

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Annual Report

Indigenous Relations

2021-2022

Alberta 

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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 20 ministries.

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

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

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

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

Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2022 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 1, 2022 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

[Original signed by]

Rick Wilson

Minister of Indigenous Relations

Indigenous Relations includes the department, Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, First Nation Women's Council on Economic Security, Metis Women's Council on Economic Security, and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation.

Message from the Minister



Serving as Minister of Indigenous Relations is an honour and privilege. Over the past three years, it has been gratifying to see significant projects come to life and to watch many of the government's relationships with Indigenous Peoples in Alberta strengthen and grow.

A little more than a year ago, the unmarked graves of 215 Indigenous children were recovered at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. Since then, many other communities have shared their painful past, including Kapawe'no First Nation in northern Alberta.

Your government worked quickly to announce the \$8 million Residential Schools Community Research Grant to support Indigenous-led engagement and research associated with the deaths of Indigenous children at

residential schools. It is a testament to the department staff who worked on this grant that dozens of communities applied and received this grant within weeks to begin the healing process.

While we are not quite 100 per cent clear from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are over the hump. I saw incredible resilience, leadership and ingenuity to combat the effects it wrought. In 2021-22, to continue tackling COVID-19 head on, our ministry stayed in consistent contact with Indigenous communities to support their preparedness and connect them with resources. We worked with AHS and Indigenous Services Canada to make certain that leadership had accurate and up-to-date information about health programs.

Indigenous Relations was essential in getting prioritized vaccine access to Indigenous communities, starting with Phase One in early 2021. Our ministry also helped coordinate the distribution of vaccines and supported clinics on reserves, Metis Settlements, Friendship Centres and pop-up clinics in urban areas.

We made progress on many other initiatives in 2021-22 – an eventful year to say the least.

Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) continued its important work. Two projects received loans during the fiscal year, for a total of \$67 million to a combined nine Indigenous communities, and capacity grants to others. We also expanded its mandate to include transportation, agriculture and telecommunications sectors earlier this year. This was an important step, acting on feedback we have heard. I am hopeful it will result in significant investments by many more Indigenous communities in the province.

AIOC is a unique entity in Canada that is creating new revenue streams for many communities in Alberta. I have heard from other provinces and jurisdictions about our programs like AIOC and the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF), and they are stunned to see the support Alberta offers – you should all take a bow. With a revitalized AIOC board in place, now with six Indigenous members, I am anticipating big things in the future.

In *Budget 2021*, we invested \$5 million into ABIF to help Indigenous-owned businesses create jobs in Indigenous communities and boost regional economies. Over the past fiscal year, it supported 13 community projects in the tourism, agriculture, construction and energy sectors.

Despite health measures that saw First Nations casinos closed for more than two months, the First Nations Development Fund grant program provided nearly \$105 million in grants and services to the 46 First Nations that participated in the grant program. This was an increase of approximately \$41 million compared to the year prior. These funds support community, economic and social development projects, and I was pleased to see the uptick in 2021-22.

The essential work of the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is close to my heart, and the group continued to make progress, holding nearly 40 full-day meetings to support the completion of a final report. Their 113 Pathways, available online at alberta.ca will help guide future actions that are critically necessary. I was pleased to roll out Alberta's response in an emotional ceremony and event at Enoch Cree Nation a few weeks ago.

The First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security provided advice to me and government committees about Indigenous women's well-being, including income security, personal safety and job training. Indigenous Relations also provided more than \$1.5 million in grants in 2021-22 to organizations that support Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.

We also saw progress on agreements and relationships with Indigenous communities across the province. Last fall, Alberta entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fort McKay Métis Nation Association (FMMNA) to recognize its role as a Métis Community with credibly asserted Aboriginal harvesting rights. This MOU is helping identify ways we can support FMMNA's social, economic and cultural objectives.

The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) continued to be productive, ensuring Indigenous communities were able to provide input into development activities that may impact Treaty rights and traditional uses of public lands in Alberta. In 2021-22, just under 8,000 land and natural resource development applications crossed our desks – fantastic work done by the team there.

It is great to see everyone back in the office, and our important work continues. My door and phone lines are always open, and I invite you to reach out anytime.

Yours Truly,

[Original signed by]

Rick Wilson
Minister of Indigenous Relations

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations includes the Department of Indigenous Relations, the Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security, Métis Women's Council on Economic Security, and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation as of March 31, 2022.

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 judgments. The financial information is prepared using the government's stated accounting policies, which are based on Canadian public sector accounting standards. The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliability – Information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with the underlying source data for the current and prior years' results.
- Understandability – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- Comparability – the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- Completeness – outcomes, performance measures and related targets match those included in the ministry's Budget 2021.

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]

Donovan Young

Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations

June 1, 2022

Results Analysis

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Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations includes the Department of Indigenous Relations, Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security, Métis Women's Council on Economic Security, and the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal as of March 31, 2022.

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

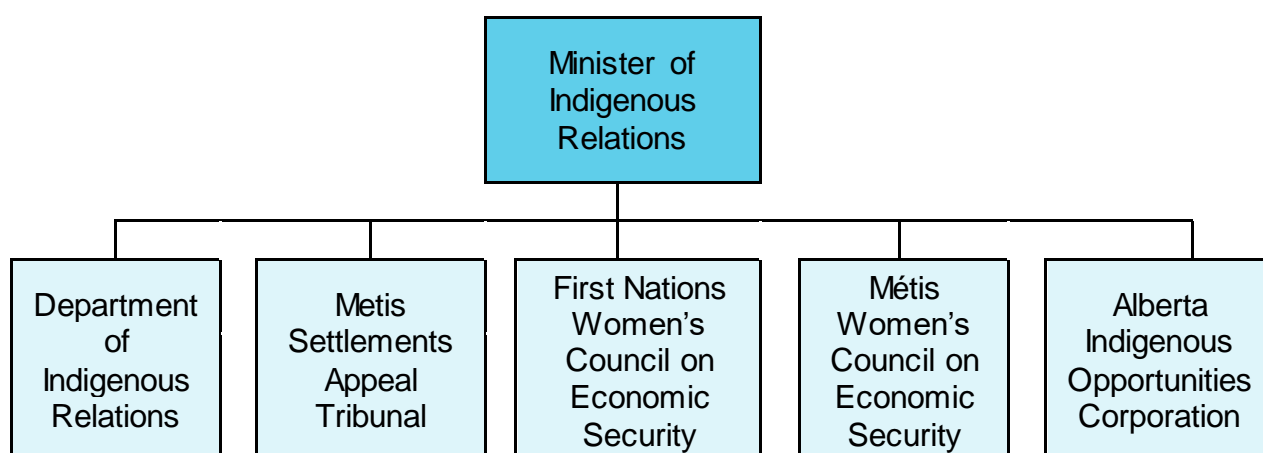
The Department of Indigenous Relations is accountable for the following:

- leading programs, initiatives and policy development to promote security and prosperity for Indigenous Peoples; providing certainty to regulators, industry and Indigenous communities through Alberta's consultation process; and upholding the honour of the Crown to fulfil the province's legal duty to consult;
- advocating for a streamlined federal Aboriginal consultation process that provides clear timelines and legal certainty for project proponents and Indigenous communities;
- collaborating and working with other government ministries, the federal government, and First Nations, in response to and negotiation of land-related claims;
- leading Alberta's response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report through review and analysis of its effects on provincial policies, programs and services;
- supporting community, social and economic development efforts of First Nations through the First Nations Development Fund, which supports projects including, but not limited to, housing projects, business start-ups and expansion, and employment and training programs;
- supporting training and employment for Indigenous Peoples through the Employment Partnerships Program, which provides grants for direct training and employment supports, and fosters industry partnerships to expand availability, accessibility, and quality of Indigenous employment opportunities;
- supporting economic development efforts through the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund, which supports projects to increase the number of Indigenous community-owned businesses, increase employment opportunities and strengthen economies of Indigenous communities;
- facilitating cross-government collaboration with other Government of Alberta ministries, municipalities, water commissions, and industry to respond to federal Indigenous initiatives, such as access to safe and clean drinking water; disaster response and recovery, including the COVID-19 pandemic; pathfinding opportunities; and advocating for on-reserve key services;
- amending and maintaining the *Metis Settlements Act* (MSA), which provides a structure and system for local government on the eight Settlements, establishes eight Settlement Corporations, the Metis Settlements General Council and the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal as legal entities, and establishes the Metis Settlement Land Registry; and
- providing supports to urban Indigenous organizations that provide culturally appropriate services and programs.

In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations worked towards three outcomes:

- Outcome One: Indigenous Peoples benefit from security and prosperity in their communities and when Alberta maintains its legal duty to consult;
- Outcome Two: Indigenous perspectives and Alberta's interests with its cross-government and industry partners are included in the Government of Alberta policies, programs, initiatives and services; and
- Outcome Three: Relationships with Indigenous leadership and organizations are maintained and strengthened.

Organizational Structure



Operational Overview

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

Office of the Deputy Minister

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

First Nations and Metis Relations

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

First Nations Relations

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

First Nations Relations is responsible for leading initiatives that promote the participation of Indigenous people in the economy by administering economic development related programs, such as the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) and providing oversight to the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC). The team also works with the Ministry of Infrastructure to manage relationships for First Nations and the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) projects.

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

First Nations Relations also administers the Residential Schools Community Research Grant that funds Indigenous-led engagement, research, and related activities associated with the documented and undocumented deaths and burials of Indigenous children at any of the historical residential school sites located in Alberta. The branch also helps address matters related to the Sixties Scoop.

Additionally, First Nations Relations explores pathfinding opportunities; advocates for on-reserve key services, and met regularly with Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, and Indigenous Services Canada to ensure Indigenous leaders have accurate information on the roles and responsibilities for the COVID-19 pandemic response, vaccine rollout, and the federal and provincial supports available for First Nations and Métis people in Alberta.

Metis Relations

The Metis Relations branch coordinates the Government of Alberta's relationship with the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) and administers the province's unique Metis Settlements legislation. Through the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement (LTA), Indigenous Relations provides funding to support the governance, accountability and sustainability of the Settlements. Metis Relations also participates in tri-lateral discussions with the MSGC and Government of Canada.

The branch coordinates the Government of Alberta's relationship with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), and provides operational funding through a framework agreement that promotes and facilitates the advancement of Métis people in Alberta.

In addition to working with Métis organizations, the branch provides funding to the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation to support their goal of community self-reliance among the Grande Cache Enterprises and Cooperatives. Funding is also provided to the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) to support health, employment, housing, recreation, and cultural programs for Indigenous people in urban centres.

Metis Relations also leads the Employment Partnerships Program, which provides funding to Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program agreement holders for Indigenous workforce development. The team also works with the Ministry of Transportation to manage relationships for the First Nations Regional Drinking Water Tie-in project.

Metis Relations leads the ministry's collaboration with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, in their response to emergencies and disasters affecting Indigenous communities.

Lastly, Metis Relations is responsible for the Indigenous Learning Initiative (ILI), which was created in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #57, to provide education to public servants on Indigenous history, including the history and legacy of residential schools, treaties and Aboriginal rights. Through the ILI, the Ministry offers two cultural awareness courses, the Indigenous Introductory Training and the Indigenous Cultural Protocol training. These programs support reconciliation by educating Alberta Public Service employees to better understand, engage, and work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Alberta, and are available to all Government of Alberta employees and Alberta's public agencies, boards and commissions across the province.

Corporate Planning

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

Indigenous Women's Initiatives

Indigenous Women's Initiatives leads department actions to address social and economic outcomes for Indigenous women and collaborates with Alberta ministries on initiatives that impact Indigenous women and families. The division provides 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 to achieve greater economic security for Indigenous women, their families and communities.

The division is Alberta's lead in developing a provincial response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Final Report. Working with other Alberta ministries and Indigenous women and organizations, Indigenous Women's Initiatives also supports initiatives aimed at reducing violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.

Consultation, Land and Policy

The Consultation, Land and Policy division has three branches: the Aboriginal Consultation Office, Strategic Engagement and Policy Innovation, and Land Claims.

Each branch works toward specific mandates and targets, including:

- management of Alberta’s consultation process with First Nations, Metis Settlements, and credibly asserted Métis organizations;
- development and ongoing maintenance of Alberta’s Indigenous consultation policies, guidelines and related tools;
- working with federal and provincial partners to facilitate the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in policies, programs and initiatives; and
- coordination of Alberta’s role in negotiating and implementing Treaty Land Entitlement claims.

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

Aboriginal Consultation Office

Alberta’s legal duty to consult and accommodate comes from the honour of the Crown and the protection of Aboriginal and Treaty rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) manages the consultation process with First Nations, Metis Settlements and credibly-asserted Métis communities. This includes providing pre-consultation assessments, guiding the consultation process with First Nations, Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis communities and proponents, and ultimately providing a Crown assessment of consultation adequacy for projects regulated by the Alberta Energy Regulator. When other Government of Alberta ministries act as the regulator, the ACO provides support, advice, and recommendations on the consultation process.

The ACO helps other Alberta government ministries and regulators to meet Alberta’s legal and constitutional duty to consult before they give an approval or disposition. Doing so allows the development of Alberta’s land and natural resources in a way that respects the Treaty rights and traditional use activities of First Nations and the traditional use and harvesting activities of Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis communities.

Each year, the ACO completes pre-consultation assessments, provides consultation management services, and completes consultation adequacy decisions on thousands of regulatory applications for a wide range of development projects in the province. Those areas include oil sands, conventional oil and gas, pipelines, mining, forestry, parks, public infrastructure, and disaster recovery and mitigation.

Strategic Engagement and Policy Innovation

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

The Strategic Engagement unit works to reflect Indigenous perspectives in Alberta's strategic and operational policies, programs, and initiatives, particularly those that are economically driven or related to land and natural resource management.

The Policy Innovation and Intergovernmental Relations unit gives advice, guidance and specialized knowledge on Indigenous policy to divisions in the ministry, other Government of Alberta ministries, along with provincial, territorial and federal partners across Canada.

The 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 affect Alberta.

Overall, all of these connections between Indigenous communities and different orders of government give SEPI a point of view that helps staff to give strategic, coordinated responses that help Indigenous communities share in Alberta's economic recovery and prosperity.

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's government has a constitutional obligation to transfer back to the Government of Canada such unoccupied Crown lands as are necessary. This allows the federal government to settle outstanding Treaty obligations with First Nations to provide land for reserves.

Financial Services

Financial Services is responsible for providing strategic financial services including financial planning, reporting and operations.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions and Other Organizations

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

Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) helps Indigenous communities participate in commercially viable, major resource development projects, and is an important tool for Alberta's economic recovery. The AIOC is a first-of-its-kind provincial corporation that operates at an arm's-length from government, with an innovative mandate to support active investment by Indigenous groups. The AIOC works with Indigenous communities across Alberta to invest in natural resources, agriculture, telecommunications, and transportation projects. The AIOC produces its own annual report that is available online at www.theaioc.com.

