

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Annual Report
2023-24

Alberta 

Public Safety and Emergency Services, Government of Alberta | Public Safety and Emergency Services
2023–2024 Annual Report

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Preface

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

The 2023-24 Annual Report reflects the 2023-26 ministry business plans, the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan, as well as the ministry's activities and accomplishments during the 2023-24 fiscal year, which ended on March 31, 2024.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta contains Budget 2023 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 Public Safety and Emergency Services 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 Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund, for which the minister is responsible; and
- other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act*, as separate reports, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report.

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.

Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2024, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as of June 19, 2024 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

[Original signed by Honourable Mike Ellis]
Honourable Mike Ellis
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Message from the Minister



In 2023-2024, the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services remained committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all Albertans, while facing unprecedented challenges with resilience and determination.

The Government of Alberta's ongoing commitment to enhancing public safety extends to strengthening law enforcement capabilities across the province. These changes are part of a broader paradigm shift that reimagines police as an extension of the community rather than as an arm of the state. The most effective way for police to become an extension of the community they serve is by building trust and relationships with the public.

As such, our ministry continued to focus on implementing measures outlined in the *Police Amendment Act, 2022*, that will enhance transparency, accountability and civilian involvement. These key reforms are intended to promote more diversity in policing and encourage greater collaboration between police and civilian partners to improve public safety.

Additionally, Alberta's government introduced new legislation in March 2024 – the *Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act* – which includes provisions to implement a 24/7 provincial ankle bracelet monitoring program to monitor high-risk offenders, as well as enable the creation of a new independent agency police service that would work alongside police services across the province. Officers in the new agency would take on responsibility for police-like functions currently carried out by and planned for the Alberta Sheriffs. The new independent agency police service will have the authority and jurisdiction to support the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), municipal police services and First Nations police services in Alberta.

Recognizing the persistent challenge of crime, violence and social disorder in our major cities, we announced significant investments to support the recruitment, training and deployment of 50 new officers each for the Edmonton Police Service and Calgary Police Service. These additional officers are being strategically placed in high-crime areas with the flexibility to adapt to evolving needs. In 2023-24, we also increased funding for Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams by more than \$6 million to increase its ability to fight serious and organized crime.

In alignment with this effort, funding has been allocated to bolster the role that sheriffs play in working with police to support safer communities. The Alberta Sheriffs received funding to add 20 investigators to the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) unit, which works with other law enforcement agencies to shut down properties being used for illegal activities, such as drug trafficking. This includes added positions in Edmonton and Calgary, and the establishment of a new unit in Lethbridge to support southern Alberta.

Mental illness and addiction are major drivers of criminality in communities throughout the province. Working hand-in-hand with our investments in officer presence and safer neighbourhoods, supports for individuals within our correctional system are a compassionate response to the vicious cycle of addiction, crime and incarceration. Since 2023, in partnership with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction, we have launched therapeutic living units at three Alberta correctional facilities, and a fourth therapeutic living unit is expected to open in spring 2024. These therapeutic units provide structured, evidence-based treatment, as well as discharge and transitional supports that are crucial to the lasting recovery and healthy reintegration of

Albertans in custody. We will continue to work with partner ministries to expand supports and access to treatment.

When crime does occur in our province, we are committed to making sure victims get the support they need when they need it. In 2023-24, the ministry continued to move towards a new victim services model to establish four integrated and coordinated Regional Victim Serving Societies. This will improve the consistency, stability and continuity of frontline services received by victims of crime and/or tragedy across all regions in Alberta. This new model creates an opportunity for a more integrated approach that ensures all victims continue to be supported locally by dedicated, decentralized frontline Victim Court and Support Navigators and local volunteer advocates from within and around their own communities. We anticipate the new regional model will be fully implemented in fiscal year 2024-25 and we continue to work with existing victim services units to ensure a smooth transition.

We continue to stand up for those at risk of human trafficking and work to prevent criminal networks from taking root in Alberta. Alberta's government is working in partnership with #NotInMyCity, Native Counselling Services of Alberta and REACH Edmonton Council for Safer Communities to establish the Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons (formerly Alberta Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons). Under their leadership, the office will connect survivors and victims of human trafficking to important supports and services.

Alberta experienced one of the most severe wildfire seasons on record in 2023, leading to a provincewide state of emergency—the first time the declaration has been made across the whole province in our history due to natural hazards. These wildfires threatened our communities, homes and ecosystems, stretching our emergency response resources and staff to their limits. Alberta also stepped up to help more than 20,000 people from the Northwest Territories who evacuated to our province due to wildfires threatening their communities. I extend my deepest gratitude to all the firefighters, first responders, volunteers and support staff who worked selflessly to protect lives during this time.

Amid these trials, the Alberta Emergency Management Agency provided real-time response services to mitigate the impact and ensure the safety of our communities. Our ministry allocated more than \$251 million in disaster recovery funding for both wildfire and flood relief efforts, aiding affected communities in their journey towards recovery and rebuilding. Lessons learned continue to help us focus on improving training, communication and coordination to enhance our ability to respond to future emergencies.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to the safety and security of all Albertans. The accomplishments highlighted in this report are a testament to the hard work and collaboration of the brave men and women on the frontlines of provincial law enforcement and public safety ministry staff, and the resilience of our communities.

[Original signed by Honourable Mike Ellis]
Honourable Mike Ellis
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services includes the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Services and the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund.

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

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

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the accompanying ministry financial information and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services. 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 2023-26 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 2023*.

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 consider costs, benefits and risks, and 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 Public Safety and Emergency Services the information needed to fulfill their responsibilities; and

Introduction

- facilitate preparation of ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act*.

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

[Original signed by Rae-Ann Lajeunesse]
Rae-Ann Lajeunesse
Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services
June 19, 2024

Results Analysis

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Ministry Overview

Public Safety and Emergency Services is keeping Alberta communities safe and secure, and ensuring our province is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of disasters. The ministry works alongside partners in law enforcement, justice, health and social services and other community and Indigenous partners as a part of the justice and public safety continuum to support the unique needs of Albertans while ensuring the sustainability and resilience of the system.

Public Safety and Emergency Services provides provincial policing services through an agreement with the federal government that establishes the RCMP as the provincial police service and supports municipal policing through policing grants. The ministry supports specialized policing, such as Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams that work to combat organized and serious crime and investigate drug trafficking, child exploitation, human trafficking and gang violence. Public Safety and Emergency Services is also responsible for the development of policing standards and oversight of police and public security services, and is working to establish the Police Review Commission, an arms-length government agency, to resolve policing complaints and ensure the police are accountable to the communities they serve.

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. The ministry also contracts with local Indigenous communities to provide community supervision of clients for certain First Nations communities. The ministry strives to support, guide and inspire its correctional services clients to make positive, sustainable and lawful choices to reduce their interactions with the criminal justice system and ensure strong communities across Alberta.

Public Safety and Emergency Services ensures the delivery of programs and services to support victims of crime, including those affected by domestic violence and human trafficking. The ministry also provides grant funding for crime prevention and community safety programs.

The ministry helps coordinate large-scale emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery program initiatives. The ministry also helps lead the coordination, collaboration and cooperation of organizations involved in the prevention of, response to and recovery from emergencies in the province. Public Safety and Emergency Services provides direct emergency management support and advice to municipalities, Metis Settlements and Alberta's First Nations through an agreement with the Government of Canada to help those communities manage emergencies and disasters effectively.

Public Safety and Emergency Services continues to support the unique needs of Albertans involved in the criminal justice system. Work continues 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 establishing therapeutic living units and supports in Alberta correctional facilities.

Organizational Structure



Operational Overview

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Alberta Emergency Management Agency

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency works with its partners to provide a province-wide emergency management system that protects Albertans, their property and the environment against hazards. The agency coordinates provincial emergencies, assists with disaster response and recovery activities, and provides direct assistance to local authorities when required. The agency provides strategic policy direction and leadership as the Government of Alberta's emergency management coordinating agency.

The agency actively contributes to enhancing Alberta's emergency management system and assists with the development of sustainable emergency management capabilities. It also facilitates the delivery of provincial emergency social services and Alberta's 911 program, and supports the Alberta First Responders' Radio and Communications System as well. Additionally, the agency collaborates with provincial, territorial, federal and international stakeholders to promote a comprehensive emergency management approach and enhance the safety of all Albertans.

Correctional Services Division

Correctional Services is responsible for the effective and efficient custody and supervision of adults and young persons under provincial correctional authority, including the facilitation of rehabilitation opportunities. Custody is 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/sanctions for both adults and young persons.

The Training Academy provides induction training to Correctional Services and Alberta's peace officers, sheriffs and community peace officers as authorized by the director of law enforcement under the *Peace Officer Act*. The Training Academy is accountable to establish standards and provide oversight to peace officer training programs, develop and deliver training, and manage training facilities.

Public Security Division

Public Security works to ensure that Albertans live in safe and secure communities by managing and delivering a series of programs and services, including managing the provincial policing contract with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; overseeing integrated and specialized policing initiatives; pursuing forfeiture of proceeds of crime; regulating the civil enforcement industry, security services and investigators and the peace officer program; delivering supplementary law enforcement, including court security, prisoner transport, traffic and commercial vehicle safety enforcement; protecting officials and infrastructure; managing fish and wildlife enforcement; providing oversight of police and police oversight bodies to improve the delivery of police services; supporting municipalities and Indigenous communities interested in exploring different models of policing and public safety; licensing private investigators and security guards; and providing security services for government buildings, employees, the judiciary and members of government.

Financial Services Division

Financial Services provides a full range of financial support functions for the ministry including compliance, budgeting, auditing, facilities and fleet services, procurement and planning. These services are provided to establish and maintain strategic priorities and optimize operating efficiency while ensuring division, ministry and Government of Alberta goals are aligned.

Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives Division

Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives supports policy and planning, including stakeholder engagement, strategic policy with legislative impacts and the delivery of legislated business planning and reporting requirements. The division provides expertise and strategic insights into the ministry's work through modernization and digitization, research, evaluation, data analytics and strategic reporting. The division delivers programs and grants to improve community and public safety and support victims of crime, including the delivery of the victims of crime assistance program, community-based crime prevention grants and grants to combat trafficking in persons. The division also oversees the Family Information Liaison Unit, Indigenous programs and policy, and the ongoing work to establish the Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons (formerly Alberta Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons). The division provides agency oversight services for the department's agencies, boards and commissions, including the Alberta Parole Board, the Law Enforcement Review Board, the Public Security Indigenous Advisory Committee and the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Committee.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Alberta Parole Board

The Alberta Parole Board determines parole eligibility for people serving a sentence of less than two years in provincial correctional facilities. The board has exclusive authority, in accordance with legislated criteria, to determine whether to grant parole and is responsible for imposing conditions on individuals released on parole. Each board member has specific knowledge of crime trends and

resources in their region. Board members come from all regions across Alberta and are appointed through Order in Council.

Law Enforcement Review Board

The Law Enforcement Review Board, established under the *Police Act*, hears appeals from members of the public and police officers who have complaints regarding the actions of police officers, or who are unsatisfied with the disposition of their complaint by the responsible chief of police. The board also hears appeals relating to peace officer employer authorizations or peace officer appointments cancelled under the *Peace Officer Act*. The board members are appointed through Order in Council.

Public Security Indigenous Advisory Committee

The Public Security Indigenous Advisory Committee is responsible for providing the Minister with advice regarding public security matters from an Indigenous perspective. The committee's core areas of focus are harvesting rights, law enforcement, victims services, restorative justice and crime prevention. The committee brings together diverse Indigenous perspectives from different treaty areas, Métis peoples, urban and rural communities and organizations. Committee members are appointed through Ministerial Order.

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Programs Committee

The Victims of Crime and Public Safety Programs Committee evaluates grant applications from eligible programs and makes recommendations to the Minister respecting public safety initiatives and programs that benefit victims of crime. Committee members are appointed through Ministerial Order.

Key Highlights

The Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services focused on accomplishing three outcomes identified in the 2023-26 Ministry Business Plan:

1. Albertans are safe and secure,
2. Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system, and
3. Alberta is prepared and resilient to the impacts of disasters.

