

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Annual Report

Indigenous Relations

2022-2023

Alberta 

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Note to Readers: Copies of the annual report are available on the Alberta Open Government Portal website <https://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 ministry.

The 2022-23 Annual Report reflects the 2022-25 ministry business plans, the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan, as well as the ministry's activities and accomplishments during the 2022-23 fiscal year, which ended on March 31, 2023.

The Annual Report of the Government of Alberta contains Budget 2022 Key Results, the audited Consolidated Financial Statements and Performance Results, which compares actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's strategic plan.

This annual report of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations contains the Minister's Accountability Statement, the ministry's Financial Information and Results Analysis, 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; and

All Ministry Annual Reports 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.

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, this document uses the term "Indian," when it relates to this legal definition under 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.

Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2023, 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 6, 2023 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

Message from the Minister



This year I was honoured to continue serving as your minister to strengthen the province's relationships with Indigenous peoples. Indigenous Relations took action to help advance reconciliation, create jobs, diversify the economy and ensure a safe and secure Alberta. We also continued to deliver on our promises through new and existing programs.

One of this year's highlights was a visit from Pope Francis. Although difficult for many Indigenous peoples, this historic visit provided an opportunity to walk towards reconciliation, hope and healing. We are grateful to have supported this event through our connections within government, with government and non-government organizations, and Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Relations also worked towards reconciliation with Elders, Indigenous communities, and organizations. This work includes leading the construction of a reconciliation garden and a permanent monument to be installed near the Alberta Legislature grounds, to honour victims and survivors of the residential school system. We also declared September 30 as the Day for Truth and Reconciliation in perpetuity, demonstrating Alberta's commitment to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous people.

Our commitment to job creation and strengthening the economy is stronger than ever. The Aboriginal Business Investment Fund helped Indigenous community-owned businesses capitalize on business development opportunities to help position Indigenous communities for social and economic success. Five million dollars went towards a total of 14 community projects that will benefit 22 Indigenous communities and create jobs.

We also witnessed a ground-breaking deal through the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation. This Alberta Crown Corporation provided a \$250 million loan guarantee for Project Rocket, a \$1.12 billion deal between 23 Indigenous communities to purchase interest in seven major pipelines in Alberta.

On top of our work to strengthen the economy, the Alberta government took a stand to stop violence and improve public safety. At Indigenous Relations, we continued to support the First Nations and Métis Women's Council on Economic Security and established the Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to help guide our actions to support Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The council is a direct response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Final Report.

To guide the Premier's Council on MMIWG and government initiatives, and to inform and track our progress on the final report, we launched the Alberta Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Roadmap. Indigenous Relations took action by providing 11 grants totaling more than \$1 million to implement the Roadmap this year.

Indigenous Relations also remained laser-focused on delivering on its promises to support Indigenous communities through new and existing funding. Highlights include more than \$1 million

that went towards supporting Indigenous peoples living in urban areas through the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association and its 21 community Friendships Centres. More than \$137 million from the First Nations Development Fund also went towards social and economic programs from casino revenues to Indigenous communities.

Developing and strengthening relationships with independent Métis organizations and communities in Alberta continued to be priorities for Indigenous Relations. The Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association (LSAMCA) became the second Métis organization in Alberta to be successful in establishing an assertion of Métis Aboriginal rights through the Alberta government's Métis Credible Assertion Process for their community. As a result, LSMCA is now consulted when Crown land management and resource development decisions may have the potential to adversely impact their credibly asserted Métis Aboriginal rights.

Of particular note this year is the province's work on consultation. The Government of Alberta's Consultation Guide for First Nations, Metis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis communities was developed to help Indigenous communities gain a better understanding of Alberta's consultation and regulatory processes. In addition, my department continues to provide strategic advice and guidance to other departments on Indigenous engagement and consultation in the province's land and natural resource management decisions.

To conclude, thank you to the Indigenous communities, organizations and leaders, our team, government and cross-ministry partners for putting these programs and initiatives to work. With your help, we are creating great opportunities for Indigenous peoples in Alberta.

Together, we are putting success into action.

[Original Signed By]

Rick Wilson
Minister of Indigenous Relations

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

As of March 31, 2023, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations consisted of the Department of Indigenous Relations, Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security, the Métis Women's Council on Economic Security, the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) and the Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

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

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the accompanying ministry financial information and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Indigenous Relations. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, which includes the financial information, performance results on all objectives and initiatives identified in the Ministry Business Plan, and performance results for all ministry-supported commitments that were included in the 2022-25 Government of Alberta Strategic Plan. The financial information and performance results, out of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial information is prepared using the government's stated accounting policies, which are based on Canadian public sector accounting standards. The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliable – Information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with the underlying source data for the current and prior years' results.
- Understandable – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- Comparable – the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- Complete – outcomes, performance measures and related targets match those included in the ministry's Budget 2022.

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, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives of the individual entities within the ministry.

[Original Signed By]

Donavon Young
Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations
June 6, 2023

Results Analysis

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Ministry Overview

As of March 31, 2023, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations consists of the Department of Indigenous Relations, Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security, the Métis Women's Council on Economic Security, the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) and the Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The department of Indigenous Relations acts as a central point for Alberta's government to build and maintain relationships with Indigenous governments, communities, groups, industries and organizations in the province. The department provides guidance, specialized knowledge and expert advice to other ministries to ensure Indigenous perspectives are heard and considered while developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programs, services and initiatives.

Indigenous Relations ensures that Alberta's legal duty to consult with First Nations, Metis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis Communities is met where resource development may adversely impact the continued exercise of First Nations Treaty rights and/or the traditional uses of Metis Settlements or credibly asserted Métis community members' harvesting or traditional use activities. As part of this work, the department ensures coordination with other provincial government ministries along with the federal government, and First Nations, in response to and negotiation of land-related claims.

The department works to advocate and create pathfinding opportunities to assist Indigenous communities in accessing key services. Indigenous Relations' work in these areas involve leading the facilitation of cross-government collaboration with municipalities, water commissions and industry to respond to federal Indigenous initiatives and legislation. This includes priorities such as access to safe and clean drinking water; child and family services; the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program; and disaster response and recovery.

The social and economic development efforts of First Nations, Metis Settlements and other Indigenous communities and organizations are supported through:

- the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF), which supports projects including, but not limited to, housing, children, youth and Elder programs, cultural programs, business start-ups and expansion, and employment and training programs;
- administering the Employment Partnerships Program (EPP), which provides funds for direct training and employment supports for Indigenous people, and fosters industry partnerships to expand the availability, accessibility and quality of Indigenous employment opportunities;
- the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF), which provides capital funding for Indigenous community-owned economic development projects to increase the number of Indigenous community-owned businesses, create employment opportunities for Indigenous peoples and strengthen the economies of Indigenous communities; and
- maintaining and strengthening relationships with the Metis Settlements and Métis communities to advance their long term sustainability.

Indigenous Relations also leads the Alberta government's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The Alberta government's cross-government actions towards reconciliation in priority areas, such as economic community development, culture, language, health, and families is highlighted on its website.

The department also delivers the Indigenous Learning Initiative as part of the Alberta government's commitment to further reconciliation, build relationships and opportunities for respectful dialogue, positive engagement and to further learning. This initiative is offered to all Alberta Public Service employees and agencies, boards and commissions to help them gain increased knowledge of and appreciation for Indigenous cultures, protocols, histories and worldviews.

Organizational Structure



Operational Overview

The Department of Indigenous Relations consists of:

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 and planning, implementing cross-ministry initiatives and advocating for new ways to achieve government's goals.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives

Indigenous Women's Initiatives leads the department's actions to improve social and economic outcomes for Indigenous women, girls and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual plus (2S+) people and collaborates with Alberta ministries on initiatives that impact Indigenous women, 2S+ people and their 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 increase economic security for Indigenous women, their families and communities.

The division also leads Alberta's response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Final Report. Indigenous Women's Initiatives continues to lead the coordination of this response and acts as secretariat to the Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Working with other Alberta ministries and Indigenous women and organizations, Indigenous Women's Initiatives also supports initiatives aimed at reducing violence and increasing safety and economic security for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.

First Nations and Metis Relations

First Nations Relations

First Nations Relations builds government-to-government relationships with First Nations. Many of these relationships are formally set through protocol and relationship agreements that provide a framework for continued collaboration. This takes form through work plans, signed by relevant Ministers and Chiefs implemented through formal Tables and reported on at annual meetings between Chiefs and the Premier. The branch provides advice and specialized knowledge to Alberta government ministries, federal and municipal governments, and industry. Staff also participate in cross-ministry strategies affecting First Nations people.

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

Furthermore, 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, and managed by the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC).

First Nations Relations also works towards reconciliation with Indigenous Elders, communities, and organizations. This work includes leading the construction of a reconciliation garden and a permanent monument to be installed at the Alberta Legislature grounds, to honour victims and survivors of the residential school system. The branch also helps address inquiries related to the Sixties Scoop.

Additionally, First Nations Relations explores pathfinding opportunities with other ministries and meets regularly with partners, including Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services and Indigenous Services Canada to ensure Indigenous leaders have accurate information related to federal and provincial support, available for Indigenous people in Alberta.

Metis Relations

The Metis Relations branch coordinates the Government of Alberta's relationship with the eight Metis Settlements and the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) and administers the province's unique Metis Settlements legislation.

Between 2013 and 2023, Indigenous Relations provided funding to support the governance, accountability and sustainability of the Settlements through the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement (LTA) that effectively concluded in March 2023.

The Metis Relations branch also participates in tri-lateral discussions with the MSGC and the Government of Canada. In addition, the branch mediates the Protocol Agreement signed by the MSGC and the Government of Alberta in 2023, which provides a framework for continued collaboration to advance the long-term sustainability of the eight Metis Settlements by focusing on social, economic, and cultural objectives that will help to contribute to healthier and more viable communities. In April 2023, a Statement of Intent on Enhanced Policing was signed by the Premier of Alberta, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and the Settlement Chairs to help support the Settlements to continue ensuring dedicated policing in their communities.

Similarly, 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.

Metis Relations is responsible for the Metis Settlements Land Registry, which supports Metis Settlement governance and sustainability by maintaining the land registration system and Metis Settlements' membership list for the eight Metis Settlements in Alberta.

In addition to working with independent Métis communities and 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. Moreover, funding provided to the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) supports health, employment, housing, recreation, and cultural programs for Indigenous people in urban centres.

Metis Relations leads the Employment Partnerships Program, providing funding to Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program agreement holders, and on occasion select urban Indigenous organizations, for Indigenous workforce development. The branch also works with the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors 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 employees of the Alberta Public Service and agencies, boards and commissions to better understand, engage and work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Alberta.

Corporate Planning

Corporate Planning 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. Corporate Planning 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 with the direction of Treasury Board and Finance.

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 Communities;
- 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.

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) upholds the honour of the Crown by ensuring that First Nations, Metis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis Communities are engaged in respectful consultation and have the opportunity to have their input considered on land management and natural resource development activities that may impact their Treaty rights, harvesting and/or traditional uses.