First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security

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

Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal (MSAT)

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

Pursuant to the *Metis Settlements Act* section 211, MSAT produces its own annual report that is tabled in the Legislative Assembly and is available online at www.msat.gov.ab.ca.

Note to Reader:

For the purposes of this document, Indigenous Relations uses the term "Indigenous" to refer to all First Nations, Métis, Inuit and other Indigenous Peoples, recognizing that not all people self-identify using the term "Indigenous", as well, the use of the term "Indian" as it relates to the Federal Government's constitution. The Government of Alberta uses the term "Aboriginal" when referencing data sources (e.g. Statistics Canada) programs and program areas 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.

Key Highlights in the Past Year

CONSULTATION, LAND AND POLICY

- Indigenous Litigation Fund: Fort McKay Métis Nation and Willow Lake Métis Nation received a \$372,100 grant to begin a constitutional challenge of the federal government's Oil Tanker Moratorium Act.
- Worked collaboratively with cross ministry colleagues to facilitate the approval of the transfer of a historic cemetery to Enoch Cree First Nation as an act of reconciliation.
- Metis Credible Assertion: Managed 17 active assertion files, with one assertion moving to the Credible Assertion Round Table.
- Strategic Engagement, Policy and Innovation provided strategic advice to other departments on key government priorities such as:
 - Caribou Sub-Regional Planning;
 - Bow River Reservoir Options;
 - Springbank Reservoir Project;
 - Big Island Provincial Park;
 - Planning for the upcoming Lower Athabasca Regional Plan 10-year review; and
 - Coal Policy Review.
- Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) reviewed a total of 7,998 land and natural resource development applications for pre-consultation assessment and adequacy of consultation, which led to 11,979 activities on Crown land in Alberta; generally, one approved application leads to more than one activity. During this time period, the ACO consistently continued to meet its target timelines for application reviews.
- ACO continues the partnership with Service Alberta's Digital Delivery and Innovation branch in the development of the Aboriginal Consultation Office Digital Service (ACODS). This new online system is a user-centric service for Indigenous communities, industry proponents, and government to manage the administrative aspects of Alberta's consultation process in a more transparent, effective, and efficient manner. The ACODS is at the forefront of the Alberta government's digital transformation work and leading the public sector digital innovation in Alberta and Canada.
- ACO has been working to develop a consultation guide specific to the needs of First Nations, Metis Settlements, and credibly asserted Métis communities. The purpose of the guide is to provide information on Alberta's consultation and regulatory processes that is specific to the needs to Indigenous communities; clarify roles and responsibilities; and improve transparency. This document will be released in the coming weeks.
- The ACO delivered 21 information sessions to industry proponents, Indigenous communities, post-secondary institutions and other GoA ministries about Alberta's consultation process. This helped participants to get a better understanding of various aspects of Alberta's consultation process and also enhanced ACO's relationship building with them.
- On November 8, 2021, the ACO issued an adequacy of consultation decision for the Kearn Oil Sands Mine Extension Project by Imperial Oil. It is one of Canada's largest open-pit mining operations and the expansion will sustain up to 345,000 barrels a day of bitumen production for the next 40 years.
- After nearly seven years of consultation, ACO provided Alberta Environment & Parks with an adequacy of consultation recommendation for the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project. This project was identified as a part of the response to the 2013 floods in the area. The project diverts extreme flood flows from the Elbow River into an off-stream reservoir.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

- Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Joint Working Group)
 - As lead ministry for the secretariat, Indigenous Women's Initiatives supported the Joint Working Group's 40 meetings that covered topics related to law enforcement, human trafficking, housing and homelessness, violence prevention, media, children's services, income support and mental health, addictions and health services.
 - Supported the Joint Working Group draft to finalize its Final Report; and
 - Directed by Elders, supported a ceremony in which the Joint Working Group formally submitted its Final Report to the Ministers of Indigenous Relations, Justice and Solicitor General and Associate Minister of Status of Women.
 - Government's response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry) Final Report
 - Undertook a cross-ministry analysis of the National Inquiry's and Joint Working Group's Final Reports to inform a Government of Alberta response to the National Inquiry Final Report; and
 - Began developing a draft Government of Alberta response upon receipt of the Joint Working Group's final report.
- First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security
 - Supported 6 full day meetings to discuss priority items related to education, entrepreneurship, safety, health and anti-racism, including engaging with the Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Societies to discuss areas of mutual interest;
 - Supported the completion and submission of the Councils' 2021 Report and Recommendations; and
 - Began a cross-ministry analysis of the Councils' 2021 Report and Recommendations.
- Supporting Indigenous women's social and economic security:
 - Worked with Indigenous organizations to develop nine projects totalling \$1.074 million for initiatives targeting improved access to government programs and service, supporting Indigenous women, families and survivors of violence, increasing awareness of Indigenous missing persons, promoting youth conversations on normalized violence, and improving communication between service organizations to support Indigenous women, girls and two spirit plus people;
 - Worked with cross-ministry partners to develop strategies to increase Indigenous women's participation in Alberta's recovery plan; and
 - Worked with cross-ministry partners to add Indigenous women's perspectives and circumstances in the areas of human trafficking, family and sexual violence, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and early childhood learning (HeadStart).

FIRST NATIONS AND METIS RELATIONS

Fort McKay Métis Nation Association and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Alberta, as represented by the Minister of Indigenous Relations Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

- On September 14, 2021, Alberta's government entered into an MOU with Fort McKay Métis Nation Association (FMMNA), signed by the Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations, and President of FMMNA Ron Quintal.
- The MOU recognizes FMMNA's representative role, on behalf of its members, for consultation purposes, as a Métis community in Fort McKay with credibly asserted Aboriginal harvesting rights.
- It also solidifies the Alberta government's and FMMNA's shared commitment to work together to advance the community's long-term sustainability.

Friendship Centres and Urban Indigenous Organizations

In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations maintained its funding commitment of \$720,000 to support the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA), and its 21 local community Friendship Centres. This funding is meant to help Indigenous people in urban centres to access culturally appropriate programs and services across the province.

In this fiscal year, Indigenous Relations also provided additional funds to:

- five urban Indigenous organizations with a total of \$400,000 to provide support for culturally appropriate services and programs; and
- three urban Indigenous organizations with grants who successfully applied to the Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) totalling \$352,680 in projects that increase workforce participation of Indigenous people in Alberta.

Residential Schools Community Research Grant

- In June 2021, Alberta's government announced this one-time \$8 million grant program in response to the documented and undocumented deaths and burials of Indigenous children at any of the residential school sites located throughout Alberta.
- 54 Indigenous communities or organizations received \$8 million in funding to support their initiatives. Communities and organizations intend to use the funding for: community-driven research; community-led engagement; use of ground penetrating radar and other technologies to explore potential unmarked burial sites; and maintenance and commemorative work, such as installing or restoring grave markers, placement of memorials or commemoration events.

First Nations Development Fund

In 2021-22, despite First Nations casinos being closed for more than two months to meet COVID-19 health measures, the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) grant program provided more than \$105 million in grants and services to the 46 First Nations who participate in the program.

- This fund supported 28 economic, 69 social and 221 community development initiatives in First Nations across the province.

Aboriginal Business Investment Fund

A \$5 million investment in the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) helped Indigenous-owned business ventures create jobs in Indigenous communities and boost regional economies.

- For the 2021-22 intake, ABIF supported 13 Indigenous community projects that span the province in industry sectors such as tourism, agriculture, construction and mining, and oil and gas extraction.

Metis Settlements Amendment Act, 2021

The *Metis Settlements Amendment Act, 2021*, received Royal Assent on June 17, 2021, addresses concerns from Settlement members about the cost of governance, council accountability, and transparency.

- The amendments support sustainable self-governing communities, create greater governance and fiscal autonomy, and increase Metis Settlement Council accountability.

Indigenous Relations activities and supports for Indigenous communities related to the COVID-19 pandemic

- The Government of Alberta took a whole-of-government approach to its COVID-19 response through frequent virtual meetings, teleconferences, and visits – when it was safe to do so. Minister Wilson kept Indigenous leadership, communities and organizations included, considered and supported. No additional budget dollars were spent on the effort.

Discussion and Analysis of Results

COVID-19/Recovery Plan

The COVID-19 pandemic continued through the 2021-22 fiscal year with Indigenous Relations maintaining the response it established in 2020-21. The primary result of several of the efforts in 2021-22 was that Indigenous perspectives continued to be reflected in the Government of Alberta's COVID-19 response and the best information from many sources was provided to them. Other results were that data on case counts and measures of severity and outcomes of Indigenous people was used to shape the response; vaccine uptake was strong; and Indigenous communities continued to participate in natural resource development project reviews.

In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations communicated with other ministries, the federal government and other partners to advocate for the needs of Indigenous communities. Indigenous Relations participated on the Pandemic Response Planning Team, the COVID-19 Indigenous Coordination Committee, and the Provincial Operations Centre which led to a coordinated approach between Indigenous leadership, the Government of Alberta, and the Government of Canada. The Ministry led engagement with Indigenous leadership, communities, and organizations through 150 virtual meetings, teleconferences, and visits (when safe to do so). These meetings enabled relevant parties (Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Health, Indigenous Relations) to respond rapidly and in a coordinated manner to, for and with Indigenous leadership in responding to a highly fluid situation, and as issues emerged. The direct line of communication also ensured Indigenous people were included in the response planning.

The Ministry worked with Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, Indigenous Services Canada, and Indigenous leadership to provide information about federal and provincial governments' roles and responsibilities; provincial and federal supports for First Nations and Métis communities in Alberta; resolving emerging issues, and determining how the Government of Alberta could help the situation in Indigenous communities. This also included gathering available data from sources including Alberta Health and federal counterparts which was used to inform the provincial response.

In addition, Indigenous Relations promoted the COVID-19 vaccine administration program. Minister Wilson and Premier Kenney visited the Métis Nation of Alberta's Urban Indigenous Clinic in Edmonton in March 2021 and the Urban Indigenous Immunization Clinic in Calgary in June 2021.

Indigenous Relations published a weekly newsletter (starting in March 2020) to Indigenous leadership to outline provincial information, updates, and supports. This ensured Indigenous leadership had timely, accurate information in a very fluid situation. It was also a demonstration on the responsiveness of the Government of Alberta and ensured that there was a specific channel for trusted information to minimize the spread of inaccurate or incorrect information.

Over this fiscal year, the ministry provided Indigenous communities, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, additional time and flexibility to participate in consultation on proposed resource development projects. Case law explicitly instructs that aboriginal consultation must be responsive to each circumstance and allow Indigenous communities additional time and flexibility in responding to consultation when business operations were severely impacted due to COVID-19. The outcome was wide ranging consultation pauses as communities shifted their focus to protecting some of the most vulnerable people within the Province of Alberta and time line extensions as Alberta shifted to managing the pandemic. Based on the prevalence of consultation pauses and time line extensions government flexibility was required.

Red Tape Reduction

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations continues to remove regulatory barriers and reduce costs for Alberta's job creators, modernize our regulatory systems, and improve the delivery of government services while ensuring effective regulatory oversight over vital consumer, environmental, health and safety protections, and fiscal accountability. Our ongoing commitment to reduce red tape by one third by 2023 is helping to make our province the most attractive destination for investment and job creation in North America, while strengthening Alberta's competitive advantage.

In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations continued working on reducing red tape with significant progress made in these areas:

- Amended the 30 year-old *Metis Settlements Act* to improve community sustainability and autonomy by reducing the cost and size of governance, reducing the role of the Minister, and increasing Metis Settlement Councils' accountability to their members. The *Act* received royal assent on June 17, 2021
- Reduced First Nation Development Fund application approval timelines by delegating the approval of projects up to \$5 million to the FNDF Director.
- Reduced processing times by about 50 per cent creating opportunities for approved First Nations to expedite their grant-funded projects
- Reduced processing times by about 50 per cent creating opportunities for approved First Nations to expedite their grant-funded projects
- Developed a risk-based model for completing FNDF compliance reviews
- Resulted in a significant reduction in time and cost for First Nations and Indigenous Relations staff
- Provided 59 Indigenous communities with \$110,000 each in 2021-22 through the Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program
- Helped Indigenous communities hire staff and resources to more effectively participate in Alberta's natural resource development project reviews
- Made progress on a consultation guide for Indigenous communities
- The guide details Alberta's consultation and regulatory processes for Indigenous communities; clarifies roles and responsibilities; and improves transparency. It is expected to be released in the coming weeks
- Delivered the next stage of the Aboriginal Consultation Office Digital Service to improve timelines and transparency.

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

Outcome One: Indigenous Peoples benefit from security and prosperity in their communities and when Alberta maintains its legal duty to consult

Key Objectives

1.1 Provide oversight to the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation to facilitate investment by Indigenous groups in natural resource projects and related infrastructure

The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is designed to help Indigenous communities and organizations participate in commercially viable development projects.

The AIOC is an important tool in Alberta's economic recovery as one of the most meaningful, innovative economic reconciliation initiatives to be established in Canada. The provincial corporation has the potential to drive Indigenous prosperity by actively and strategically influencing industry players, financial experts, and key participants in the economy. This will result in value for all proponents and a thriving economy.

Since launching, the AIOC has approved backing of \$158 million in loan guarantees that will support Indigenous investment in major resource projects. These investments in energy projects will boost Alberta's economy during the post-pandemic recovery and help secure long-term economic security for 15 Indigenous communities. Projects that received loan guarantees in the 2021-22 fiscal year include:

- Frog Lake First Nation for the Lindbergh Cogeneration Facility. This \$25 million loan guarantee will help the First Nation maintain ownership of their Steam-Assisted Gravity Drainage operation (a method that is widely used to extract bitumen from underground oils sands deposits); and
- Eight Indigenous communities in the Wood Buffalo Region received a loan guarantee of \$40 million that helps to finance a 14.25 per cent ownership interest in the Northern Courier Pipeline System, including the pipeline and associated storage facilities.

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

Priority One:
Protecting Lives

Objective Six:
Partnering with Indigenous Peoples to pursue economic opportunities

Ministry Contributions:

- AIOC's mandate was expanded from natural resource projects to include projects in agriculture, telecommunications and transportation.
- Eight Indigenous communities in the Wood Buffalo region granted a \$40 million loan guarantee for 14.25 percent ownership in the Northern Courier Pipeline System
- Frog Lake First Nation provided with a \$25 million loan guarantee to support the First Nation's ownership in a cogeneration facility.

In February 2022, Premier Kenney announced the expansion of the AIOC mandate to include major projects in the transportation, agriculture, and telecommunications sectors. By expanding the sectors eligible for investment, Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta will be better positioned to more fully participate in the province's post-pandemic recovery. AIOC produces its own annual report and can be found at: www.theaioc.com under the Resources + Publications section.

1.2 Administer the Indigenous Litigation Fund to support Indigenous Peoples' voices in legal action that affects responsible resource development and advances Alberta's interests

The Government of Alberta committed to support Indigenous communities to participate in and benefit from responsible natural resource development projects and opportunities in the province.