Key highlights and results achieved by the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services in 2023-24 include:

Review of policing services	Continued to implement measures outlined in the <i>Police Amendment Act, 2022</i> , to enhance transparency, accountability and civilian involvement in oversight of policing services.
Combatting urban crime	<p>Committed significant investments to support the recruitment, training and deployment of 50 new officers each for the Edmonton Police Service and Calgary Police Service as part of the efforts to address the challenge of crime, violence and social disorder in Alberta’s major cities.</p> <p>Invested over \$17.2 million to partner with the Calgary Police Service and Edmonton Police Service to enhance law enforcement in high crime areas, such as downtown cores and public transit, and address urban crime rates in the province.</p>
Indigenous Policing	Supported the Siksika Nation to develop their self-administered Indigenous police service to improve safety and security of individuals within the community and the environment.
Crime prevention initiatives	<p>Increased funding for the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams to enhance its ability to fight serious and organized crime in the province.</p> <p>Provided funding to the Alberta Sheriffs to add 20 investigators to the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) unit, which works with other law enforcement agencies to shut down properties being used for illegal activities, such as drug trafficking.</p> <p>Introduced the <i>Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act</i> to include provisions to implement a 24/7 provincial ankle bracelet electronic monitoring program to monitor high-risk offenders.</p>
Combatting trafficking in persons	<p>Launched the work to establish the Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons in partnership with community organizations to connect survivors and victims of human trafficking to important supports and services.</p> <p>Provided grant funding to 20 community organizations to enhance survivor-centered services and address human trafficking gaps, needs and barriers within the communities.</p>

Modernizing victim services delivery	<p>Streamlined access to victims services by establishing four integrated and coordinated Regional Victim Serving Societies to improve the consistency, stability and continuity of frontline services received by victims of crime and/or tragedy across all regions in Alberta.</p> <p>Provided \$21.4 million to external partner organizations to provide supports and services to victims of crime and tragedy and spent over \$10 million on direct services to victims through the Victims of Crime Assistance Program.</p>
Fighting rural crime	<p>Continued to implement the Rural Alberta Province Integrated Defence (RAPID) Response initiative to promote public safety, decrease police response time and ensure the protection of lives and property in Alberta's rural communities.</p>
Protecting vulnerable Albertans at risk of hate-motivated crime.	<p>Completed a provincial hate crime study with support from Alberta-based non-governmental organizations to inform prevention strategies and enhance responses to hate, bias and prejudice in Alberta.</p> <p>Provided grant funding to 64 organizations through the Alberta Security Infrastructure Program, which funds security assessments, related training, equipment, immediate response and security infrastructure improvements to facilities serving communities at risk of hate or bias-motivated crime.</p>
Supporting alignment with mental health and addiction crisis response	<p>Launched therapeutic living units in three Alberta correctional facilities to assist individuals in custody with skills necessary to avoid reverting to substance use or criminal activity after their release to the community.</p>
Improved emergency management measures	<p>Coordinated emergency response and supported over 20,000 people from the Northwest Territories who evacuated to Alberta due to the 2023 wildfires.</p> <p>Allocated over \$251 million in disaster recovery funding in 2023-24 for wildfire and flood relief efforts, including the 2023 Alberta wildfires, to support affected communities in their journey towards recovery and rebuilding.</p> <p>Supported Alberta's Strathcona County to become the first public safety answering point in Canada to transition to the NG911 network, well ahead of the March 2025 transition date mandated by the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission. The NG911 network provides emergency operators with quicker and more accurate data to help determine callers' locations and phone numbers and inform a safer, faster and more informed emergency responses.</p>

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

Discussion and Analysis of Results

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

Key Priority Two: Standing up for Albertans

Objective three: Supporting Albertans most in need

Alberta's government will always have supports in place for our most vulnerable citizens and those who require other targeted protections and supports. Alberta is providing increased funding for specialized agencies that address domestic violence and human trafficking, as well as supporting low-income seniors, and Albertans with disabilities.

For detailed reporting on supporting initiatives, please refer to:

- Page 20 – Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams
- Page 22 – Combatting Trafficking in Persons

Objective four: Ensuring an accessible and modernized health care system

Alberta's government will continue to implement key initiatives to modernize and optimize Alberta's health care system so that every Albertan is able to conveniently access safe, high-quality and reliable health services when they need them. Alberta's government is supporting Albertans at risk of or experiencing addiction and mental health challenges on their personal journeys towards recovery. This recovery-oriented system of care coordinates networks of personalized, community-based services, providing access to a full continuum of services and supports, from prevention and intervention to treatment and recovery.

For detailed reporting on supporting initiatives, please refer to:

- Page 32 – Implement therapeutic living units

Objective seven: Enhancing the justice system

Albertans deserve an accessible and sustainable justice system that protects them and their loved ones and ensures safe communities. Alberta's government will protect Albertans by making the justice system fairer, faster and more effective.

For detailed reporting on supporting initiatives, please refer to:

- Page 21 – Hate Crimes Coordination Unit and Hate Crime Community Liaisons
- Page 22 – Public Security Indigenous Advisory Committee
- Page 24 – Crime Reduction Strategies
- Page 25 – *Police Amendment Act* and subsequent sections
- Page 29 – New Victim Service Delivery Model

Outcome One: Albertans are safe and secure

The Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services continues to work with public safety partners to ensure Albertans feel safe and secure in their communities. Through collaboration and investment in additional resources, the ministry is supporting Albertans with complex needs who require services from multiple sectors and are potentially repeat offenders to ensure full integration of services. Specialized enforcement units and community grants are helping support and protect individuals at risk of human trafficking and hate-motivated crimes. The ministry continues to explore effective approaches to policing, including work to establish a Police Review Commission and the examination of a new policing model to ensure the safety of all Albertans.

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.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Program

Through the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) program, the ministry continues to offer person-centred approaches to identify and minimize an individual's risk of reoffending by addressing the underlying factors that contribute to their criminal behaviour. The needs of offenders participating in IOM often include mental health and addiction concerns, and require a collaborative approach tailored to support pathways out of the justice system and ensure accountability for those offenders who continue to reoffend. The IOM program is carried out in collaboration with community development groups (CDG) operating across the province. In 2023-24, the ministry helped members of different law enforcement agencies take on the role of facilitating the program, which is helping bolster broader community safety efforts.

The Integrated Community Safety and Specialized Policing Unit, in collaboration with the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service, developed a technology solution aimed at enabling crown prosecutors to easily identify repeat offenders. The technology uses an objective, data-driven methodology with crime severity index scoring and allows crown prosecutors to easily identify IOM offenders and apply specialized bail packages to their cases when appropriate. The IOM flag has been implemented in the Edmonton Police Service, the Calgary Police Service and the RCMP. The department is working to extend the implementation to other police services.

Recovery-Oriented System of Care

Mental Health Police Advisory Committee

The *Mental Health Act* requires considerable ongoing coordination between law enforcement agencies and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction (MHA) to support police in their response to mental health-related calls. In 2023-24, the Mental Health Police Advisory Committee worked collaboratively with MHA, Alberta Health Services and law enforcement partners to develop a variety of communication and technology solutions to enhance the consistency of police responses to mental health-related calls, and to improve information sharing among partners. These solutions include the *Police Response to mental health-related Calls Quick Reference card*, the *HealthIM* app-based program and the *Provincial Law Enforcement Mental Health Consultation Line*. These tools are helping to expedite access to mental health professionals, to de-escalate and reduce unwarranted apprehensions and conveyances to emergency departments, and to assist with referrals to community mental health supports. In addition, the Integrated Community Safety and Specialized

Policing unit is supporting MHA to develop compassionate intervention legislation to support commission-directed treatment pathways for individuals who, within a reasonable time, are likely to cause substantial harm to themselves or others. The proposed legislative framework will allow a family, guardian, medical professionals and law enforcement personnel to petition for a compassionate intervention order. This initiative is part of the government’s commitment to strengthen the response to the addiction crisis and save lives while keeping communities safe.

1.2 Continue to work with policing partners, municipalities and Indigenous communities to address crime and implement risk reduction strategies. This includes focused work on rural crime, organized crime, hate-motivated crime, firearms violence, drug and human trafficking and proceeds of crime.

Combatting Urban Crime

Alberta’s government is delivering on its commitment to put 100 more frontline police officers on Calgary and Edmonton streets to keep Alberta families and communities safe. An additional 50 police officers in each city are intended to be deployed strategically throughout both cities’ downtown cores, transit corridors and other identified high crime areas to address chronic and worsening crime and social disorder in these areas and within both cities. In 2023-24, the Edmonton Police Service received \$8.4 million, and the Calgary Police Service received \$8.8 million, to cover the cost of hiring, training and providing equipment for the first set of 25 policer officers in each city.

Through the Alberta Transit Cleanup Grant, Alberta’s government provided \$5 million each in additional funding to support law enforcement activities around Edmonton and Calgary’s transit system and infrastructure to create a safer, more welcoming environment. These grants are helping to restore order and improve public safety in both cities and ensuring Albertans can access public transit without fear of harm or victimization.

In 2023, the Alberta Sheriffs partnered with the Calgary Police Service and Edmonton Police Service to enhance law enforcement in core, high-crime areas. Between February and December 2023, the Healthy Streets Operation Centre (HSOC) Crime Suppression Patrols were implemented in Edmonton to improve community safety through collaborative problem-solving and relationship-building. Through the HSOC initiative, 7,089 warrants were executed; 718 charges were laid; 239 tickets were issued; \$306,000 worth of property was recovered; and \$148,500 worth of drugs was seized. Between March 2023 and June 2023, Crime Reduction Enforcement Support Team (CREST) Patrols were implemented in Calgary with a mission to reduce social and physical disorder and violence by deploying resources to hotspot locations identified by analysis of data. Calgary’s CREST attended 1,194 calls; executed 2,058 warrants; laid 122 charges; and issued 821 tickets. Twenty-four Alberta sheriffs were involved and approximately \$1 million was invested in both deployments.

Quick facts:

Edmonton HSOC Patrols (Feb-Dec 2023):

- 7,089 warrants executed
- 718 charges laid
- 239 tickets issued

Calgary CREST Patrols (Mar-Jun 2023):

- 2,058 warrants executed
- 122 charges laid
- 821 issued tickets

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit

In 2023-24, the department spent \$4.5 million for the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) units to respond to complaints in 73 communities throughout Alberta. This expense

included expanding operations to Red Deer and Lethbridge, and increasing workforce capacity from 20 to 37 investigators across the province. SCAN units continue to implement strategies to improve community safety by targeting and, if necessary, shutting down residential and commercial buildings regularly used for illegal activities. Such activities include producing, selling or using illegal drugs; prostitution; solvent abuse or the unlawful sale and consumption of alcohol; gang activity and organized crime; and the exploitation of children. In the last fiscal year, SCAN received and accepted 698 complaints for investigation, many of which involved multiple complainants. This is up from 664 in 2022. These complaints resulted in four Community Safety Orders and over 102 warning letters and subsequent evictions. The increase in investigator capacity is helping to meet demands and enhance community safety while also supporting the RCMP in combatting rural crime.

Rural Alberta Province Integrated Defence (RAPID) Response

Quick facts:

Sheriff Highway Patrol statistics for 2023-24:

Activity	No.
Vehicles removed from roads due to alcohol/drug impairment	1,305
IRS issued for commercial zero	44
IRS issued for novice drivers	214
<i>Criminal Code</i> impaired drivers charged	36
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> charges laid	139

The government continued to address rural crime through the implementation of the Rural Alberta Province Integrated Defence (RAPID) Response initiative. Over the past year, the ministry made progress in its commitment to increase law enforcement response capabilities by allowing members of the Alberta Sheriffs to assist the RCMP and other police services in rural Alberta. The second phase of the RAPID Response provides enhanced authorities to the Sheriff Highway Patrol (SHP) to detect and enforce impaired driving legislation in Alberta, including the ability to issue immediate roadside sanctions (IRS) and criminally prosecute all forms of impairment including alcohol and drugs. In 2023-24, the SHP detected and issued 1,223 IRS for impaired drivers, including 153 IRS for

drug impaired driving, leading to 31 criminal investigations. This promotes public safety, decreases police response time and ensures the protection of lives and property in Alberta's rural communities. The approved funding for RAPID Response in 2023-24 included \$10 million in operational costs.

Civil Forfeiture Office

The *Civil Forfeiture Act* gives the government powers to pursue forfeiture of proceeds and instruments of crime, which deters crime by taking away the profit motive and removing criminals' tools of the trade (e.g., vehicles, drug houses). Forfeitures also support crime prevention grants and compensation for victims of crime. Organized crime can include trafficking in drugs, weapons and people, money laundering and other financial crimes. The Civil Forfeiture Office, which administers the *Civil Forfeiture Act*, uses both civil court and administrative (out-of-court) processes to pursue the forfeiture of proceeds of crime as well as property used to carry out crime. Forfeitures can also be used to support police training and operations, and other specified purposes.

In 2023-24, the Civil Forfeiture Office recorded a net value of \$6.7 million in forfeited property and accepted 116 referrals from law enforcement agencies, a 29 per cent increase over the previous year. Nearly 80 per cent of the referrals were related to drug investigations, and about five per cent were connected with investigations into property crime.