The ACO manages the consultation process with First Nations, Metis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis Communities. This includes providing pre-consultation assessments to project proponents, guiding the consultation process and ultimately providing a Crown decision 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 meet Alberta's legal and constitutional duty to consult before giving 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 uses of First Nations, as well as the harvesting and traditional-use activities of Métis 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 provincial 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 province. The branch supports Indigenous communities' participation in Alberta's consultation processes by providing consultation capacity funding to First Nations, Métis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis Communities. 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 and manages Alberta's Métis Credible Assertion Process.

The Credible Assertion unit works with Métis organizations within the province of Alberta who submit assertions of Métis Aboriginal rights through the Alberta government's Métis Credible Assertion Process. A successful assertion, established through this process, will result in Alberta consulting with the Métis organization when Crown land management and resource development decisions may have the potential to adversely impact those credibly asserted Métis Aboriginal rights of the Métis community they represent.

The Policy Innovation and Intergovernmental Relations unit provides advice, guidance and specialized knowledge on Indigenous policy to divisions in the ministry, other Alberta government ministries and 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, these connections between Indigenous communities and different orders of government give SEPI a point of view that helps staff 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 unoccupied Crown lands that are necessary to enable the federal government to settle outstanding Treaty obligations with First Nations, with respect to the provision of land for reserves.

Financial Services

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

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

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

Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal

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, including 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 selected by the Minister of Indigenous Relations from a list provided by the MSGC. The department provides funding, administrative support and staffing for MSAT.

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

First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security

The First Nations Women's Council on Economic Security provides strategic advice and recommendations to the Government of Alberta on how to improve socio-economic outcomes for First Nations 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, serving as a resource to the council.

Métis Women's Council on Economic Security

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

Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) helps Indigenous communities participate in commercially viable, major resource development projects, and it is an important tool for Alberta's economic recovery. The AIOC is a unique 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 at www.theaioc.com.

Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls has a five-year mandate to work with the Government of Alberta by providing advice and recommendations on actions that will address violence, increase safety and economic security for Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit plus (2S+) people. The council will produce an annual report on the activities and actions Alberta's government has undertaken to address violence and increase safety and economic security of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.

In April 2023, the Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was renamed the Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit Plus People (PCMMIWG2S+).

Key Highlights

Supporting Indigenous community, social and economic development

In 2022-23, work towards community, social and economic development by First Nations, Metis Settlements, and other Indigenous communities and organizations included:

- \$137.8 million from the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF), supporting 29 economic, 83 social and 184 community development initiatives in First Nations across the province;
- \$4.5 million dollars in funding through the Employment Partnerships Program (EPP), which provides funds for direct training and employment supports for Indigenous peoples and fosters industry partnerships to expand availability, accessibility and quality of Indigenous employment opportunities;
- \$5 million through the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF), providing capital funding for Indigenous community-owned economic development projects to increase the number of Indigenous businesses, create employment opportunities for Indigenous peoples and strengthen the economies of Indigenous communities;
- increasing funding by \$300,000 to the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) to support health, employment, housing, recreation, and cultural programs, and
- providing \$5 million in funding to the Metis Settlements General Council including funding to access or cost share regular provincial infrastructure funding for critical infrastructure projects and a capital reserve fund.

Facilitating Indigenous participation in Alberta's resource sector

In August 2022, the Alberta Consultation Office (ACO) released the Government of Alberta's Consultation Guide for First Nations, Metis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis Communities. The guide helps Indigenous communities gain a better understanding of Alberta's consultation and regulatory processes. It includes information on the ACO's relationship with Crown decision-makers and the Alberta Energy Regulator, and offers guidance on how to best participate in Alberta's consultation process.

In 2022-23, the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) processed approximately 9,500 land and natural resource development applications for pre-consultation assessment and adequacy of consultation, which led to about 13,000 activities on Crown land in Alberta.

Additionally, the Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program provided 60 Indigenous communities \$110,000 each in funding to participate in Alberta's consultation process on land and natural resource development.

Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

In September 2022, the council was established in response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report, along with the government's commitment to implement the Alberta Roadmap on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Implementing the Alberta Roadmap on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Indigenous Women's Initiatives provided 11 grants totaling \$1.2 million to implement the Alberta Roadmap on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls with the aim of addressing violence and increasing safety and economic security for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.

Sisters in Spirit Day

In 2022, the Government of Alberta designated October 4 as Sisters in Spirit Day in perpetuity as part of the government's commitment to addressing the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Truth and Reconciliation Day and reconciliation garden

In 2022, September 30 was declared as the Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Alberta. Commemorating the Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #80, which called for a day to commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools. Designating September 30 as the Day for Truth and Reconciliation in perpetuity, demonstrates Alberta's commitment to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

On September 30, 2022, the design for Alberta's reconciliation garden on the Alberta Legislature grounds, including a sculpture by Stewart Steinhauer, was announced to commemorate residential school survivors. Construction of the garden and installation of the monument will be complete in the summer of 2023.

Papal visit

During Pope Francis' visit to Alberta in July 2022, he apologized on behalf of the Catholic Church for the harms inflicted on Indigenous people at residential schools across Canada. The historic apology was delivered at the site of one of Canada's largest residential schools in Ermineskin Cree Nation. Pope Francis also visited Lac Ste Anne, the site of an annual pilgrimage that welcomes tens of thousands of Indigenous participants from North America each year.

Indigenous Relations developed a cost-sharing arrangement to ensure Indigenous communities in Alberta were supported and able to successfully host Pope Francis. Provincial funding was provided to Ermineskin Cree Nation and Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation to help with community-led initiatives related to hosting Pope Francis.

National Indigenous Veteran's Day

On November 8, 2022, Indigenous Relations staff, dignitaries and members of the public gathered on the Alberta Legislature grounds to commemorate the service and sacrifices of Indigenous service members at the Aboriginal Veterans Memorial.

Indigenous Relations staff receive Premier's Public Service Award

In 2022, Indigenous Relations staff from First Nations Relations and Communications received a Premier's Public Service Award for their work, in collaboration with Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, on the elimination of the Alberta Indian Tax Exemption (AITE) card. AITE cards, specific to Alberta, are no longer required as proof of eligibility and instead, all versions of the federal status card are now accepted as proof of eligibility for tax-exempt purchases made on reserve in Alberta.

Discussion and Analysis of Results

Actions that support the priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

Priority One

Enhancing government services now and for the future

Objective:

Partnering with Indigenous peoples to pursue opportunities

- In 2022-23, First Nations Development Funds proceeds were over \$137.8 million. The funding supported 29 economic, 83 social and 184 community development initiatives in First Nations communities across the province.
- \$4.5 million was allocated to fund 27 Indigenous employment and training initiatives through the Employment Partnership Program.
- The AIOC announced a landmark \$1.12 billion deal called Project Rocket, between 23 Indigenous communities, who collectively make up Athabasca Indigenous Investments (AII), and Enbridge. The AIOC provided a \$250 million loan guarantee to secure AII's financing, with the 23 communities purchasing an 11.57 per cent non-operating interest in seven pipelines in the Athabasca region. This historic transaction is the largest Indigenous energy partnership in North America to date.
- In 2022-23, \$5 million was allocated to support 14 projects impacting 22 communities. This is the most projects the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund has supported in one funding year since its inception.
- In June 2021, \$8 million in one-time funding was announced for the Residential Schools Community Research Grant. In 2022-23, communities continued work on projects that support community-driven research, including gathering oral histories and knowledge of Elders; community-led engagement to determine proceeding with locating burial sites; use of technologies to explore potential unmarked burial sites; and maintenance and commemorative work, such as installing or restoring grave markers and placement of memorials or commemoration events.

Priority One

Enhancing government services now and for the future

Objective:

Advancing a fair deal for Alberta

- The Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program provided 60 Indigenous communities \$110,000 each in funding to participate in Alberta's consultation process on land and natural resource development.

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.

Indigenous Relations exceeded the one-third reduction target of red tape by completing 33.44 per cent reduction in its regulatory counts. In 2022-23, the ministry's continued commitment to red tape reduction included:

- Updates to the guidelines for the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) to provide more clarity regarding program requirements. This allowed Indigenous-owned businesses to more effectively and efficiently complete their applications for funding.
- As part of the Employment Partnerships Program's (EPP) 2022-23 Call for Proposals, EPP's website was updated with detailed information about program timelines and two conference calls were held with clients to answer any questions about the program and address any barriers to the program's accessibility.
- Continuous improvements to the ACO Digital Service enhanced efficiency and transparency of the consultation process and reduced administrative burden. The service provides Indigenous communities with direct access to their consultations, a streamlined proponent account creation process, elimination of duplicate data entry requirements, a more user-friendly dashboard and system integrations with partner ministries.
- Continued support of Indigenous participation on land and natural resource development activities by providing information on Alberta's consultation and regulatory processes through the Government of Alberta's Consultation Guide for First Nations, Metis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis Communities. The guide provides consultation-related information specific to the needs of Indigenous communities.
- Continued a multi-year funding agreement with the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) to provide stable operational funding support. This agreement has helped strengthen the relationship while reducing administrative burden for the IAAW. In 2022-23, Indigenous Relations concluded year two of the five-year agreement and provided \$165,000 funding to the IAAW.

COVID-19/Recovery Plan

Indigenous employment opportunities and training

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) saw unique perspectives within Indigenous labour force planning due to barriers imposed by pandemic restrictions and the loss of opportunities in multiple sectors. EPP clients reported a number of challenges and project delays related to COVID-19 restrictions, including training provider and venue availability. In 2022-23, EPP funded projects aimed at finding secure, sustainable employment for participants that helped to respond to the precarious working and training environments that resulted from the pandemic.

EPP is committed to assisting Indigenous communities and organizations in transitioning to a new reality of post-pandemic opportunities and supporting new and innovative approaches to meet the diverse employment needs of Indigenous clients, including underrepresented groups.

In 2022-23, EPP funded three Indigenous industry engagement events in the province for a total of \$520,000. These included a one-week Student & Industry Engagement Session, a Disability Employment Engagement Event by Community Futures Treaty Seven, and a Job Fair by Athabasca Tribal Council.

EPP observed an increase in applications for trained and certified Heavy Equipment Operators and Mandatory Entry Level Training for Class 1 and 2 drivers. This trend is expected to continue as Alberta emerges from the pandemic and demand increases in the oil and gas sector. In 2022-23, EPP provided \$916,370 in funding for six separate projects related to driver training and heavy equipment operator training.

Consultation, land and natural resource development

Indigenous Relations' Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) manages the consultation activities of government ministries, as well as industry proponents, First Nations, Metis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis Communities. By providing an efficient, predictable, coordinated and consistent consultation process, the ACO helps create certainty in the natural resource development sector, which accounts for about \$90 billion in economic activity.

In 2022-23, ACO processed approximately 9,500 land and natural resource development applications for pre-consultation assessment and adequacy of consultation, which led to about 13,000 activities on Crown land in Alberta. This work consistently met the target timelines for application reviews, supporting Alberta's economic recovery.