The Indigenous Litigation Fund addressed the unique needs of Indigenous communities in Alberta that may not have the financial capacity to litigate for responsible resource development in their communities. For communities and the organizations that support them, responsible resource development provides a variety of benefits, especially the ability to increase Indigenous participation in the economy.

This fund was available to groups, coalitions, privately funded societies, or alliances that include Indigenous businesses, communities or groups.

The program was introduced in 2019-20 and was extended an additional two years to allow existing applications to be processed. Funding ended on March 31, 2022.

On November 15, 2021, the Premier and the Minister of Indigenous Relations announced the second successful Indigenous Litigation Fund grant. The Fort McKay Métis Nation and Willow Lake Métis Nation jointly received a \$372,100 grant to begin a constitutional challenge of the federal government's Oil Tanker Moratorium Act. The Act prohibits oil tankers carrying crude and persistent oils, such as fuel oils and lubricating oils, from stopping, loading or unloading at ports or marine installations in northern British Columbia, making it harder for Alberta to get oil to overseas markets.

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

Priority One:

Protecting Livelihoods

Objective:

Standing Up for Alberta's natural resources

Ministry Contributions:

- Administered the Indigenous Litigation fund and granted \$372,100 to the Fort McKay and Willow Lake Métis Nations to challenge the federal government's *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*
- In total, since the Indigenous Litigation Fund was established, \$550,000 has been provided to support legal challenges that affected Indigenous interests in Alberta

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

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

In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations processed 7,998 consultation applications for 11,979 natural resource activities - generally, one approved application leads to more than one activity. These approved applications ensured that First Nations, Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis communities had the opportunity for meaningful consultation according to the Government of Alberta's Policies and Guidelines. Indigenous Relations met application processing timelines for pre-consultation, within four Government of Alberta working days, and adequacy of consultation assessments, within 10 Government of Alberta working days. These timelines were met 100 per cent of the time, which is five percentage points above the target for 2021-22.

ACO continues to make great strides in its Digital Service (DS). Over the past year:

- The ACO worked with consultation staff from Indigenous communities, industry, and government ministries and agencies to design and get feedback on the ACO Digital Service's ease of use;
- The DS gives Indigenous communities and industry direct access to their consultation documents in a secure government system. Its simple and convenient dashboard view of participants' regulatory consultation projects helps to ease the administrative burden; and
- The ACO also released a system update integrating the DS with Alberta Energy Regulator's OneStop system. Now, the systems can quickly pass information to each other about consultation and natural resource projects.

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

Priority One:

Protecting Lives

Objective Six:

Partnering with Indigenous Peoples to pursue opportunities

Ministry Contributions:

- In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations processed 7,998 consultation applications to ensure that Indigenous groups were meaningfully consulted in natural resource project reviews.
- All of this activity is focused on fulfilling Alberta's duty to consult Indigenous groups as per the *Canada's Constitution Act, 1982*.

The ACO is finalizing a consultation guide for First Nations, Metis Settlements, and credible asserted Métis communities. The purpose of the guide is to provide information on Alberta's consultation and regulatory processes that is specific to the needs to Indigenous communities; clarify roles and responsibilities; and improve transparency. Between May and October 2021, ACO held a number of engagement sessions with Indigenous communities across Alberta to seek their input and feedback about Alberta's consultation process. ACO carefully reviewed all feedback received to help inform the guide and to make it responsive to Indigenous community needs.

The Geodata Mapping Project engaged with eight First Nations and one Metis Settlements on possible revisions to the geographic extent the Government of Alberta ordinarily uses to direct consultation to them. The Government of Alberta implemented one revision, and has proposed a second revision for consideration.

Finally, In December 2021, Indigenous Relations participated in a virtual workshop of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Indigenous Consultation and Accommodation, to discuss emerging issues and share best practices through information sharing and collaborative problem-solving between all jurisdictions. Indigenous Relations will continue to participate in these cross-government collaboration efforts in 2022-23.

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

In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations made significant progress to:

- Conclude a settlement of the Doig River Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claim following ratification by the Doig River and Blueberry River First Nations;
- Reach an understanding at the negotiating table about the lands that would be included as part of a final settlement of the TLE claim for Beaver First Nation and conclude consultation with neighboring aboriginal communities; and
- Reach an understanding at the negotiating table about land and an approach to cash that may be contributed by Alberta's government as part of a final settlement of the Fort McMurray TLE claim.

Seventeen thousand acres of provincial Crown lands, including mines and minerals, were transferred to the Government of Canada for reserve creation pursuant to the terms and conditions of the December 13, 2010 Canada-Alberta Agreement respecting the settlement of the Bigstone TLE claim. This transfer will create additional reserve lands for the Peerless Trout First Nation and will include the transfer of two new schools constructed by Alberta pursuant to the Agreement.

These transfers have taken place in phases as surveys are completed and third party issues are resolved.

1.5 Support community, social and economic development through:

- First Nations Development Fund;
- Employment Partnerships Program;
- Aboriginal Business Investment Fund; and
- First Nations and Metis Women's Councils on Economic Security who advise government on ways to improve the socio-economic security of Indigenous women and their families.

First Nations Development Fund

The First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) is a Government of Alberta grant program that is available exclusively to First Nations Band Councils in Alberta. Funded by a portion of revenues from government-owned slot machines located in First Nations' casinos in Alberta, the FNDF helps fulfill First Nations economic, social, and community development priorities.

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

All First Nations casinos were closed from April 1 to June 10, 2021 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. FNDF funding amounts increased by more than \$41 million over those of the previous year, when casinos were shut down twice to align with public health precautions.

In 2021-22, FNDF proceeds were almost \$105 million for grants funding and services associated with processing the grant applications. This funding supported 28 economic, 69 social, and 221 community development initiatives in First Nations across the province. Some examples of these projects included:

- \$443,746 for Police and Fire Department services at Enoch Cree Nation;
- \$145,908 for modifications to a house to accommodate a community member with a spinal injury at Horse Lake First Nation;
- \$1.2 million to purchase snow removal equipment at Blood Tribe; and
- \$80,000 to support wakes and funeral costs at Little Red River Cree First Nation.

The FNDF Grant Agreement includes a requirement for Indigenous Relations to conduct compliance reviews in First Nations to account for grant funding provided to their community, as part of continuous improvement efforts to the program, and to ensure compliance with grant agreements. The COVID-19 pandemic forced many First Nations to close their offices and focus on keeping their members safe. As such, compliance reviews were put on hold until the 2022-23 funding year.

Employment Partnerships Program

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

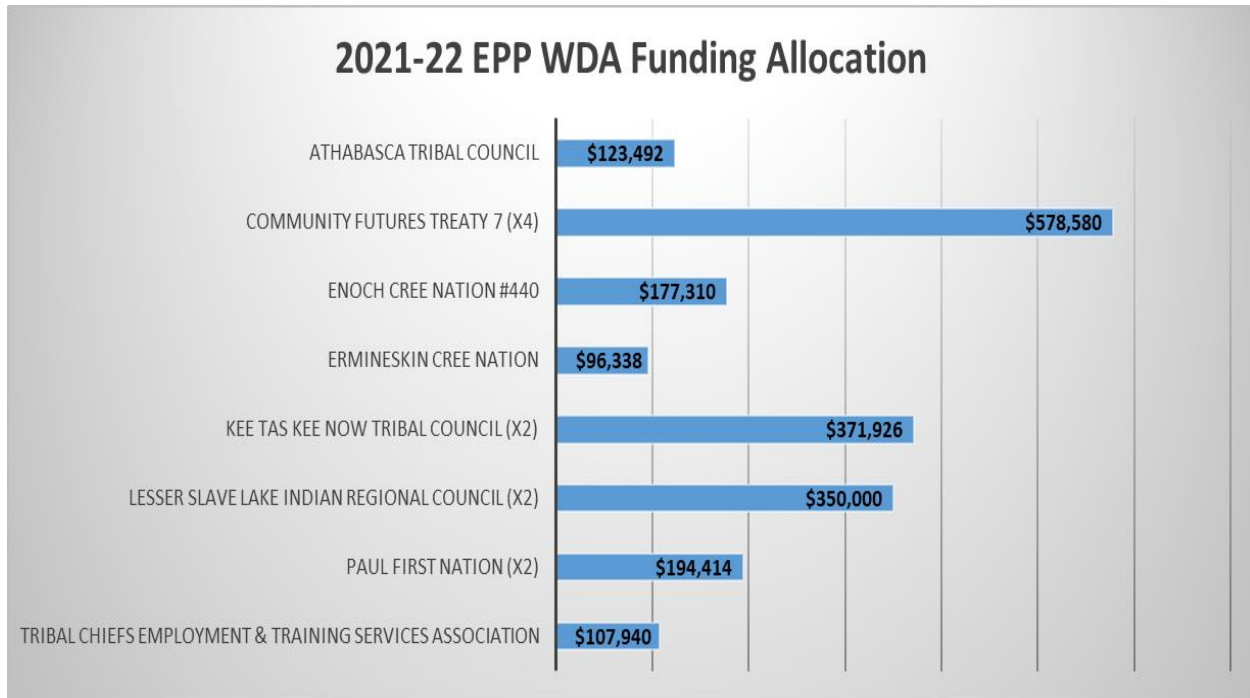
The EPP is funded through two federal-provincial agreements, collectively referred to as the Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs). The LMTA includes the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) and the Workforce Development Agreement (WDA). Indigenous organizations eligible to participate in the EPP through the federal government's Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) program are provided with funding for Indigenous workforce development.

The EPP allocated \$4.547 million towards 28 projects across Alberta in this fiscal year, with \$2.547 million coming from LMDA and \$2 million coming from WDA. Some projects included:

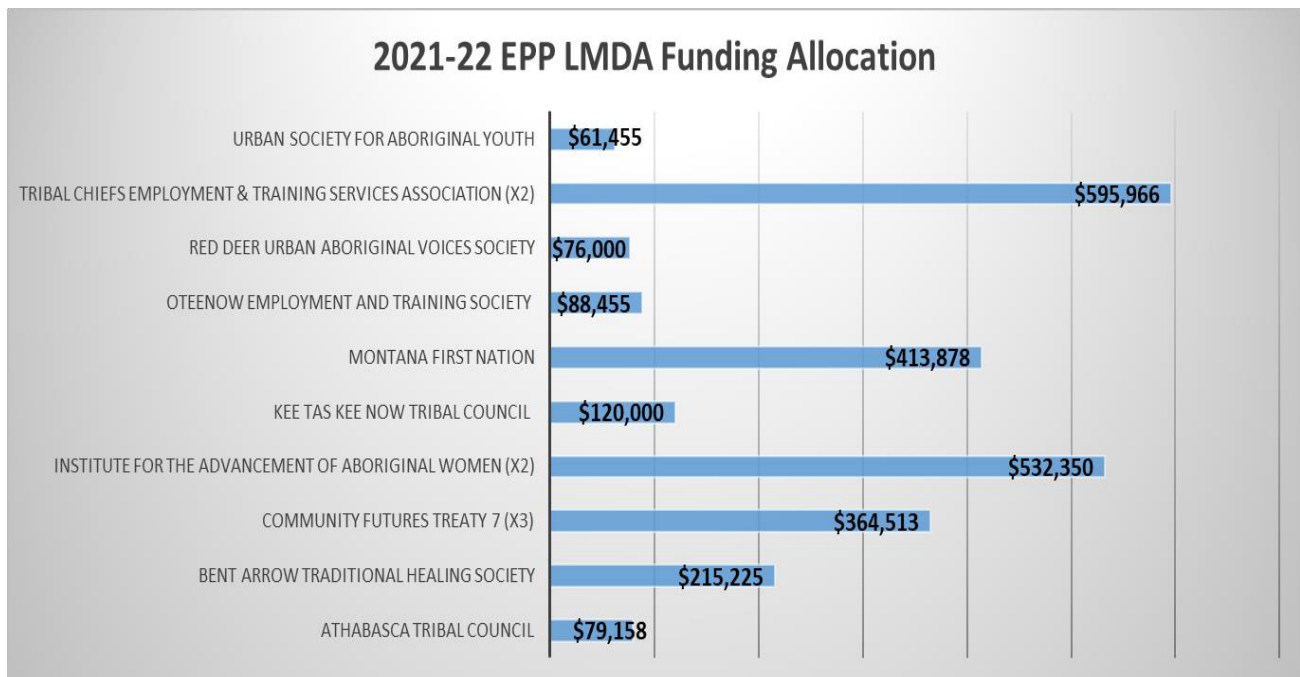
- \$413,878 to Montana First Nation for a Job Corps project that will provide participants additional skilled trades training to help gain long-term employment;
- \$395,966 to Tribal Chiefs Employment & Training Services Association for a Community Based Environmental Monitoring Training Program that will provide accredited environmental monitoring training to Treaty Six First Nation community members;
- a combined \$532,350 to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women for both a Job Readiness Program (\$292,000) and Job Retention Program (\$240,350); and
- \$200,000 to the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTC) to offer pre-trades and apprenticeship training to five members from each of the KTC member First Nations who will have employment upon completion.

To address the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government introduced additional flexibility in 2020-21 for eligible expenses that allowed EPP grant recipients to meet provincial health guidelines when offering Indigenous employment and training initiatives. Those eligibilities remained in place for 2021-22. This flexibility permitted EPP grant recipients to deliver Indigenous employment and training initiatives safely.

Workforce Development Agreement Projects were allocated as per the chart below, and projects under this agreement are generally direct training projects, or projects that provide other direct employment supports to clients (for example job search, skills training, resume writing, etc.).



Labour Market Development Agreement Projects were allocated as per the chart below, and are generally “light-touch” or “no-touch,” meaning they are not direct training programs, but rather events or research, such as job fairs, networking events, strategic planning, and labour market analysis.



Friendship Centres and Urban Indigenous Peoples

Urban Indigenous people are the youngest and fastest growing population in Canada. The department worked with urban Indigenous organizations in many different ways to support those living off-reserve and off-Settlement. This included funding projects to urban Indigenous organizations to remove barriers and strengthen economic and social opportunities for urban Indigenous people in Alberta. The department encourages collaboration among Indigenous communities, governments, private and not-for-profit sectors to better serve and meet the needs of the urban Indigenous population.

In 2021-22, the department maintained its funding commitment of \$720,000 to support the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA), and its 21 local community Friendship Centres, to help Indigenous peoples in urban centres access programs and services.

