forces and develop the caribou sub-regional plans. The ministry

is the primary point of contact with Indigenous communities and organizations participating in caribou sub-regional planning. Ongoing opportunities for Indigenous inclusion in this priority initiative include 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.

- **Co-operative Management of the Ronald Lake Bison Herd**
The ministry participates on the Technical Team for the Ronald Lake Bison Herd (RLBH). This team provides scientific and conservation advice to support sustainable management of the RLBH in northeastern Alberta. This herd is one of three disease-free wood bison herds in Alberta, with enduring cultural significance to the Indigenous Peoples in the region. Indigenous Relations continues to advise and support cooperative management discussions with Indigenous groups, industry, and other parties interested in sustainable herd management.
- **Bow Basin Water Management Options**
Indigenous Relations supports AEP to explore options for flood and drought mitigation in southern Alberta. The ministry advised and provided engagement support to the early engagement work with potentially affected Indigenous communities.
- **Canada's Action Plan for Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP)**
Indigenous Relations is part of a Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) committee that, in collaboration with 11 Indigenous groups, developed an action plan in response to the UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission. A final action plan was submitted to the World Heritage Committee on February 1, 2019.

On July 3, 2019, the World Heritage Committee came to a decision to exclude WBNP on the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger. Indigenous Relations continues to provide strategic advice, engagement support and implementation recommendations to AEP as the FPT Committee implement Canada's Action Plan to protect the World Heritage Values of WBNP.

Indigenous Relations also supported other projects led by AEP, Alberta Energy, and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. This included providing strategic advice to AF's regional wildfire risk management plans, AEP fish and wildlife recovery and conservation policies and plans, AEP water management plans, and Alberta Energy policies on emerging technologies.

- **Strategic Relationships and Policies**
Indigenous Relations continued to support the development and implementation of regional land-use plans under the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* as an opportunity for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and perspectives in land and natural resource management.

The ministry also initiated discussions with partner ministries in the land and natural resource management context to explore new options for relationship-building that enhances inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in provincial policies, programs and initiatives. Indigenous Relations is piloting new approaches to this work in 2020.

Indigenous Relations continues to work collaboratively with other Government of Alberta ministries to ensure alignment in Alberta's response to federal Indigenous initiatives and legislation. Indigenous Relations monitors federal legislation and works with other ministries to identify potential implications for the Government of Alberta.

Other Accomplishments

Indigenous Learning Initiative

Indigenous Relations and the Public Service Commission (PSC) co-led the Indigenous Learning Initiative (ILI) and co-chaired the ILI Working Group, to begin the work of developing government-wide Indigenous training. Representatives from all ministries sat on the working group.

Gender Equality Week

During Gender Equality Week 2019 (September 23-27, 2019), Indigenous Relations had the highest percentage of Government of Alberta staff complete the online Gender Equality Quiz, winning the Gender Equality Brainiac Award for the government. On December 6, 2019, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women presented Indigenous Relations with the Gender Equality Brainiac Award Certificate.

From June 2019 to September 2019, Indigenous Relations prepared community visits to 10 First Nations, two Metis Settlements, one community event, and the Annual General Meeting of three Indigenous organizations.

2.6 Work with First Nations, the federal government, municipalities or water commissions and other government ministries to improve access to safe and clean drinking water.

In 2017, the Government of Alberta committed \$100 million to bring regional drinking water infrastructure to First Nation reserve boundaries, where feasible, and where the federal government has committed to building the required on-reserve water infrastructure.

The project is a collaboration between First Nations, the ministries of Alberta Transportation and Indigenous Relations, municipalities or water commissions, and the federal government.

The First Nations Regional Drinking Water Tie-In Project seeks to connect regional drinking water systems with federally supported on-reserve water infrastructure, in order to bring clean, safe and reliable drinking water to First Nations in Alberta. The project is opportunity-driven rather than application-based. Potential projects are identified based on community need, location of regional water systems in proximity to First Nations communities, and federal investment in corresponding infrastructure on-reserve. Many of the First Nations that will connect to regional drinking water systems will become either members or customers of their local regional drinking water commission. As such, this project also encourages partnerships between First Nations and their neighboring municipalities.

In 2019, the Government of Alberta reaffirmed this 2017 funding commitment. Alberta Transportation is responsible for the funding and is leading the project management aspects, while Indigenous Relations manages issues and relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities in Alberta. To date, there are 10 projects underway that are expected to benefit 14 First Nations:

- two projects are complete to reserve boundaries;
- two projects are in the construction phase;
- two projects are in the detailed design phase; and
- four projects are in the feasibility study phase (two feasibility studies were completed in 2019).

2.7 Collaborate with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency by leading the disaster response and recovery in Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Relations leads the recovery phase of a disaster event in Indigenous communities by helping community members to navigate government services and programs and by supporting a whole-of-government response, as required. The ministry also supports Alberta Infrastructure and engages with Indigenous communities to develop flood mitigation strategies in southern Alberta.

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

Indigenous Relations provided funding and administrative support to Siksika First Nation, to rebuild after the 2013 southern Alberta floods. In 2019, after six years of rebuilding, Siksika Nation completed construction of 138 houses lost during floods that affected over 700 Siksika members.