First Nation drinking water infrastructure capital funding

In Budget 2019, the Government of Alberta re-affirmed its \$100 million commitment to bring regional drinking water infrastructure to First Nation reserve boundaries, where feasible, and where the federal government has committed to build the required on-reserve water infrastructure. As of March 31, 2023, five projects have been completed or substantially completed (Whitefish Lake First Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation, Paul First Nation, Cold Lake First Nation and Dene Tha First Nation). One additional project has capital funding allocated (Ermineskin Cree and Mikisew Cree First Nations).

In 2020, additional grant funding for some existing municipal projects was made available by the Alberta government to support economic recovery and job creation. In June 2020, the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors announced an additional \$13 million for the Ermineskin Cree Nation waterline project. In 2022-23, Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors and Indigenous Relations worked together with the Ermineskin Cree Nation, the federal government and the North Red Deer River Water Services Commission to facilitate the draft of a water services agreement.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

In August 2020, the federal government announced the new COVID-19 Resilience funding stream under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). This stream targets a broad range of projects that can be actioned and completed quickly to support employment and economic activity to help offset challenges brought on by the pandemic.

In 2022-23, Alberta Infrastructure and Indigenous Relations worked together to identify four Indigenous projects that were “shovel-ready” capital maintenance and/or renewal projects for endorsement under this stream. These projects are pending approval by Infrastructure Canada and information will be available to the applicants when a decision is reached.

Outcome One: Indigenous peoples and communities benefit from security and prosperity and Alberta maintains its legal duty to consult

Key Objectives

1.1 Provide oversight to the AIOC to facilitate investments by Indigenous groups in natural resource projects and related infrastructure

The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) supports Indigenous participation and investment in strong, secure, commercially viable development projects. It provides loan guarantees and other financial tools that help remove barriers to investment and allow Indigenous communities to participate in medium-to-large scale major natural resource (energy, forestry and mining), agriculture, telecommunication, transportation, and related infrastructure projects that will help to generate revenue, increase employment, food security and infrastructure development in their communities.

The AIOC is 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 that will result in value for all proponents and a thriving economy.

Since its launch in 2019, the AIOC has backed four major resource projects and approved \$410 million in loan guarantees. These investments in energy projects will boost Alberta's economy during the post-pandemic recovery and help secure long-term economic security for 28 Indigenous communities.

Project Name	Indigenous Communities	Details	Total Project Value	AIOC Loan Guarantee
Project Rocket	23 Indigenous Communities	Purchase of an 11.57 per cent non-operating interest in seven Enbridge pipelines in the Athabasca Region.	\$1.12 billion	\$250 million
Lindbergh Cogeneration Facility	Frog Lake First Nation	Supports 100 per cent ownership of the Lindbergh Cogeneration Facility	\$31 million	\$25 million
Cascade Power Project	Six Indigenous communities	Equity stake in natural gas power facility	\$1.5 billion	\$93 million
Northern Courier Pipeline System	Eight Indigenous communities	14.25 per cent ownership interest in the Northern Courier Pipeline system and associated storage facilities	\$195 million	\$40 million

This year, the AIOC announced a landmark \$1.12 billion deal called Project Rocket, which includes 23 Indigenous communities, who collectively make up Athabasca Indigenous Investments (AII), and Enbridge. The AIOC provided a \$250 million loan guarantee to secure AII's financing with the 23 communities purchasing an 11.57 per cent non-operating interest in seven pipelines in the

Athabasca region. This historic transaction is the largest Indigenous energy partnership in North America to date.

1.2 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.

Aboriginal Consultation Office

The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) processed approximately 9,500 land and natural resource development applications for pre-consultation assessment and adequacy of consultation, which led to about 13,000 activities on Crown land in Alberta. During this time period, the ACO consistently met its target timelines for application reviews.

The ACO also released the Government of Alberta's Consultation Guide for First Nations, Metis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis Communities. The guide improves transparency, reduces administrative burden and offers more specific information for Indigenous communities to be well positioned for consultation.

ACO Digital Service

The ACO continued to roll out its new online system, the ACO Digital Service, which provides improved service delivery to Indigenous communities, industry and ministries involved in Alberta's Indigenous consultation process. In April 2022, a new release transitioned all consultation application submissions and reviews to the digital service, improving efficiency and transparency for Indigenous communities, industry and other government ministries.

The ACO continues to work with Technology and Innovation (previously Service Alberta) to support further development and maintenance of the digital system. The ACO delivered 24 information sessions to industry proponents, Indigenous communities, post-secondary institutions and other government ministries about Alberta's consultation process. This helped participants better understand Alberta's consultation process and enhanced ACO's relationship building with Indigenous communities.

Consultation and engagement

The Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program provided 60 Indigenous communities \$110,000 each in funding to participate in Alberta's consultation process on land and natural resource development.

In 2022-23, Indigenous Relations collaborated with Forestry, Parks and Tourism (the former Environment and Parks) to conduct consultation on Big Island Provincial Park in accordance with Alberta's consultation policies and guidelines. This tri-government cooperative management approach to park establishment between a provincial, municipal and an Indigenous government is a unique model for park development that brings diverse voices to the table to help shape the proposed park vision. As part of this work and as an example of the Treaty relationship, respect for the land will be grounded in tradition while also incorporating environmental monitoring tools.

Strategic Engagement and Policy Innovation also provided strategic advice to other departments on key government priorities such as the Caribou Sub-Regional Planning, Bow River Reservoir Options, the Spring-bank Reservoir Project and the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan 10-year review engagements.

Métis Credible Assertion

On September 12, 2022, the Lac Ste. Anne Community Association (LSAMCA) became the second Métis organization in Alberta to be successful in establishing an assertion of Métis Aboriginal rights through the Alberta government's Métis Credible Assertion Process for their community. As a result of this, LSMCA is now consulted when Crown land management and resource development decisions may have the potential to adversely impact their credibly asserted Métis Aboriginal rights. The organization was also able to access Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP) grant funding to support their participation in Alberta's consultation process.

Geodata Mapping Project

The Geodata Mapping Project is an ongoing effort to ensure that the Government of Alberta is aware of where First Nation members, Metis Settlement members and members of credibly asserted Métis communities practice various rights (i.e., hunting and fishing) or activities (gathering, use of culturally important or sensitive sites, etc.) on the land. This information supports development of consultation area maps for communities, and supports the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) in determining when consultation may be required. The collaborative maps will help ensure Alberta upholds the Honour of the Crown.

The Geodata Mapping Project engaged with eight First Nations on revisions to the geographic extent that government uses to direct consultation to the respective First Nation bands. The Alberta government implemented two revisions and has a third revision scheduled for completion in April 2023.

Economic Corridors

The Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors leads the work related to developing Alberta's economic corridors. Indigenous Relations works closely with the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors in developing a shared understanding of the importance of corridor development and ensuring consultation takes place with Indigenous peoples and Indigenous communities when projects could have an adverse impact on Treaty rights, traditional uses or harvesting activities.

In 2022-23, Indigenous Relations ensured that the right Indigenous leaders and communities were engaged at the right time, supporting this initiative as it evolved. At the end of the 2022-23, conversations with Treaty 8 were underway, including the exploration of potential project ideas, such as the development of Highway 686 in Northern Alberta. Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 areas were exploring economic corridors initiatives through pre-existing Protocol and Relationship Agreements. Indigenous Relations will continue to support this initiative into the future.

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.

Under ICIP's regular program streams, six provincially endorsed applications from Indigenous communities were submitted to, and approved by, Infrastructure Canada in the 2021-22. Under the agreement, ICIP regular stream projects must be substantially completed by 2033, with grants

managed by Indigenous Relations until completion. There are five active and ongoing projects with funding allocated including:

- \$16.5 million to the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Fort McMurray Local Council 1935 for the Métis Cultural Centre;
- \$20 million to Kainai Nation (Blood Tribe) for a new campus;
- \$2.7 million to Saddle Lake Cree Nation for a broadband and cellular upgrade;
- \$241,544 to Cold Lake First Nations for a broadband expansion; and
- \$176,250 to Yellowhead Tribal College to renovate and improve classrooms and laboratories.

In 2022-23, Red Crow Community College's New Campus project was completed. Due to a fire in 2015 that destroyed Red Crow Community College's main campus building, this project was supported to help the College construct a new campus building at Kainai First Nation Reserve in Cardston County, Alberta. A grand opening ceremony was held in October 2022 and as of January 2023, the building was fully occupied.

The remaining four regular stream projects are in different stages of development and several are nearing completion. Indigenous Relations will continue to work with the applicants to ensure available funding is accessible, allowing for projects' completion.

Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Indigenous Consultation and Accommodation

In 2022-23, Indigenous Relations continued to participate in the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Indigenous Consultation and Accommodation, to discuss emerging issues and share best practices. This includes sharing information and collaborating to solve problems and address jurisdictional issues. Indigenous Relations will continue to participate in these cross-government collaborations in 2023-24.

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

In 2022-23, Indigenous Relations saw negotiations conclude on the Doig River First Nation Treaty and Entitlement claim. On February 16, 2023, final agreements were signed settling the Doig River First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement claim.

The Canada – Alberta Agreement provides for the eventual transfer of approximately 5,000 acres of unoccupied provincial Crown land to Canada for reserve creation. The Agreement releases Alberta from any further obligation under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement to provide land to Canada for both the Doig River First Nation and Blueberry River First Nation.

The land is located approximately 50 km west of the Hamlet of Worsley along the Alberta - British Columbia border. The Doig River Land Claim Settlement ends a 120-year federal shortfall for the Nation, as it did not receive all the land it was entitled to under the reserve clause of Treaty No. 8. Alberta's portion of this land settlement is nominal as most of the settlement lands are located within British Columbia.

1.4 Support community, social and economic development through: funding programs; First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security; and implementation of actions to address the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report and violence against Indigenous women, girls and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual plus (2S+) people.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives

The First Nations Women's Councils on Economic Security and Métis Women's Council on Economic Security, were first established in 2013 to provide the Alberta government with strategic advice and recommendations on provincial policies, programs and services to increase the economic security of Indigenous women, their families and communities. In 2022-23, the First Nations Women's Council held two meetings and the Métis Women's Council held three meetings including a strategic planning session for both councils.

The First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security met with the Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit Plus People to discuss potential areas of collaboration and support. As well, on March 29, 2023 the First Nations and Métis Women's Councils on Economic Security jointly met with the Premier and Minister to share their priorities and visions on improving outcomes for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.