Community and Social Services also provided Indigenous Relations with \$80,000 of one-time funding for the ANFCA, to support the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

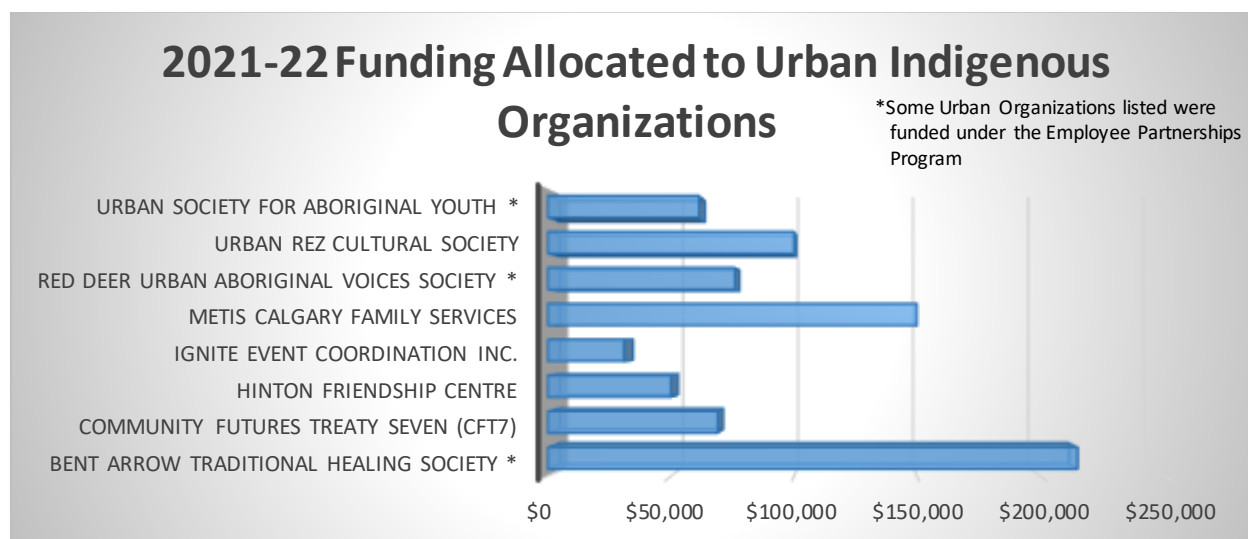
In addition to funding provided to the ANFCA, urban Indigenous organizations have also successfully applied to the EPP to support their training and employment initiatives. In 2021-22, funding amounting to \$352,680 was provided to the following three projects:

- \$76,000 to Red Deer Urban Aboriginal Voices Society to help Indigenous job seekers to develop skills, and encourage employers to interact with job seekers;
- \$61,455 to the Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth in Calgary to promote technology careers for Indigenous youth aged 14 to 21 by developing an app that will build employment and coding skills to launch future technology careers; and
- \$215,225 to the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society in Edmonton to help reintegrate incarcerated Indigenous men access job readiness supports and services through their Warriors Way project.

Indigenous Relations is committed to providing supports to urban Indigenous organizations that provide culturally appropriate services and programs. In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations also provided \$400,000 to the following five urban Indigenous organizations:

- \$50,000 to the Hinton Friendship Centre Society to increase therapy services for families and individuals experiencing the effects of familial sexual abuse and family violence;
- \$100,000 to the Urban Rez Cultural Society to help with the four-day Knowledge Keepers Youth Cultural Gathering where participants will be given the opportunity to revitalize and reclaim Indigenous languages, medicines, traditional teachings and kinship through Elders and knowledge keepers through land based learning;
- \$150,000 to Métis Calgary Family Services to support both the Assini Project – Calgary Urban Indigenous Strategy as well as the Community Voice Mail project to support citizens to remain connected, have dialogue and build cohesive relationships with various services for the betterment of Calgary's urban Indigenous population;

- \$30,950 to Ignite Event Coordination Inc. to help with a two-day land based planning event where Elders will interact with youth on land-related issues, culture, prevention, sustainability and living in harmony with the land; and
- \$69,050 to Community Futures Treaty Seven (CFT7) to help develop an Indigenous employment website and social media platform to promote and increase the visibility of the CFT7 Career Centres and their clientele.



Aboriginal Business Investment Fund

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

For the 2021-22 intake, Indigenous Relations supported the following 13 Indigenous community projects that span the province in tourism, agriculture, hospitality, retail, construction, and other industry sectors that will help to create jobs and stimulate local communities.

2021-22 Applicant	Community	Project	Amount
Alexander Business Center Inc.	Alexander First Nation	Alexander Valve Supply	\$500,000
Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada	Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada	AWN Tourism: Culture Camp Expansion	\$500,000
Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park	Siksika Nation	Critical Infrastructure Adaptation	\$178,120
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement Association	Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement Association	Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement Tourism & Recreation Park Development	\$382,000
Driftpile Cree Nation	Driftpile Cree Nation	Driftpile Gas Bar	\$500,000
Gift Lake Metis Settlement Association	Gift Lake Metis Settlement Association	Purchase of a D6 Crawler Tractor	\$500,000
Heart Lake First Nation	Heart Lake First Nation	Convenience Store/ Gas Bar Remodel	\$250,000
Kwayaskwaw Contracting Ltd.	Kehewin Cree Nation	The Revitalization Program	\$500,000
Lemax Machine & Welding Inc.	Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation	Acden Lemax Business Growth and Expansion	\$500,000
Montana First Nation	Montana First Nation	Montana First Nation Greenhouse	\$500,000
Pigeon Lake Golf Club (1991) Holdings Ltd.	Louis Bull Tribe	Cedar Crest Inn Redevelopment	\$280,882
Saddle Lake Building Supply Ltd.	Saddle Lake Cree Nation	Store Truck Purchase	\$158,998
Tri-Rez Grader Limited Partnership	Cold Lake First Nations	Tri-Rez Grader LP A&R Division Launch	\$250,000

Since 2014, ABIF has supported 59 Indigenous-owned businesses with funds totaling \$35 million. That funding is estimated to have created more than 300 permanent jobs for Indigenous people in a variety of industries including oil and gas, construction, agriculture, tourism, and health care. This is exactly the type of job growth that will help Alberta's economy recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, oil price declines, and global economic malaise seen recently in Alberta.

First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security

The First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security, first established in 2013, provide the Alberta government with advice and recommendations on policies, programs, and services to increase the economic security of Indigenous women, their families, and communities.

The Councils approach their work from an Indigenous worldview where economic security means having access to the resources and supports that contribute to physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being and give women the ability to provide the basic needs for their families in safe and secure communities and access to opportunities to participate in the provincial economy.

In 2021, the First Nations Women's Council held three meetings and the Métis Women's Council also met three times culminating with reports and recommendations submitted to the province.

Both Councils were represented on the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Joint Working Group). The Métis Council's safety subcommittee work also helped inform the Joint Working Group deliberations related to safety for Indigenous women and girls.

The First Nations and Métis Women's Councils met with the Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society to provide Indigenous women's perspectives on how Alberta's civil society can help address the challenges faced by Indigenous women and support an inclusive social and economic recovery for Indigenous women. Alberta's social and economic recovery acknowledges the unique challenges, experiences and contributions of Indigenous women.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives provided secretariat support for both the First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security including arranging meetings and meeting materials, preparing research and discussion material.

On November 30, 2021, the First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security presented their 2021 Reports and Recommendations to the Minister of Indigenous Relations. The First Nations Women's Council made six recommendations related to racism, safety, and mental health and addictions and the Métis Women's Council made six recommendations related to safety, entrepreneurship, education, and health.

To fill vacancies on the Councils, recruitment for Council members was completed and subsequently six First Nations and five Métis Council members were appointed. Following the conclusion of this recruitment process, both Councils participated in orientation and team building meetings to prepare them for the coming year.

Performance Measure 1.a: Number of Indigenous employment initiatives

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
21	30	25	24	25	28

This performance measure is calculated based on the number of applications received through the Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) call for proposals. Indigenous Skills Employment and Training (ISET) program agreement holders are eligible to receive funding through EPP.

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

Outcome Two: Indigenous perspectives and Alberta's interests with its cross-government and industry partners are included in Government of Alberta policies, programs, initiatives and services

Key Objectives

2.1 Build on the one-third reduction of regulatory and administrative burdens achieved by Indigenous Relations

In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations continued to focus on red tape reduction to support Indigenous Peoples, communities, and businesses. Overall, the ministry has reduced its regulatory requirements by 32 per cent by removing 996 regulatory items from its statutes, regulations, policies and forms.

The following is a list of Indigenous Relations' key red tape reduction successes in 2021-22:

- Provided Indigenous communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic more time to consult on proposed resource development projects, so they could maintain consultation activities while keeping their staff and community members safe. This saved months of project delays that helped contribute millions of dollars to Alberta's economy, saved and created jobs, and supported economic benefits to industry, Indigenous communities, and Albertans;
- Amended the *Metis Settlement Act* to increase financial and governance sustainability of the Metis Settlements to the Metis Settlements General Council;
- Introduced a multi-year funding agreement with the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) to provide stable core funding that keeps the organization from applying each year while increasing their capacity to deliver programs and services for Indigenous women;
- Reduced approval timelines for First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) applications by about 50 per cent, which created opportunities for approved First Nations to expedite their grant-funded projects;
- Developed a risk-based model for completing FNDF compliance reviews that led to a 40-50 per cent time and cost saving for First Nations and staff. Government liaison officers worked with First Nations through nineteen factors to complete a risk assessment. Seven First Nations were identified in the compliance review plan, which was developed and implemented based on the results of the risk assessments;
- The Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP) provided each of the 59 Indigenous communities \$110,000 in funding to participate in Alberta's consultation process on land and natural resource development. In an effort to eliminate red tape, Indigenous Relations removed unnecessary grant reporting requirements and transitioned the ICCP to three-year agreements, giving communities the ability to focus on long-term capital planning;
- The Aboriginal Consultation Office Digital Service (ACO-DS) is a new online system for Indigenous communities, industry proponents, and government to manage the administrative parts of Alberta's consultation process in a more transparent, effective and efficient way. A secured \$1 million investment for 2022-23 will support system enhancements. The ACO-DS is being continuously updated based on user feedback that will guide new functionality that, for the first, time, will provide Indigenous communities with the first shared service for accessing and managing their consultation files;
- In consideration of Indigenous communities that were impacted by the pandemic, the Aboriginal Consultation Office continued to implement a Consultation Management Strategy to provide additional time to maintain consultation activities while keeping their staff and community members safe;

- The Aboriginal Consultation Office and Alberta Energy Regulator Directors committee collaborated to address regulatory gaps and improve process efficiencies and alignment between the two organizations, creating greater clarity on roles, responsibilities, and expectations of Alberta’s consultation process. In 2021-22, the Alberta Energy Regulator and the Aboriginal Consultation Office implemented process improvements and joint learning sessions to improve regulatory processes and communication between organizations. This committee has also helped to improve inter-agency communication and coordination on the responsibilities detailed in the Ministerial Order, the Joint Operating Procedures for First Nations Consultation on Energy Resource Activities, and other matters supporting continuous improvement of the workflow between agencies; and
- The Aboriginal Consultation Office and Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development created a formal working group to find process efficiencies and to create joint training to improve coordination and alignment between the two ministries. They have developed clear and consistent consultation submission standards for the planning stages of the General Development Plan, Forest Management Agreements and Forest Management Plans. Implementation is on track for 2022-23.

Indigenous Relations will continue to support the cross ministry Red Tape Reduction (RTR) effort through active participation in RTR community of practice and find new ways to make life easier for people in Alberta.

2.2 Collaborate, as requested, with other provincial government ministries to provide advice and support for the development of policies, programs, and initiatives that reflect Indigenous perspectives and consideration

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

The Alberta Joint Working Group on MMIWG (Joint Working Group) was established in March 2020 to examine the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report in an Alberta context, developing made-in-Alberta solutions. Reporting to the Ministers of Indigenous Relations, Justice and Solicitor General, and Status of Women, the Joint Working Group’s mandate was to develop recommendations and provide advice to the Government of Alberta on actions in response to the National Inquiry. In December 2021, the Joint Working Group’s Final Report was completed and will inform Alberta’s actions in addressing issues identified in the National Inquiry and Calls for Justice.

On June 3, 2021, the *2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People* (NAP) was released, in response to the National Inquiry’s first Call for Justice. The NAP is intended to be an ‘evergreen’ document that will evolve over time in consideration of new cross-jurisdictional strategies and initiatives.

As part of the NAP, all Provincial and Territorial ministers signed a Joint Ministerial Statement confirming a shared commitment to collaborate on actions to address violence and work towards shared goals and priorities. Each jurisdiction, including Alberta, included their own summary setting out their approach and status of work.

In its summary, the Government of Alberta committed to working to address the high rates of violence that Indigenous women, girls and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual people and people with other gender identities (2SLGBTQQA+) continue to experience. It also highlighted that, through the Alberta Joint Working Group's Final Report, the government would keep the voices and experiences of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people at the heart of Alberta's efforts to end this violence.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives continued to lead the Alberta Cross Ministry Working Group on MMIWG, comprised of:

- Advanced Education
- Children's Services
- Community and Social Services
- Education
- Executive Council
- Health
- Justice and Solicitor General
- Labour and Immigration
- Culture and Status of Women, and
- Seniors and Housing.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives collaborated with all Alberta ministries in analyzing the Joint Working Group's recommendations that impact provincial laws, policies, programs and services. This work was used to inform Alberta's response to the National Inquiry's final report.

Other cross-ministry efforts worthy of mention included its leadership on several committees and working groups.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives participated on the Women's Economic Recovery Cross-Ministry Working Group with representatives from Culture and Status of Women (lead ministry), Jobs, Economy and Innovation, Labour and Immigration, Advanced Education, Service Alberta, Children's Services and Community and Social Services. The working group completed their work and submitted recommendations to the Associate Minister of Status of Women and Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives represents the Ministry of Indigenous Relations, along with representatives from across government, on the Sexual Violence Knowledge Exchange Committee (SVPAC). The SVPAC was established as a part of a broader approach to addressing sexual violence in Alberta. It provides a bi-monthly forum for collaboration on issues surrounding sexual violence and knowledge-sharing between law enforcement, subject matter experts, survivor-serving agencies and government. Most recently, the SVPAC provided input for Alberta's contribution into the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence.

