

BUDGET 2023

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2023-26

Ministry Business Plan Public Safety and Emergency Services

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Business Plan 2023-26

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

Public Safety and Emergency Services is keeping Alberta communities safe and secure. Working alongside partners in law enforcement, justice, health, and social services, the ministry supports a fair and accessible criminal justice system that supports the unique needs of Albertans while upholding the rule of law. The ministry also leads the coordination, collaboration, and cooperation of all organizations involved in the prevention of, response to, and recovery from emergencies in the province. The collaboration of these organizations ensures our province is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of disasters. Continued support for specialized policing units and crime prevention programs will ensure Alberta remains a safe and healthy place to live.

With eight provincial adult correctional centres, two provincial youth correctional centres and over 40 probation offices across the province, the ministry is responsible for the custody and supervision of adults and young persons under correctional authority, as well as the facilitation of rehabilitation opportunities. Provincial custody is reserved for adults who are remanded or serving a sentence of less than two years and for young persons who are remanded or sentenced. Community supervision includes programs such as pre-trial supervision, probation, and alternative measures or sanctions for adults and young persons. The ministry strives to support, guide and inspire its correctional services clients to make positive, sustainable and lawful choices in order to reduce their interactions with the criminal justice system and ensure strong communities across Alberta.

The ministry provides provincial policing services through an agreement with the federal government that establishes the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) as the provincial police service and supports municipal policing through policing grants. It continues to support communities experiencing unique and challenging crime situations, including rural crime, with the implementation of the Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defence (RAPID) Response. The ministry supports specialized policing programs, as well as grant funding for crime prevention and restorative justice programs. It ensures the delivery of programs and services to support victims of crime, including those affected by domestic violence, and human trafficking. It is working to implement a new service delivery model to ensure victim services are consistent and accessible across the province. The ministry is also collaborating with partners to establish an Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons to build awareness, and work with victims and survivors of human trafficking to ensure they receive the specialized services they need.

To help municipalities and communities better manage emergencies and disasters, the ministry provides a range of supports through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA). The AEMA coordinates large-scale emergency and disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, responses, and recovery programs and initiatives. The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) includes a 24/7 watch station which continuously monitors and reports on events across Alberta, and a ready-to-use space for coordination during emergencies and disasters. Alberta is committed to issuing emergency alerts that provide critical information about emerging situations, immediate disaster, and recommended precautions and actions to stay safe. This helps save lives and protect Albertans everywhere in the province.

In addition to preparing and coordinating the provincial government response to emergencies including business continuity practices, AEMA provides in-community emergency management services to municipalities, First Nation communities and Métis Settlements; including comprehensive emergency management training, support for emergency plan development, emergency social services planning, and key real-time response services during emergencies and disasters.

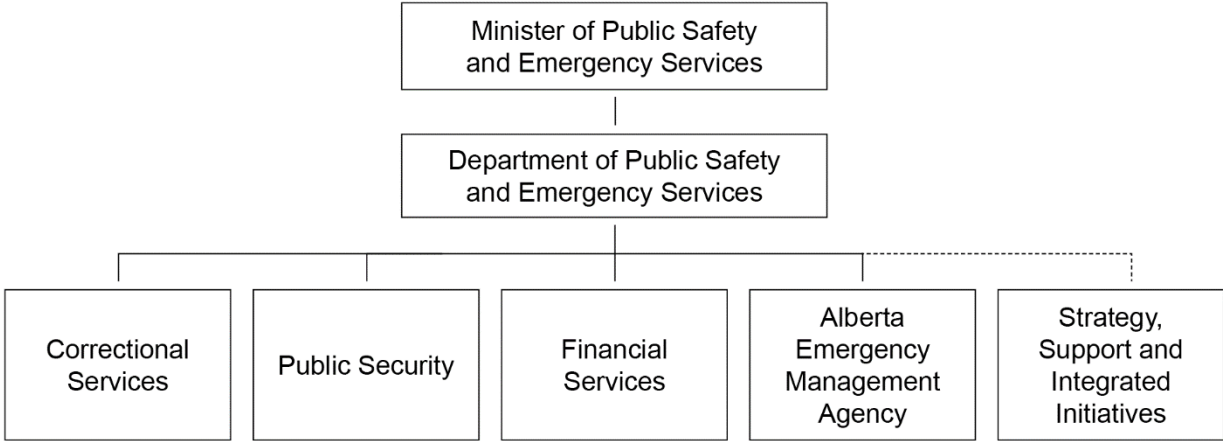
The ministry is working to improve public safety throughout Alberta, including in Indigenous communities. The Public Security Indigenous Advisory Committee is advising government on public safety initiatives, including restorative justice practices, victim services and crime prevention, to help ensure government policies, programs and

processes align with the needs of Indigenous communities. It will continue to work with Indigenous communities to develop effective crime reduction strategies and modernize Indigenous policing programs.