In 2019, Bigstone Cree Nation, Peerless Trout First Nation, Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement, Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement and Dene Tha' First Nation were affected by wildfires. Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement also experienced flooding. On August 16, 2019, Minister Wilson visited Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement to ensure Settlement members had resettled safely. Most of the impact to Indigenous communities was evacuation-related, except in Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement. Members evacuated from May 26 to June 20, 2019, and the community lost 25 structures to the Chuckegg Creek Wildfire, including 16 homes. On August 22, 2019, Minister Wilson visited the Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement to meet with community leadership and members.

Indigenous Relations and the Alberta Emergency Management Agency deployed staff to Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement to assist with the response and recovery of the Settlement. As recovery can be long-term, Indigenous Relations continues to monitor the Settlement's recovery, and assist them with ongoing issues.

COVID-19 Response

On March 17, 2020, the Province of Alberta declared a provincial health emergency, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Indigenous Relations supported the provincial response with participating on the Pandemic Response Planning Team, the COVID-19 Indigenous Coordination Committee and the Provincial Operations Centre. These efforts helped ensure the Government of Alberta includes and considers Indigenous issues and perspectives in planning. In addition, two internal committees were struck to proactively ensure clear communication with Indigenous communities during the pandemic response and their participation in the post-pandemic recovery.

Performance Measure: 2.a Percentage of Indigenous communities participating in an enhanced engagement process contributing to land-use planning				
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Target 2019-20	Actual 2019-20
61%	71%	73%	69%	53%

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

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 provincial government and First Nations in Alberta. Elected officials sign protocol agreements function as a broad umbrella agreement, under which meaningful discussion, information sharing and exploration of issues of mutual concern, such as economic development, health, education, environment, justice, child and family services.

On July 2, 2019, the Government of Alberta approved renewing existing protocol agreements with the 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.

Blackfoot Confederacy

On September 23, 2019, Premier Kenney and Minister Wilson renewed the Blackfoot Confederacy Protocol Agreement at a signing ceremony with the three Blackfoot Chiefs at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, in Siksika, Alberta. Senior officials from the Government of Alberta and the Blackfoot Confederacy are reviewing and updating existing work plans for protocol tables. These include Minister and Chiefs to approve the updated work plans in spring 2020. A new Child and Family Services Sub-table was created in January 2020 to address Child and Family Services issues in Blackfoot nations.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

In a February 18, 2020 letter to Premier Kenney, from Grand Chief Arthur Noskey, the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta indicated they were declining the invitation to renew their protocol agreement. These First Nations remain prepared to meet with the Government of Alberta to discuss this matter and other issues.

Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council

The Chief Executive Officer of the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council (also known as G4) provided Indigenous Relations with a finalized Protocol Agreement for review and consideration in January 2020. A planned protocol agreement signing was postponed, due to COVID-19.

Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations

In January 2020, the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations appointed a new Grand Chief for a one-year term. Indigenous Relations has been in discussions with the new Grand Chief William (Billy) Morin, with respect to signing a protocol agreement, and will be meeting with the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations to discuss next steps in spring 2020. Next steps were on hold due to COVID-19.

Other Accomplishments

Treaty No. 6 Recognition Day Ceremony

On August 23, 2019, Indigenous Relations hosted the first Treaty 6 Recognition Day Ceremony in Edmonton. Remarks were given by Her Honour, the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; Minister Wilson; His Worship Mayor Don Iveson, City of Edmonton; and Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild, Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations. Following remarks, Elder George Saddleback gave the opening prayer. The River Cree Drum Group performed an honour song and Grey Sky Lameman, Gena Lameman, and Tia Saddleback performed traditional dances. Minister Wilson presented a gift to Elder George Saddleback and to the Grand Chief, followed by a closing prayer.

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 in Alberta is integral to strong and vibrant communities fully participating in all matters that concern them.

Indigenous Relations led the coordination of the Annual Joint Meeting on June 10, 2019 between Premier Kenney and 13 members of Cabinet and all 48 First Nation Chiefs in Alberta, with 41 First Nations sending representation. Also in attendance were the Grand Chiefs of the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations and the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, and the Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief.

The initial meeting was successful as the Chiefs were able to present their issues and concerns to the new government. This was the first government-to-government meeting in five years between the Chiefs of Treaties 6, 7, and 8 and the Alberta Premier and Cabinet. The intent of the meeting was to establish a relationship rather than to develop work plans or resolve outstanding concerns.

A significant part of the discussion explored Indigenous participation in major energy projects, including the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation. Consensus was a commitment for the Government of Alberta and Chiefs to meet regularly to build a future of shared prosperity. Future meetings have not yet been scheduled due to COVID-19.

Additionally, on February 12, 2020, Premier Kenney with Minister Schulz (Children's Services), Minister Shandro (Health), and Minister Wilson, met again with First Nations Chiefs to discuss children in care in Alberta and Federal Bill C-92 (*an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*). All 48 First Nations' Chiefs were invited to attend the meeting, most of which sent representation. The Grand Chiefs of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, and the Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief also attended. The intent of this meeting was for the Government of Alberta to listen to First Nations' concerns.

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

The Alberta-Métis Nation of Alberta Framework Agreement promotes and facilitates the advancement of Métis people in Alberta, by providing a process through which the parties will work cooperatively to develop and implement methods and measures to address agreed-upon needs and aspirations of members, and to preserve Métis identity and cultural heritage throughout Alberta. The Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) priority areas include education and training, children's services, housing, environment and climate change, health and wellness, and justice.

Framework agreements encourage the MNA and other Government of Alberta ministries to enter into additional funding arrangements to support specific, mutually agreed-upon objectives through 'sub-agreements,' which contribute to the overall goals of the framework agreement.