Alberta's civil forfeiture program also operates on a cost-recovery basis. In 2023-24, the ministry paid \$1.25 million in direct program operating costs. These costs, plus the cost of litigation services provided to the Civil Forfeiture Office, will be recovered from forfeitures to the General Revenue Fund in 2024-25.

Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams

The ministry provided \$55.6 million to the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) for community safety and enforcement initiatives targeted at dismantling and disrupting crime in the province through a coordinated and collaborative approach. These initiatives include focused work on organized crime and gangs, online child exploitation, drug trafficking, human trafficking, auto crimes, rural property crime, criminal intelligence and law enforcement training.

In April 2024, ALERT received an additional \$5.2 million in funding to increase capacity to investigate and prevent gang violence and the illegal use of firearms in Alberta. This funding was used to add one Gang Suppression Team and one Firearms Investigation Unit to the Edmonton Police Service, and to create a new Gun Violence Enforcement Team within the Calgary Police Service.

ALERT continues to expand its ability to support the successful prosecution of firearms-related charges. For example, ALERT developed a provincial firearms lab in partnership with the Edmonton Police Service. The Integrated Ballistic Identification System lab analyzes guns and casings, linking shooting events to guns seized by law enforcement officers, and supplies quality, timely intelligence for firearms investigations to ensure offenders are held accountable. This takes violent offenders off the streets and helps create a safer Alberta.

In 2023-24, ALERT seized over \$5 million worth of harmful drugs from communities across Alberta and approximately \$500,000 in proceeds of crime.

Since November 2022, the ALERT Civil Forfeiture Liaison has partnered with the ministry to increase the use of civil forfeitures in appropriate cases, helping to suppress crime in Alberta communities. In 2023-24, the gross estimated value of referrals from the liaison was \$1.8 million, which significantly exceeded the previous year's referrals by more than 50 per cent.

Preventing Internet and Child Exploitation

ALERT's Internet and Child Exploitation Unit continues to investigate offences involving child pornography, computer-related child sexual abuse, child luring over the internet, voyeurism involving victims under the age of 19, and child sex trade/tourism. In 2023, ALERT opened nearly 3,600 files, an increase of 28 per cent compared to 2022, arrested 81 suspects and laid 351 criminal charges, most of which involved child luring, sexual assault, extortion and distributing/making child pornography. In 2024, file intakes are expected to be significantly higher due to a backlog created by the March 2024 *R v Bykovets* decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, which makes a court order or other form of judicial authorization mandatory before producing an IP address to

Quick facts:

In 2023-24, ALERT:

- handled 2,701 cases of Internet Child Exploitation;
- rescued 160 children from sexual abuse and/or luring;
- laid over 1,000 charges;
- arrested nearly 200 people for organized crime-related activities;
- seized nearly 250 firearms; and
- recovered over \$2.4 million worth of stolen vehicles, farming equipment and property.

law enforcement officials. Currently, there is a backlog of nearly 8,000 files in the file management system waiting for the Internet and Child Exploitation Unit's investigations due to the decision. To prevent delay and ensure Albertans continue to be protected from the harm and trauma related to internet and child exploitation, the Internet Child Exploitation unit continues to proactively engage the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service and take steps to ensure file processing reopens as soon as possible and offenders are quickly brought to justice.

Hate Crimes Coordination Unit

The most current data available on incidents of hate crime in Alberta shows that between 2019 and 2022, the rate of hate-motivated crime occurrences reported to Alberta police per month has more than doubled (from 17 in 2019 to 35 in 2022). These incidents were motivated by factors such as race (58 per cent), religion (23 per cent) and sexual orientation (eight per cent). Having access to data is important for addressing, preventing and combatting hate-motivated crime. The Hate Crimes Coordination Unit (HCCU) supports data collection and entry of hate- and bias-motivated crimes and incidents into different policing databases to further the prevention, investigation and prosecution of hate-motivated crime.

The HCCU has been conducting information sessions, consultations and coordination meetings with multiple educational, community, non-government and government organizations to explore opportunities to better encourage timely reporting of alleged hate-related behaviours to police, and to enhance sensitivity to hate, bias and prejudice in police responses and investigations. The unit continues to work in collaboration with law enforcement to improve and harmonize hate crime mitigation efforts across the province and facilitate training opportunities, intelligence-gathering and investigative supports. In addition, the unit leads and facilitates training opportunities to assist law enforcement personnel, including peace officers, probation officers and parole officers, in further understanding the elements of hate-motivated offences and related legislation. The unit also provides training on hate- and bias-motivated crime to diverse communities across the province to promote safety and resiliency.

In 2023, a provincial hate crime study was completed with support from Alberta-based non-governmental organizations. The study provided recommendations relating to improving governance and policy, the justice system, law enforcement and community services. The study's recommendations are being implemented and will be complemented by recommendations from the government-appointed Hate Crime Community Liaisons. This valuable community feedback will help inform prevention strategies and enhance responses to hate, bias and prejudice in Alberta.

Hate Crime Community Liaisons

In May 2022, Alberta's government appointed two Hate Crime Community Liaisons (HCCLs) for a two-year term to respond to the rise of hate- and bias-motivated crimes in the province. The HCCLs serve as special advisors to the Minister and have engaged with communities and community organizations to gather information and coordinate action. The HCCLs engaged diverse stakeholders across the province, such as faith and cultural groups, employees within health and education settings, law enforcement, the legal profession, members of the public and various government ministries. Input from these various groups will help the government and its partners better understand how hate crimes can be addressed more effectively in Alberta, reflecting the needs of the most targeted communities.

Alberta Security Infrastructure Program

The Alberta Security Infrastructure Program (ASIP) grant continues to fund security assessments, training, equipment, immediate response and security infrastructure improvements to facilities

serving communities or groups at risk of hate- or bias-motivated crime. In 2023-24, ASIP provided over \$1.1 million in grants to community and faith-based organizations. In December 2023, the government temporarily expanded the grant program to include Islamic and Jewish faith-based alternative schools and Arabic bilingual programs while also doubling funding for security personnel for schools to \$20,000.

Combatting Trafficking in Persons

Alberta's government continues to raise awareness on the reprehensible act of human trafficking in Alberta, and to work with stakeholders to address this issue, including providing supports and services to victims and survivors. In 2023-24, the ministry continued to implement Alberta's Nine-Point Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and the recommendations of the Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force, which was established to help protect vulnerable Albertans at risk of human trafficking and improve supports to victims and survivors. In 2023, the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services provided \$4 million over two years in a grant to REACH Edmonton Council for Safer Communities, Native Counselling Services of Alberta and #NotInMyCity to establish the Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons.

The work of the Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons will be critical to ensuring that the most effective supports are available for victims and survivors by promoting, facilitating, coordinating and overseeing a response from law enforcement, community organizations and social services. The centre is establishing its governance structure, recruiting board members and staff and advancing its operations, and is intended to be fully implemented by July 2025.

The ministry is developing the Combatting Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) grant program to address frontline service gaps and build capacity within program areas to enhance safety for those impacted by human trafficking. The CTIP grant program is expected to start in early 2025 and will provide two years of funding to eligible organizations. In February 2024, while the program was under development, the ministry provided \$3.5 million to 20 community organizations to enhance survivor-centered services and address human trafficking gaps, needs and barriers within the communities. Since then, several initiatives have been undertaken to advance the priorities and objectives of the Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons, including:

- Native Counselling Services of Alberta initiated Indigenous engagement sessions to hear directly from Indigenous people about the issue of human trafficking within their communities.
- The ministry funded two Safety Network Coordinators positions with ALERT to work directly with victims and survivors through March 2026.
- The cross-ministry Human Trafficking Working Group continue to collaborate to address and support the implementation of the remaining Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force recommendations.

Public Security Indigenous Advisory Committee

Alberta's government continued to prioritize ongoing collaboration and relationship-building with Indigenous peoples to ensure public safety policies and programs align with the needs of Indigenous communities. As part of the work of the Public Security Indigenous Advisory Committee, engagement with Indigenous partners is helping to strengthen ongoing initiatives related to harvesting rights, law enforcement, victims services, restorative justice and crime prevention. The committee is composed of members with diverse Indigenous perspectives, representing different treaty areas, Métis peoples, urban and rural communities and organizations.

The ministry continues to manage appointments to the advisory committee on a rolling basis to preserve institutional memory while prioritizing the input of its members into public safety programs and initiatives.

Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund

The ministry continues to support communities experiencing unique and challenging crime situations, including enhanced efforts to prevent, disrupt and increase awareness of gun and gang violence. In 2023, the federal government announced a \$390 million, five-year extension of its Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund (GGVAF). Alberta's share of this funding amounts to \$53.03 million. The GGVAF provides funding to provinces and territories to support a variety of initiatives, including law enforcement and prevention programs. In Alberta, the GGVAF is helping to enhance law enforcement and promote collaboration and engagement with municipalities, local public safety partners and ALERT. This includes approved grant funding of \$2.1 million over five years to the Centre for Newcomers in Calgary to help newcomer youth avoid gang involvement.

Alberta Community Safety Data Analytics

The ministry is committed to ensuring public safety policy decisions and resource allocations are supported by quality data, and that tools and applications are in place to inform Albertans on how to protect themselves and their communities. The Alberta Community Safety Data Analytics (ACSAL) Community Safety Dashboard continues to support insights into drivers of crime by integrating data from various stakeholders, including police, justice, health and other relevant health partners. This supports performance reporting, policy and program development, and predictive analytics. In 2023-24, the dashboard was further developed to include comprehensive self-serve tools for the visualization and analysis of annual Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data. In addition, research work on methods of conducting rural crime analysis, as well as a research plan focusing on gun and gang related crime, opioid related data for police service areas and key community safety indicators has been completed. Collaborative work with community partners and other Government of Alberta ministries continued to advance community safety data availability, standardization, sharing and analysis. In 2023-24, the project included \$664,000 in operational costs and \$78,000 in capital costs.

Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)

Introduced to Alberta Community Corrections in 2016, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) is a supervision model based on core correctional practices and effective interventions (risk-need-responsivity) research. The eight core correctional practices include relationship skills, anti-criminal modeling, structured learning, cognitive restructuring, problem-solving, effective reinforcement, effective disapproval and use of authority. EPICS provides a structured way of conducting community supervision that promotes more intensive services and interventions for moderate and high-risk clients, focusing on addressing underlying factors that contribute to clients' criminal behaviour with the goal of reducing client risk and promoting public safety. In 2023-24, nine probation officers completed training to become certified EPICS trainers. The program is focused on continuous quality improvement practices. Over the coming year, the program will be developing training for EPICS advanced practices to support probation officers in applying the EPICS model with clients who have more complex needs.

Correctional Services Interventions

The Correctional Services Division (CSD) is entrusted with the custody and supervision of adults and youth under provincial correctional authority. With a combined total of 10 adult and youth correctional centres and over 40 probation offices province-wide, the CSD promotes offender rehabilitation by evaluating client needs and risks, and collaborating with service providers to offer programs and work services. By guiding and supporting individuals both in custody and within the community, through responsive measures and evidence-based practices, the ministry endeavors to reduce clients' interactions with the criminal justice system and encourage them to make positive, sustainable and lawful choices. Ultimately, these efforts promote public safety and strong communities across Alberta.

Quick facts:

In 2023-24, there were:

- 18,331 total admissions into provincial adult custody;
- 18,164 total releases from provincial adult custody; and
- 16,141 clients on average under community supervision each month.

On September 29, 2023, Alberta was the first province to terminate its agreement with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). The former agreement allowed CBSA to use provincial correctional centres to house people who were detained solely on immigration matters. With the termination of this agreement, the ministry no longer holds immigration detainees in custody in its correctional facilities.

Other Crime Reduction Strategies

In 2023-24, Alberta's government committed \$1.3 million in three-year funding to the Alberta Citizens on Patrol Association, the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association, and the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association to improve coordination with local law enforcement and reduce rural and municipal crime through increased awareness and interventions. The ministry is also helping young Albertans stay away from crime and move towards education and employment. This includes providing two-year grant funding of \$680,000 to the YMCA of Northern Alberta and YOUCAN Youth Services to support the development and expansion of youth diversion programming for employment and education.

1.3 Enhance the authorities, role and numbers of provincial sheriffs to support RCMP in addressing rural crime.

Reviewing the education and training curriculum for sheriffs

Public Safety and Emergency Services continues to enhance the readiness and capacity of sworn and non-sworn members of the Alberta Sheriffs to ensure public safety and support the RCMP in addressing rural crime. In June 2023, the ministry's Training Academy accredited curricula for sheriffs on their newly enhanced authorities, including their involvement in RAPID Response, and rolled out online training to 1,008 sworn and non-sworn staff of the Alberta Sheriff branch. Newly hired sheriffs now receive the training as part of their induction to ensure officers are able to assume additional duties to assist RCMP with rural crime.