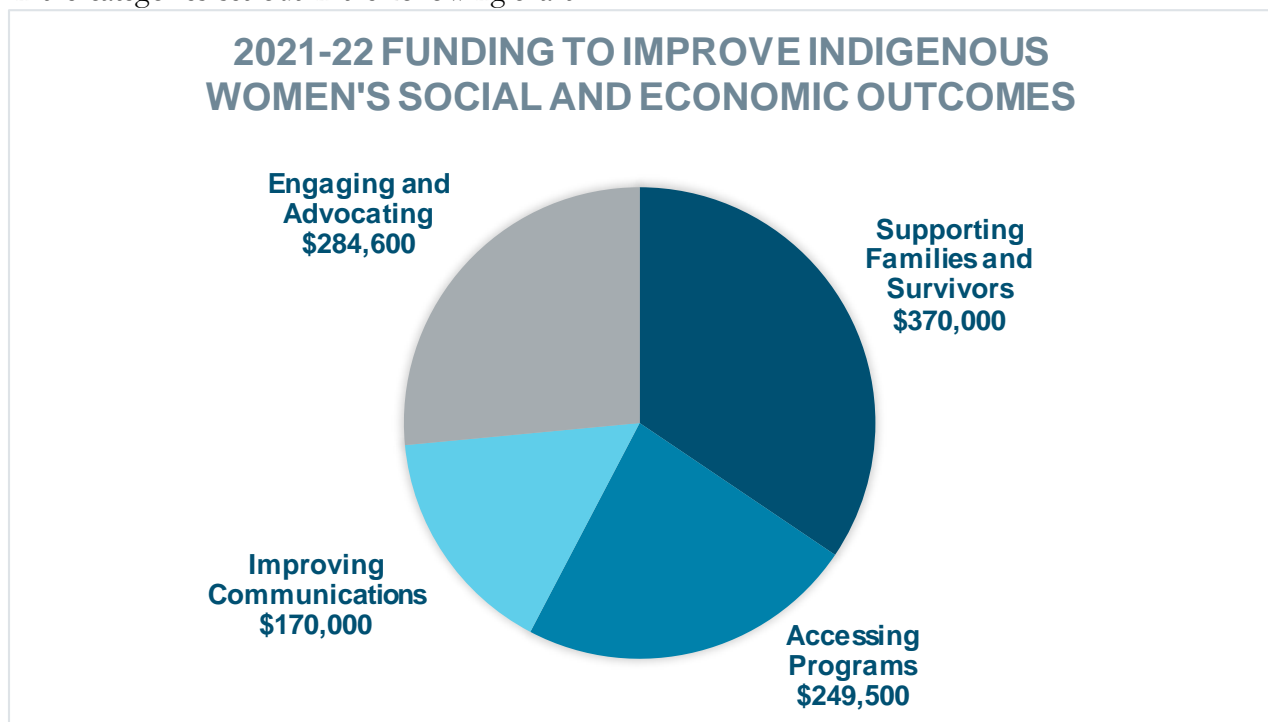
Staff from Indigenous Women's Initiatives, led by Justice and Solicitor General, participated in the Human Trafficking Working Group (Working Group). The Task Force submitted its report to government in August 2021. In March 2022, the Government of Alberta accepted 18 of 19 recommendations. Work on implementing the 18 recommendations is underway.

Indigenous Women’s Initiatives is a member of the Interdepartmental Committee on Family Violence (ICFV) and the recently established ICFV Executive Directors Committee, led by Community and Social Services. In partnership with service providers and communities, the committee shares information, builds on effective practices already in place, and implements priority initiatives in the areas of family violence prevention, intervention and response. In 2021-2022, Indigenous Women’s Initiatives participated in a review of the ICFV, which will inform the future direction of the committee.

Improving Indigenous Women’s Social and Economic Outcomes

Indigenous Relations provided the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) with operational support (\$115,000) to continue its efforts to empower and improve the lives of Indigenous women and girls (funding is subject to annual appropriations from the Legislative Assembly). Of this, a portion of the grant (\$15,000) was dedicated to coordinating the annual Esquao Awards, which celebrates exemplary Indigenous women across Alberta.

In 2021-22, funding to improve Indigenous women’s social and economic outcomes was allocated in the categories set out in the following chart:



A total of nine grants were awarded in 2021-22 for a total of \$1.074 million to address the barriers and challenges to improving the social and economic outcomes for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people. Two examples are:

- Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) received \$200,000 to deliver local community supports to MMIWG2S+ through prevention and healing initiatives. This grant will provide support to Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and their families who have been impacted by violence in four friendship centre communities.
- Four Winds & Associates received \$100,000 to increase awareness of missing Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people in Alberta by increasing use of the Aboriginal Alert system and developing partnerships with law enforcement and other partners in Alberta. The Aboriginal Alert system is a web-based platform that provides up-to-date information on missing Indigenous people of Canada.

An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

On June 21, 2021, the federal government's *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* received Royal Assent.

- In May 2021, Justice and Solicitor General, with support from Indigenous Relations and Intergovernmental Relations, provided a written submission to the Senate Standing Committee for Aboriginal Peoples regarding the Act.
- Concerns outlined by Alberta about the Act include greater clarity about jurisdictional and other issues needed to enhance relationships and avoid prolonged litigation.

An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families

- Indigenous Relations continued to provide guidance to the Ministry of Children's Services through negotiations on the implementation of federal government's An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families, which came into effect on January 1, 2020.
- Indigenous Relations is working closely with Children Services, Justice and Solicitor General and Intergovernmental Relations to develop potential approaches to considering requests that do not fall within the Children Services' mandate.

Caribou Sub-Regional Planning

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

Bow River Reservoir Options

Indigenous Relations provided ongoing advice and engagement support to Environment and Parks for that ministry's assessment of several options for flood and drought mitigation along the Bow River basin in southern Alberta.

Coal Policy Engagement

At Alberta Energy's engagement with Indigenous communities and the Coal Policy Committee's engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, Indigenous Relations provided advice and support. The ministry also provided input into the government's response document to the Coal Policy Committee's final report.

Cross-Ministry Initiatives

Indigenous Relations works with other provincial government ministries to provide advice and support for the development of programs and initiatives that reflect Indigenous perspectives and consideration. In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations supported the following:

- Treasury Board and Finance finalized the elimination of the Alberta Indian Tax Exemption card to transition to the federal status card, opting instead for retailers to use the federal status card for tobacco and fuel tax exemptions. This was part of the Government of Alberta's efforts to reduce red tape. The transition took place on October 4, 2021; and
- Continued to support industry and Indigenous livelihoods related to natural resource development through Alberta Energy's Site Rehabilitation Program. This effort included working with the Indian Resource Council, who brought a First Nation viewpoint to this cross-ministry work. Indigenous Relations previously helped Alberta Energy create a Site Rehabilitation Program of \$100 million, specifically for First Nations and Metis Settlements and work has continued this fiscal year. This funding helped them work with licensees to close off and reclaim oil and gas sites on or near their lands to help future generations use the lands in traditional ways.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) is administered by Alberta Infrastructure. Indigenous Relations' role includes relationship management, providing support for Indigenous communities, and helping with the federal application process for the ICIP. Six provincially-endorsed applications from Indigenous communities were submitted to Infrastructure Canada for approval. Indigenous Relations is working with six Indigenous communities who received federal and provincial approvals for their applications.

The Dene Tha' First Nation's Meander River Essential Power Upgrade project was completed in the 2021-22 fiscal year. The upgrade to logistical infrastructure has allowed the northern town of Meander River to acquire efficient and secure energy to power vital infrastructure and meet the growing needs of its residents. Funding was allocated over a 3-year period for the project. The remaining five ICIP projects are in different stages of development, and Indigenous Relations will continue to work with the Indigenous applicants to ensure all funding available under the program for their projects is accessed in full, allowing for the completion of their projects.

The table below lists all six projects:

2021-22 Applicant	Community	Project	Amount
Métis Nation of Alberta Association Fort McMurray Local Council 1935	Métis Nation of Alberta Association Fort McMurray Local Council 1935	Métis Cultural Centre	\$16,500,000
Red Crow Community College	Kainai Nation (Blood Tribe)	New Campus	\$20,000,000
Dene Tha' First Nation	Dene Tha' First Nation	Meander River Essential Power Upgrade*	\$3,502,210
Saddle Lake Cree Nation	Saddle Lake Cree Nation	Broadband and Cellular Upgrade	\$2,665,500
Cold Lake First Nations	Cold Lake First Nations	Broadband Expansion	\$241,544
Yellowhead Tribal College	Yellowhead Tribal College	G.R.O.W.	\$176,250

* Denotes a completed project

Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement

Through the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement (LTA), the ministry collaborated with Advanced Education to provide cost-shared community-based education initiatives to six participating Metis Settlements. Settlements used the grants to tailor educational programming. In addition, Transportation sits on the LTA's Capital Infrastructure Program Technical Team to provide advice and support.

Disaster Recovery

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

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

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

In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations worked with Alberta Emergency Management Agency staff to monitor, support, participate, and assist with:

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

Additionally, Indigenous Relations provided \$60,000 to the Fort Vermillion Métis Local #74 to help them with their continued flood recovery efforts from the 2020 ice jams.

Performance Measure 2.a: Percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that pre-consultation assessments (4 working days) and consultation adequacy assessments (10 working days) are issued within established timelines

Pre-Consultation Assessments:

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
49%	78%	98%	100%	95%	100%

Consultation Adequacy Assessments:

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
10%	88%	98%	100%	95%	100%

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

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

These performance measures also provide key information regarding the desired outcome to ensuring resource development benefits from a timely, consistent and efficient consultation process.

In the 2021-22 fiscal year, the ACO met its performance timelines for these measures 100 percent of the time. Success in these performance measures was due to multiple factors including, but not limited to:

- effectively managing sporadic surges of applications to meet changing needs due to variations in geographical caseload distribution and continuous improvement goals;
- training staff and encouraging skillset maturity and experience within the ACO; and
- maintaining the ACO staff complement.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to influence ACO operations due to more staff and clients working remotely, as well as consultation timeline pauses and extensions for impacted Indigenous communities, the ACO continued to utilize established effective remote working tools, communication channels, and agile operations management to ensure that the pandemic did not impact performance on these measures.

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

Outcome Three: Relationships with Indigenous leadership and organizations are maintained and strengthened

Key Objectives

3.1 Lead the Government of Alberta in supporting First Nations to improve economic and social outcomes and support First Nations in environmental discussions through protocol agreements

Indigenous Relations is increasing opportunities for reconciliation with Indigenous leadership, communities, and organizations through protocol agreements that are bi-lateral government-to-government relationship agreements that strive to advance both Government of Alberta and First Nations' interests.

The main purposes of protocol agreements are to:

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

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

Since the renewal of the Blackfoot Confederacy Protocol Agreement in September 2019, six protocol agreement tables have been updated and had their tables work plans signed. A table or sub-table under the protocol agreement is composed of a delegated Chief (or representative) and provincial minister. These two parties, supported by senior officials, form a work plan based on consensus, and typically include a budget. Teams of technicians then implement the work plan, reporting annually at the Chief's and Premier meeting. Elders, provincial partners, federal ministries, and guests can be invited to table meetings as necessary.

The annual Premier's meeting with the Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs was held on February 18, 2022 at Calgary's McDougall Centre, and included the presentation of the *2020-21 Annual Report*, in addition to the signing of the Economic Development and Employment Table and Health Sub-Table's work plans.

The signing of the inaugural protocol agreement with the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council (G4) occurred in October 2020. In 2021, the G4 Chiefs signed two work plans with the Ministers of Children's Services and Justice and Solicitor General. Additional work plans are in development for the remaining tables.

After the inaugural signing with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations in December 2020, the Grand Chief at the time indicated concerns with their protocol agreement leading to its dissolution on May 13, 2021. Later in the 2021-22 fiscal year, current Grand Chief, George Arcand Jr., resumed discussions with Indigenous Relations about a relationship agreement. A draft relationship agreement was submitted for review and discussions are anticipated to continue in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Discussions continue at a technical level with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta to explore the potential of renewing the protocol agreement.

3.2 Maintain and strengthen Alberta’s relationship with the Metis Settlements General Council, Metis Settlements and the Metis Nation of Alberta through agreements and modernizing the Metis Settlements Act

Long-Term Governance Funding Arrangements Agreement

Since its signing in 2013, the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangement (LTA) Agreement, Indigenous Relations has provided \$80 million to advance long-term sustainability of the Settlements through contributions to Settlement infrastructure, supporting safe and healthy communities. The LTA also supported initiatives aimed at strengthening Settlement governance, and increasing education, employment and economic opportunities.

In 2021-22, the Government of Alberta provided \$5 million, in annual contributions to support:

- capacity to help in the implementation of the LTA’s programs and initiatives;
- critical Metis Settlement infrastructure projects, like phase one of the McKinley Road project on East Prairie Metis Settlement and Range Road 14 on Elizabeth Metis Settlement;
- a capital reserve fund to be used on Metis Settlement infrastructure projects following the end of the LTA;
- Settlement consultation capacity to help with consultation-related activities regarding land and natural resource management as part of Alberta’s consultation process;
- Metis Settlement Enhanced Policing Agreements and the Metis Settlements Health Board; and
- delivery of community-based education initiatives, like adult literacy, computer literacy, and other Settlement training initiatives.

Modernizing the *Metis Settlements Act*

The *Metis Settlements Amendments Act, 2021* received Royal Assent on June 17, 2021. Amendments to the 30-year-old *Metis Settlements Act* were meant to improve community sustainability and autonomy by reducing the cost and size of Settlement governance, reduce the role of the Minister, and increase Metis Settlement councils’ accountability to their members.

- The Act moves Alberta’s government and the eight Metis Settlements to a more direct working relationship, rather than working through the Metis Settlement General Council (MSGC).
- The Metis Settlements Act (MSA) amendments require the Metis Settlements and the MSGC to put in place governance changes and bylaws from 2021 through 2023.
- The MSA amendments were crafted to:
- Increase Metis Settlement councils’ responsibility to charge for services such as water, sewage and roads;
- Limit councillor remuneration to 50 per cent of the chair’s salary;
- Allow councils to determine the number of elected councillors for their community – from a minimum of three to a maximum of five;
- Reduce the size of the MSGC Executive from four officers to a maximum of two;
- Remove the Minister of Indigenous Relations from any decision-making powers related to the MSGC’s financial policies; and
- Require Settlements to produce annual balanced operating budgets for each fiscal year.

Métis Nation of Alberta – Government of Alberta Framework Agreement

Indigenous Relations continues to collaborate with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to develop two Framework Agreement annual reports, co-plan the Framework Agreement Joint Review of Progress and co-develop Framework Funding Agreement work plans. The Framework Agreement, signed by the Government of Alberta and the MNA, is a 10-year agreement (2017-2027) that calls for MNA strategic planning, joint planning and action in the design of provincial policies affecting Métis people, and capacity building strategies to help the MNA accomplish these activities. This agreement is designed to sustain an enduring, collaborative relationship and promote the social and economic well-being of MNA members.

The Ministry works in partnership with the MNA and other government ministries to develop Framework Funding Agreement annual reports, including facilitating discussions with the relevant government departments on addressing Framework Agreement priorities.

In 2021-22, staff participated in eight Framework Technical Committee meetings with the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Independent Métis Organizations

On September 14, 2021, the Government of Alberta and the Fort McKay Métis Nation Association (FMMNA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) focused on advancing the FMMNA's long-term social, economic, and cultural sustainability. The MOU commits to enhancing education and training opportunities for FMMNA's members. Indigenous Relations will also identify current programs and services available to the FMMNA to further economic development and infrastructure funding.

- Through this agreement, both organizations will identify strategies to work with FMMNA's social, economic, and cultural objectives;
- Opportunities to enhance education and training opportunities for FMMNA members;
- Current programs and services available to FMMNA to further economic development and infrastructure funding; and
- Key areas for community development identified in business plans, and shared with government.
- The MOU also commits to an annual meeting between the FMMNA President and the Minister of Indigenous Relations, as well as periodic meetings between FMMNA officials and relevant Indigenous Relations staff.
- Signatories will:
- Work together to accomplish the shared objectives; and
- Develop an implementation plan to monitor progress that will be reviewed annually.