On June 19, 2019, Minister Wilson met with the MNA provincial president to learn more about the MNA and the issues important to the organization and its members. At this meeting, both parties agreed to move forward strategically to focus on a few priorities that could allow for significant progress in select areas. To date, Indigenous Relations has facilitated meetings between the MNA and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General to discuss justice matters. The MNA will continue to meet with other government departments to continue discussing matters of mutual concern.

After a collaborative policy review with the MNA, the Metis Settlements General Council, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Indigenous Relations, the Government of Alberta introduced a revised Métis Harvesting in Alberta Policy on September 1, 2019. The newly revised policy includes four harvesting areas throughout north and central Alberta. An approved individual may practice in the harvesting areas to which they have an ancestral and contemporary connection. The MNA is jointly implementing the policy with the Government of Alberta, accepting and processing applications from its members.

Other Accomplishments

Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Annual General Assembly

On August 17, 2019, Minister Wilson brought greetings during the opening ceremonies of the MNA Annual General Assembly, hosted in St. Paul, Alberta. The meeting is an annual event for MNA members to discuss MNA business, and to gather and celebrate Métis culture.

Louis Riel Commemorative Ceremony

Every year on November 16, the Métis Nation of Alberta hosts a Louis Riel Commemorative Ceremony, and Minister Wilson spoke at the event in 2019. This is a major event during Métis Week in Alberta, symbolizing the commitment Métis people share in striving for and promoting the visions and dreams of Louis Riel.

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.

In April 2019, the ministry coordinated the Government of Alberta's annual report on its progress implementing past recommendations from the Councils. In response to a request from the Métis Women's Council on Economic Security, Indigenous Relations collaborated with other government ministries to develop an inventory of all Government of Alberta Indigenous advisory councils that

advise the government to ensure the Council is not duplicating work. The Indigenous Women's Initiatives division continues to support the Councils.

The Councils had meetings in October 2019 and March 2020 in Calgary and Edmonton. Minister Wilson attended and October council meetings and spoke about the Government of Alberta's priorities in regards to Indigenous Peoples, including the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation and the Indigenous Litigation Fund. Both Councils spoke to the importance of considering and including Indigenous women in government priorities. For more details, see Key Objective 1.1 for the AIOC and 1.2 for the Litigation Fund (pages 15 and 16).

In February 2020, the First Nations Council met to advance its 2020 priorities in the areas of mental health and addiction, and justice-related issues including human trafficking. In March 2020, the

Clare's Law, also known as *The Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence Act*, was introduced into legislation on October 16, 2019.

Métis Council met to advance its 2020 priorities, which include safety, health and economic development. The Métis Council also met with Government of Alberta officials to discuss Clare's Law, a government priority. Both Councils continue to play a key role in the Government of Alberta's response to the National Inquiry Final Report and have taken actions to support these priorities, including research, correspondence, receiving presentations and building relationships.

For more information on the National Inquiry Final Report, please reference key objective 1.5.

3.5 Work with the Metis Settlements General Council and the federal government on the long-term economic sustainability of Metis Settlements.

The downturn in the oil and gas industry has hindered the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) and Metis Settlements. While the Government of Alberta and the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) have made progress under the Long-term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement (LTA) to improve governance, accountability and sustainability, there is still work to be done, particularly in the areas of housing and infrastructure.

On July 10, 2019, ministry officials met with the MSGC Assembly and representatives of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. The meeting focused on potential trilateral discussions.

Minister Wilson reiterated Alberta's interest in trilateral discussions in a letter to the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and President Herb Lehr of the MSGC on August 1, 2019. The minister focused specifically on the long-term economic sustainability of the MSGC and Metis Settlements by proposing the creation of a technical team with representatives from each party to outline a process for trilateral discussions; and to explore ways to address long-term sustainability.

A Trilateral Working Group was established before the October 21, 2019 federal election. Representatives from the MSGC, Indigenous Relations and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada participate. The working group drafted terms of reference. Due to COVID-19, work has been placed on hold and meetings will be rescheduled.

3.6 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 government on Settlements that combines conventional aspects of municipal governments with the unique characteristics of the Settlements. The MSA was amended in 2004 and 2013; however, the Settlements have consistently expressed interest in further amendments.

In October 2019, Minister Wilson approved a proposed MSA amendments process and timeline, as well as the suggested guiding principles for discussions with the MSGC. Representatives from the MSGC and Indigenous Relations are developing terms of reference and a governance structure to support the process of developing a project plan for the MSA modernization. A detailed engagement plan will follow the project plan approval.

Amending the MSA will take a minimum of two years, and will include engagement with the MSGC and Settlement members. This process will ensure a comprehensive review of the MSA that includes the views of community members and elected leaders; review of the legal implications, development of proposed legislation and time for internal government processes to bring amendments to Cabinet by fall 2021.

Performance Measure: 3.a Number of Protocol Agreements renewed or developed				
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Target 2019-20	Actual 2019-20
n/a	n/a	0	2	1

Performance Indicator: 3.b Average employment income of Alberta's Aboriginal population aged 15 years and over who worked full-year, full time				
	2006	2011	2016	Updated every 5 years
Male (Actual)	\$50,131	\$63,933	\$78,079	
Female (Actual)	\$34,438	\$45,236	\$53,136	

Data for Performance Indicator 3.b is based on Statistics Canada 2006 and 2016 Census and the 2011 National Household Survey.