The Training Academy also delivered six classes of recruit training completed by 116 sheriffs and continued to design and accredit curricula to support Sheriff Highway Patrol (SHP) induction and training for Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN), the Sheriffs Investigation Support Unit, the Fugitive Apprehension Sheriffs Support Team and sheriff perimeter training. This includes

training instructors on the use carbines. This additional equipment training enables sheriffs to better support priority calls and provides additional public safety resources for Albertans. In 2023-24, the SHP continues to expand and develop capacity to keep impaired drivers from Alberta roads through the RAPID Response initiative and training on dealing with mental health issues, scene containment strategies and intimate partner violence.

As of March 31, 2024, 66 SHP members have received training and certification in standard field sobriety testing while eight drug recognition experts were trained and strategically dispatched to different parts of the province to enhance law enforcement operations.

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 arms-length government agency to resolve policing complaints¹.

Police Amendment Act

The *Police Amendment Act, 2022*, received royal assent on December 15, 2022, and amended the *Police Act* to improve police accountability, strengthen ties to the community and enhance public confidence by reforming police governance and oversight. In 2023-24, several of the key changes in the *Police Amendment Act, 2022* came into force, including adding eight guiding principles for policing in Alberta; requiring police to develop community safety plans and diversity and inclusion plans; enabling the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services to create policing priorities; and requiring municipal police commissions to create their own policing priorities in alignment with the provincial priorities. In addition, for the first time, the Alberta government exercised its new authority to make appointments to municipal police commissions to enhance the provincial oversight of policing.

The ministry also worked to develop regulations that will support the implementation of civilian governance bodies for communities policed by the RCMP. In early 2024, the ministry solicited input from public safety stakeholders on the new governance bodies through engagement sessions and written submissions. Engagement is allowing the government to hear the perspectives of diverse communities to ensure the new governance bodies support their needs.

The legislation also provides for the establishment of an arms-length government agency, the Police Review Commission, to manage complaints against police and conduct disciplinary proceedings, creates five standardized categories of complaints, and legislates an end to the practice of police investigating police in Alberta. In addition, the *Police Amendment Act, 2022*, will bring the Alberta Serious Incident Response Teams (ASIRT) into the structure of the proposed Police Review Commission and expand ASIRT's authority to investigate Alberta Sheriffs and other peace officers. In the third quarter of 2023-24, the ministry created a Police Review Commission implementation team to:

¹ The term “independent agency” is used in the 2023-26 PSES Business Plan. The revision to “arms-length government agency” is a result of communications preference. The final name and description for the organization will be determined when the implementation plan is finalized.

- conduct stakeholder engagements;
- design a new regulation and policy framework;
- develop the agency structure including recruitment, training, and onboarding of staff;
- establish business operations;
- finalize corporate identity and planning; and
- implement transition plans with each police service.

In 2023-24, the implementation team spent \$400,000 in operational cost.

Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Bill 11)

On May 16, 2024, Bill 11, the *Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act, 2024*, received Royal Assent. The bill made changes to two pieces of legislation to support the public safety needs of Albertans. This includes changes to the *Corrections Act* to allow for a new electronic monitoring program for people released on bail or serving sentence in the community. The bill also made changes to the *Police Act* and the *Police Amendment Act, 2022*, to enable the creation of a new independent agency police service to take on some police-like functions currently performed by and planned for the Alberta Sheriffs. The amendments are intended to create safer streets and neighbourhoods and protect Alberta communities.

Future of Contract Policing

Public Safety and Emergency Services continued to explore different options for delivering police services to improve the safety and security of Albertans and their property. Beginning in 2020, the government began to examine the feasibility of establishing an Alberta provincial police service to replace the RCMP. During this period, the federal government began its own review of RCMP contract policing. In the 2023-24, the ministry continued its participation in the federal government's ongoing review of RCMP contract policing through the various RCMP contract management committees. Alberta continues to explore additional opportunities to discuss the future of RCMP contract policing with the federal government and other stakeholders and is committed to innovative approaches to police service delivery and governance that have the potential to better address the root causes of crime in the province.

1.5 Support municipalities in exploring different models of policing and public safety.

Modernization and reform of Indigenous policing programs

Policing services for Indigenous communities are funded in partnership with Public Safety Canada under the federal First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP). This program provides Indigenous communities with the option of either a self-administered police service or dedicated RCMP policing. The ministry continues to work with federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) partners to inform the development of federal legislation that would make First Nations policing an essential service, and to review the FNIPP to address gaps while waiting for reforms. The federal legislation aims to improve the funding model, and the quality and accountability of First Nations police services, to help ensure the safety and well-being of Indigenous peoples.

In 2023-24, Alberta's government worked with Siksika Nation to help them develop their own self-administered police service, which is the first new Alberta Indigenous police service in 16 years. In addition, the ministry provided over \$19.6 million for Indigenous policing, including:

- \$7.8 million through the 21 Community Tripartite Policing Agreements with the RCMP for 64 officers in First Nations communities across the province;
- \$11.3 million through the three existing Self-Administered Policing Agreements for First Nations police services; and
- \$530,000 for three dedicated crime prevention coordinators for each of the three self-administered police services, who will develop programs, supports and activities aimed at youth to help reduce criminal involvement.

In June 2022, the ministry launched the *Indigenous and Municipal Police Transition Study Grant*, which provides Indigenous communities and municipalities communities with a one-time grant of up to \$30,000. This funding is helping communities examine the establishment of their own municipal police service or regional policing model. It enables them to develop a business case examining local policing needs, capital requirements and transition considerations. In 2023-24, nine grant applications were approved representing six First Nations and 21 municipalities, and an approximately \$1.3 million in total grants provided.

**Performance Indicator 1.a:
Violent and Property Crime Rates per 100,000 population**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Alberta Violent Crime Rate	1,338	1,460	1,452	1,515	1,532
Rural	1,942	2,270	2,437	2,495	2,519
Urban	1,209	1,292	1,248	1,314	1,332
Alberta Property Crime Rate	5,470	5,885	5,060	4,587	5,004
Rural	6,847	7,474	6,854	6,423	6,677
Urban	5,167	5,544	4,680	4,203	4,659

*Data has been revised by the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics since the 2023-26 business plan's publication.

Crime rate measures the volume of crime, including all *Criminal Code* violations (except traffic) relative to population size and is shown as urban and rural results.

Violent Crime Rate

In 2022, Alberta's violent crime rate was 1,532, an increase of 1.1 per cent from the previous year. The violent crime rate was 2,519 in rural Alberta, an increase of one per cent, and 1,332 in urban Alberta, an increase of 1.4 per cent. In 2022, Alberta's overall violent crime rate increased by 14.5 per cent compared to 2018, increasing 29.7 per cent in rural Alberta and 10.2 per cent in urban Alberta. The increase in Alberta's violent crime rate from 2021 to 2022 was driven by an increase in attempted murder (12.4 per cent), the total use of, pointing or discharging of a firearm (14.9 per cent), abduction (46.7 per cent) and extortion (54.8 per cent).

Property Crime Rate

In 2022, Alberta's overall property crime rate was 5,004, an increase of nine per cent from the previous year. The property crime rate in rural Alberta was 6,677, an increase of four per cent, and 4,659 in urban Alberta, an increase of 10.8 per cent. Alberta's overall property crime rate is down 8.5 per cent compared to 2018, down 9.8 per cent in urban Alberta, and down 2.5 per cent in rural Alberta. The decrease in Alberta's property crime rate from 2021 to 2022 was driven by a decrease in trafficking in stolen property (-12.5 per cent), arson (-17.4 per cent), identity fraud (-9.7 per cent) and identity theft (-4.3 per cent).

Performance Indicator 1.b: Violent and Non-violent Crime Severity Index

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Violent Crime Severity Index					
Alberta	100	108	110	114	110
Canada	84	90	88	93	98
Non-Violent Crime Security Index					
Alberta	118	124	108	97	101
Canada	73	76	69	68	71

The Crime Severity Index measures the volume and severity of police-reported crime in Canada. It has a base index value of 100 for 2006. The Violent Crime Severity Index measures the overall volume and severity of violent crime. Non-violent crime involves all police-reported property violations, other *Criminal Code* violations, *Criminal Code* traffic violations and other federal statute violations.

As previously mentioned, the ministry has taken action on a number of fronts as part of its commitment to reduce crime, including implementing RAPID Response, increasing funding to ALERT, hiring additional investigators to support Alberta's SCAN units, increasing police resources in high crime city centres and supporting initiatives to combat hate crimes and human trafficking. These initiatives are ensuring that Albertans are better protected from criminals wherever they are in the province.

Overall Crime Severity Index

In 2022, the national Crime Severity Index increased by 4.3 per cent, changing from 74.9 in 2021 to 78.1 in 2022. This overall increase is due to increases in both violent and non-violent crime nationally. Between 2021 and 2022, 10 of 13 provinces or territories saw an increase in the Crime Severity Index (up to 13.9 per cent in Manitoba), with Alberta reporting the smallest increase of 1.9 per cent. In Alberta cities, the Crime Severity Index decreased in Lethbridge by 10 per cent, and increased by 4.5 per cent in Calgary and 4.6 per cent in Edmonton. Alberta's overall increase was driven by an increase in extortion and theft over and under \$5,000, partially offset by a decrease in arson, sexual assault and sexual violations against children.

Violent Crime Severity Index

The national Violent Crime Severity Index was 98 in 2022, a 4.6 per cent increase from 2021 and 19.3 per cent higher than in 2012. In Alberta, a 3.2 per cent decrease in the Violent Crime Severity Index was driven by decreases in the “other violations causing death” category as well as sexual violations against children, and these decreases were partially offset by increases in extortion.

Non-violent Crime Severity Index

In 2022, the national Non-violent Crime Severity Index was 70.9, 4.1 per cent higher than in 2021. In 2022, Alberta’s Non-violent Crime Severity Index increased by 4.3 per cent compared to 2021. This was driven by an increase in theft over and under \$5,000 and motor vehicle theft, partially offset by decreases in trafficking in stolen property and arson.

Outcome Two: Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system

Public Safety and Emergency Services is committed to protecting the rights and dignity of every Albertan, including victims and survivors. Key changes have been implemented to streamline access to services for victims of crime and mitigate the long-term impacts of trauma. In alignment with the government’s commitment to a recovery-oriented system of care, the ministry is working in partnership with other ministries and relevant stakeholders to support and provide services to adults and young persons in correctional facilities to avoid reverting to addiction-related criminal behaviour that led to their incarceration.

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.

New Victim Service Delivery Model

Alberta’s government continues to create efficiency in victim service delivery through a new model that streamlines funding and governance for RCMP-based victim services units in Alberta’s smaller, rural and remote communities. In 2023-24, 60 independent victim serving societies were consolidated into four Regional Victim Serving Societies (RVSS) to improve the consistency, stability and continuity of frontline services received by victims of crime and/or tragedy across all regions in Alberta. This new victims services delivery model was developed in response to a 2020-21 review led by members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, which informed 19 recommendations captured in the “Recommendations on Victim Services: Report to Government.” The new model creates an opportunity for a more integrated and coordinated approach that ensures all victims continue to be supported locally by dedicated, decentralized frontline Victim Court and Support Navigators, as well as local volunteer advocates from within and around their own communities.

The implementation of the new model is occurring over a six-month transition period from April to October 2024. The Public Safety and Emergency Services’ Victim Services program is working directly with the new RVSS staff, board members and RCMP K Division to ensure the smooth transition of existing local frontline staff, volunteer advocates and victim-clients. When fully implemented, the new model will result in increased support and supervision for frontline victims caseworkers; more consistency and stability of service provision for victims of crime and tragedy; and administrative cost savings that can be redirected back into operations. In 2023-24, the department gave \$21.4 million to external partner organizations to provide supports and services to victims of crime and tragedy, including the development of the new regional model for police-based victim services.

Victims of Crime Assistance Program

Through the Victims of Crime Assistance Program, the ministry continued to facilitate direct supports and services, such as emergency relocation, counseling and extended medical benefits, to eligible victims of violent crimes in the immediate aftermath of an event. The new Victims of Crime Assistance Program was implemented on September 1, 2022, to replace the legacy Victims Financial Benefits Program. The program provides aid and assistance to individuals who are experiencing various types of emergencies or crises as a result of their victimization. This includes occurrences such as domestic violence, human trafficking or other serious and violent crimes. Improvements to the program provide better services to victims of crime, including:

- allowing applications to be accepted up to two years after the occurrence of an eligible offence;
- providing longer-term counselling options up to a maximum amount of \$12,000;
- reimbursing clients for court attendance expenses; and
- reimbursing families for funeral expenses.