The Government of Alberta announced its response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report in June 2022 committing to establishing the Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Premier's Council) and to implement a Government of Alberta Roadmap on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The Premier's Council was established in September 2022 and met three times during 2022-23 to develop and approve their Mandate and Roles Document, Code of Conduct and Strategic Plan. This council also met with the Premier and Minister twice to discuss issues that contribute to violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives provided 11 grants totaling \$1.2 million to implement actions under the GoA Alberta Roadmap on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls which aims to address violence, increase safety and economic security for of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people, including:

- \$60,000 to Four Winds and Associates for the Aboriginal Alert initiative;
- \$105,500 to the YWCA Edmonton for two projects supporting families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls;
- \$300,000 to the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association to support two projects related to support anti-violence initiatives and engage and educate men and boys to end violence;
- \$300,000 to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women to support increasing access to programs and services for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people;
- \$75,000 to Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society for phase two of community protocol with Calgary Police Service;

- \$100,000 to Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth to increase awareness of violence prevention among Indigenous female identifying youth;
- \$80,000 to Athabasca Tribal Council to support local efforts to coordinate a response to violence against Indigenous women and girls;
- \$50,000 to Creating Hope Society to increase safety of Indigenous women; and
- \$165,000 to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women to support operations and host the annual Esquao Awards.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives leads Alberta's participation on the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to share information on Alberta initiatives related to the 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls 2S+ People National Action Plan.

Friendship Centres and Urban Indigenous Peoples

Urban Indigenous people are the fastest growing population in Canada and vital contributors to Alberta's current and future workforce and economy. Indigenous people move from their home communities to urban centres for a multitude of reasons. Some move to search for employment and education opportunities, others to secure affordable housing and access essential services, including health care. To support Indigenous peoples living in urban centres in Alberta, Indigenous Relations works with the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) to support health, employment, housing, recreation, and cultural programs.

In 2022-23, the department was able to increase its annual funding and provided \$1,020,000 to support the ANFCA and its 21 local community Friendship Centres. The increase in funding supports the organizations to remove barriers and strengthen economic and social opportunities that will help to assist Indigenous peoples in urban centres access programs and services.

In addition to ANFCA funding, urban Indigenous organizations also received funding from other Indigenous Relations' funding streams. For example, in 2022-23, the following three projects were funded through EPP and the Advancing Reconciliation fund:

- \$85,000 to the Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth in Calgary to promote technology careers for Indigenous youth aged 14 to 21 through their Indigenous Tech 101 project;
- \$215,225 to the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society in Edmonton to support the reintegration of incarcerated Indigenous men through their Warriors Way project; and
- \$30,000 to the Urban Rez Cultural Society to support its three-day youth conference where participants will be given the opportunity to revitalize and reclaim Indigenous languages, medicines, traditional teachings and kinship through Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

Aboriginal Business Investment Fund

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

In 2022-23, the annual program budget of \$5 million was fully allocated supporting 14 community projects across the province that impacted 22 Indigenous communities. This is the most projects ABIF has supported in one funding year since inception in 2014. The 14 successful Indigenous projects were in the tourism, agriculture, hospitality, retail, construction, and other sectors, and will help to create jobs and stimulate local communities.

2022-23 Applicant	Community/Communities	Project	Amount
Pimee Well Servicing LP	Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Frog Lake First Nation, Heart Lake First Nation, Kehewin Cree Nation, Saddle Lake Cree Nation, and Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation #128	Rig 14 Pump and Tank Project	\$500,000
O'Chiese Contracting LP	O'Chiese First Nation	Harvesting Heavy Equipment	\$500,000
Kee Tas Kee Now Sawmills Ltd	Loon River First Nation, Woodland Cree First Nation, Lubicon Lake Band, Whitefish Lake First Nation #459	Forest Harvesting Equipment	\$500,000
Fort Chipewyan Métis	Fort Chipewyan Métis Local #125	Elder's Housing and Rental Suites	\$500,000
Little Red River Group of Companies LP	Little Red River Cree Nation	Caribou Mountain Homes Expansion	\$500,000
Mini Thni Casino Corp	Stoney Nakoda First Nation	Event Centre	\$500,000
Kainai Forage LP	Kainai Nation (Blood Tribe)	Storage Shed Construction (Shed 9)	\$250,000
Acden Tech Sonic Limited Partnership	Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation	Growth and Expansion Project	\$250,000
SmogBuster Inc.	Mikisew Cree First Nation	Cool Down the Work Environment	\$250,000
Samson Management 2009 Ltd	Samson Cree Nation	Meniak Highway Commercial Project	\$250,000
Bear Hills Casino LP	Louis Bull Tribe	Bear Hills Gas Station	\$250,000
Willow Lake Métis Association	Willow Lake Métis Nation	Willow Lake Eco Bison Ranch	\$250,000
Alexander Business Centre Inc.	Alexander First Nation	HDD Shop and Head Quarters	\$250,000
Comec Energy Services LP	Cold Lake First Nation	Tri Drive Pressure Truck Acquisition	\$250,000

All successful projects supported by ABIF will greatly benefit the social and economic outcomes of many Indigenous communities across Alberta. Two such projects to note are the Storage Shed Construction in Kanai Nation Blood Tribe and the Elders' Housing and Rental Suites Project for Fort Chipewyan Métis Local #125.

- Kainai Forage LP received \$250,000 in 2022-23 to assist with construction-related costs for a storage facility for their Timothy Hay product. The business expects to create 20 new jobs for community members, adding to the 49 current positions. Kainai Forage's exports will help support community programs and an internship program.
- Fort Chipewyan Métis Local #125 received \$500,000 toward capital construction costs of the Elders' Housing and Rental Suites Project, which will meet two critical community needs. The project will include six independent, affordable housing units for Elders and short-term accommodations for visitors, as well as a common gathering area. It is expected to create 50 construction jobs with 15 of the positions being filled by Indigenous people.

Moreover, since 2014, ABIF has supported more than 75 Indigenous-owned businesses with funds over \$40 million. That funding is estimated to have created more than 646 permanent jobs for Indigenous people in a variety of industries, including oil and gas, construction, agriculture, tourism and health care.

Finally, in 2022-23, Indigenous Relations began responding to the Office of the Auditor General's recommendations regarding ABIF. To that end, the program will be adjusted for the 2023-24 intake period and new performance measures developed. These changes will shift the details collected from Indigenous communities and organizations and allow Indigenous Relations to better partner in prosperity with Indigenous communities and ensure existing programming is meeting their needs.

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, the FNDF helps fulfill First Nations economic, social and community development priorities.

In 2022-23, FNDF proceeds of more than \$137 million supported grant funding and reasonable administrative and processing costs. The funding supported 29 economic, 83 social and 184 community development initiatives in First Nations across the province. Some examples of these projects include:

- \$382,154 for Alexander First Nation for assistance with insurance 2022-23 coverage;
- \$3,192,342 for Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation for construction of the Eagle River Casino and Travel Plaza;
- \$308,603 for Beaver First Nation for a compactor and dump truck for the public works department;
- \$250,134 for Kehewin Cree Nation for band administration and operating costs;

- \$482,152 for Loon River First Nation for an outdoor hockey arena;
- \$54,801 for Louis Bull Tribe for home repair costs;
- \$980,491 for Piikani Nation for the arena construction loan; and
- \$316,000 for Siksika Nation Fair.

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 people in Alberta. The funding assists in expanding the 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 (LMTA) that consist of the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) and the Workforce Development Agreement (WDA). The ministry works with eligible Indigenous organizations through the federal government's Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) program and, on occasion, select urban Indigenous organizations to provide funding for Indigenous workforce development.

In 2022-23, the EPP allocated \$4.5 million towards 27 projects across Alberta, with \$2 million coming from the WDA and \$2.5 million coming from LMDA. The largest expenditures included:

- \$379,566 to Tribal Chiefs Employment & Training Services Association for the TEAMS Alberta project, which is a service plan to aid in service delivery for clients who have been referred by service agencies within the region, contributing to more than 600 job placements for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people living in Alberta;
- \$271,000 to Yellowhead Tribal Development Foundation for the YTDF ISETs Youth Career Readiness Program to host a career conference and introduce programs and services to youth ages 13-18; and
- \$492,450 to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women for a Job Readiness program and a Job Placement and Retention program to support women with customized plans to address barriers to employment.

Workforce Development Agreement projects funded under this agreement are generally direct training projects, or projects that provide other direct employment supports to clients (i.e., job searches, skills training, resume writing, etc.). In 2022-23, funding was allocated to five organizations for 12 projects including:

- \$521,370 to the Athabasca Tribal Council;
- \$645,000 to the Community Futures Treaty 7;
- \$200,000 to Ermineskin Cree Nation;
- \$400,000 to the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council; and
- \$233,630 to the Yellowhead Tribal Development Foundation.

Labour Market Development Agreement Projects funded under this agreement 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. In 2022-23, funding was allocated to nine organizations for 15 projects including:

- \$262,143 to the Athabasca Tribal Council;
- \$215,225 to Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society;
- \$501,616 to the Community Futures Treaty 7;
- \$492,450 to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women;
- \$120,000 to the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council;
- \$50,000 to the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council;
- \$549,566 to the Tribal Chiefs Employment & Training Services Association;
- \$85,000 to the Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth; and
- \$271,000 to the Yellowhead Tribal Development Foundation.

In 2022-23, Indigenous Relations responded to the Office of the Auditor General’s (OAG) recommendations regarding the EPP program. As a result, new performance measures will be developed and enhancements will be made to the collection and use of data to better support the program and the Indigenous communities and organizations it serves.

Performance Measure 1a: Number of Indigenous employment initiatives.

Prior Years' Results				2022-23 Target	2022-23 Actual
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
30	25	24	28	25	27

The 2022-23 result of 27 funded projects exceeds the target of 25. Indigenous Relations has successfully used 100 per cent of the EPP’s LMTA allocation in every fiscal year since the program started and will do so again in Budget 2023.

Indigenous organizations with eligible employment and training initiatives receiving funds are located in areas across Alberta, including Edmonton, Calgary and Slave Lake. The program has seen an increased demand for youth-focused employment programming and for Heavy Equipment Operator training and Mandatory Entry Level Training for Class 1 and 2 drivers programs.

EPP continues to consult with stakeholders to fund projects that work in partnership with employers and other stakeholders to promote awareness and expand the availability, accessibility and quality of employment opportunities for Indigenous people in Alberta.

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

Key Objectives

2.1 Support Alberta's economic recovery by maintaining one-third reduction of red tape through active monitoring, while supporting Indigenous participation.

Indigenous Relations continued to support Indigenous participation in land and natural resource development activities through the implementation of existing Consultation Policies and Guidelines. These aim to substantially address potential adverse impacts to First Nations Treaty rights and traditional uses and Metis Settlements and Credibly Asserted Métis Community members' harvesting and traditional use activities due to Crown decisions relating land and natural resource management through a meaningful consultation process.

Indigenous Relations exceeded the one-third reduction target of red tape by completing 33.4 per cent reduction in its regulatory counts. More information on Indigenous Relations' red tape reduction activities can be found on page 20.

2.2 Collaborate with other provincial government ministries to provide expert advice and support for the development of policies, programs and initiatives that reflect Indigenous perspectives and advance reconciliation.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives

Indigenous Women's Initiatives continues to lead two interdepartmental committees: the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Cross Ministry Committee, which includes representation from all government ministries; and the Indigenous Women's Economic Security Cross Ministry Committee, which has representatives from nine ministries. Both interdepartmental committees met once in the past year.

Indigenous Women's Initiatives also participates on various interdepartmental committees addressing matters such as Elder abuse, sexual violence, family violence, and human trafficking to ensure Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ peoples' perspectives are taken into account in government's work.

Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Alberta

On September 22, 2022, September 30 was declared as the Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Alberta. Commemorating the Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #80, which called for a day to commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools. Designating September 30 as the Day for Truth and Reconciliation in perpetuity demonstrates Alberta's commitment to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Residential Schools Monument and Reconciliation Garden

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #82 calls upon provincial governments to commission residential school monuments. Indigenous Relations is leading the development of a permanent residential schools' monument and reconciliation garden at the Alberta legislature.

In April 2022, an advisory panel was created to advise on the development of the monument. Representatives included Stony Nakoda – Tsuut'ina Tribal Council, Blackfoot Confederacy, Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, Alberta Native Friendships Centres Association, Métis Nation of Alberta, Metis Settlements General Council, Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, an Inuit Knowledge Keeper and two Elders.

In June 2022, a meeting with Elders was held to discuss the reconciliation garden and its potential plants. The Elders provided suggestions of tobacco, sage, sweet grass and a diamond willow tree. The successful artist for the monument, Stewart Steinhauer, and the design for the reconciliation garden were announced on September 30, 2022, the Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Alberta.

In March 2023, construction of the reconciliation garden commenced, and it is expected to be completed by the summer of 2023. Indigenous Relations continues to work in collaboration with Alberta Infrastructure on the construction and ongoing maintenance at the legislature grounds that is necessary to build and maintain the garden area.

Residential Schools Community Research Grant

In 2021-22, Indigenous Relations provided almost \$8 million in funding to the Residential Schools Community Research Grant (RSCRG) program, approving 43 applications to Indigenous communities including \$330,000 in grant funds to Culture and Status of Women for 11 Indigenous communities in Alberta affiliated with the Red Deer Industrial School site.

In 2022-23, communities continued work on projects that support:

- community-driven research, including gathering oral histories and knowledge of Elders;
- community-led engagement to determine proceeding with locating burial sites;
- use of technologies to explore potential unmarked burial sites (including the use of ground penetrating radar and other technologies); and
- maintenance and commemorative work, such as installing or restoring grave markers, placement of memorials or commemoration events.

Reconciliation in Alberta webpage

Indigenous Relations launched a Reconciliation in Alberta webpage on alberta.ca that reflects the actions that the Government of Alberta has taken and is taking to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples across a range of priority areas including culture and language, economic and community development, health, and family support.

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 on Alberta's implementation of the 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's Services, Justice, and Intergovernmental Relations to develop potential approaches to implement the Act in the Alberta context. Indigenous Relations also leads the development of a government-wide approach to Indigenous governing bodies, which are instruments used in the implementation of the Act that appear in other pending federal legislation.

Indigenous Relations provided guidance to Children's Services on a federal government meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers and Leaders of National Indigenous Organizations in February 2023 that discussed proposed federal legislation on First Nations drinking water and wastewater in addition to implementation of the Act.

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, Treaties and residential schools, the Government of Alberta responded with two cultural awareness courses under the Indigenous Learning Initiative (ILI). These training initiatives support Alberta Public Service employees, including Alberta's Agencies, Boards and Commissions' staff, to better understand, engage and work with Alberta's First Nations, Métis and Inuit people. The goal is to establish positive relationships and greater understanding as part of reconciliation.

The first step in Reconciliation is education. The ILI offers two training programs the Indigenous Introductory Training (IIT) and the Indigenous Cultural Protocol (ICP) training.

The IIT is a full-day program that addresses myths, misconceptions and stereotypes and serves to change perceptions by having a deeper understanding of our shared history from an Indigenous perspective. Participants gain a greater understanding of the long-term impact of colonization and assimilation policies, such as how the residential school system led to long-standing systemic racism.

Since its inception in July 2018, more than 15,500 Government of Alberta employees, including some Agencies, Boards and Commissions' staff, have participated in the IIT. The number of annual participants doubled in 2022-23, from approximately 600 to over 1,200. When COVID-19 restrictions eased in 2022, the IIT program revised its approach by moving from the hybrid model to offering in-person session in Edmonton, as well as monthly virtual sessions to ensure accessibility to government employees across the province. In addition, delivery of the IIT increased from a minimum of three sessions to an average of eight sessions per month.

ICP training is a half-day program that focuses on building greater understanding about Alberta's Indigenous peoples, 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. Over the last fiscal year, there has been an increase in

requests for ICP, increasing the number of annual sessions from 17 to 21. ICP sessions are delivered separately in-person in Edmonton and virtually for government employees across the province. Since its inception in August 2020, over 700 employees have participated in ICP. The number of participants increased from approximately 260 to 340.

Furthermore, to meet the growing demand for more ILI training sessions, Indigenous Relations recruited additional voluntary facilitators. Our first Train-the-Trainer session was delivered to 22 potential facilitators in February 2023, the first since pre-COVID-19. In addition, more Elders are required to support the ILI training and in January 2023, two new Elders were brought onboard to support training.

Performance Measure 2a: 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.

This measure demonstrates how the ministry is continuing to support red tape reduction efforts by reducing project delays and providing timeline certainty to Indigenous communities and industry. Improved consultation review timelines are critical in building investor confidence in Alberta's natural resource development sector and enhancing economic opportunities for Indigenous communities.

Pre-Consultation Assessments

Prior Years' Results				2022-23 Target	2022-23 Actual
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
78%	98%	100%	100%	95%	100%

Consultation Adequacy Assessments

Prior Years' Results				2022-23 Target	2022-23 Actual
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
88%	98%	100%	100%	95%	100%

In the 2022-23, the ACO met its performance timelines for these measures 100 per cent of the time, matching results from 2021-22. The ACO has developed a surge capacity plan to address potential increases in applications and seasonal fluctuations in resource development that allow for the reallocation of human resources to ensure timelines are consistently met.

Success in these performance measures was due to multiple factors, including:

- effectively managing application volume to meet changing needs due to variations in geographical caseload distribution and continuous improvement goals;
- maintaining the ACO staff complement;
- training staff and encouraging skillset maturity and experience within the ACO; and
- improving efficiency through the ACO Digital Service.

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

Key Objectives

3.1 Support First Nations to improve economic and social outcomes and support First Nations in environmental discussions through Protocol Agreements.

The Government of Alberta has signed two Protocol Agreements and one Relationship Agreement.

The Protocol Agreements are with the Blackfoot Confederacy and the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council, and the Relationship Agreement is with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations of Alberta.

- A table or Sub-Table under the protocol or relationship 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 are invited to table meetings as necessary.

Since the renewal of the Blackfoot Confederacy Protocol Agreement in September 2019, six Protocol Agreement Tables have been updated and had their Table work plans signed. The annual Premier's meeting with the three Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs was held on September 22, 2022, at Piikani First Nation, and included the presentation of the 2021-22 Annual Report. The creation of three additional Tables was requested in the following areas: Housing, Transportation, and Reconciliation.

The signing of the inaugural Protocol Agreement with the Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council (G4) occurred in October 2020. There are two established G4 Sub-Tables that have their work plans developed and signed. The Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council held their inaugural Premier and Chief's meeting in Tsuut'ina in October 2022 reporting on 2020-2022. The 2021 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. The creation of six additional Tables was requested in the following areas: Transportation, Economic Corridors, Education, Health, Environment, Homelessness and Displaced Persons Response.

The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations signed a Relationship Agreement on July 20, 2022. Implementation of the agreement is underway for the establishment of ten Tables under the Relationship Agreement in the following areas: Lands and Resources, Healthcare, Mental Health, Addictions and Opioid Crisis, Education, Justice and Policing, Child and Family Services, Economic Development and Urban Reserve, Culture and Tourism, Reconciliation, and Emergency Management. Development work plans for the Reconciliation and Economic Growth Tables is currently underway along with establishment of remaining Tables.

Discussions continued at a technical level with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, throughout 2022-23, to explore the potential of renewing the Protocol Agreement.

In 2022-23, Indigenous Relations provided \$85,000 to the two Protocol Agreements and one Relationship Agreement for reconciliation initiatives to be carried out through Table work plans. This funding was in addition to the \$200,000 provided to the two Protocol Agreements and \$300,000 provided to the Relationship Agreement in annual capacity funding for 2022-23.

3.2 Maintain and strengthen Alberta's relationships with the Metis Settlements General Council, Metis Settlements and the Métis Nation of Alberta through agreements.

Metis Settlements General Council and the Metis Settlements

The Government of Alberta is committed to reconciliation through meaningful partnerships. As such, Alberta is working together with Metis Settlements and the General Council to advance the long-term sustainability of the Settlements and to achieve their social, economic and cultural objectives, ensuring the Metis Settlements are safe, sustainable and vibrant communities.

From November 2022 to February 2023, Indigenous Relations attended introductory meet and greets with the newly elected Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) Executives. Topics of discussion ranged from economic development and future opportunities on Metis Settlements and a new relationship agreement.

Between November 2022 and March 2023, Indigenous Relations staff also conducted community visits and meetings with the eight Metis Settlements. Discussions focused on administration and service delivery enhancement, relationships, long-term sustainability and funding opportunities.

These meetings and engagements resulted in several pertinent outcomes, including:

- signing a Protocol Agreement to renew relationships and mutually commit to collaboration and the long-term sustainability of the Metis Settlements;
- signing a Statement of Intent on Enhanced Community Policing to renew funding for dedicated RCMP operations on the Settlements;
- fulfilling the 2022-23 commitments of the now expired (March 31, 2023) Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements (LTA) Agreement;
- amending the scope of the remaining \$5 million of LTA funds to provide community grants for policing, mental health, youth and seniors' services, and addiction services; and
- launching a pathfinding portal for GoA funding opportunities on the Metis Relations branch webpage, and connecting Settlement administrators with timely grants and programs.

2022-23 Metis Settlements General Council and Metis Settlements Funding

Funding	Grant	Amount
Long-Term Agreement 2023	Capital Infrastructure Program	\$1,600,000
	Enhanced Policing	\$1,137,978
	Metis Settlement Capacity Program	\$91,084
	2022-23 Metis Settlement Consultation Capacity Funding	\$880,000
	Safe and Healthy Community Initiatives	\$558,022
	Capital Reserve Fund	\$500,000
	Metis Relations' Capacity Funding	\$200,000
	MSGC's Government Relations	\$32,915
Reconciliation Funding	MSGC Central Operations	\$200,000
	MSGC Strategic Planning and Training	\$100,000

Métis Nation of Alberta – Government of Alberta Framework Agreement

On February 1, 2017, the Government of Alberta and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) signed a ten-year Framework Agreement. This agreement is designed to promote and facilitate the advancement of Métis people in Alberta through collaboration and by clarifying and defining the 'nation-to-nation' relationship.

A Framework Technical Committee was established to maintain momentum and make progress towards the goals of the Framework Agreement. In 2022-23, the committee met to continue implementation of the agreement. This work included planning for the 2021 Joint Review of Progress Achieved on the Framework Agreement and development of the 2020-21 Framework Agreement Annual Report.

Under the Framework Agreement, sub-agreements with individual ministries are considered, if requested by the MNA. Indigenous Relations facilitates these relationships, as needed.