Performance Measure Methodology

Performance Measure 1.a: Number of Indigenous employment initiatives

Prior Years' Results				2019-20 Target	2019-20 Actual
2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19		
Not Available	55	21	30	25	28

This measure is calculated based on the number of approved projects for the program. Indigenous Skills Employment and Training Program agreement holders are eligible to receive funding through the Employment Partnerships Program (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.

Performance Measure 2.a:**Percentage of Indigenous communities participating in an enhanced engagement process contributing to land-use planning**

Prior Years' Results				2019-20 Target	2019-20 Actual
2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19		
Not Available	61%	71%	73%	69%	53%

The denominator is the number of Indigenous communities (First Nations & Metis Settlements) in Alberta. The numerator is the number of Indigenous communities participating in an enhanced engagement process in a calendar year. Participation is demonstrated by attendance at meetings of customized engagement processes, which are specific to each region. Alberta's Land Use Secretariat will report this number on regionally. Some communities are counted more than once, because they participate in land-use planning in more than one region. Indigenous Relations will report this number provincially, with each community counted only once. Indigenous Relations' measure is calculated 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 in Alberta

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

Prior Years' Results				2019-20 Target	2019-20 Actual
2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19		
Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	0	2	1

This measure is based on the signing of protocol agreements with the following organizations:

1. Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
2. The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations
3. The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council
4. The Stoney Nakoda – Tsuut'ina Tribal Council

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, 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 the Government of Alberta's 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 fully consolidated using the line-by-line method.

Under this method, accounting policies of the consolidated entities are adjusted to conform to government accounting policies 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 in this annual report.

Ministry Financial Highlights

Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited)

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020		2019	Change from	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	2019 Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>			<i>In thousands</i>	
Revenues					
Government Transfers					
Disaster Finance Assistance Arrangements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (177)	\$ -	177
Labour Market Development	3,100	3,100	1,920	-	1,180
Federal and Other Government Grants	100	95	3,500	(5)	(3,405)
Other Revenue	-	4,916	144	4,916	4,772
Ministry Total	3,200	8,111	5,387	4,911	2,724
Expenses – Directly Incurred					
Programs					
Ministry Support Services	4,311	4,962	4,723	651	239
First Nations and Métis Relations	27,146	19,955	36,099	(7,191)	(16,144)
Indigenous Women's Initiatives	1,411	1,144	1,134	(267)	10
First Nations Development Fund	123,000	104,424	117,147	(18,576)	(12,723)
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,177	1,133	1,140	(44)	(7)
Consultation and Land Claims	28,105	31,985	25,649	3,880	6,336
Investing in Canada Infrastructure – Green					
Infrastructure	100	95	-	(5)	95
Land and Legal Settlements	2,170	-	18,076	(2,170)	(18,076)
Indigenous Litigation Fund	5,000	188	-	(4,812)	188
Climate Change Initiatives	-	577	57,120	577	(56,543)
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities					
Corporation	6,000	1,125	-	(4,875)	1,125
Ministry Total	198,420	165,588	261,088	(32,832)	(95,500)
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	-	(41)	(77)	(41)	36
Adjusted Ministry Total	198,420	165,547	261,011	(32,873)	(95,464)
Annual Deficit	\$ (195,220)	\$ (157,436)	\$ (255,624)	\$ 37,784	\$ 98,188

Revenue and Expense Highlights

Revenue Highlights

- Total revenue was \$8.1 million in 2019-20, \$2.7 million higher than in 2018-19 and \$4.9 million higher than *Budget 2019*.
- In 2019-20, other revenue increased from *Budget 2019* mainly due to a liability adjustment of \$4.6 million resulting from the conclusion of repairing and rebuilding all Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nation homes affected by the 2013 Alberta floods.
- The change from 2018-19 included the liability adjustment of \$4.6 million and an increase of \$1.2 million in funding from the federal government for Alberta's Labour Market Transfer Agreements for Indigenous communities for Indigenous workforce development through the Employment Partnerships Program. These increases were offset by a \$3.5 million transfer from the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund.

Expense Highlights

- Total expense in 2019-20 was \$165 million, \$33 million lower than budgeted and \$95 million lower than 2018-19 actuals.
- The decrease from *Budget 2019* of \$33 million was primarily due to:
 - a decrease of \$19 million in funding provided through the First Nations Development Fund program resulting from lower gaming revenues collected from government-owned slot machines operating in First Nations casinos;
 - a reduction of \$5 million in spending by the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) resulting from the new corporation's proclamation in November 2019 and being operational for four months of the fiscal year. The AIOC aims to address the gap of Indigenous access to capital markets by offering a range of financial instruments to support medium- to large-scale Indigenous investments in natural resource projects;
 - a further reduction of \$5 million in spending on the newly established Indigenous Litigation Fund given fewer than anticipated applications were received in 2019-20. The Indigenous Litigation Fund supports Indigenous voices in legal and regulatory actions that affect responsible resource development in Alberta and increased market access. Unused Indigenous Litigation funding from 2019-20 has been deferred to 2020-21; and
 - a general reduction of \$2 million also comes from decreased spending on protocol agreements as well as the departmental fiscal restraint measures.
- With *Budget 2019* being released late in the 2019-20 fiscal year, funding for the following programs was delayed and resulted in additional reductions in spending`
 - \$5 million provided through the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) due to a delay in the call for applications; and
 - \$2 million in third-party Treaty Land Entitlement settlement cost payments as part of the Lubicon Lake Band and Bigstone Cree Nation land claims.