Since implementation in 2022, the number of applications to the Victims of Crime Assistance Program has increased by 27 per cent, from 1,863 in 2022-23 to 2,365 in 2023-24.

In May 2023, the Alberta Blue Cross became the extended medical benefit administrator for the program, allowing medical professionals to directly bill for services to help victims access immediate treatment when and where they need it, at no cost to the victim. Victims of violent offences and those who suffer significant injuries requiring longer-term treatment may be eligible for a special victims of crime extended medical benefit plan administered through Alberta Blue Cross. A health spending account may also be available for treatment not covered by the extended medical benefit plan. Additionally, minor children who have witnessed violence impacting a loved one are eligible for \$1,000 in counselling to mitigate the long-term impacts of trauma.

In 2023-24, the Victims of Crime Assistance Program spent approximately \$5.5 million on direct services to victims and expects to spend approximately \$12 million in 2024-25.

Alberta Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre

Alberta's government continues to take proactive steps to reduce instances of domestic, sexual and other forms of violence in Alberta by initiating interventions using an integrated and objective threat assessment approach. The Alberta Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre is responsible for detailed assessments of chronic and severe intimate partner violence cases. These assessments assist with law enforcement, prosecution, correctional management and treatment. They provide various criminal justice and victims services stakeholders with the information necessary to better protect victims from high frequency and high-severity domestic violence offenders, and are intended to break the cycle of ongoing abuse suffered by some vulnerable Albertans.

Clare's Law Disclosure Statements

The *Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence (Clare's Law) Act* gives people who feel at risk of domestic violence a way to get information about their partners so they can make informed choices about their safety and relationships. The domestic violence risk assessment component of Clare's Law allows, in certain circumstances, people who feel they are at risk of domestic violence to obtain

information on a former or current intimate partner's previous history of domestic violence or other relevant acts. This information allows them to make decisions about their own safety and protect themselves from being victimized or revictimized in their intimate relationships. The number of Albertans utilizing Clare's Law increased in 2023-24 with the Alberta Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre completing 367 disclosure statements, which is 10 per cent more than the 334 statements completed in 2022-23.

In 2023-24, the Alberta Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (ITRAC) received a \$300,000 grant through the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence to increase Clare's Law

Quick facts:

In 2023-24, the Alberta Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre successfully disseminated:

- 87 full threat assessments
- 367 Clare's Law Disclosure Statements

awareness in Alberta. The National Action Plan supports a variety of initiatives across Canada, which are focused on the prevention of gender-based violence as well as support for victims, survivors and their families. The funding is helping to create promotional and educational materials for police services, support service agencies and domestic violence advocates, and to conduct a province-wide survey to identify and educate groups most in need of increased Clare's Law awareness.

The ministry also continues to take significant steps to address issues created by longstanding resource pressures. Referrals for full threat assessments have historically outpaced capacity. In 2023-24, an additional two trainees successfully passed their certification examinations, increasing the number of certified assessors to eight, which creates additional capacity to handle more assessment files.

The centre also implemented performance targets for full threat assessments in response to anticipated lengthy response times. These targets are designed to help prioritize requests and ensure more impactful and timely service is provided by maximizing current capacity. In 2023-24, ITRAC successfully reduced wait-times while also fulfilling 14 per cent more requests, resulting in positive feedback from police agencies. In 2023-24, operational expenditures for ITRAC totalled approximately \$1.8 million.

2.2 Explore technological opportunities to modernize the delivery of correctional services to enhance Albertans' interactions with Corrections and promote system sustainability.

Public Safety and Emergency Services continues to explore opportunities to modernize the delivery of correctional services to enhance existing services, deliver responsive programming and promote sustainability of the correctional system in the province.

Video Visitation

The ministry is in the process of implementing a new video visiting system to provide remote video visitation between individuals housed in correctional facilities and their personal and professional visitors. Through a competitive procurement process, the ministry worked with the Ministry of Technology and Innovation to contract a vendor to provide new video visitation technology, and in February 2024, the new video visitation system was implemented at the Edmonton Remand Centre. While a video visiting system had been in place at this facility since its opening in 2013, the previous video visitation technology was limited to use for personal visits and required inmates' family and friends to travel to a central video visitation location in Edmonton to participate in the virtual visit. The new system allows visitors to attend a video visit from anywhere using their own device. The new system is more convenient for visitors and can accommodate significantly more visits each day. This service will be extended to professional visitors in 2024-25 and expanded to additional provincial correctional facilities in the coming years.

Wi-Fi in Correctional Centres

Many technologies are dependent on Wi-Fi connectivity, which has not been available in Alberta's correctional centres. In 2021-22, the ministry began work on the installation of Wi-Fi across all 10 correctional centres. Over the past year, Wi-Fi was implemented at the Edmonton Remand Centre. However, since the other provincial correctional centres were constructed before Wi-Fi technology existed, implementing Wi-Fi in these facilities requires more extensive planning, wiring and construction. In 2023-24, the ministry took preliminary planning steps to prepare for the implementation of centre-wide Wi-Fi at the Red Deer Remand Centre, and work will continue at this location over the coming year. Going forward, competitive procurement processes will be undertaken to develop wiring plans and complete construction at the remaining centres.

Electronic Requests for Interview

In 2023-24, electronic Requests for Interview (eRFIs) were successfully introduced at all 10 correctional centres across the province to enable inmates to use tablets to make various requests while in custody. Automating the RFI process, which was previously paper based, has enhanced opportunity for an additional mode of communication for those in custody.

Electronic Monitoring

Alberta's government has committed to the implementation of a modern ankle bracelet electronic monitoring program for adult bail clients and community-sentenced offenders whom the court deems to pose a risk to public safety. The *Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act*, which received Royal Assent on May 16, 2024, includes amendments to the *Corrections Act* that support the introduction of the ankle bracelet electronic monitoring program. A 24/7 monitoring operation would enhance supervision of those wearing ankle bracelets and support public safety and response capabilities in the event of a re-offence or non-compliance.

The modern ankle bracelet electronic monitoring program builds on a supervision strategy that readily incorporates regular reporting, engagement with local law enforcement partners and referrals to existing community programs and supports. The program would provide an additional tool to the courts when considering conditions to impose on individuals.

2.3 Implement therapeutic living units and supports in correctional facilities in alignment with and commitment to a recovery-oriented system of care.

Alberta's government continued with the shift to a recovery-oriented system of care and the implementation of recommendations from the Alberta Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council, which will help ensure full integration of services and provide more support to Albertans with complex needs who require services from multiple sectors and are potentially repeat offenders. Public Safety and Emergency Services is working with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction to establish therapeutic living units (TLUs) in Alberta's correctional facilities. TLUs provide inmates an opportunity to begin holistic addictions treatment and have access to supports while in custody. The TLU program aims to protect Alberta's communities by assisting individuals in the program with skills necessary to avoid reverting to substance use or criminal activity.

Over the past year, the ministry has been working in partnership with the Recovery Oriented System of Care Solutions Group (RSG),

Quick facts:

Therapeutic Living Units:

- 86.6 percent average daily occupancy rate
- 14 individuals successfully completed in-custody programming

Mental Health and Addiction and Alberta Infrastructure to develop the physical space to operate the TLUs. Correctional Services staff oversee the operation of the TLUs and work in partnership with the RSG to identify candidates to participate in the program. Currently, this optional program is available to adult inmates with aggregate sentences of 90 days or longer, and those who are remanded for a long period of time, have a high need for substance abuse treatment prior to their return to society and meet specific program eligibility criteria. Since July 2023, three TLUs have been completed and opened in the Red Deer Remand Centre, the Lethbridge Correctional Centre and the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre. An additional unit is anticipated to open in spring 2024 at the Calgary Correctional Centre. In 2023-24, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction provided \$3.9 million to the Correctional Services Division to establish the TLUs.

Performance Measure 2.a:

Average days to decision for applications to the Victims of Crime Assistance Program

Prior Years' Results				2023-24 Target	2023-24 Actual
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23		
N/A	58 days	35 days	66 days	49 days	49 days

In 2023-24, the average days to decision for applications to the Victims of Crime Assistance Program met its target of 49 days, which is a decrease of 26 per cent from the 2022-23 result. This result is a reflection of progress made to ensure victims of crime have access to timely support.

This measure supports the government's commitment to providing victims with emergency assistance and access to supports and services when and where they need it. The Victims of Crime Assistance Program (VAP) was fully implemented on September 1, 2022, following an interim program, which was in place from July 15, 2020, to August 31, 2022. The interim program is an inappropriate basis for comparison because it only offered a fraction of the assistance supports and services available in the new program. Additionally, there is no comparable pre-existing data to inform the anticipated result as the legacy Victims of Crime Financial Benefits Program (VFB) did not have a similar service delivery.

This performance measure reflects the effectiveness of the redesigned victims services delivery program in providing timely support to victims of serious and violent crime. Reduced application processing times ensure that victims get the services they need sooner to help them recover from trauma. The VFB required detailed police investigation information while an investigation remained active, as well as medical information during assessment and treatment, which often led to delays prior to a decision being issued by the program around the Acknowledgement Benefit (monetary award).

The assessment of program applications is now a two-stage process. In stage one, program adjudicators are only required to obtain reported information from a police agency instead of waiting for completed investigation details. This expedites the VAP's ability to issue initial decisions promptly without having to wait for police to conclude full and/or complex investigations to verify required initial eligibility information. In stage two, where significant injuries are indicated, the VAP medical adjudicators complete a medical review and a secondary decision is issued. This decision requires additional investigative information from police beyond simply what has been reported to them, as well as detailed medical information to support the decision.

By providing access to emergency supports and services as soon as possible after victimization, the program aims to ensure victims are supported while navigating the criminal justice system, and long-term impacts of victimization can be mitigated.

Outcome Three: Alberta is prepared and resilient to the impacts of disasters

Public Safety and Emergency Services remains dedicated to assisting municipalities and communities in effectively managing emergencies and disasters across all phases of preparedness, response and recovery. The Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) continues to provide local authorities with direction and guidance on emergency management roles and responsibilities, including offering comprehensive emergency management training, and aiding in emergency plan development and emergency social services planning. The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre is the Government of Alberta's communication and coordination hub for emergency response efforts. The ministry supports the provision of disaster recovery financial assistance programs to ensure Albertans and communities are supported in their recovery from disasters. Enhancements to emergency communication services and public alerting systems are keeping Albertans safe by ensuring they have access to critical information about emerging situations and recommended precautions.

Key Objectives

3.1 Work with emergency management partners to build capacity for coordinated disaster response and recovery across Alberta.

Personal Protective Equipment Strategic Stockpile (PPESS)

The PPESS serves the non-healthcare sector by ensuring the availability of an estimated 60 days' worth of essential equipment during health declarations. This equipment includes disposable gloves, face masks, face shields, gowns, medical disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer. The stockpile ensures Albertans have timely access to critical PPE without being vulnerable to supply chain disruptions and unforeseen challenges that may impact the resilience of the healthcare system. The budget allocated for this initiative in 2023-24 was \$1.45 million; however, the actual amount spent was \$597,000. Several factors contributed to the annual cost of the stockpile, including access to Government of Canada standing offers for PPE, vendor volume discounts rates and decreased post-pandemic demands leading to lower prices.

Be Prepared Program

The ministry supports Albertans' disaster preparedness at the individual, household and community level through the Be Prepared program. During the fiscal year 2023-24, the program fostered a culture of preparedness, provided timely and pertinent information to Albertans faced with evacuation, and expanded the program through the development of comprehensive preparedness resources and toolkits, including a new 'Prepare to Evacuate' webpage, 2023 Emergency Preparedness Week toolkits, an updated program brochure and fact sheets, an Alberta Emergency Test Alert toolkit and a National Test Alert Day guide. The program also released the third annual Preparedness Survey of Albertans in July 2023, with a total of 1,529

Quick facts:

2023 Emergency Preparedness Week toolkit:

- 1,523 downloads, representing a 97.5 percent increase compared to 2022.

2023 Alberta Wildfires activation period (April 29 to June 30, 2023):

- 17,579 visits to the 'Prepare to Evacuate' webpage, representing 76 per cent of total visits in 2023.

respondents, and hosted two Resilience Builders Network sessions to increase awareness and connections, increasing partners from 319 to 665.