Métis Credible Assertion Process

The Métis Credible Assertion Process has been in existence since 2015. Métis communities (other than Metis Settlements) can be considered for consultation if they have an organization that successfully demonstrates a credible assertion of Métis Aboriginal rights through the Government of Alberta's Métis Credible Assertion Process.

Métis organizations voluntarily enter the process and submit information to establish a credible assertion. The Alberta government considers submitted information and determines if the assertion is credible. Métis organizations that are able to establish a credible assertion are included in Crown consultation on land and natural resource management decisions made by the Government of Alberta.

The Métis Credible Assertion division managed 14 active assertion files in 2022-23, with Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association becoming the second successful assertion through Alberta's credible assertion process.

Independent Métis Organizations

Indigenous Relations continued to develop its relationships with independent Métis organizations and communities in Alberta. Department staff met with Fort McKay Métis Nation regarding the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Fort McKay Métis Nation and the Government of Alberta, signed in 2021. In addition, the department started meeting with the Lac Ste Anne Métis Community Association to draft an MOU. Both the Fort McKay Métis Nation and Lac Ste Anne Métis Community Association have successfully established a credible assertion for the purposes of consultation.

Metis Settlement Proclamation Day

On November 1, 2022, Indigenous Relations hosted an outdoor flag raising ceremony at the Queen Elizabeth II building on the Alberta Legislature Grounds to honour the anniversary of Metis Settlement Proclamation Day and to celebrate Alberta's shared history and continued relationship with the Metis Settlements. The Metis Settlements Accord was signed in 1989 with the goal of securing a Métis land base for future generations, along with local autonomy and economic self-sufficiency.

The Accord led to the *Metis Settlements Act* and other related legislation being proclaimed on November 1, 1990, a date that is celebrated annually in Alberta. Donavon Young, Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations, spoke at the event alongside Dave Lamouche, who is now President of the Metis Settlements General Council. The event was attended by numerous Metis Settlement Councilors, Metis Settlements General Council employees and Indigenous Relations staff.

Performance Measure 3a: Number of Protocol Agreements.

Indigenous Relations has the mandate to proceed with four Protocol Agreements in 2022-23. The ministry established three out of four in 2022-23. There are two active Protocol Agreements (Blackfoot Confederacy and Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council) and one Relationship Agreement with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations.

Prior Years' Results				2022-23 Target	2022-23 Actual
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
0	1	2	2	4	3

Indigenous Relations continues to respond to requests made in all three agreements to expand the number of Tables within a prioritized order set by agreement partners.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta declined to renew its agreement and are pursuing a Treaty Rights approach to government-to-government relations with Alberta. Positive and effective discussions continue with individual First Nations and Tribal Councils within Treaty 8 along with ongoing relationship building and maintenance work, including the joint production of annual meetings and reports between the GoA and partnering organizations.

The ministry will continue to engage First Nations leadership in Treaty 8 to pursue Protocol Agreements and other possible relationship building agreements, such as Memorandums of Understanding. For more information on First Nations Protocol Agreements, please see Objective 3.1.

Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology

Performance Measure 1.a: Number of Indigenous employment initiatives

The Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) provides direct training and employment supports to connect Indigenous people to employment by fostering industry partnerships that will expand the availability, accessibility and quality of Indigenous employment opportunities in Alberta.

The EPP develops and supports projects with Indigenous communities and industry sectors to improve employment outcomes and labour force development, support demand-driven skills training and build collaborative partnerships between Indigenous communities and the private sector. Eligible applicants include Indigenous Skills and Employment Training program agreement holders and select urban Indigenous organizations.

Successful applications are confirmed by the signing of the Indigenous Relations Minister Grant Pre-Approval List in December. The number of successful applications is tracked and compared to previous years.

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

This measure demonstrates how the ministry is continuing to support red tape reduction efforts by reducing project delays and providing timeline certainty to Indigenous communities and industry. Improved consultation review timelines are critical in maintaining investor confidence in Alberta's natural resource development sector and enhancing economic opportunities for Indigenous communities.

This performance measure reports on the percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that established timelines for Level 1 (Streamlined Consultation) pre-consultation assessments are completed within the established timeline, which is four government working days from the time of getting a complete application.

This performance measure also reports the percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that Level 2 (Standard Consultation) for *Public Lands Act* (PLA) applications consultation adequacy assessments are completed within established timelines, which is 10 GoA working days from the time staff receive completed consultation summary documents.

The established timelines for pre-consultation assessment and consultation adequacy assessment demonstrate the efficiency of the consultation process, particularly in its adherence to the timelines provided in the following documents:

- 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.

These performance measures also provide key information regarding the desired outcome of ensuring that resource development projects benefit from a respectful, timely, consistent and efficient consultation process.

The ACO tracks, reviews, analyzes and reports on the data collected through the ACO Digital Service and the Electronic Disposition System (EDS). This data includes the number of files received and processed, and is associated with weekly timelines. The previous week's application processing timelines are measured at the beginning of following each week.

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

Protocol and Relationship Agreements provide a framework for continued collaboration between the Government of Alberta (GoA) and First Nations in Alberta through their Tribal and Treaty Organizations. This collaboration takes place through work plans, signed by the relevant Ministers and Chiefs, which are implemented through Tables, and are reported on annually at a Chiefs and Premier's meeting through a report.

Although the GoA builds relationships with First Nations in many ways, this measure represents the formal and ongoing relationships built by the GoA, which represent a commitment to addressing issues of mutual concern with consensus. These formal relationship agreements increase opportunities for reconciliation through bi-lateral government-to-government relationship agreements that strive to advance both parties' interests.

This measure is determined by the number of agreements signed by the Premier and Chiefs, as captured in the First Nations agreements which can be found online at alberta.ca/first-nations-agreements.aspx.

Financial Information

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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)

Year ended March 31, 2023

(in thousands)

	2023		2022	Change from	
	Budget ⁽¹⁾	Actual	Actual	Budget	2022 Actual
	(Revised)				
	<i>In thousands</i>			<i>In thousands</i>	
Revenues					
Government Transfers					
Federal and Other Government Grants	\$ 11,719	\$ 18,345	\$ 19,173	\$ 6,626	\$ (828)
Labour Market Development	4,547	4,547	4,547	-	-
Premiums, Fees and Licenses	2,475	1,406	630	(1,069)	776
Other Revenue	-	1,221	1,446	1,221	(225)
Ministry Total	18,741	25,519	25,796	6,778	(277)
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	(71)	(48)	(71)	(23)
Adjusted ministry total	18,741	25,448	25,748	6,707	(300)
Expenses - directly incurred					
Programs					
Ministry Support Services	4,499	4,173	3,727	(326)	446
First Nations and Metis Relations	23,563	24,700	29,175	1,137	(4,475)
Indigenous Women's Initiatives	2,126	2,435	1,604	309	831
First Nations Development Fund	137,500	137,900	104,785	400	33,115
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,108	1,115	1,060	7	55
Consultation, Land and Policy	15,981	16,693	15,131	712	1,562
Investing in Canada Infrastructure	20,194	18,345	19,173	(1,849)	(828)
Land and Legal Settlements	4,674	3,140	26	(1,534)	3,114
Indigenous Litigation Fund	-	-	372	-	(372)
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	8,475	5,201	4,373	(3,274)	828
Ministry Total	218,120	213,702	179,426	(4,418)	34,276
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustments	-	(71)	(68)	(71)	(3)
Adjusted Ministry Total	218,120	213,631	179,358	(4,489)	34,273
Annual deficit	\$ (199,379)	\$ (188,183)	\$ (153,610)	\$ 11,196	\$ (34,573)

(1) The revised budget includes all voted appropriation, including Supplementary Estimates and adjustments approved by Treasury Board.

Revenue and Expense Highlights

Revenues

- Ministry revenues totaled \$25 million in 2022-23, which is similar to the revenue total in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$6.7 million higher than *Budget 2022*.
- The \$6.7 million increase from *Budget 2022* is attributed to the following:
 - **Federal and Other Government Grants:** \$6.6 million higher in revenues from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) is primarily due to an increase in the ICIP project activities. ICIP is a federally funded program where Canada reimburses Alberta for payments made to third party grant recipients based on the work that has been completed on approved ICIP projects;
 - **Other Revenue:** \$1.2 million increase in other revenues mainly from prior year grant expenditure refunds from canceled projects and over accrual in the prior year; and

Offset by:

- **Premiums, Fees and Licenses:** \$1.1 million decrease in loan guarantee fees revenue reported by Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is attributed to lower than budgeted deal flow. 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.

Expenses

- Ministry expenditures totaled \$214 million in 2022-23, which is \$4.4 million less than budgeted and \$34.3 million higher than 2021-22 actuals.
- The decrease from *Budget 2022* of \$4.4 million is primarily due to the following activities:
 - **Land and Legal Settlements:** \$1.5 million lower than budgeted land remediation costs. \$4.6 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. During the fiscal year 2022-23, \$3.1 million was spent and the unspent portion was due to lower than anticipated land remediation activities resulting from the supply chain material sourcing, labour limitation and delays;
 - **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP):** \$1.8 million lower than budgeted spending in the federally funded ICIP program due to project delays in 2022-23;
 - **Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC):** \$3.3 million reduction in spending was primarily due to lower than anticipated capacity grants for eligible projects and lower than budgeted spending for AIOC operational costs;

Offset by:

- **First Nations and Metis Relations:** \$1.1 million increase in spending was mainly attributed to various additional discretionary grants, like support to the Indigenous host communities in Alberta during the 2022 Papal Visit to Canada; and
 - **Various Programs:** \$1.1 million increase in spending was mainly attributed to support provided to Piikani First Nation to assess environmental impact, increase in First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) grants due to higher gaming revenues, and increase in legal fees.
- The increase from 2021-22 of \$34.3 million resulted primarily from the following program changes:
 - **First Nations Development Fund:** an increase of \$33.1 million resulting from higher gaming revenues collected from government-owned slot machines operating at First Nations casinos during this fiscal year as compared to the prior year;
 - **Land and Legal Settlements:** \$3.1 million higher in current fiscal spending 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. Funding is allotted to cover any residual costs from land remediation and third party negotiations;
 - **Consultation, Land and Policy:** \$1.6 million increase in spending primarily due to grants for the Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative, support provided to Piikani First Nation to assess environmental impact, and increase in legal fee spending; and

Offset by:

- **First Nations and Metis Relations:** \$4.5 million lower than 2021-22 spending mainly due to the expiration of the Residential Schools Community Research Grant, offset by capital grant funding towards the Bigstone Cree Nation Gasification project and discretionary grants provided to the Indigenous host communities during the Papal visit.