These reductions in spending were offset by unfunded pressures including \$4 million provided through the Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP) and \$1 million in funding provided through the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative program to successfully end the program.

- The decrease from 2018-19 of \$95 million was due to:
 - a \$56 million decrease in funding provided as part of the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative program, which concluded successfully in 2019-20;
 - a one-time payment of \$18 million paid in 2018-19 to settle a long-standing land claim between Government of Canada, the Province of Alberta and Lubicon Lake Band;
 - a decrease of \$13 million for the First Nations Development Fund program resulting from lower gaming revenues collected from government-owned slot machines operating in First Nations casinos;
 - a decrease of \$5 million in one-time funding provided in 2018-19 for the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) to support the operations of the MSGC and the Settlements;
 - a reduction of \$5 million provided through the ABIF program due to the delay in Budget 2019 being released leading to a suspended calls for applications for the year; and
 - a decrease of \$5 million provided through the Aboriginal Economic Partnerships program, the Urban Indigenous Initiatives Program, and other programs to support government's fiscal restraint measures and focus on the development and set up of the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) and the Litigation fund.

Those decreases were mainly offset by a \$6 million increase in funding provided through the Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP) and an increase of \$1 million in funding to support four months of the AIOC's operations as part of government's commitment to establish the AIOC in 2019-20.

Breakdown of Revenues (unaudited)
For the year ended March 31, 2020

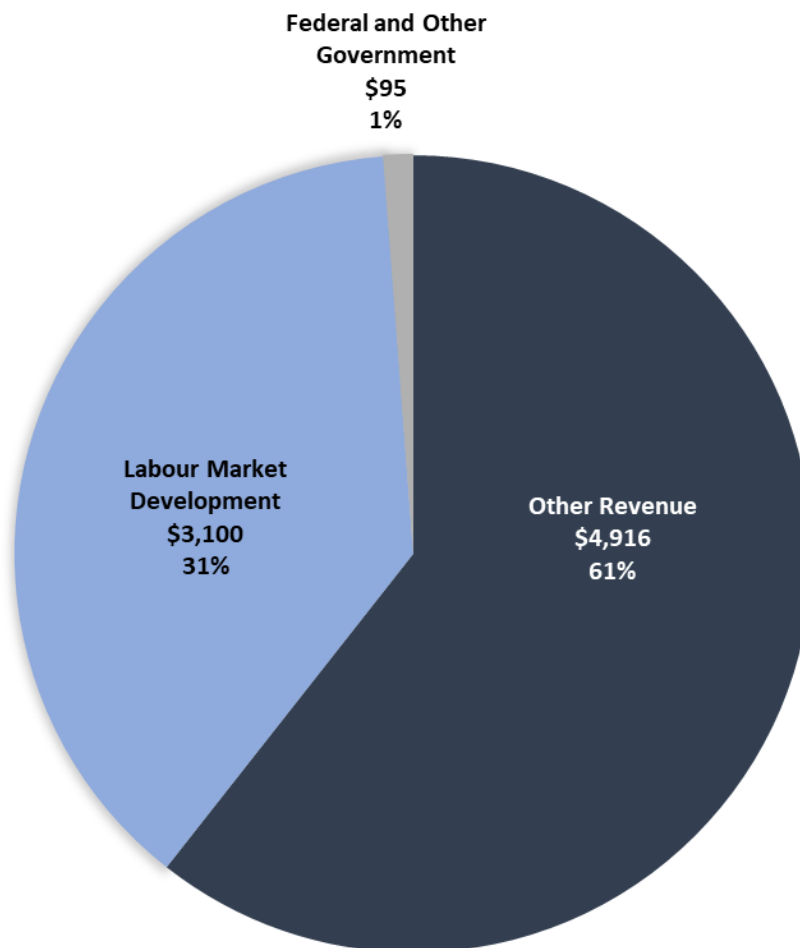
	2020		2019
	Budget	Actual	Actual
<i>In thousands</i>			
Government Transfers			
Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (177)
Labour Market Development	3,100	3,100	1,920
Federal and Other Government Grants	100	95	3,500
	<u>3,200</u>	<u>3,195</u>	<u>5,243</u>
Other Revenue			
Refund of Expenditure - First Nations Housing	-	4,607	-
Refund of Expenditure - Other	-	308	143
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	1	1
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,916</u>	<u>144</u>
Total Ministry Revenues	\$ 3,200	\$ 8,111	\$ 5,387

Breakdown of Revenues (unaudited)

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 category:** \$4.9 million was mainly due to an adjustment of liability resulting from the conclusion of repairing and rebuilding all Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nation homes affected by the 2013 Alberta floods. The 2013 Alberta Flood program is described below.
- **Labour Market Development category:** \$3.1 million as part of Alberta's Labour Market Transfer Agreements with the federal government to Indigenous communities and organizations for Indigenous workforce development through the Employment Partnerships Program.
- **Federal and Other Government Grants category:** \$95 thousand as part of the Investing in Canada Program Integrated Bilateral Agreement

2020 Actual (In thousands)



2013 Alberta floods

- The Government of Alberta committed to providing the same support and services to First Nations as other Albertans affected by the June 2013 Alberta floods.
- The province's flood recovery initiative is administered by the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) through its Disaster Recovery Program (DRP), which is the responsibility 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.
- Government of Alberta signed a memorandum of understanding with affected First Nations to repair and rebuild First Nation residences to provincial standards, which may be above DFAA eligibility.
- Management's 2020 estimate of the expected amount to be recovered from the federal government for DFAA eligible expenses was \$98.4 million (2019 - \$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. The changes from year to year can be attributed to such factors as construction cost fluctuations, receipt of eligible claims and the level of work and time required to recover from disaster events.
- During the 2019-20 fiscal year, accounts payable and accrued liabilities reduced from \$14.2 million to \$6 million. The reduction of \$8.2 million includes First Nation flood recovery costs paid in the current year and a liability adjustment resulting from the conclusion of repairing and rebuilding all Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nation homes affected by the 2013 Alberta floods.
- Initial cost estimates of damages on First Nation lands were \$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 accrued liability and accounts receivable could change substantially from current estimates.