911 Program

The Government of Alberta continues to ensure Albertans have access to uninterrupted, efficient and consistent 911 services throughout the province. The Alberta 911 Program supports the development and delivery of local 911 services and is funded through a monthly levy on active cellphones collected by telecommunications providers. In 2023-24, the program provided \$44 million to public safety answering points, an increase of \$640,000 over the previous year, to support staffing, operational costs, provincial 911 standards compliance, Next Generation 911 (NG911) and other technology upgrades. The NG911 network provides emergency operators with quicker and more accurate data to help determine callers' locations and phone numbers and inform safer, faster and more informed emergency responses.

Quick fact:

In October 2023:

- Alberta's Strathcona County became the first Public Safety Answering Point in Canada to transition to the NG911 network.

Alberta First Responders Radio Communication System

The Alberta First Responders Radio Communication System (AFRRCS) is a province-wide two-way radio that enables a coordinated joint response among first responders from different agencies. The ministry continues to maintain and refresh AFRRCS equipment to ensure Albertans have access to a reliable and

efficient communication system in the face of emergencies. Work completed in 2023-24 to improve the reliability, security and performance of the system includes the establishment of five new sites; security improvements at 20 high-theft areas; the renewal of 48 leases for tower use; and maintenance and end-of-life replacement of batteries, routers, switches and radio caches across the system. The ministry continues to ensure a seamless transition of end-of-life equipment, and to mitigate potential risks to system performance while ensuring cultural dimensions are respected and managed appropriately through collaboration with Indigenous communities.

Alberta Emergency Alert

The Alberta Emergency Alert program is a public warning system that issues alerts about impending or ongoing emergencies and provides life-saving instructions to the public. The ministry ensures that alert issuers are well-prepared and equipped to issue alerts by offering comprehensive support through training and 24/7 access to support services. In 2023, the number of critical alerts issued increased by 696 per cent compared to the previous year while mobile app downloads increased by 22 per cent (from 510,994 to 624,639). The program also implemented critical updates to the mobile app to enhance its usability, including transitioning to the National Alert Ready system for alert management, enhancing user experience and embedding precise location technology to ensure timely support is provided when needed.

Regional and First Nations Field Officers

The AEMA's field officers provide comprehensive support to local authorities' emergency management programs by delivering training, program support, plan reviews, advice and assistance. This helps enhance local authorities' capabilities to face emergencies. During emergencies, field officers function as Government of Alberta liaisons and provide guidance and support to the local authorities in their response and recovery efforts. Regional officers were deployed to support the 2023 spring wildfire response, including to Yellowhead County, Fox Creek and Brazeau County. They remained to offer support to address wildfire threats. In 2023, AEMA's

First Nations Field Operation team supported several Indigenous communities by facilitating the endorsement of a two-year extension of the current service agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). This extension ensures ISC continues to provide advisory, training and response support services to the communities while working to develop a new substantive agreement.

Training Certifications and Standards

The AEMA provides training courses and standards for individuals with responsibilities under the Government Emergency Management Regulation and the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation. The training ensures emergency management stakeholders are equipped with the essential skills and knowledge needed to enhance the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of Alberta's communities. The program offers 11 individual training courses that includes both AEMA proprietary and Incident Command System courses. In 2023-24, AEMA:

- conducted 368 emergency management-related training courses to 6,482 participants;
- led 16 training exercises related to Alberta's Regional All Hazards Incident Management Teams; and
- proposed a provincial emergency management accreditation process to enhance the experience, knowledge and capabilities for effective emergency management in Alberta.

Wildland Urban Interface Field Officers

The wildland urban interface (WUI) field officers work with municipal fire departments across Alberta to ensure the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre provides resources to support wildland urban interface incidents to protect homes, businesses, and other structures from wildfire loss. The WUI response teams provide an emergency response to wildfire events, develop provincial training curricula to enhance firefighter capacity, conduct education activities, and support the provincial WUI advisory committee. In 2023-24, the program developed three specialized curriculum programs for WUI task force leaders and structure protection specialists and supported northern municipalities during the 2023 Alberta wildfires to better protect remote homes and properties at risk.

Emergency Social Services

The ministry provides support to local authorities to deal with social services aspects of emergencies and disasters, and to coordinate the delivery of supports that meet the essential needs of evacuated Albertans. In 2023, the Alberta wildfires and the evacuation of the Northwest Territories into Alberta increased the demand for the Emergency Social Services (ESS) provisions in the province. During the year, the ESS team supported 22 host communities to ensure individuals affected by the spring wildfires received timely assistance. ESS also helped 15 host communities accommodate an influx of evacuees from the Northwest Territories and facilitated the smooth return of evacuees through remote and rural Alberta. In 2023-24, the program led several initiatives to improve individual and community well-being, including:

- delivering ESS training to 700 people and introducing two new training courses targeting the All-Hazards Incident Management Team and non-ESS personnel;
- initiating a review of the Alberta ESS Framework to better enhance ESS coordination between the province and emergency management partners; and

- developing an integrated SharePoint site to promote information sharing, collaboration and networking within Alberta's ESS community of practice.

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) serves as a focal point where Government of Alberta ministries, local authorities and key stakeholders convene to coordinate the government's response to emergencies and disasters. In addition to the 2023 Alberta wildfires and the Northwest Territories evacuation, the PECC produced 185 situational awareness documents and conducted 71 coordination briefings to ensure key stakeholders have access to information to support Albertans in the affected communities. The PECC is maintained year-round through ongoing training, education, preparedness and orientation, and is home to Alberta's 24/7 watch station, which monitors and disseminates information from multiple channels to supply the most up-to-date emergency snapshot for the province.

Quick facts:

In 2023-24, the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre was elevated above Level 1 for 103 days:

- 63 days for the Alberta wildfires
- 40 days for the Northwest Territories evacuation

3.2 Lead the implementation of a provincial hazard identification and risk assessment framework to help reduce disaster risk and improve disaster response.

Provincial hazard identification and risk assessment framework

In 2023-24, government continued to develop the hazard identification and risk assessment (HIRA) process. The framework aims to provide government departments and stakeholders with a consistent and integrated method to making decisions to reduce the likelihood and impact of disasters. The framework will support and promote more proactive, coordinated and comprehensive strategies for minimizing or preventing potential risks, which will contribute to long-term reductions in the costs and impacts of disasters. Since September 2020, when the work began, multiple community and Indigenous stakeholders have been engaged, including the Alberta Municipalities Association, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, a First Nation and a Métis Settlement.

In 2023-24, the HIRA's reference guide was endorsed. This guide assesses the methodology and principles of the HIRA process. In addition, the ministry approved a HIRA orientation e-learning course designed to build emergency management capacity for provincial, municipal, First Nations, and Metis Settlement employees. Three local authority pilot sessions were held in partnership with municipal stakeholders to demonstrate the use of the HIRA framework in Alberta communities. The HIRA framework is expected to be completed in August 2024 and will support a more proactive approach to reducing the risk of disaster in Alberta.

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.

Disaster Recovery Program

The government provides assistance to individual Albertans, small businesses and local authorities impacted by emergencies and disasters through the Disaster Recovery Program (DRP). The program is a combination of financial assistance for eligible losses, expert recovery advice and

resource coordination among Government of Alberta ministries and disaster recovery stakeholders. The Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services may approve a local authority application when the Minister is satisfied the disaster event meets the eligibility criteria for financial assistance. In 2023, the Minister approved two Disaster Recovery Programs, the Spring Alberta Wildfires DRP, and the North Central Alberta Floods DRP.

Additionally, Alberta supported the Northwest Territories during their wildfire event and consequent evacuation. The ministry is coordinating Alberta’s cost recovery related to those efforts.

The approved funding for 2023-24 is as follows:

- \$175 million for the 2023 Alberta wildfires, including disaster and recovery related costs for 21 ministries and 33 local authorities.
- \$68 million for the 2023 north central Alberta floods, including event related expenses for two Government of Alberta ministries, response and recovery costs for four local authorities and 130 private sector applicants.
- \$44.3 million for the 2023 Northwest Territories wildfire support. Alberta’s government is working with the Government of Northwest Territories for reimbursement of the expenses Alberta incurred for emergency operations, as well as costs incurred by Alberta’s local authorities who provided support to Northwest Territories evacuees.

Performance Measure 3.a:

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

Prior Years’ Results				2023-24 Target	2023-24 Actual
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23		
85%	83%	85%*	90%	90%	93%

*85 per cent represents the combined total for local authorities and First Nations. The measure was updated to reflect the ministry’s sphere of influence. The result for local authorities only was 93 per cent.

The ministry continually works towards developing and promoting emergency management measures that empower safe and disaster-resilient communities. This performance measure reflects the ministry’s efforts to coordinate and conduct reviews of emergency management plans for local authorities. The reviews allow field officers to identify gaps, weaknesses and areas for improvement while also strengthening relationships and building trust with local authorities.

In the previous fiscal year, AEMA field officers visited 90 per cent of communities in Alberta and reviewed their emergency management plans. This is equal to the established target of 90 per cent. Prior to 2022-23, the measure included First Nations statistics, which significantly impacted the results as First Nations communities are not under the jurisdiction of the *Emergency Management Act*. With the First Nations outside of the ministry’s direct influence, the measure was adjusted in 2022-23 to only include local authorities.

In 2023-24, the result exceeded the target of 90 per cent by three per cent, with 313 reviews out of 335 local authorities. Towards the end of the 2023 calendar year, the AEMA enhanced Field Operations' staffing levels to ensure each region has two field officers and an additional manager to provide direction and support. As a result, there was enhanced capacity to conduct visits and plan reviews by the close of the fiscal year.

AEMA Field Operations made concerted efforts to deliberately action as many plan reviews as possible to ensure communities are as prepared as possible as we approach the summer of 2024.

Despite First Nations communities not falling under the jurisdiction of the *Emergency Management Act*, AEMA field officers regularly visit communities and offer various in-person services, including reviews of community emergency management plans. In 2023-24, the number of completed plan reviews and visits for First Nations communities went up 6.8 per cent to 61 per cent (28 out of 46 First Nations communities) from the previous year with 57 per cent.

Performance Measure 3.b:

The level of available service (expressed as a percentage) for public safety mobile radio communications provided to first responders throughout Alberta for both day-to-day operations and emergencies.

Prior Years' Results				2023-24 Target	2023-24 Actual
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23		
98.9%	98.4%	98.6%	98.6%	97.0%	97.9%

This measure, introduced in Municipal Affairs' 2021-22 annual report, focuses on the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS), which aims for a grade-of-service objective of three per cent or less for queued calls during peak hours in a calendar quarter. This commitment ensures that radio calls for first responders using the system will be promptly routed.

Effective communication among first responders is crucial during disasters, ensuring coordination, safety and timely response. Measuring the grade of service helps the agency to identify and address any gaps in coverage to enhance community preparedness and resilience to the impact of disasters. Over the past four fiscal years, the result has consistently exceeded the target of 97 per cent due to improvements being made to the system, which contributes to its positive variance.

In 2023-24, the result was 97.9 per cent, indicating a 0.9 percent increase in the level of available service. This slight improvement from the previous year is attributed to channel upgrades at several sites across the province, which increased the overall capacity of mobile radio communications.

As AFRRCS builds more sites or upgrades channel capacity on some affected sites, a skewed percentage could be presented in the number of users increasing or decreasing, user error or misuse of the radios. Factors that may affect the results include users scanning outside their areas, two-channel sites that are exempt and high call volume in an area due to a specific emergency.

Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology

Performance Indicator 1.a:

Violent and property crime rates per 100,000 population

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS). Data is available annually. CCJCSS Table data was available on July 27, 2023.

Methodology: crime rate is calculated using Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) data, which measures police-reported crime in each Canadian jurisdiction. Crime rate measures the volume of police-reported crime, expressed as the number of crimes per 100,000 people. Historical results are revised annually to reflect updated data provided by police services for incidents that occurred in previous years. Property crime includes theft, break and enter, fraud and possession of stolen goods. It does not include the use of threat of violence against an individual. Violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, robbery, abduction and various forms of sexual assault. It does not include traffic incidents that result in death or bodily harm.

Performance Indicator 1.b:

Violent and non-violent Crime Severity Index

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS). Data is available annually. CCJCSS Table data was available on July 27, 2023.

Methodology: the Crime Severity Index is a measure of the seriousness of police reported crime. Each criminal offence is weighted based on the sentence imposed upon the offender. More serious offences, such as homicide or serious assault, are weighted more heavily than minor thefts and minor assaults. The crime severity index is calculated using Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) data. It should be noted that Incident-based UCR2 data was not available for all respondents for the period from 1998 to 2015. Instead, these police services continued to report to the Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), which meant that a process of imputation was necessary to translate UCR data into its UCR2 equivalents. Approximately 80 per cent of the offence codes in the aggregate survey mapped 1:1 onto the incident-based violation codes in the UCR2. For the remaining categories of violation (such as the “aggregate other *Criminal Code*” category), it was necessary to estimate their seriousness by looking at the distribution of other *Criminal Code* offences in the reports of existing UCR2 respondents.