Breakdown of Revenues (unaudited)**Year ended March 31, 2023**

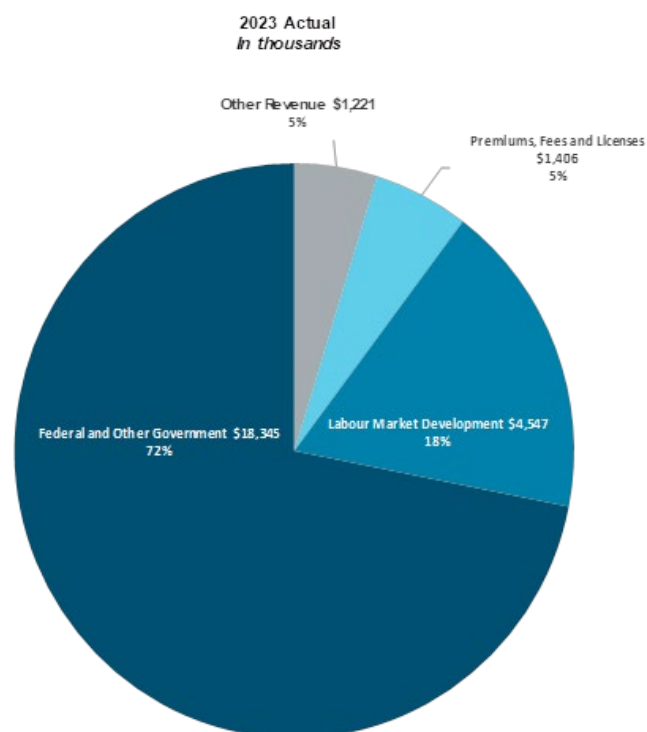
(in thousands)

	2023		2022
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>		
Government Transfers			
Federal and Other Government Grants	\$ 11,719	\$ 18,345	\$ 19,173
Labour Market Development	4,547	4,547	4,547
	16,266	22,892	23,720
Premiums, Fees and Licences	2,475	1,406	630
Other Revenue			
Refund of Expenditure - Other	-	1,145	1,392
Internal Government Transfer of Liability	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	76	54
	-	1,221	1,446
Total Ministry Revenues	\$ 18,741	\$ 25,519	\$ 25,796

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:** \$18.3 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:** \$1.4 million is from the loan guarantee fees received by AIOC.
- **Other Revenue:** \$1.2 million is mainly attributed to prior year expenditure refunds.



Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited)

Year ended March 31, 2023

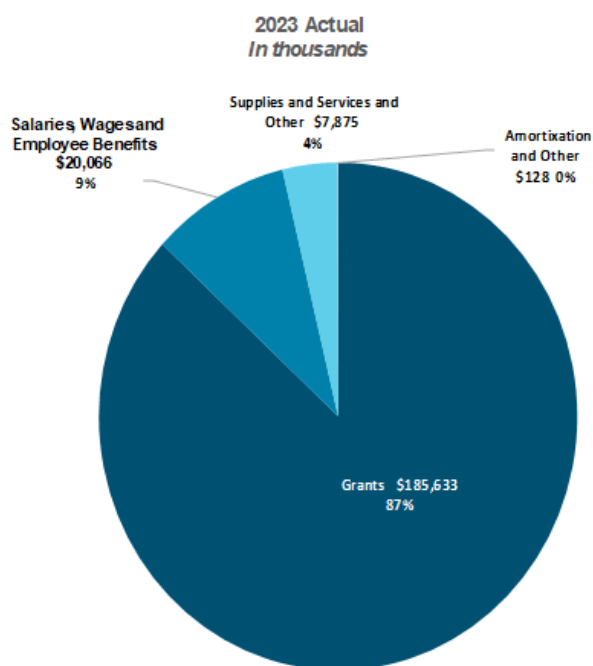
(in thousands)

	2023		2022
	Budget ⁽¹⁾	Actual	Actual ⁽²⁾
	(Revised)		(Restated)
<i>In thousands</i>			
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	\$ 21,691	\$ 20,066	\$ 19,283
Grants	186,709	185,633	157,040
Supplies and Services	9,593	7,875	2,901
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	63	32	27
Financial Transactions and Others	64	96	175
Total Ministry Expenses	\$ 218,120	\$ 213,702	\$ 179,426

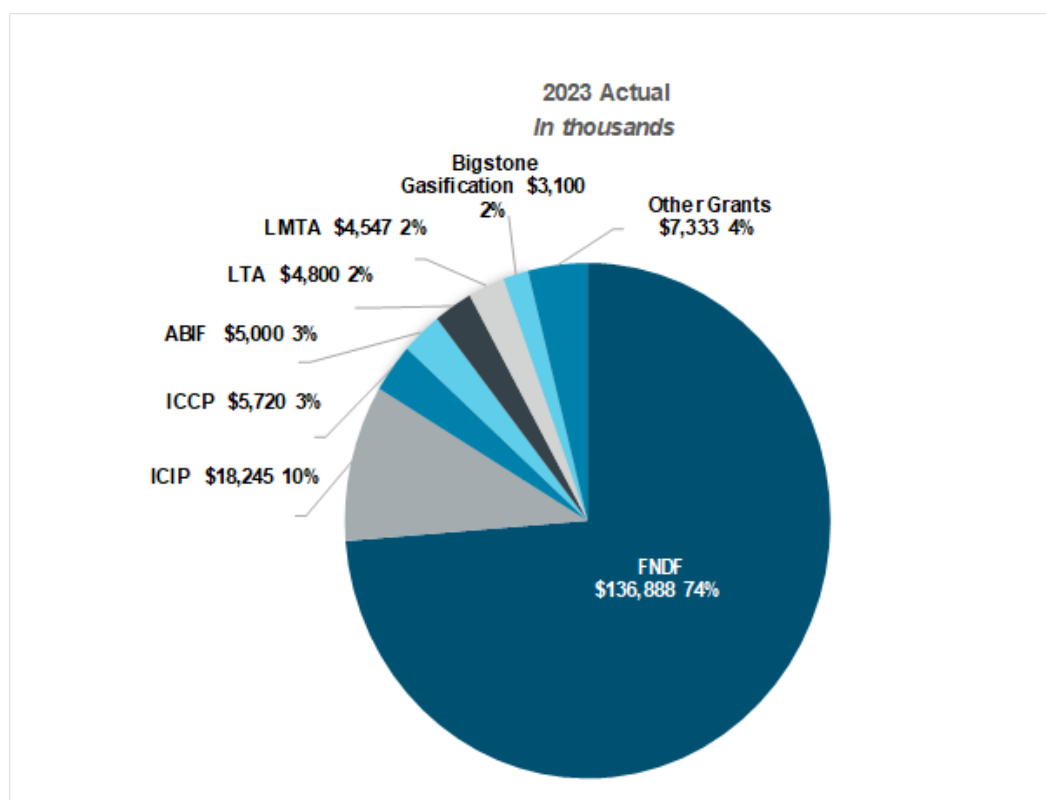
(1) The revised budget includes all voted appropriation, including Supplementary Estimates and adjustments approved by Treasury Board.

(2) Per requested by the Auditor General, the account hierarchy for severance pay expense and payable has been changed to Salaries and Wages from Supplies and Services.

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.



- Grants remained the ministry's largest operating expense at 87 per cent of the total. In 2022-23, the ministry provided \$186 million to support organizations and Indigenous communities through the following grant initiatives:
 - \$137 million - First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) program
 - \$18 million - Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)
 - \$6 million - Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program (ICCP)
 - \$5 million - Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF)
 - \$5 million - Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangement Agreement (LTA)
 - \$5 million - Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTA)
 - \$3 million – Bigstone Cree Nation Gasification Project
 - \$7 million - various other grant initiatives within the ministry



- Salaries, wages and employee benefit expenses totaled \$20 million or 9 per cent of the total ministry expense and were primarily to administer grant programs and support initiatives that strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities and Indigenous peoples.
- Supplies and services of \$7.8 million or 4 per cent included travel, legal contracts and ongoing operating cost requirements for the ministry.

Supplemental Financial Information

Tangible Capital Assets (unaudited)

Year ended March 31, 2023

(in thousands)

	Equipment ⁽¹⁾	Computer Hardware and Software	Other ⁽²⁾	2023 Total	2022 Total
Estimated Useful Life	3-40 years	3-10 years	3-50 years		
	<i>In thousands</i>				
Historical Cost					
Beginning of Year	\$ 174	\$ 458	\$ 13	\$ 645	\$ 755
Transfers (Out)	-	-	-	-	(49)
Adjustments	-	-	-	-	(60)
Additions	14	-	-	14	7
Effect of disposals	-	-	-	-	(8)
	\$ 188	\$ 458	\$ 13	\$ 659	\$ 645
Accumulated Amortization					
Beginning of year	104	437	4	545	556
Amortization Expense	18	11	3	32	31
Transfers (Out)	-	-	-	-	(30)
Adjustments	-	-	-	-	(4)
Effect of disposals	-	-	-	-	(8)
	122	448	7	577	545
Net Book Value at March 31, 2023	\$ 66	\$ 10	\$ 6	\$ 82	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2022	\$ 70	\$ 21	\$ 9		\$ 100

⁽¹⁾ Equipment includes office equipment and furniture.

⁽²⁾ Other tangible capital assets include leasehold improvements.

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 2023 estimate of the expected amount to be recovered from the federal government for DFAA eligible expenses remains at \$98.4 million (2022 - \$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)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Revenue DFAA (Reversal)	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	(\$177)	\$42	(\$4,174)	(\$61,644)
Accounts Receivable from Government of Canada	\$98,413	\$98,413	\$98,590	\$98,413	\$98,413	\$98,590	\$98,548	\$102,722
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$5,955	\$14,157	\$33,300	\$56,824	\$79,313

Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities

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The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

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]

Chana Martineau
Chief Executive Officer

[Original Signed By]

Hamid Shahzad
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, 2023, 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, 2023, 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]

W. Doug Wylie FCPA, FCMA, ICD.D
Auditor General
June 2, 2023
Edmonton, Alberta

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2023

(in thousands)

	2023		2022
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Revenues			
Government of Alberta grants	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,750
Premiums, Fees & Licenses	1,940	1,406	630
Other revenue	535	230	396
	8,475	4,386	3,776
Expenses (Note 2(b) Schedule 1)			
Operating costs	4,475	3,625	3,083
Indigenous opportunities initiatives	4,000	1,636	1,290
	8,475	5,261	4,373
Annual operating (deficit) surplus	-	(875)	(597)
Accumulated surplus at beginning of year	4,466	4,466	5,063
Accumulated surplus at end of year	\$ 4,466	\$ 3,591	\$ 4,466

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements. There is no financial statement of remeasurement gain/losses presented.