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

(in thousands)	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Revenue DFAA (Reversal)	\$-	(\$177)	542	(\$4,174)	(\$61,644)	\$-	\$164,366
First Nations Housing Project	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$191,477
Administrative and Capacity Support	-	-	3,918	4,161	6,391	6,150	1,397
Total Expenses	\$-	\$-	\$3,918	\$4,161	\$6,391	\$6,150	\$192,874
Accounts Receivable from Government of Canada	\$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

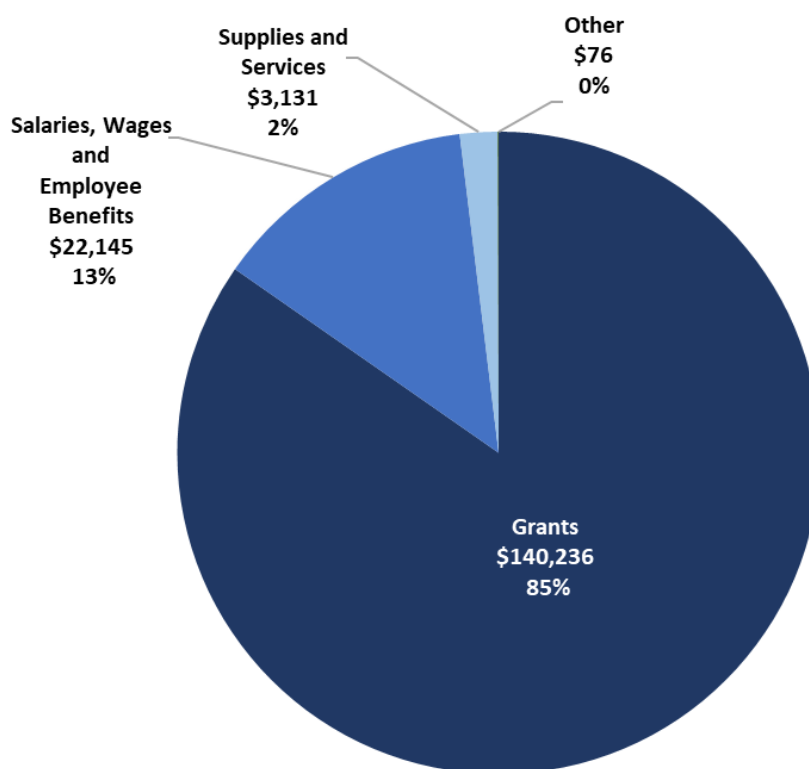
Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited)

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020		2019
	Budget	Actual	Actual
<i>In thousands</i>			
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	\$ 23,694	\$ 22,145	\$ 25,651
Grants	167,433	140,236	213,075
Supplies and Services	7,166	3,131	22,277
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	63	14	21
Financial Transactions and Others	64	62	64
Total Ministry Expenses	\$ 198,420	\$ 165,588	\$ 261,088

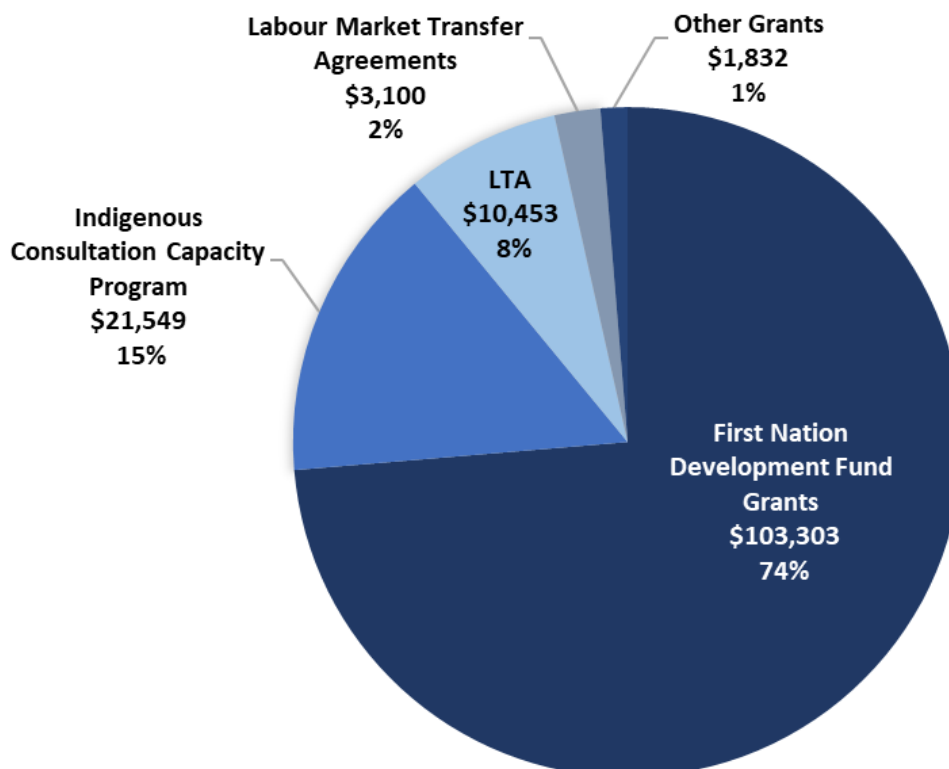
The following information presents expenses of the ministry directly incurred by object. Disclosure of expenses by object provides information that is useful in evaluating the economic effect of government acquiring or consuming various types of resources.