Performance Measure 3.a: Number of protocol agreements renewed or developed

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
NA	0	1	2	4	2

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

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

After their protocol agreements were in place, the Blackfoot Confederacy and Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council agreements proceeded to and are still in the implementation phase. In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations continued to work to achieve renewed agreements with the Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta.

A fuller explanation regarding protocol agreements is provided above under Objective 3.1.

Other 2021-22 Accomplishments

Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Indigenous Relations declared September 30, 2021 as the “Day for Truth and Reconciliation” to remember the Indigenous children who attended residential schools and particularly those who never returned home. A commemorative event was held on the Alberta Legislature grounds with Elders, Indigenous leaders, government ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and members of the public. A linden tree was planted as part of the commemoration.

Minister of Indigenous Relations Engagement and Community Visits

Minister Wilson visited or met with 30 Indigenous communities and organizations in Alberta from February to September 2021 to understand their needs and build positive relationships. Some visits included tours of the communities to learn about progress made on various economic initiatives, participation in celebrations like Elizabeth Metis Settlement’s Cultural Days event. Discussions topics and themes included, but were not limited to, the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC), Residential Schools Community Research Grants, changes to the *Metis Settlements Act*, the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund, addiction recovery services, tourism, policing, and water infrastructure.

Metis Settlements

In December 2021, the Minister held virtual meet and greets with the newly elected Councils of Gift Lake Metis Settlement, Elizabeth Metis Settlement, and Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement. In January 2022, Minister Wilson had an introductory virtual meet and greet with the newly elected Council of the East Prairie Metis Settlement.

National Indigenous Peoples Day

On June 21 2021, Indigenous Relations virtually celebrated the 25th annual National Indigenous Peoples Day. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, the event was posted on the Indigenous Relations Facebook page and was emceed by the Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations. The post had over 6,500 views with performances from Rocky Morin, Cindy Paul, Johnny Rogers-Caisse, Phaedra Littlechild, Kendall Chase Gladue Bull and Brent L'Hirondelle.

Alberta Residential Schools Community Research Grant

In June 2021, Alberta’s government announced the \$8 million Residential Schools Community Research Grant to fund Indigenous-led engagement, research and related activities associated with the documented and undocumented deaths and burials of Indigenous children at any of the historical residential school sites that were located throughout Alberta. The grant supports engagement and ceremonial activities.

The grant program allows Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta to apply for a maximum of \$150,000 for individual proposals with no funding cap for joint submissions. The deadline for proposals was February 15, 2022.

Indigenous Relations approved 54 applications, granting the entire \$8 million in grant funding to Indigenous communities. Two examples of grants include the:

- The Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council (consisting of four First Nations) project, which will include community consultation and engagement, developing of archives and oral history, and preparation for ground penetrating radar for the Jousard (St. Bruno's), Grouard (St. Bernard's) and the Lesser Slave Lake (St. Peter's) sites.
- Funding for the Acimowin Opaspiw Society (supported by Saddle Lake Cree Nation) for memorial round dances, community meetings, engagement, knowledge gathering, travel, research and data management, ceremonies, monuments, grave markers, and travel.

In general, communities and organizations intend to use the funding for: community-driven research; community-led engagement; use of ground penetrating radar and other technologies to explore potential unmarked burial sites; and maintenance and commemorative work, such as installing or restoring grave markers, placement of memorials or commemoration events.

Premier's Public Service Award

In 2021, Indigenous Relations' First Nations Relations Protocol Team received the Premier's Public Service Award for their work in drafting and using protocol agreements to develop sector-specific tables that bring the province and First Nations leaders together regularly to cooperatively resolve issues through engaging the Tribal Councils. Protocol Agreements provide a clear and coordinated decision-making framework that better support First Nations in Alberta.

Métis Nation of Alberta Annual General Meeting

The Minister sent a pre-recorded video message on behalf of the Government of Alberta for the Métis Nation of Alberta's Annual General Meeting held on August 21-22, 2021. The Minister brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Alberta and welcomed the delegates to the meeting, as he is invited to do each year.

Metis Settlement Proclamation Day

On November 1, 2021, Minister Wilson hosted an outdoor flag raising ceremony at the Federal Building on the Alberta Legislature grounds to honour the anniversary of Metis Settlement Proclamation Day, which was first celebrated in 1990.

Indigenous Learning Initiative

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #57, to provide education to public servants on Indigenous history, including the history and legacy of residential schools, treaties and Aboriginal rights, the Government of Alberta has responded with two cultural awareness courses under the Indigenous Learning Initiative (ILI). These training initiatives support reconciliation by educating Alberta Public Service employees, including Alberta's agencies, boards and commissions staff, to better understand, engage with and work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Alberta. The goal is to establish positive relationships as we move forward with reconciliation.

In 2021-22, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, training was provided through a virtual and limited in-person learning model.

The ILI offers two training programs, 1) the Indigenous Introductory Training (IIT) and 2) the Indigenous Cultural Protocol (ICP) training.

The IIT is a full-day program that addresses myths, misconceptions and stereotypes and serves to change behaviours by creating a chance for deeper understanding of Canada's shared history from an Indigenous perspective. Participants gain a greater understanding of the long-term impact of colonization and assimilation policies such as how residential schools have led to long-standing racism.

- Since its inception in July 2018 more than 14,000 Government of Alberta employees, including some agencies, boards and commissions have participated in the IIT.
- Of that, 626 Alberta Public Service employees participated in IIT in 2021-22.

ICP training is a half-day program that focuses on building greater understanding about Indigenous Peoples in Alberta, and the diverse cultural protocols when initiating engagement in a respectful and culturally appropriate way with First Nations and Métis groups. It provides an opportunity for employees to engage with an Elder, ask questions, and learn how to apply this knowledge when working directly with Indigenous people.

- Since its inception in August 2020, over 550 employees have participated in ICP. Of that, 261 Alberta Public Service employees participated in ICP in 2021-22.

Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology

Performance Measure 1.a: Number of Indigenous employment initiatives

This performance measure is calculated based on the number of applications received through the Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) call for proposals. Indigenous Skills Employment and Training (ISET) program agreement holders are eligible to receive funding through EPP.

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

Performance Measure 2.a: Percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that pre-consultation assessments (4 working days) and consultation adequacy assessments (10 working days) are issued within established timelines

Pre-Consultation Assessments

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

An approval specialist reviews the electronic submission on behalf of the ACO, and will result in a pre-consultation assessment. Pre-consultation assessments will indicate whether consultation is required. If consultation is required, the pre-consultation assessment will identify both the level of consultation and the First Nation(s), Metis Settlement(s) and credibly asserted Métis communities to be consulted.

The ACO manually tracks, reviews, analyzes and reports on the data collected through the EDS. The result of this performance measure are generated manually from an internal tracking spreadsheet. The data includes the number of files received and processed, and associated with timelines each week. The application processing timelines are measured at the beginning of each week, for the previous week.

This is the calculation used to find the percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that pre-consultation assessments happen within timelines:

Pre-consultation Assessment Issued (PAI) Equation:

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

The ACO began tracking pre-consultation assessments in the 1st week of the fiscal year. For 2020-21, 50 weeks were counted. This excludes the Alberta government closure at the end of December.

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

Consultation Adequacy Assessments

This performance measure reports the percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that consultation adequacy assessments happen within established timelines; 10 Government of Alberta working days from the time staff receive completed consultation summary documents.

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

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

The results of this performance measure are generated manually from an internal tracking spreadsheet. The data includes the number of files received and processed, and the associated timeline each week. The ACO's consultation administrator calculates the results by tracking the data. The application processing timelines are measured at the beginning of the week for the previous week, which is the Monday of every week.

This is the calculation used to find the percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that consultation adequacy assessments happen within timelines.

Consultation Adequacy Assessment (CAA) Equation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Reporting Entity and Method Consolidation

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

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

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

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

Ministry Financial Highlights

Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited)

End of the year March 31, 2022

	Actual		2021	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>		<i>In thousands</i>	
Revenues				
Government Transfers				
Federal and Other Government Grants	\$ 29,776	\$ 19,173	\$ 1,539	\$ 17,634
Labour Market Development	4,547	4,547	3,664	883
Premiums, Fees and Licenses	2,475	630	-	630
Other Revenue				
Internal Government Transfer of Liability	-		1,389	(1,389)
Other	-	1,446	3,746	(2,300)
Ministry Total	36,798	25,796	10,338	15,458
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	(48)	(1,389)	1,341
Adjusted ministry total	36,798	25,748	8,949	16,799
Expenses - directly incurred				
Programs				
Ministry Support Services	4,545	3,727	4,157	(430)
First Nations and Métis Relations	22,633	29,175	20,600	8,575
Indigenous Women's Initiatives	1,237	1,604	1,158	446
First Nations Development Fund	123,000	104,785	63,598	41,187
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,121	1,060	1,000	60
Consultation, Land and Policy	15,098	15,131	15,995	(864)
Investing in Canada Infrastructure	29,776	19,173	1,539	17,634
Land and Legal Settlements	8,324	26	113	(87)
Indigenous Litigation Fund	3,000	372	-	372
Climate Change Initiatives	-	-	-	-
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	8,475	4,373	2,565	1,808
Ministry Total	217,209	179,426	110,725	68,701
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustments	-	(68)	(114)	46
Adjusted Ministry Total	217,209	179,358	110,611	68,747
Annual deficit	\$ (180,411)	\$ (153,610)	\$ (101,662)	\$ (51,948)

Revenue and Expense Highlights

Revenues

- Ministry revenues totaled \$26 million in 2021-22, which is an increase of \$17 million from 2020-21 and \$11 million lower than *Budget 2021*.
- The \$11 million decrease from *Budget 2021* is attributed to the following:
 - Federal and Other Government Grants: \$10.6 million lower in revenues from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP); and
 - Premiums, Fees and Licenses: \$1.8 million lower in loan guarantee fees revenue reported by Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is attributed to the revenue recognition accounting policy for loan guarantees.Offset by:
 - Other Revenue: \$1.4 million increase in other revenues resulting partly from prior year grant payment refunds from canceled projects and over accrual in the prior year.
- The year-over-year increase of \$17 million is primarily due to an increase in federal government funding for the ICIP program as more projects were federally approved in 2021-22.

Expenses

- Ministry expenditures were \$179 million in 2021-22, which is \$38 million less than budgeted and \$69 million higher than 2020-21 actuals.
- The decrease from *Budget 2021* of \$38 million is primarily due to reductions in the following programs:
 - First Nations Development Fund: \$18.2 million reduction in funding provided through the First Nations Development Fund program due to lower gaming revenues collected from government-owned slot machines operating at First Nations casinos following closures of casinos as a result of mandatory, province wide public health restrictions;
 - Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP): \$10.6 million lower in spending in the federally funded ICIP program due to project delays during the 2021-22 fiscal year;
 - Land and Legal Settlements: \$8.3 million was allotted for third-party treaty land entitlement settlement cost payments and land remediation costs in order to ensure the transfer of unoccupied Crown lands to the Canadian Government can occur as part of the Lubicon Lake Band and Bigstone Cree Nation land claims. The land claims were settled in 2018 and 2010 respectively. However, the money was not spent due to delays resulting from land remediation and third party negotiations, and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021-22;
 - Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC): \$4.1 million reduction in spending was primarily due to issuing lower than anticipated capacity grants for eligible projects and lower than budgeted spending for operational costs as AIOC continues to adjust its operating practices as a result of COVID-19 restrictions;
 - Indigenous Litigation Fund: \$2.6 million reduction in spending on the Indigenous Litigation Fund program resulting from fewer than anticipated applications being received. \$2 million was repurposed to establish one time funding for the Alberta Residential Schools Community Research Grant Program; and

-
- Various Programs: a general reduction of \$0.4 million in operating expenses from employing cost containment measures and savings achieved due to a shift in the way the ministry conducted its business as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

Offset by:

- First Nations and Metis Relations: \$6.5 million increase comprised of \$8 million increase for the Alberta Residential Schools Community Research Grant Program, which was provided to Indigenous communities and groups to lead research into documented and undocumented deaths and burials of Indigenous children at any of the historical residential school sites located throughout Alberta, and offset by \$1.5 million in savings from staff vacancies and employing cost containment measures and savings achieved due to a shift in the way the ministry conducted its business as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.
- The increase from 2020-21 of \$69 million resulted from the following program changes:
 - First Nations Development Fund: an increase of \$41 million resulting from First Nations casinos being opened for longer periods during this fiscal year as compared to the prior year;
 - Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP): \$17.6 million increase in federal funding for ICIP grants, due to increased project progress and completion in 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21;
 - First Nations and Metis Relations: increase of \$8 million in funding provided during the 2021-22 fiscal year to support the Alberta Residential Schools Research Grant Program; and
 - Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC): \$1.8 million increase in spending was primarily due to the hiring of staff, an increase in the capacity grants issued to support loan guarantee of eligible projects, offset by reductions from cost-containment measures and savings due to a shift in the way AIOC conducted its business as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

Breakdown of Revenues (unaudited)

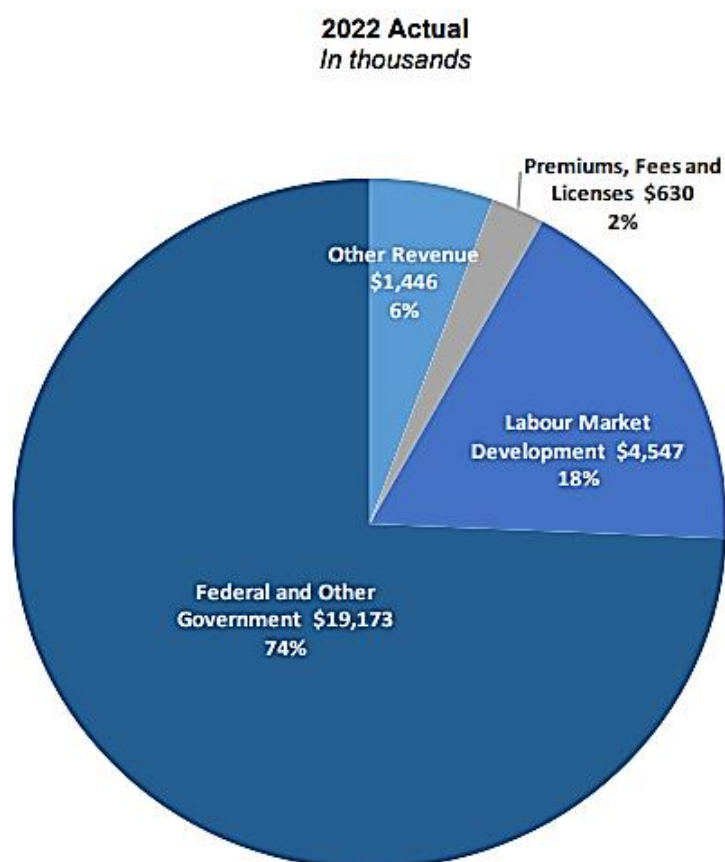
End of the year March 31, 2022

	2022		2021
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>		
Government Transfers			
Federal and Other Government Grants	\$ 29,776	\$ 19,173	\$ 1,539
Labour Market Development	4,547	4,547	3,664
	34,323	23,720	5,203
Premiums, Fees and Licences	2,475	630	-
Other Revenue			
Refund of Expenditure - First Nations Housing	-	-	2,593
Refund of Expenditure - Other	-	1,392	394
Internal Government Transfer of Liability	-	-	1,389
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	54	759
	-	1,446	5,135
Total Ministry Revenues	\$ 36,798	\$ 25,796	\$ 10,338

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.