Statement of Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 2023

(in thousands)

	2023	2022
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Financial assets		
Cash	\$ 6,439	\$ 5,460
Due from Government of Alberta (Note 6)	650	650
Accounts receivable	-	7
	<u>\$ 7,090</u>	<u>\$ 6,117</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities (Note 7)	256	242
Deferred revenue (Note 8)	3,295	1,486
	<u>\$ 3,551</u>	<u>\$ 1,728</u>
Net financial assets	<u>3,539</u>	<u>4,389</u>
Non-Financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 13)	46	70
Prepays	7	7
	<u>\$ 53</u>	<u>\$ 77</u>
Net assets	<u>\$ 3,591</u>	<u>\$ 4,466</u>
Net assets		
Accumulated surplus (Note 14)	3,591	4,466
	<u>\$ 3,591</u>	<u>\$ 4,466</u>
Contractual rights (Note 5)		
Deferred Revenue (Note 8)		
Contingent liabilities (Note 10)		
Contractual obligations (Note 11)		

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

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2023

(in thousands)

	2023	2022
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Annual deficit	\$ (875)	\$ (597)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets (Note 13)	-	(8)
Adjustment of tangible assets	-	60
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 13)	24	20
decrease in net financial assets	(851)	(525)
Net financial assets at beginning of year	4,389	4,914
Net financial assets at end of year	<u>\$ 3,538</u>	<u>\$ 4,389</u>

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

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2023

(in thousands)

	2023	2022
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Operating transactions		
Annual (deficit)	\$ (875)	\$ (597)
Non-cash items included in annual deficit		
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 13)	24	20
Adjustment of tangible assets	-	60
	(851)	(517)
Decrease (increase) in other receivables	7	(7)
Decrease in due from Government of Alberta	-	850
Decrease in due to Government of Alberta	-	(69)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	14	(48)
Increase in Deferred Revenue	1,809	318
Cash provided by operating transactions	\$ 979	\$ 527
Capital transactions		
Acquisition of capital assets (Note 13)	-	(8)
Cash applied to capital transactions	\$ -	\$ (8)
Increase in cash	979	519
Cash at beginning of year	5,460	4,941
Cash at end of year	\$ 6,439	\$ 5,460

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

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. The AIOC's mandate includes projects related to natural resources, 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. The financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses of the reporting entity.

(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 deferred 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

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 & 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.

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 year end.

Cash

Cash is comprised of cash on hand and demand deposits.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

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

(b) Basis of financial reporting (cont'd)

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.

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 \$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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

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

(b) Basis of financial reporting (cont'd)

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.

Work in progress, which includes facilities and improvements projects and development of information systems is not amortized until after a project is complete (or substantially complete) and the asset is put into service.

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

Note 3 FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES

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.

The adoption of the above noted standards: PS 3400 & PS 3160, respectively, have been determined to have no effect to the AIOC.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

Note 4 BUDGET
(in thousands)

The \$6 million budget was included in the 2022-23 Government Estimates under the Ministry of Indigenous Relations. The Corporation's funding for the year ended March 31, 2023 was subsequently reduced to \$2.75 million.

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.

	2023	2022
Contractual rights from loan guarantee contracts	\$ 16,972	\$ 4,060

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

Loan Guarantee Contracts	
2023-24	1,360
2024-25	1,309
2025-26	1,285
2026-27	1,257
2027-28	1,229
Thereafter	10,532
	<u>\$ 16,972</u>

Note 6 DUE FROM GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA
(in thousands)

	2023	2022
Due from the Department of Indigenous Relations	\$ 650	\$ 650

Amounts due from the Department of Indigenous Relations are in respect of the fourth quarter grant of \$650, recognized as revenue but not received.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

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

	2023	2022
Accounts payable	\$ 221	\$ 124
Other accrued liabilities	35	118
	\$ 256	\$ 242

As at March 31, 2023, Accounts payable includes \$136 related to severance (2022: nil)

Note 8 DEFERRED REVENUE
(in thousands)

	2023	2022
Opening Balance	\$ 1,486	\$ 1,168
Additions	2,590	818
Recognized into Revenue	(781)	(500)
Closing Balance	\$ 3,295	\$ 1,486

Deferred revenue includes the unrecognized portion of fees received related to loan guarantees that will be recognized over the term of the guarantees. During the year ended March 31, 2023, AIOC received fees related to the issuance and administration of guarantees totalling \$3,125 (2022: \$1,466)

Note 9 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

Note 10 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At March 31, 2023, AIOC was not named as defendant in any specific legal actions and there are no other known contingent liabilities.

Pursuant to an agreement dated September 29, 2022, AIOC provided a loan guarantee of \$250 million ("Athabasca Indigenous Investments Loan Guarantee") in favour of ATB Financial as Agent and other Secured Creditors ("Creditor Group") to enable Athabasca Indigenous Investments Holdings LP ("Aii"), a consortium of twenty-three Indigenous Communities, to purchase an equity interest in the Enbridge Athabasca Region Trunkline. 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 Athabasca Indigenous Investment Loan Guarantee up to a maximum value of \$250 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 Aii. As AIOC is a Crown agent, AIOC's obligations under the Athabasca Indigenous Investments 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 Alberta Indigenous Investment Loan Guarantee.

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

Note 10 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES (cont'd)

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.

Note 11 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.

	2023	2022
Obligations under leases, contracts, and programs	\$ 466	\$ 503

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

Operating leases, contracts, and programs	
2023-24	\$ 302
2024-25	92
2025-26	36
2026-27	36
2027-28	-
Thereafter	-
	<u>\$ 466</u>

Note 12 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 \$160 (2022- \$175) included in these financial statements represents the current contributions made on behalf of these employees.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

Note 13 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS
(in thousands)

	Furniture & Equipment	Computer Hardware & Software	Leasehold Improvements	2023 Total	2022 Total
Estimated Useful Life	5 Years	3 Years	4 Years		
Historical cost					
Beginning of year	\$ 55	\$ 31	\$ 13	\$ 99	\$ 150
Additions	-	-	-	-	8
Adjustments *	-	(1)	-	(1)	(60)
	55	30	13	98	98
Accumulated amortization					
Beginning of year	12	12	4	28	8
Amortization expense	11	10	3	24	20
	23	22	7	52	28
Net Book Value at March 31, 2023	\$ 32	\$ 8	\$ 6	\$ 46	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2022	\$ 43	\$ 19	\$ 9		\$ 70

*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 14 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
(in thousands)

	Unrestricted surplus	2023 total	2022 total
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 4,466	\$ 4,466	\$ 5,063
Annual deficit	(875)	(875)	(597)
Balance at end of year	\$ 3,591	\$ 3,591	\$ 4,466

Note 15 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

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

Note 16 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board of Directors approved the financial statements of AIOC.

Expenses – Detailed by Object

Year ended March 31, 2023

	2023		2022	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	
	<i>(in thousands)</i>			
Salaries, wages, and employee benefits	\$ 2,506	\$ 2,118	\$ 2,084	
Supplies and services	1,934	1,483	1,057	
Capacity Grants	4,000	1,636	1,213	
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 13)	35	24	20	
Total expenses	\$ 8,475	\$ 5,261	\$ 4,373	

Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Year ended March 31, 2023

	2023			2022	
	Base salary (1)	Other cash benefits (2)	Other non-cash benefits (3)	Total	Total
	<i>(in thousands)</i>				
Board of Directors					
Board Chair (4)	\$ -	\$ 34	\$ -	\$ 34	\$ 32
Board Members (4)	-	119	4	123	69
Executive					
Chief Executive Officer (5)	190	-	73	263	339
Acting Chief Executive Officer	57	-	2	59	143
Chief Operating Officer (6)	-	-	-	-	177
Chief Investment Officer (7)	236	64	55	355	322
Interim Chief Investment Officer (8)	30	-	-	30	-
VP Engagement (9)	185	140	47	372	266
Total	\$ 698	\$ 358	\$ 181	\$ 1,236	\$ 1,348

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 and retroactive pay.
- (2) Other cash benefits include vacation payouts, bonuses, honoraria, severance, and other lump sum payments. There were no bonuses paid in 2023.
- (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) Remuneration and expenses of the Board are prescribed by Order in Council 2021-334 and revised by Order in Council 2022-148 issued on May 4, 2022.
- (5) Position filled July 4, 2022.
- (6) Vacant position as of February 1, 2022.
- (7) Vacant position as of March 10, 2023.
- (8) Interim CIO currently on contract until September 1, 2023.
- (9) Vacant position as of February 24, 2023.

Related Party Transactions

Year ended March 31, 2023

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Government of Alberta's Consolidated Financial Statements. Related parties also include key management personnel and close family members of those individuals in 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.

	2023		2022	
	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	-	\$ 2,750	-
	\$ 2,750	\$ -	\$ 2,750	\$ -
Expenses				
Department of indigenous Relations	1	-	-	-
	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Receivable from				
Department of Indigenous Relations	650	-	650	-
	\$ 650	\$ -	\$ 650	\$ -

Other Financial Information

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Statement of Credit or Recovery (unaudited)**Department of Indigenous Relations****Year ended March 31, 2023**

(in thousands)

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

	Authorized Spending ⁽²⁾	Actual Revenue Recognized ⁽³⁾	Unearned Revenue ⁽³⁾	Total Amount Received/ Receivable ⁽⁴⁾	(Shortfall)/ Excess
EXPENSE AMOUNT					
First Nations Development Fund ⁽¹⁾	\$ 137,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 137,900	\$ (400)
	\$ 137,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 137,900	\$ (400)

- (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, 2023**

(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						
1.1 Minister's Office	\$ 820	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 820	\$ 718	\$ (102)
1.2 Deputy Minister's Office	668	-	-	668	657	(11)
1.3 Strategic and Corporate Services	2,948	-	-	2,948	2,732	(216)
	4,436	-	-	4,436	4,107	(329)
2. First Nations and Metis Relations	15,250	-	-	15,250	14,450	(800)
3. Indigenous Women's Initiatives	2,126	-	-	2,126	2,429	303
4. First Nations Development Fund	113,000	-	24,500	137,500	137,886	386
5. Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,108	-	-	1,108	1,078	(30)
6. Consultation, Land and Policy						
6.1 Program Support and Land Claims	1,264	-	-	1,264	2,557	1,293
6.2 Aboriginal Consultation Office	5,002	-	-	5,002	4,216	(786)
6.3 Strategic Engagement and Policy Innovation	9,715	-	-	9,715	9,910	195
	15,981	-	-	15,981	16,683	702
8. Investing in Canada Infrastructure	100	-	-	100	100	-
9. Land and Legal Settlement	4,674	-	-	4,674	3,140	(1,534)
10. Indigenous Litigation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	6,000	-	-	6,000	2,750	(3,250)
Program - Capital Grants						
2. First Nations and Metis Relations	7,100	1,213	-	8,313	10,200	1,887
8. Investing in Canada Infrastructure	11,619	8,475	-	20,094	18,245	(1,849)
	18,719	9,688	-	28,407	28,445	38
Total	\$ 181,394	\$ 9,688	\$ 24,500	\$ 215,582	\$ 211,068	\$ (4,514)
Lapse						\$ (4,514)

(1) As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" pages 123-126 of the 2022-23 Government Estimates.

(2) Per pages 27-60 of the Supplementary Supply Estimates approved on March 16, 2023.

(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) cont'd**Department of Indigenous Relations****Year ended March 31, 2023**

(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	\$ 13	\$ (12)
Total	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 13	\$ (12)
Lapse						\$ (12)
FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS VOTE BY PROGRAM						
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lapse						\$ -

- (1) As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" pages 123-126 of the 2022-23 Government Estimates.
- (2) Per pages 27-60 of the Supplementary Supply Estimates approved on March 16, 2023.
- (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, 2022 and March 31, 2023.