2020 Actual (In thousands)



- Grants remained the ministry's largest operating expense at 85 per cent of the total. In 2019-20, the ministry provided \$140 million to support organizations and Indigenous communities through the following grant initiatives:
 - \$103 million or 74 per cent of grant funding to First Nations under the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) grant program. Under FNDF, revenues from government-owned slot machines in First Nation casinos are distributed to First Nations in Alberta with signed FNDF agreements according to funding priorities determined by Chief and Council to support economic, social and community development projects;
 - \$22 million or 15 per cent of grant funding under the Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP), which provides all communities that participate in Alberta's consultation process an annual core funding allotment to assist with land and natural resource management consultation-related activities;
 - \$10 million or 8 per cent of grant funding under the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangement Agreement (LTA) with the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) to support the MSGC and Settlements to advance their communities;
 - 3 million or 2 per cent of grant funding under Alberta's Labour Market Transfer Agreements with the federal government to Indigenous communities and organizations for Indigenous workforce development through the Employment Partnerships Program; and
 - \$2 million or 1 per cent of grant funding for various grant initiatives.

2020 Actual (In thousands)



- Salaries, wages and employee benefit expenses totaled \$22 million or 13 per cent of the total ministry expense and were primarily to administer grant programs and to support initiatives that strengthen relationships and build strong and vibrant Indigenous communities, where people can participate fully in a prosperous, competitive and diverse Alberta.
- Supplies and services of \$3 million or 2 per cent included travel and ongoing supply requirements for the ministry (i.e., contract services, materials and supplies).
- The remainder of ministry expenses were classified as amortization of tangible capital assets (\$14 thousand) and other expenses (\$62 thousand).

Supplemental Financial Information

Tangible Capital Assets (unaudited) For the year ended March 31, 2020

	Equipment ⁽¹⁾	Computer Hardware and Software	2020 Total	2019 Total
Estimated Useful Life	3-40 years	3-10 years		
	<i>In thousands</i>			
Historical Cost				
Beginning of Year	\$ 169	\$ 431	\$ 600	\$ 578
Transfer in ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	22
Additions	-	6	6	-
	\$ 169	\$ 437	\$ 606	\$ 600
Accumulated Amortization				
Beginning of year	91	430	521	478
Transfer in ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	22
Amortization Expense	13	1	14	21
	104	431	535	521
Net Book Value at March 31, 2020	\$ 65	\$ 6	\$ 71	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2019	\$ 78	\$ 1		\$ 79

⁽¹⁾ Equipment includes office equipment and furniture.

⁽²⁾ Transfer includes one asset transferred from the department of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities

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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, 2020, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets, and cash flows for the period 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, 2020, and the results of its operations, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the period 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.

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 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

June 22, 2020
Edmonton, Alberta

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

Interim Chief Executive Officer

Original signed

Acting Senior Financial Officer

Statement of Operations

Period from November 26, 2019 to March 31, 2020

	2020	
	Budget	Actual
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Revenues		
	\$	
Government of Alberta grants (note 4)	6,000	2,000
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Expenses (Note 2(a) and Schedules 1 and 3)		
Indigenous opportunities initiatives	3,500	600
Administration	2,500	525
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>1,125</u>
Operating surplus	-	875
Accumulated surplus at beginning of period	-	-
Accumulated surplus at end of period	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>875</u>

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

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2020

	2020
	<i>(in thousands)</i>
Financial assets	
Due from Government of Alberta (Note 5)	\$ 2,000
	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
Liabilities	
Due to Government of Alberta (Note 5)	\$ 1,125
	<u>\$ 1,125</u>
Net financial assets	<u>875</u>
Net assets	<u>\$ 875</u>
Net assets	
Net assets at beginning of period	-
Accumulated surplus	875
	<u>\$ 875</u>

Contingent liabilities (Note 7)

Contractual obligations (Note 8)

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

Approved by Approved by

Original signed

Original signed

Chair – Board of Directors

Interim Chief Executive
Officer

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Period from November 26, 2019 to March 31, 2020

	2020	
	Budget	Actual
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Operating surplus	\$ -	\$ 875
Increase in net financial assets	-	875
Net financial assets at beginning of period	-	-
Net financial assets at end of period	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 875</u>

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

Statement of Cash Flows

Period from November 26, 2019 to March 31, 2020

(in thousands)

	<u>2020</u>
	<i>(in thousands)</i>
Operating transactions	
Operating surplus	\$ 875
(Increase) in due from Government of Alberta	(2,000)
Increase in due to Government of Alberta	<u>1,125</u>
Cash provided by operating transactions	<u>-</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	-
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

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

Notes to Financial Statements

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 by year end is recognized as unearned revenue and recorded in accounts payable and other accrued liabilities.

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 and cash equivalents	Cost
Accounts receivable	Lower of cost or net recoverable value
Accounts payable and 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.