- Federal and Other Government Grants: \$19.2 million is part of the federally funded Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) that provides funding to Indigenous applicants to make long-term infrastructure investments on federally-endorsed ICIP projects.
- Labour Market Development: \$4.5 million is part of the Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTA) between Alberta and the federal government which provides funding for the delivery of skilled training and employment programs to increase workforce participation of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta through the ministry's Employment Partnerships Program.
- Premiums, Fees and Licenses: \$0.6 million is from loan guarantee fees received by AIOC.
- Other Revenue: \$1.4 million is mainly attributed to prior year expenditure refunds.



2013 Alberta floods

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) through its Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) administers the province's flood recovery initiative, which falls within the responsibility of the ministry of Municipal Affairs. Alberta Regulation 51/94 of the Alberta Emergency Management Act allows the province to provide disaster recovery assistance to residents, small business, agriculture operations, and provincial and municipal governments if the event meets regulation's criteria.

In the event of a large-scale natural disaster, the Government of Canada provides financial assistance to provincial and territorial governments through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program, administered by Public Safety Canada. Under the Constitution Act, S 91(24), First Nation lands are under federal jurisdiction. The 2013 Alberta flood was recognized as a provincial emergency of concern to the Government of Canada through its Order in Council on July 3, 2013. This triggered the recognition of an estimated revenue and a related receivable through the federal DFAA program as well as other federal programs. Changes in estimated recoveries are recorded in the current year.

The Government of Alberta signed a memorandum of understanding with flood impacted First Nations to repair and rebuild First Nation residences to provincial standards, which may be above DFAA eligibility.

Management's 2022 estimate of the expected amount to be recovered from the federal government for DFAA eligible expenses remains at \$98.4 million (2021 - \$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.

Initial estimates of damages on First Nation lands was \$191.5 million. As inspections of damages were performed, cost estimates were refined and eligibility of recovery under the DFAA was reassessed.

If factors considered by management in establishing the estimates change significantly, the ministry's accounts receivable could change substantially from current estimates.

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

(in thousands)	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Revenue DFAA (Reversal)	\$-	\$-	\$-	(\$177)	\$42	(\$4,174)	(\$61,644)	\$-
Accounts Receivable from Government of Canada	\$98,413	\$98,413	\$98,413	\$98,413	\$98,590	\$98,548	\$102,722	\$164,366
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$-	\$-	\$5,955	\$14,157	\$33,300	\$56,824	\$79,313	\$118,213

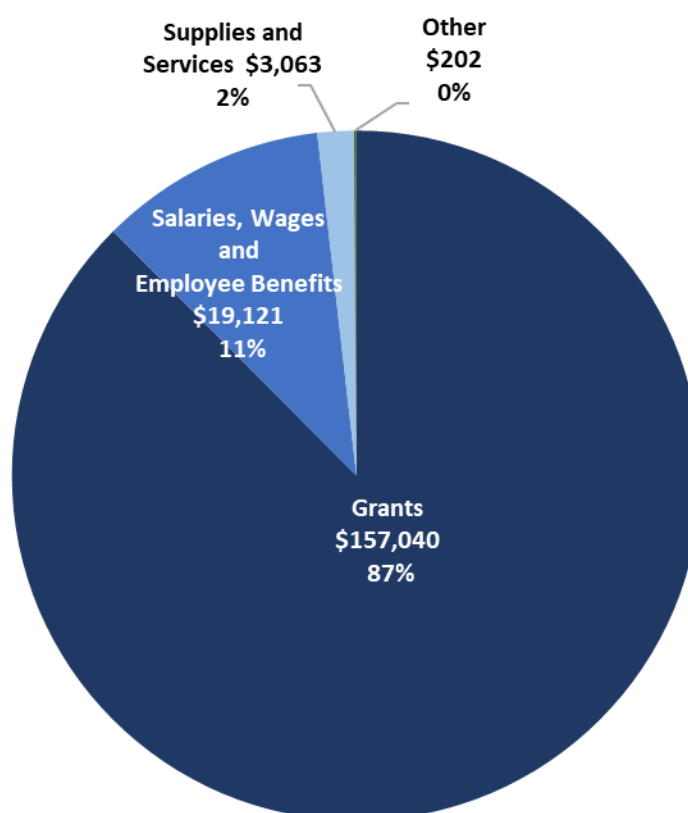
Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited)

End of the year March 31, 2022

	2022		2021
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>		
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	\$ 22,264	\$ 19,121	\$ 20,132
Grants	182,483	157,040	87,211
Supplies and Services	12,335	3,063	3,300
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	63	27	21
Financial Transactions and Others	64	175	61
Total Ministry Expenses	\$ 217,209	\$ 179,426	\$ 110,725

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.

2022 Actual
In thousands

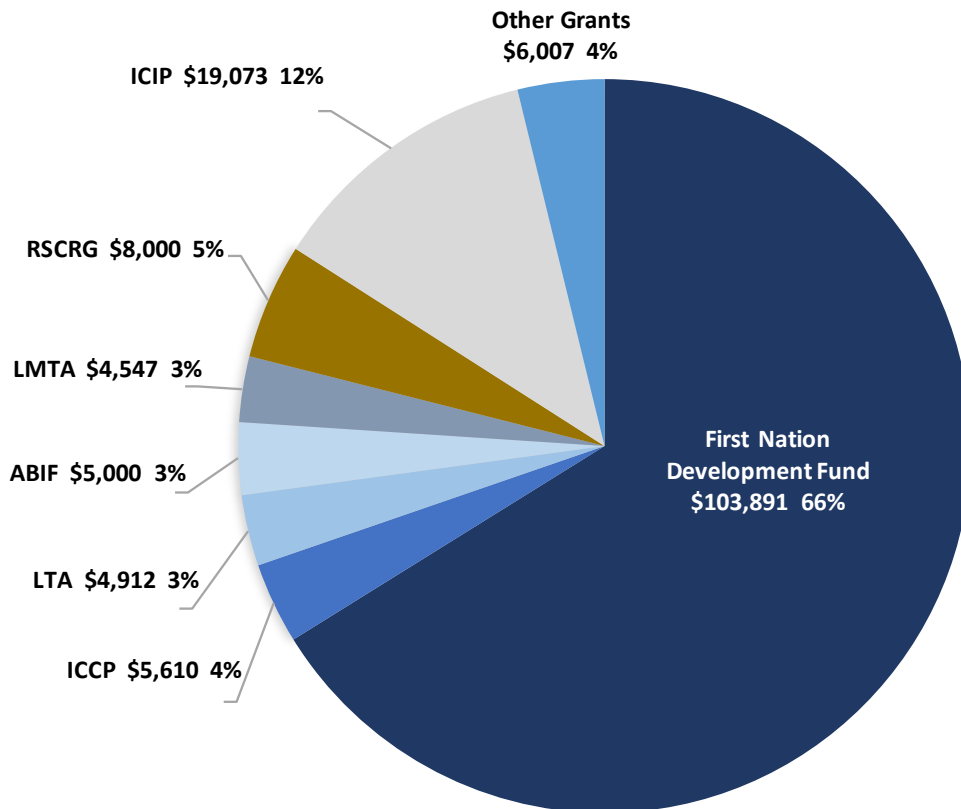


Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (continued)

Grants remained the ministry’s largest operating expense at 87 per cent of the total. In 2021-22, the ministry provided \$157 million to support organizations and Indigenous communities through the following grant initiatives:

- \$104 million - First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) program
- \$19 million - Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)
- \$8 million - Alberta Residential School Community Research Grant (RSCRG) Program
- \$5.6 million - Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP)
- \$5 million - Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF)
- \$4.5 million - Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTA)
- \$5 million - Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangement Agreement (LTA)
- \$5 million - various other grant initiatives within the ministry

**2022 Actual
In thousands**



Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (continued)

- Salaries, wages and employee benefit expenses totaled \$19 million or 11 per cent of the total ministry expense and were primarily to administer grant programs and support initiatives that strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities and Peoples.
- Supplies and services of \$3 million or 2 per cent included travel, legal contracts and ongoing operating cost requirements for the ministry.
- The remainder of ministry expenses were for \$0.2 thousand in amortization of tangible capital assets and other financial transactions.

Supplemental Financial Information

Tangible Capital Assets (unaudited)

Year Ended March 31, 2022

	Computer Hardware and Software			2022 Total	2021 Total
	Equipment ⁽¹⁾	Other ⁽²⁾			
Estimated Useful Life	3-40 years	3-10 years	3-50 years		
	<i>In thousands</i>				
Historical Cost					
Beginning of Year	\$ 224	\$ 513	\$ 18	\$ 755	\$ 605
Transfers (Out) ⁽²⁾	(49)	-	-	(49)	-
Adjustments	(1)	(54)	(5)	(60)	-
Additions	-	7	-	7	150
Effect of disposals	-	(8)	-	(8)	-
	<u>\$ 174</u>	<u>\$ 458</u>	<u>\$ 13</u>	<u>\$ 645</u>	<u>\$ 755</u>
Accumulated Amortization					
Beginning of year	117	438	1	556	534
Amortization Expense	17	11	3	31	21
Transfers (Out) ⁽²⁾	(30)	-	-	(30)	-
Adjustments	-	(4)	-	(4)	-
Effect of disposals	-	(8)	-	(8)	-
	<u>104</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>545</u>	<u>556</u>
Net Book Value at March 31, 2022	<u>\$ 70</u>	<u>\$ 21</u>	<u>\$ 9</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2021	<u>\$ 107</u>	<u>\$ 75</u>	<u>\$ 17</u>		<u>\$ 199</u>

⁽¹⁾ Equipment includes office equipment and furniture.

⁽²⁾ Other tangible capital assets include leasehold improvements.

Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities

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Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC)

Financial Statements

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MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

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

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

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

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

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

[Original signed by]

Sandra Klashinsky

Interim Chief Executive Officer

[Original signed by]

Terra Klassen

Senior Financial Officer

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (the Corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2022, and the results of its operations, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for opinion

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

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]

Auditor General

May 31, 2022
Edmonton, Alberta

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2022

(in thousands)

	2022		2021
	Budget (Note 4)	Actual	Actual
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Revenues			
Government of Alberta grants (Note 4)	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,750	\$ 6,000
Other revenue	2,475	1,026	753
	8,475	3,776	6,753
Expenses (Note 2(b) Schedule 1)			
Operating costs	4,300	3,083	2,447
Indigenous opportunities initiatives	4,175	1,290	118
	8,475	4,373	2,565
Annual operating (deficit) surplus	-	(597)	4,188
Accumulated surplus at beginning of year	-	5,063	875
Accumulated surplus at end of year	\$ -	\$ 4,466	\$ 5,063

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

Statement of Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 2022

(in thousands)

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Financial assets		
Cash	\$ 5,460	\$ 4,941
Due from Government of Alberta (Note 6)	650	1,500
Other receivables	7	-
	<u>\$ 6,117</u>	<u>\$ 6,441</u>
Liabilities		
Due to Government of Alberta (Note 6)	\$ -	\$ 69
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities (Note 7)	242	290
Unearned revenue (Note 7)	1,486	1,168
	<u>\$ 1,728</u>	<u>\$ 1,527</u>
Net financial assets	<u>4,389</u>	<u>4,914</u>
Non-Financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 12)	70	142
Prepays	7	7
	<u>\$ 77</u>	<u>\$ 149</u>
Net assets	<u>\$ 4,466</u>	<u>\$ 5,063</u>
Net assets		
Accumulated surplus (Note 13)	4,466	5,063
	<u>\$ 4,466</u>	<u>\$ 5,063</u>

Contractual rights (Note 5)
 Contingent liabilities (Note 9)
 Contractual obligations (Note 10)

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

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2022

(in thousands)

	2022		2021	
	Budget	Actual		
	<i>(in thousands)</i>			
Annual (deficit) surplus	\$ -	\$ (597)	\$	4,188
(Acquisition) of tangible capital assets (Note 12)	24	(8)		(150)
Adjustment of tangible assets (Note 12)		60		-
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 12)	42	20		8
(Increase) in prepaids	-	-		(7)
Increase (decrease) in net financial assets	66	(525)		4,039
Net financial assets at beginning of year	-	4,914		875
Net financial assets at end of year	\$ 66	\$ 4,389	\$	4,914

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

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2022

(in thousands)

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Operating transactions		
Annual (deficit) surplus	\$ (597)	\$ 4,188
Non-cash items included in annual surplus		
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 12)	20	8
Adjustment of tangible assets (Note 12)	60	-
	(517)	4,196
(Increase) in prepaids	-	(7)
(Increase) in other receivables	(7)	-
Decrease in due from Government of Alberta	850	500
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	270	1,458
Decrease in due to Government of Alberta (Note 6)	(69)	(1,056)
Cash provided by operating transactions	\$ 527	\$ 5,091
Capital transactions		
Acquisition of capital assets (Note 12)	(8)	\$ (150)
Cash (applied to) capital transactions	\$ (8)	\$ (150)
Increase in cash	519	4,941
Cash at beginning of year	4,941	-
Cash at end of year	\$ 5,460	\$ 4,941

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

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

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 AIOC is to facilitate investment by indigenous groups. This year AIOC's mandate was expanded from a singular focus on natural resource projects to include projects related to agriculture, transportation, telecommunications, and related infrastructure.

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 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 the results of the Ministry's operations.

(b) Basis of financial reporting
Revenues

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

Loan Guarantees

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

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

Note 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting (Cont'd)

Government transfers

Transfers from all governments are referred to as government transfers.

Government transfers and the associated externally restricted investment income are recognized as deferred contributions if the eligibility criteria for use of the transfer, or the stipulations together with 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, 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 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

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

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

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.

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

Note 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting (Cont'd)

Financial Assets

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

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

Cash

Cash is comprised of cash on hand and demand deposits.

Accounts receivable

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

Liabilities

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

Loan guarantee loss provisions

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

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

Note 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting (Cont'd)

Non-Financial Assets

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

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

Non-financial assets include tangible capital assets and prepaid expenses.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets of AIOC are recorded at actual cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. Any purchase of more \$5,000 or more that falls within the definition of capital assets will be recorded as a capital asset.

New systems development costs for management information systems are treated as capital assets when anticipated direct development costs exceed \$250,000.

Major Enhancements to existing management information systems are to be capitalized only when enhancement costs exceed \$100,000.00

Tangible capital assets are recognized at cost less accumulated amortization, which includes amounts that are directly related to the acquisition, design, construction, development, improvement, or betterment of the assets. Cost includes overhead directly attributable to construction and development, as well as interest costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or construction of the asset.