Performance Measure 2.a:

Average days to decision for applications to the Victims of Crime Assistance Program

Source: Public Safety and Emergency Services Administrative Data, Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives Division.

Methodology: the measure reflects the effectiveness of the redesigned victims services delivery program in providing timely support to victims of crime. The measure is calculated by comparing the date the application is received to the date a decision is made, which results in the ‘time to decision’, and then the average of all the times to decision indicates the performance, as shown in the equation below:

$$\text{Average days to decision} = \frac{\text{Cumulative number of days to decision for all VAP applications in the fiscal year}}{\text{Total number of VAP applications processed in the fiscal year}}$$

Performance includes consideration of all decisions made and length of time from receipt of application to date of decision. A five per cent margin of error is considered as the new Victims of Crime Assistance Program was implemented as of September 1, 2022. By providing access to emergency supports and services as soon as possible after victimization, the program aims to ensure victims are supported while navigating the criminal justice system and long-term impacts of victimization can be mitigated. The results of the evaluation will be used to inform future enhancements and whether or not there is a need for additional program services or supports.

Performance Measure 3.a:

Percentage of local authorities visited by an Alberta Emergency Management Agency field officer and had their Community Emergency Management Plan reviewed annually

Source: data and information regarding field visits and reviews of community emergency management plans, including those completed both in-person and remotely, is recorded in ArcGIS, a geographic information system application.

Methodology: field officers will typically conduct community emergency management plan reviews in person with a representative from the local authority, preferably the director of emergency management. The field officer may review the plan within the Community Emergency Management Program database or can request an electronic copy in advance to prepare for the in-person review. Regardless of the method, the field officer will record their observations and recommendations within Community Emergency Management Program for future and ongoing tracking.

The following equation is used to process the data collected in the Community Emergency Management Program:

$$\% = \left(\frac{\text{Number of local authorities visited by AEMA field officers and had their Community Emergency Management Plan reviewed}}{\text{Total number of local authorities in Alberta}} \right) \times 100$$

This performance measure is calculated by comparing the number of local authorities who were visited by an Alberta Emergency Management Agency field officer and had their community emergency management plan reviewed to the total number of local authorities in Alberta. The resulting ratio is expressed as a percentage. A confidence interval is not applicable since a representative sample is not used for statistical inference. The data analysis for this performance measure only includes the local authorities that have been visited by a field officer and who have had their community emergency management plan reviewed either remotely or in-person. Both activities must have occurred for the data to be included.

For local authorities who have adopted a regional approach for developing emergency management plans, field officers review the regional plan and meet with the appropriate municipal representative for the region. Review of an emergency management plan for a region, and subsequent field visits, count as a review and visit for all constituent local authorities. Each constituent community of a regional community emergency management plan is counted separately for this performance measure rather than just counting one review and field visit.

Performance Measure 3.b:

The level of available service (expressed as a percentage) for public safety mobile radio communications provided to first responders throughout Alberta for both day-to-day operations and emergencies

Source: data and information regarding grade of service are collected and reported quarterly and annually to service and governance councils and as requested by an agency in the event of any issues. Quarterly and annual reports are stored on the system’s internal SharePoint site and an external SharePoint site, which governance council members can access.

Methodology: this measure focuses on the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS), which aims for a grade-of-service objective of three per cent or less for queued calls during peak hours in a calendar quarter. The grade-of-service measurement is used to help quantify system loading. The grade of service is characterized as a percentage and represents the probability of being delayed access to the system due to the unavailability of radio channels to support the call. Active monitoring by system operations personnel occurs 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Reporting on the grade-of-service level takes place on a site-by-site basis over a calendar quarter.

Grade-of-service minimum service level constraints include:

- unexpected or unplanned temporary increases in radio usage;
- poor or inconsistent radio discipline within agencies; and
- radio features that consume more airtime than traditional push-to-talk voice traffic flows.

The system adjusts capacity based on use and routinely compiles predictive grade-of-service calculations to predict outcomes using estimated quantities and mathematical probability functions. Archived historical data and real-time traffic data, as well as subscriber quantities, are determined by using an industry-standard measurement to examine system grade-of-service future states. This measurement is used to determine how many channels are needed based on the number of calls per hour, the average duration of a call, and the length of time calls are left in the queue. This system maintains and manages the reporting facilities required to collect and store grade-of-service data.

The following equation is used to process the data:

$$\text{Grade of Service} = \left(\frac{\text{Total number of queued calls in the busiest hours of the fiscal calendar quarter}}{\text{Total number of talkgroup calls in the busiest hours of the fiscal calendar quarter}} \right) \times 100$$

Where:

- a queued call is an unconfirmed talkgroup call originating at a site with a reported queue duration of >0 seconds; and
- a talkgroup call is an unconfirmed talkgroup call originating at a site.

The result is expressed as a percentage.

Although there are 339 sites, the data analysis for this performance measure includes only 309 sites, due to the unique operations of 30 sites, which are mountaintop repeater sites. The number of sites used in the calculations will change over time as new sites are added.

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Reporting Entity and Method Consolidation

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

The reporting entity is the ministry for which the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services is accountable. The accounts of the Ministry, which includes the department of Public Safety and Emergency Services and the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund, are fully consolidated using the line-by-line method, with the accounting policies described below.

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

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

Ministry Financial Highlights

Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited)

Year Ended March 31, 2024

	2024		2023	Change from	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	2023 Actual
<i>In thousands</i>					
Revenues					
Transfer from Government of Canada	\$ 29,416	\$ 44,878	\$ 160,673	\$ 15,462	\$ (115,795)
Investment Income	1,000	2,604	1,045	1,604	1,558
Other Premiums, fees and licences	45,755	46,811	49,229	1,056	(2,417)
Fine and Penalties	53,150	43,915	46,243	(9,235)	(2,328)
Other Revenue	92,316	153,374	111,768	61,058	41,606
Ministry total	221,637	291,582	368,958	69,945	(77,376)
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	(2,627)	(3,381)	(2,627)	754
Adjusted ministry total	221,637	288,955	365,577	67,318	(76,622)
Expenses - directly incurred					
Programs					
Ministry Support Services	25,149	22,700	7,420	(2,449)	15,280
Public Security	710,993	724,938	623,976	13,945	100,962
Correctional Services	341,498	319,614	307,467	(21,884)	12,147
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	104,960	401,893	122,979	296,933	278,913
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund	39,486	38,534	26,688	(952)	11,846
Ministry total	1,222,086	1,507,678	1,088,530	285,592	419,148
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	(5,300)	(13,658)	(9,376)	(8,358)	(4,282)
Adjusted ministry total	1,216,786	1,494,020	1,079,154	277,234	414,866
Annual Deficit-before inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	\$ (1,000,449)	\$ (1,216,097)	\$ (719,573)	\$ (215,648)	\$ (496,524)
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	5,300	11,031	5,995	5,731	5,036
Adjusted annual deficit	\$ (995,149)	\$ (1,205,065)	\$ (713,578)	\$ (209,916)	\$ (491,488)

Revenue and Expense Highlights

Revenues

Budget to Actual

Ministry revenues in 2023-24 are \$291.6 million, which is \$70 million or 31.6 per cent higher than budgeted. The increased revenues are mainly the result of:

- \$61.1 million higher than budget in Other Revenues primarily due to an increase of \$31.3 million in municipalities radio towers from Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS), and \$30.4 million increase in 2023 Northwest Territories (NWT) wildfires recovery costs.
- \$15.5 million higher than budget in Federal Government Grants, primarily due to an increase of \$12 million in Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund Agreements and \$5.4 million in Disaster Recovery programs.
- Offset by \$9.2 million decrease in Fines and Penalties from traffic tickets.

Actual to Actual

Actual revenues in 2023-24 reflect a decrease of \$77.4 million or 21 per cent:

- \$115.8 million decrease in Federal Government Grants mainly due to decreased revenues in Disaster Recovery programs for \$113.9 million resulted from delayed Order in Council from Federal Government.
- \$2.3 million decrease in Fines and Penalties from traffic tickets.
- Offset by \$41.6 million increase in Other Revenue from 2023 NWT wildfires evacuation cost recovery.

Expenses

Budget to Actual

The total operating expense in 2023-24 was \$1,507.7 million, which is \$286 million or 23.4 per cent higher than budget.

- \$296.9 million over budget in Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) due to an increase in Disaster Recovery Program funding including 2023 Spring wildfire, 2023 North Central flood, 2023 NWT wildfire Evacuation and Canadian Red Cross Matching Donation.
- \$13.9 million over budget in Public Security due to improving transit safety for new police officers and an increase in Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund.
- Offset by \$21.9 million decrease in Correctional Services for required facilities.

Actual to Actual

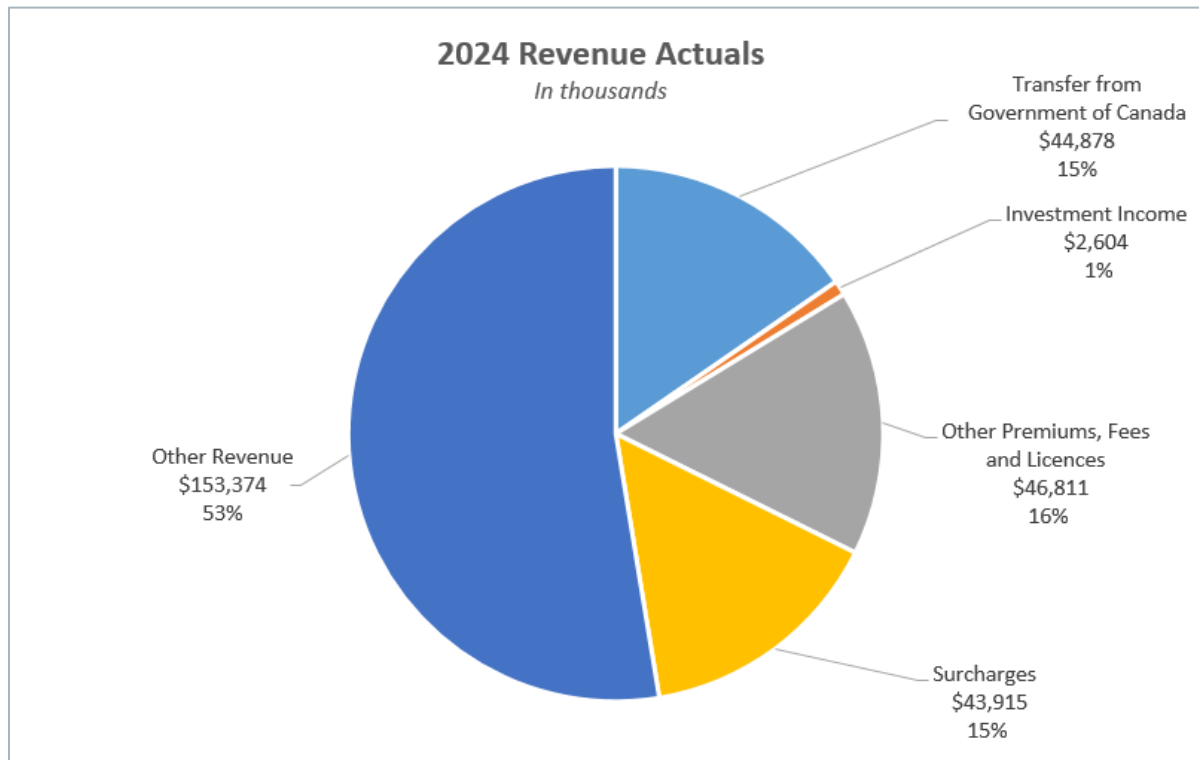
Actual operating expenses were \$419.1 million or 38.5 per cent higher than 2022-23. The decrease in expenses is mainly the result of:

- \$279 million increase in AEMA, primarily due to increased disaster recovery programs for Alberta 2023 wildfire, Alberta 2023 summer flood and NWT 2023 wildfires.

- \$101 million increase in Public Security primarily due to increased grants in Transit Safety and Police Services, increased in recruitment cost for Sheriff Branch, and RCMP and creation of Police Review Commission.
- \$15.3 million increase in Ministry Support Services due to ceased operation of Shared Services model for Ministries of Justice and Public Safety and Emergency Services (PSES), and the administration alteration for Strategic, Support and Integrated Initiatives transferred from Justice to PSES.
- \$12.1 million increase in Correctional Services due to creation of Therapeutic Living Units and increasing funding to Youth Justice Programs.
- \$11.8 million increase in Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund due to redesign of Victims of Crime Assistance Program and Assistance to Victims Organizations.