Action has been taken to reduce police response times, deter crime, and reinforce property rights by granting Alberta Sheriffs the authority to investigate a wider range of offences, including impaired driving. This is making our highways safer and freeing up the RCMP to answer calls that are more urgent. Work to modernize policing legislation and standards will improve public trust and ensure policing agencies are responsive to the needs of the communities they serve. A review of police service delivery in the province, including further examination of an Alberta Police Service, will help identify opportunities to increase frontline personnel and better address the root causes of crime.

Public Safety and Emergency Services continues to support the unique needs of Albertans involved in the justice system. In partnership with Alberta Justice, the ministry is developing alternatives to traditional processes, including diversion and restorative justice programs, and specialized courts that provide a therapeutic and culturally appropriate approach to justice. It continues to work with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction and other partners to support a recovery-oriented system of care that provides access to a full continuum of services, including services that support mental health and addictions recovery. This includes the establishment of therapeutic living units and supports in Alberta correctional facilities.

The ministry is working to reduce the impact of regulatory and administrative processes while maintaining its focus on public safety. In response to ongoing government efforts to reduce red tape, Public Safety and Emergency Services is



undertaking a review of permit approvals to seek feasible opportunities to streamline processes and reduce wait times for Albertans.

A more detailed description of Public Safety and Emergency Services and its programs and initiatives can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/public-safety-and-emergency-services.aspx>

The Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services remains committed to regulatory approaches and program delivery that reduces unnecessary government oversight and emphasizes outcomes, in order to improve access to government services, attract investment, support innovation and competitiveness, and grow Alberta businesses.

Ministry business plans should be considered in conjunction with all budget documents - including the Fiscal Plan, Government Strategic Plan, and Estimates - which work together to provide a complete overview of government’s commitment to responsible fiscal management.

2023-26 Business Plan

Outcome 1

Albertans are safe and secure

The ministry is committed to ensuring all Albertans are safe and secure in their communities. Focused work to address family and sexual violence, hate-motivated crime and human trafficking, will protect those vulnerable to victimization. The alignment of mental health and addictions services will allow police and correctional services to support individuals involved in crime to address criminal behaviour associated with their substance abuse. The ministry will continue to support the work of the Public Safety and Community Response Task Forces, including the implementation of a recovery-oriented system of care in response to addiction, homelessness, and public safety issues in Edmonton and Calgary.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Work with municipalities, police services, community-based organizations and other ministries to improve the alignment of mental health and addictions crisis response resources and ensure recovery is a central component of effective community policing and corrections.
- 1.2 Continue to work with policing partners, municipalities and Indigenous communities to address crime and implement risk reduction strategies, such as increased border support to keep guns, drugs and other crime out of Alberta. This includes focused work on rural crime, organized crime, hate-motivated crime, firearms violence, drug and human trafficking and proceeds of crime.
- 1.3 Enhance the authorities, role and numbers of Provincial Sheriffs to support the RCMP in addressing rural crime.
- 1.4 Continue to improve the delivery of policing services in the province to ensure Albertans are safe and police are accountable to the communities they serve, including further examination of a provincial police service and establishing an independent agency to resolve policing complaints.
- 1.5 Support municipalities and Indigenous communities interested in exploring different models of policing and public safety.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2023-24, primarily through funding to the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) dedicate up to \$53.2 million to dealing with and investigating organized crime, child pornography, gun violence, drug and, human trafficking, domestic violence and prolific offenders.
- In 2023-24, \$2.4 million will be dedicated to creating a new Firearms Investigative Unit within ALERT to combat firearms violence.
- In 2023-24, \$5.8 million will fund the Safe Communities and Neighbourhoods program to address problem properties and drug houses in conjunction with local police services of jurisdiction.
- In 2023-24, \$1.7 million will support increasing surveillance in rural communities through the expansion of the Sheriffs Investigative Unit.
- In 2023-24, \$4 million will be dedicated to implementing the Human Trafficking Task Force recommendations including establishing the Alberta Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons, a centre of excellence for data and research, and granting programs.
- In 2023-24, \$2 million will establish a Fugitive Apprehension Sheriff Support Team to locate and remand individuals who are a threat to public safety.
- In 2023-24, \$3 million in grant funding for municipalities and Indigenous communities seeking to explore alternative policing models.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Indicator: Violent and property crime rates per 100,000 population

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Alberta Violent Crime Rate	1,312	1,338	1,461	1,428	1,499
Rural	1,982	1,947	2,275	2,405	2,460
Urban	1,167	1,208	1,291	1,225	1,301
Alberta Property Crime Rate	5,534	5,470	5,886	5,032	4,567
Rural	7,128	6,863	7,491	6,815	6,399
Urban	5,181	5,164	5,543	4,654	4,185