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

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

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

Note 3 FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES

During the fiscal year 2022-23, AIOC will adopt the following new accounting standard of the Public Sector Accounting Board:

- **PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations**
This accounting standard provides guidance on how to account for and report liabilities for retirement of tangible capital assets. AIOC plans to adopt this accounting standard on a modified retroactive basis, consistent with the transitional provisions in PS 3280, and information presented for comparative purposes will be restated. The impact of the adoption of this accounting standard on the financial statements is currently being analyzed.

In addition to the above, the Public Sector Accounting Board has approved the following accounting standards, which are effective for fiscal years starting on or after April 1, 2023:

- **PS 3400 Revenue**
This accounting standard provides guidance on how to account for and report on revenue, and specifically, it differentiates between revenue arising from exchange and non-exchange transactions.
- **PS 3160 Public Private Partnerships**
This accounting standard provides guidance on how to account for public private partnerships between public and private sector entities, where the public sector entity procures infrastructure using a private sector partner.

AIOC has not yet adopted these two accounting standards. Management is currently assessing the impact of these standards on the financial statements.

Note 4 BUDGET

The \$6 million budget was included in the 2021-22 Government Estimates under the Ministry of Indigenous Relations. The Corporation's funding for the year ended March 31, 2022 was subsequently reduced to \$2.75 million.

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

Note 5 CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS

(in thousands)

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

	2022	2021
		(restated)
Contractual rights from loan guarantee contract	4,060	2,803
	\$ 4,060	\$ 2,803

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

	Contracts	
2022-23	\$	494
2023-24		461
2024-25		449
2025-26		436
2026-27		427
Thereafter		1,794
	\$	<u>4,060</u>

Prior year contractual rights note disclosure was incorrect and has been restated.

Note 6 DUE FROM/TO GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

(in thousands)

	2022	2021
Due from the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 650	\$ 1,500
Due to the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ -	\$ 69

Amounts due from the Department of Indigenous Relations are in respect of the fourth quarter grant of \$650 recognized as revenue but not received. The prior year amount due of \$69 to the Department of Indigenous Relations is in respect of expenses charged by the Department to AIOC and was settled in current fiscal year.

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

Note 7 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER ACCRUED LIABILITIES
(in thousands)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Accounts payable	\$ 124	\$ 56
Other accrued liabilities	118	234
	<u>242</u>	<u>290</u>
Unearned Revenue	1,486	1,168
	<u>\$ 1,728</u>	<u>\$ 1,458</u>

Unearned revenue includes the unrecognized portion of fees received related to loan guarantees that will be recognized over the terms of the loan guarantees. During the year ended March 31, 2022, AIOC received fees related to the issuance and administration of loan guarantees totaling \$1,466 (2021: \$1,758)

Note 8 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

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

(a) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that AIOC will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with its financial liabilities. Liquidity requirements of AIOC are met through guaranteed grant funding from the Department of Indigenous Relations. This source of cash is used to pay operating expenses.

(b) Credit Risk

Counterparty credit risk is the risk of loss arising from the failure of a counterparty to fully honour its financial obligations with AIOC. The credit quality of financial assets is generally assessed by reference to external credit ratings. Credit risk can also lead to losses when issuers and debtors are downgraded by credit rating agencies usually leading to a fall in the fair value of the counterparty's obligations. Credit risk exposure for financial instruments is measured by the positive fair value of the contractual obligations with counterparties. The fair value of all investments is directly or indirectly impacted by credit risk to some degree. The majority of AIOC's investments in loan guarantees are with counterparties considered to be investment grade.

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

Note 9 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At March 31, 2022, AIOC was not named as defendant in any specific legal actions and there are no other known contingent liabilities.

Pursuant to an agreement dated August 27, 2020, AIOC provided a loan guarantee of \$93 million (“Cascade Loan Guarantee”) in favour of ATB Financial as Agent and other Secured Creditors (“Creditor Group”) to enable a consortium of six Alberta First Nations (“First Nations Group”) to participate in the Cascade Power Project (“Cascade”). In the event that there is a breach of loan conditions between the Creditor Group and the First Nations Group, and that breach remains uncured, the Creditor Group has a right against AIOC to call on the Cascade Loan Guarantee up to a maximum value of \$93 million to offset any losses incurred by the Creditor Group with respect to amounts loaned by the Creditor Group to the First Nations Group in respect of Cascade. As AIOC is a Crown agent, AIOC’s obligations under the Cascade Loan Guarantee are effectively underwritten by the Government of Alberta. As of the date of these financial statements, there have been no known breaches that could lead to a call on the Cascade Loan Guarantee.

Pursuant to an agreement dated April 1, 2021, AIOC provided a loan guarantee of \$25 million (“Lindbergh Loan Guarantee”) in favour of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce as Agent and other Secured Creditors (“Creditor Group”) to enable Frog Lake Midstream LP to retain ownership of certain infrastructure-related assets to the Lindbergh oil sands project. In the event that there is a breach of the loan and security documents between the Creditor Group and Frog Lake Midstream LP, and that breach remains uncured, the Creditor Group has a right against AIOC to call on the Lindbergh Loan Guarantee up to a maximum value of \$25 million to offset any losses incurred by the Creditor Group with respect to the obligations of Frog Lake Midstream LP to the Creditor Group in respect of Lindbergh. As AIOC is a Crown agent, AIOC’s obligations under the Lindbergh Loan Guarantee are effectively underwritten by the Government of Alberta. As of the date of these financial statements, there have been no known breaches that could lead to a call on the Lindbergh Loan Guarantee.

Pursuant to an agreement dated November 30, 2021, AIOC provided a loan guarantee of \$40 million (“Northern Courier Pipeline Limited Partnership Loan Guarantee”) in favour of ATB Financial as Agent and other Secured Creditors (“Creditor Group”) to enable Tahsiپی LP, a consortium of 8 Indigenous Communities, to purchase an interest in the Northern Courier Pipeline Limited Partnership (“NCP”). In the event that there is a breach of the loan and security documents between the Creditor Group and Tahsiپی LP, and that breach remains uncured, the Creditor Group has a right against AIOC to call on the NCP Loan Guarantee up to a maximum value of \$40 million to offset any losses incurred by the Creditor Group with respect to the obligations of Tahsiپی LP to the Creditor Group in respect of NCP. As AIOC is a Crown agent, AIOC’s obligations under the NCP Loan Guarantee are effectively underwritten by the Government of Alberta. As of the date of these financial statements, there have been no known breaches that could lead to a call on the NCP Loan Guarantee.

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

Note 10 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

(in thousands)

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

	2022	2021
Obligations under operating leases contracts and programs	\$ 503	\$ 573

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

	Operating leases, contracts, and programs	
2022-23	\$	273
2023-24		127
2024-25		79
2025-26		25
2026-27		-
Thereafter		-
	\$	<u>503</u>

Note 11 BENEFIT PLAN

(in thousands)

AIOC provides benefits whereby it makes available contributions for Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) on behalf of employees of 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 \$175 (2021- \$86) included in these financial statements represents the current contributions made on behalf of these employees.

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2022

Note 12 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS
(in thousands)

	Furniture & Equipment	Computer Hardware & Software	Leasehold Improvements	2022 Total	2021 Total
Estimated Useful Life	5 Years	3 Years	4 Years		
Historical cost					
Beginning of year	\$ 55	\$ 77	\$ 19	\$ 150	-
Additions	-	8	-	8	150
Adjustments *	-	(54)	(6)	(60)	-
	<u>55</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>150</u>
Accumulated amortization					
Beginning of year	1	6	1	8	-
Amortization expense	11	6	3	20	8
	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>8</u>
				\$	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2022	<u>\$ 43</u>	<u>\$ 19</u>	<u>\$ 9</u>	<u>70</u>	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2021	<u>\$ 54</u>	<u>\$ 71</u>	<u>\$ 18</u>		<u>\$ 142</u>

*Some capital assets were expensed as the individual assets did not meet the threshold when applied to the asset on an individual basis as per AIOC's capital asset policy.

Note 13 ACCUMULATED (DEFICIT) SURPLUS
(in thousands)

	Unrestricted surplus	2022 total	2021 total
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,063	875
Annual (deficit) surplus	(597)	(597)	4,188
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 4,466</u>	<u>\$ 4,466</u>	<u>\$ 5,063</u>

Note 14 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

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

Note 15 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board of Directors approved the financial statements of AIOC.

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
AIOC Expenses – Detailed By Object

Schedule 1

	2022		2021	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	
Salaries, wages, and employee benefits	\$ 2,321	\$ 2,084	\$ 1,010	
Supplies and services	2,634	\$ 1,057	1,429	
Grants	3,500	\$ 1,213	118	
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 14)	20	\$ 20	8	
Total expenses	\$ 8,475	\$ 4,373	\$ 2,565	

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
AIOC Salary and Benefits Disclosure
Schedule 2

	2022			2021	
	Base salary ⁽¹⁾	Other cash benefits ⁽²⁾	Other non-cash benefits ⁽³⁾	Total	Total
	(in thousands)				
Board of Directors					
Chair ^(4 5)	\$ -	\$ 28	\$ 4	\$ 32	\$ 31
Board Members ^(4 5)	-	62	7	69	73
Executive					
Chief Executive Officer ⁽⁶⁾	145	132	62	339	188
Acting Chief Executive Officer ⁽⁷⁾	111	12	20	143	129
Chief Operating Officer ⁽⁸⁾	132	-	45	177	128
Chief Investment Officer ⁽⁹⁾	245	-	77	322	146
Vice President Engagement ⁽¹⁰⁾	200	-	66	266	30
Total	\$ 833	\$ 234	\$ 270	\$ 1,348	\$ 725

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

- (1) Base salary includes regular salary.
- (2) Other cash benefits include vacation payouts, bonuses, honoraria, severance, and other lump sum payments. There were no bonuses paid in 2022.
- (3) Other non-cash benefits include employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions, or payments made on behalf of employees including RRSP, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short- and long-term disability plans, car allowance, training fees, conference fees and fair market value of parking.
- (4) The position was occupied by two individuals at different times during the year. (Position change occurred November 2021). The board was reappointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council by Order in Council on November 24, 2021.
- (5) Remuneration and expenses of the Board are prescribed as that specified in Schedule 1, Part A of the Committee Remuneration Order.
- (6) One individual occupied the role until October 31, 2021.
- (7) The position was occupied by two individuals at different times during the year.
- (8) Vacant position as of January 2022.
- (9) Position filled on October 6, 2020.
- (10) Position filled on February 15, 2021.

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION
AIOC Related Party Transactions

Schedule 3

Alberta's Consolidated Financial Statements. Related parties also include key management personnel and close family members of those individuals in AIOC. There were no transactions between AIOC and its key management personnel or close family members during the year.

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.

	2022		2021	
	Entities in the Ministry	Other Entities	Entities in the Ministry	Other Entities
	<i>(in thousands)</i>			
Revenues				
Grants from the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 2,750	-	\$ 6,000	-
	\$ 2,750		\$ 6,000	-
Expenses				
Other Services	-	-	180	114
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180	\$ 114
Receivable from				
Department of Indigenous Relations	650	-	1,500	-
	\$ 650	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ -
Payable to				
Department of Indigenous Relations	-	-	69	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69	\$ -

Other Financial Information

Statement of Credit and Recovery (unaudited) Department of Indigenous Relations Year Ended March 31, 2022 (in thousands)

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

	Authorized ⁽²⁾	Actual Revenue Recognized ⁽³⁾	Unearned Revenue ⁽³⁾	Total Actuals ⁽⁴⁾	(Shortfall)/ Excess
EXPENSE AMOUNT					
First Nations Development Fund ⁽¹⁾	\$ 123,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 104,785	\$ 18,215
	\$ 123,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 104,785	\$ 18,215

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

⁽²⁾ Only expenditures are authorized.

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

⁽⁴⁾ The actual expenses presented in this schedule are included in the Ministry's Statement of Revenues and Expenses.

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)
Department of Indigenous Relations
Year Ended March 31, 2022
(in thousands)

	Voted Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Supplementary Estimate ⁽²⁾	Adjustments ⁽³⁾	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actual ⁽⁴⁾	Over Expended (Unexpended)
EXPENSE VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Program - Operational						
1. Ministry Support Services						
1 Minister's Office	\$ 820	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 820	\$ 654	\$ (166)
1 Deputy Minister's Office	668	-	-	668	577	(91)
1 Strategic and Corporate Services	2,994	-	-	2,994	2,410	(584)
	4,482	-	-	4,482	3,641	(841)
2. First Nations and Métis Relations	15,533	-	-	15,533	22,074	6,541
3. Indigenous Women's Initiatives	1,237	-	-	1,237	1,563	326
4. First Nations Development Fund	123,000	-	-	123,000	104,798	(18,202)
5. Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,121	-	-	1,121	969	(152)
6. Consultation, Land and Policy						
6 Program Support and Land Claims	1,084	-	-	1,084	1,734	650
6 Aboriginal Consultation Office	5,117	-	-	5,117	4,518	(599)
6 Strategic Engagement and Policy Innovation	8,897	-	-	8,897	8,814	(83)
	15,098	-	-	15,098	15,066	(32)
8. Investing in Canada Infrastructure	100	-	-	100	100	-
9. Land and Legal Settlement	8,324	-	-	8,324	26	(8,298)
10. Indigenous Litigation Fund	3,000	-	-	3,000	372	(2,628)
12. Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	6,000	-	-	6,000	2,750	(3,250)
Program - Capital Grants						
2 First Nations and Métis Relations	7,100	-	-	7,100	7,100	-
8 Investing in Canada Infrastructure	29,676	-	-	29,676	19,075	(10,601)
	36,776	-	-	36,776	26,175	(10,601)
Total	\$ 214,671	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 214,671	\$ 177,534	\$ (37,137)
Lapse						\$ (37,137)

¹ As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" pages 123-131 of the 2021-22 Government Estimates.

² Per the Supplementary Supply Estimates approved on March 17, 2022.

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

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)
Department of Indigenous Relations
Year Ended March 31, 2022
(in thousands)

	Voted Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Supplementary Estimate ⁽²⁾	Adjustments ⁽³⁾	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actual ⁽⁴⁾	Over Expended (Unexpended)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT VOTE BY PROGRAM						
1. Ministry Support Services						
1.3 Strategic and Corporate Services	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ (25)
Total	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ (25)
Lapse						\$ (25)
FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS VOTE BY PROGRAM						
7. 2013 Alberta Flooding						
7.1 First Nations Housing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lapse						\$ -

¹ As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" pages 123-131 of the 2021-22 Government Estimates.

² Per the Supplementary Supply Estimates approved on March 17, 2022.

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

Annual Report Extracts and Other Statutory Reports

Public Interest Disclosure (*Whistleblower Protection Act*)

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

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

There were no disclosures of wrongdoing filed with my office for your department between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.