Cash and cash equivalents

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 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.

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. As asset squired, 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.

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.

Note 3 FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES

The Public Sector Accounting Board issued the following accounting standards:

- PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations (effective April 1, 2021)
Effective April 1, 2021, this standard provides guidance on how to account for and report liabilities for retirement of tangible capital assets.
- PS 3400 Revenue (effective April 1, 2022)
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

In order to commence the AIOC's operations, the Government of Alberta committed \$24 million as an operating grant over a four-year period. The budget for the AIOC was included in the 2019-20 Government Estimates under the Ministry of Indigenous Relations. For the 2019-20 fiscal period, a \$6 million grant target was initially set in the Ministry of Indigenous Relations as the budget for fiscal 2019-20. However, given the establishment of the Corporation and the board of directors late in the fiscal year, funding committed in the grant agreement was decreased to \$2 million with the balance deferred to future periods.

Note 5 DUE FROM/TO GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

(in thousands)

	2020
Due from the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 2,000
Due to the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 1,125

Note 6 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 7 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At March 31, 2020, the AIOC was not named as defendant in any specific legal actions and there are no other known contingent liabilities.

Note 8 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

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. At March 31, 2020, the AIOC had no contractual obligations.

Note 9 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 \$14 included in these financial statements represents the current contributions made on behalf of these employees.

Note 10 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Schedule 1 – Expenses Detailed by Object

Period from November 26, 2019 to March 31, 2020

	2020	
	Budget	Actual
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	\$ 1,250	141
Supplies and services	1,250	384
Grants	3,500	600
Total expenses ⁽¹⁾	\$ 6,000	1,125

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

Schedule 2 – Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Period from November 26, 2019 to March 31, 2020

	2020			
	<i>(in thousand's)</i>			
	Base salary ⁽¹⁾	Other cash benefits ⁽²⁾	Other non-cash benefits ⁽³⁾	
Board of Directors				
Chair ^(4 5)	\$ -	8		8
Board Members ^(4 5)	-	22		22
Executive				
Acting Chief Executive Officer	67	-	15	82
Total	67	30	15	112

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 2020.
- (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, 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.

Schedule 3 – Related Party Transactions

Period from November 26, 2019 to March 31, 2020

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.

	2020	
	Entities in the Ministry	Other Entities
Revenues		
Grants from the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Expenses		
Other Services	-	\$ 32
	\$ 2,000	\$ 32
Receivable from		
Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 2,000	-
Payable to		
Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 1,093	\$ -
Energy Efficiency Alberta	-	32
	\$ 1,093	\$ 32

Other Financial Information

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Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)

Department of Indigenous Relations

For the year ended March 31, 2020

In thousands

	Voted Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Supplementary Estimate ⁽²⁾	Adjust- ments ⁽³⁾	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actual ⁽⁴⁾	Unexpended (Over Expended)
EXPENSE VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Program - Operational						
1. Ministry Support Services						
1.1 Minister's Office	\$ 870	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 870	\$ 947	\$ (77)
1.2 Deputy Minister's Office	693	-	-	693	607	86
1.3 Strategic and Corporate Services	2,685	-	-	2,685	3,515	(830)
	4,248	-	-	4,248	5,069	(821)
2. First Nations and Métis Relations						
	18,860	-	-	18,860	16,827	2,033
3. Indigenous Women's Initiatives						
	1,411	-	-	1,411	1,079	332
4. First Nations Development Fund						
	123,000	-	-	123,000	104,425	18,575
5. Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal						
	1,177	-	-	1,177	1,096	81
6. Consultation and Land Claims						
6.1 Program Support and Land Claims	2,882	-	-	2,882	1,670	1,212
6.2 Aboriginal Consultation Office	5,666	-	-	5,666	5,431	235
6.3 Stewardship and Policy Integration	19,557	-	-	19,557	25,037	(5,480)
	28,105	-	-	28,105	32,138	(4,033)
8. Investing in Canada Infrastructure - Green Infrastructure						
	100	-	-	100	95	5
9. Land and Legal Settlement						
	2,170	-	-	2,170	-	2,170
10. Indigenous Litigation Fund						
	5,000	-	-	5,000	188	4,812
11. Climate Change Initiatives						
	-	-	-	-	786	(786)
12. Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation						
	6,000	-	-	6,000	2,000	4,000
Program - Capital Grants						
2. First Nations and Métis Relations	8,286	-	-	8,286	3,286	5,000
	8,286	-	-	8,286	3,286	5,000
Total	\$ 198,357	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 198,357	\$ 166,989	\$ 31,368
Lapse						\$ 31,368
CAPITAL INVESTMENT VOTE BY PROGRAM						
1. Ministry Support Services						
1.3 Strategic and Corporate Services	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 25
6. Consultation and Land Claims						
6.3 Stewardship and Policy Integration	-	-	-	-	6	(6)
Total	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 6	\$ 19
Lapse						\$ 19
FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS VOTE BY PROGRAM						
7. 2013 Alberta Flooding						
7.1 First Nations Housing	\$ 14,157		\$ -	\$ 14,157	\$ 8,202	\$ 5,955
Total	\$ 14,157	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,157	\$ 8,202	\$ 5,955
Lapse						\$ 5,955

⁽¹⁾ As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" pages 127-134 of the 2019-20 Government Estimates.

⁽²⁾ No Supplementary Estimates for fiscal year 2019-20

⁽³⁾ 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.

⁽⁴⁾ Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments.

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 for the department of Indigenous Relations between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.