Outcome 2

Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system

The ministry is committed to improving support for Albertans during their interactions with the justice system. The implementation of a new victim services delivery model will ensure victims are provided consistent, professional and appropriate services in all areas of the province. Exploring opportunities to modernize the delivery of correctional services will support individuals under correctional jurisdiction. The implementation of a recovery-oriented system of care that provides a network of community-based services that help improve life for those with or at risk of alcohol and drug problems or mental health issues continues to be an important priority for the ministry. The ministry will continue to advance initiatives that achieve the vision of contemporary policing being a service that responds to the needs of citizens and as community leaders takes action for the best interests of the diverse populations they serve.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Continue to improve support for victims of crime, including the implementation of a new victim service delivery model to ensure victims receive the help they need, when and where they need it.
- 2.2 Explore technological opportunities to modernize the delivery of correctional services to enhance Albertans' interactions with Corrections and promote system sustainability.
- 2.3 Implement therapeutic living units and supports in correctional facilities in alignment with and commitment to a recovery-oriented system of care.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2023-24, \$12 million will be allocated to the Victims of Crime Assistance Program to ensure victims are able to apply for assistance, supports and services to help with emergency expenses and their recovery.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Average days to decision for applications to the Victims of Crime Assistance Program

This measures the effectiveness of the redesigned, recently implemented Victims of Crime Assistance Program in providing timely support to victims of crime. Reduced application processing times ensure that victims get the services they need sooner to help them recover from trauma. The 2021-22 actual result was 11 days. This number reflects an interim program, which solely focused on emergency crisis and supports pending the implementation of the enhanced program. The 2019-20 actual result of 188 days better reflects historical trends from the legacy Victims of Crime Financial Benefit Program.

Targets	2023-24	49 days	2024-25	40 days	2025-26	30 days
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Outcome 3

Alberta is prepared and resilient to the impacts of disasters

The ministry is committed to working collaboratively to manage its response to and recovery from disasters. Through the coordination of emergency planning and preparation, emergency resources, disaster financial assistance, and expert recovery advice, Albertans can be confident that our province is well equipped to respond to disasters.

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Work with emergency management partners to build capacity for coordinated disaster response and recovery across Alberta.
- 3.2 Lead the implementation of a provincial hazard identification and risk assessment framework to help reduce disaster risk and improve disaster response.
- 3.3 Work with municipalities to deliver timely and fiscally responsible disaster recovery programs to assist eligible Albertans impacted by disaster, including supporting local decisions that reflect community needs.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2023-24, \$1.29 million will be allocated to support the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre's disaster response and coordination activities, including the Alberta Emergency Alert system, and the 24/7 watch station.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Percentage of local authorities visited by an Alberta Emergency Management Agency field officer and had their Community Emergency Management Plan reviewed annually

This measures the effectiveness of provincial oversight in reviewing local emergency plans, accounting for capacity issues from unpredictability of extraordinary disaster events. The actual 2021-22 result was 85 per cent.

Targets	2023-24	90%	2024-25	90%	2025-26	90%
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STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable		2023-24 Estimate	2024-25 Target	2025-26 Target
	2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Forecast			
REVENUE					
Transfers of Assets or Liabilities from Related Parties	-	1,823	-	-	-
Transfers from Government of Canada	31,426	43,099	29,416	29,443	28,264
Investment Income	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other Premiums, Fees and Licences	45,755	45,755	45,755	45,755	45,755
Fines and Penalties	61,450	53,450	53,150	53,150	53,150
Other Revenue	67,984	69,284	92,316	92,316	92,316
Ministry Total	207,615	214,411	221,637	221,664	220,485
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	-	(1,823)	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	207,615	212,588	221,637	221,664	220,485
EXPENSE					
Ministry Support Services	7,578	8,377	25,149	27,405	27,455
Public Security	596,391	626,644	710,993	734,540	726,384
Correctional Services	289,770	308,270	341,498	344,408	347,499
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	102,002	121,279	104,960	105,583	103,633
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund	62,887	39,387	39,486	39,547	39,552
Ministry Total	1,058,628	1,103,957	1,222,086	1,251,483	1,244,523
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	(5,300)	(5,300)	(5,300)	(5,300)	(5,300)
Consolidated Total	1,053,328	1,098,657	1,216,786	1,246,183	1,239,223
Net Operating Result	(845,713)	(886,069)	(995,149)	(1,024,519)	(1,018,738)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT					
Public Security	695	695	2,695	1,295	1,295
Correctional Services	538	538	1,280	1,280	1,280
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	2,300	6,394	2,300	2,300	2,300
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund	15	15	25	25	25
Consolidated Total	3,548	7,642	6,300	4,900	4,900