Breakdown of Revenues (unaudited)

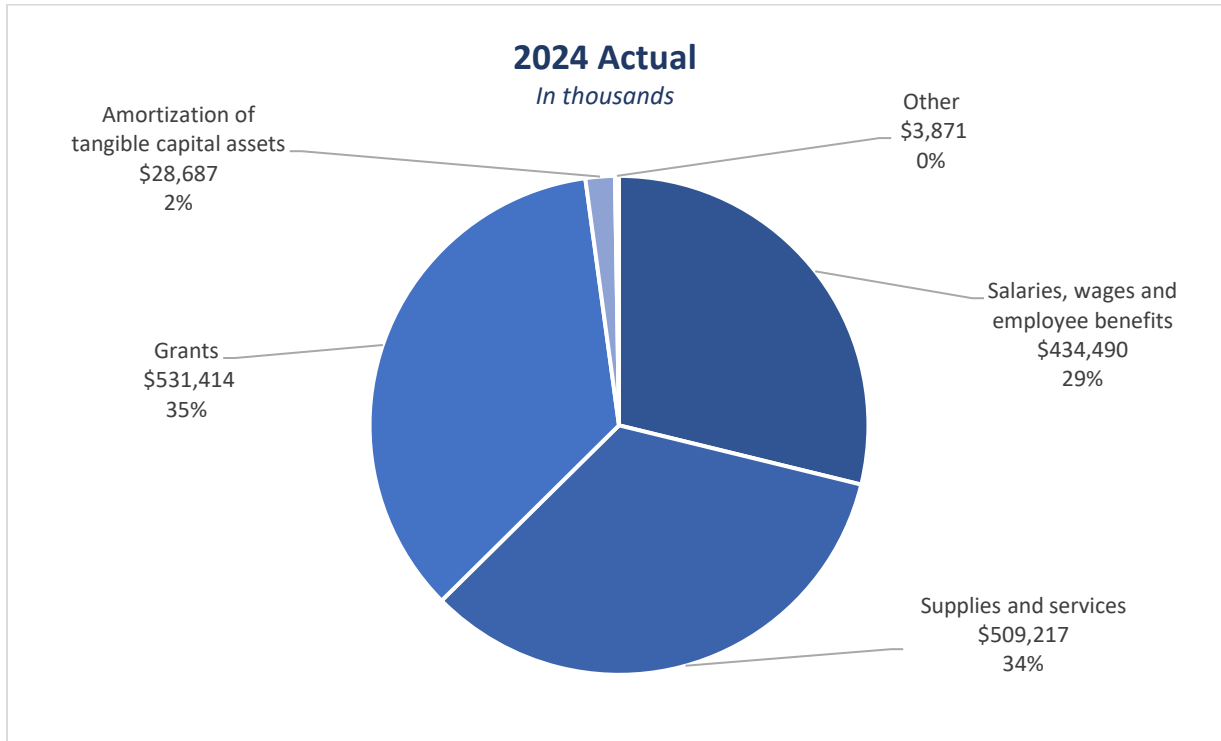
The following information presents detailed revenues of the ministry. The objective of detailed revenues disclosure is to provide information that is useful in understanding and assessing the financial impact of government’s revenue raising and for enhancing legislative control.



- **Transfers from Government of Canada** (\$44.9 million). Revenue from federal agreements, primarily in support of Youth Justice Program and Guns and Gangs program.
- **Other Premiums, Fees, and Licences** (\$46.8 million). 911 levy and Security Services fees.
- **Surcharges** (\$43.9 million). Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund levies 20% Surcharge on all traffic ticket fine amounts that is deposited in the fund with statutory authority to spend on victims.
- **Investment Income** (\$2.6 million). Comprised mainly of interest earned on the VOCPSF and department funds invested in the Consolidated Liquidity Solution (CLS).
- **Other Revenue** (\$153.4 million). For \$67.1 million with Police Funding Model, \$46,4 million for 2023 NWT evacuation events, \$31.7 primarily related to disaster recovery, and \$5 million for Biology Casework Analysis.

Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited)

The following information presents expenses of the ministry that were directly incurred by object. The objective of disclosure of expenses by object is to provide information that is useful in evaluating the economic impact of government acquiring or consuming various types of resources.



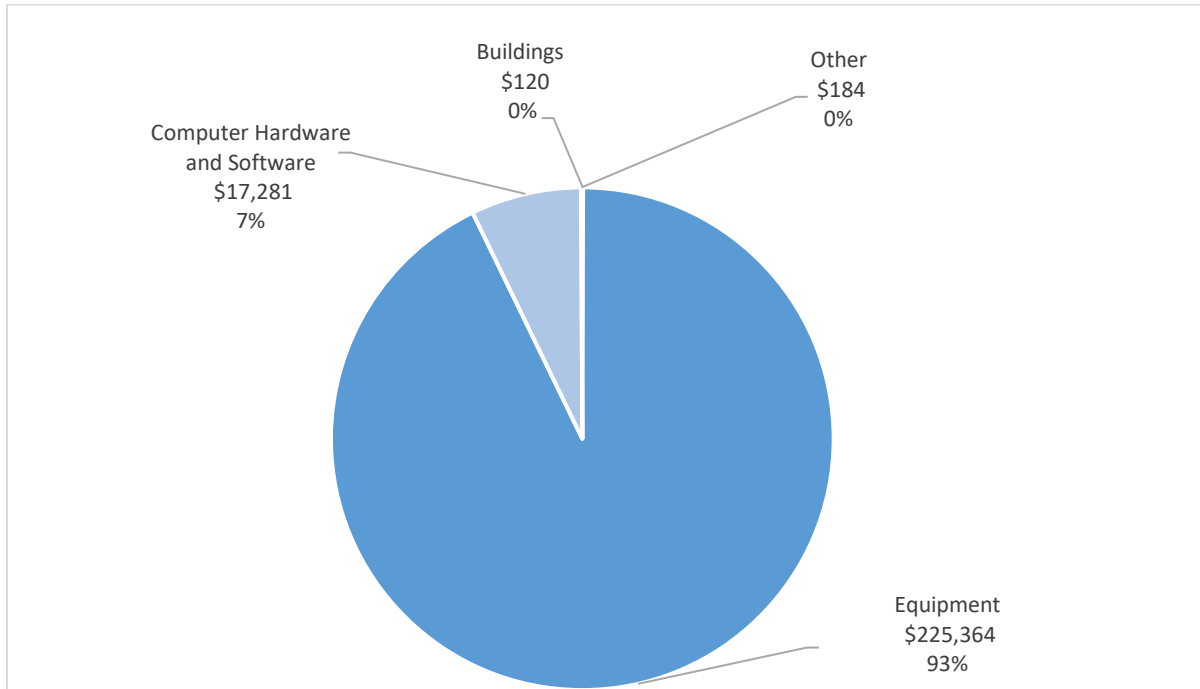
- Grants spending of \$531.4 million or 35 per cent of total spending is the ministry's largest operating expense. It primarily provides operational funding for delivery of services by key stakeholders and partners via support to individuals, organizations and communities through Emergency Services and Public Safety grant programs. This includes the grants related to 2023 Alberta wildfires and 2023 Alberta summer flood and 2023 NWT wildfires, Guns and Gangs, Transit Safety and additional police officers in Calgary and Edmonton.
- Supplies and services spending of \$509.2 million or 34 per cent of total spending is the ministry's second largest operating expense. Primarily for the Provincial Police Services Agreement and inmate food services contracts in Correctional Services. In addition to contract services, the ministry purchases all materials and supplies for correctional facilities and AEMA across the province.
- Salaries, wages, and employee benefits expenses of \$434.5 million, or 29 per cent of total ministry's spending. The ministry provides frontline programs and services that ensure Albertans have safe and protected communities and fair access to the public safety and emergency systems. Funding primarily covers positions in correctional facilities and community corrections offices, sheriffs, and enforcement workers, and AEMA services staff.
- The remainder of ministry expenses were classified as amortization of tangible capital assets (\$28.7 million) and other expenses (\$3.9 million)
- Inter-ministry elimination (-\$13.7 million) for the services provided by Advanced Education for (-\$5.8) million and Alberta Health Services for (-\$7.8) million.

Supplemental Financial Information

Tangible Capital Assets (unaudited)

Net Book Value as of March 31, 2024

In thousands



- The ministry's largest category of tangible capital assets, Equipment, represents 93 percent (\$225.4) million of the Net Book Value (NBV). This category is primarily comprised of radio towers operated under Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System, vehicles, in-car video and distributed antenna system for the Public Security Division, and equipment's for corrections' program.

Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities

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Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund
Audited Financial Statements
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Independent Auditor's Report



To the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund (the Fund), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024, 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 Fund as at March 31, 2024, 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 Fund 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 financial statements of the Fund are included in the *Annual Report of the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services*. The other information comprises the information included in the *Annual Report of the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services* relating to the Fund, but does not include the financial statements of the Fund and my auditor's report thereon. The *Annual Report of the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services* 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 Fund'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 Fund'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 Fund'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 Fund'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 Fund 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 19, 2024
Edmonton, Alberta

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

	2024		2023
	Budget	Actual	Actual
<i>(in thousands)</i>			
Revenues (Note 2)			
Government transfers			
Federal and other government grants	\$ 625	\$ 468	\$ -
Interest income	1,000	2,604	1,045
Other			
Provincial fine surcharge	50,650	43,324	45,727
Federal fine surcharge	2,500	591	517
Refunds of expense	-	1,818	1,802
	<u>54,775</u>	<u>48,805</u>	<u>49,091</u>
Expenses - directly incurred (Note 2(a) and Schedule 1 and 2)			
Programs			
Financial Benefits	11,991	9,985	2,633
Assistance to Victims' Organizations	26,640	28,188	22,436
Criminal Injuries Review Board	-	-	2
Program Support Services	855	361	1,617
	<u>39,486</u>	<u>38,534</u>	<u>26,688</u>
Annual surplus	<u>\$ 15,289</u>	<u>\$ 10,271</u>	<u>\$ 22,403</u>

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

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

	2024	2023
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 5)	\$ 61,945	\$ 46,179
Accounts receivable (Note 6)	34,379	33,592
	<u>96,324</u>	<u>79,771</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities (Note 8)	<u>19,617</u>	<u>13,335</u>
Net financial assets	<u>76,707</u>	<u>66,436</u>
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 9)	-	-
Net assets	<u>\$ 76,707</u>	<u>\$ 66,436</u>
Net assets at beginning of year	\$ 66,436	\$ 44,033
Annual surplus	10,271	22,403
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 76,707</u>	<u>\$ 66,436</u>

Contingent assets (Note 7)

Contractual Obligations (Note 10)

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

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

	2024		2023
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Annual surplus	\$ 15,289	\$ 10,271	\$ 22,403
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 9)	5	-	60
Increase in net financial assets	15,294	10,271	22,463
Net financial assets at beginning of year	43,973	66,436	43,973
Net financial assets at end of year	<u>\$ 59,267</u>	<u>\$ 76,707</u>	<u>\$ 66,436</u>

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

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

	2024	2023
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Operating transactions		
Annual surplus	\$ 10,271	\$ 22,403
Non-cash items included in annual surplus		
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 9)	-	60
	10,271	22,463
(Increase)/Decrease in accounts receivable	(787)	189
Increase/(Decrease) in accounts payable and other accrued liabilities (Note 8)	6,282	(5,682)
Cash provided by (applied to) operating transactions	15,766	16,970
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	15,766	16,970
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	46,179	29,209
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 61,945	\$ 46,179

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

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

NOTE 1 AUTHORITY

The Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund (the fund) operates under the authority of the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*, Chapter V-3, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

The purpose of the fund is to provide grants to victims' programs and to pay benefits to victims, or their dependents, who suffer injury or death as the result of a criminal offence specified in the regulations of the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*, using provincial and federal surcharge revenues.

The fund is owned by the Crown in Right of Alberta and as such has a tax-exempt status.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, which use accrual accounting. The Fund has adopted PS3450 Financial Instruments. As the Fund does not have any transactions involving financial instruments that are classified in the fair value category, there is no statement of remeasurement in gains and losses.

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues from transactions with performance obligations are recognized when Victims of Crimes and Public Safety Fund provide the promises goods and/or services to a payor while revenues from transactions with no performance obligations are recognized at their realizable value when Victims of Crime and Public Safety Funds has the authority to claim or retain and inflow of economic resources and identifies a past transaction or event that gives rise to the asset. Surcharges on fine revenues are recognized at the point of conviction, which excludes certain outstanding federal statute and provincial statute fines that are satisfied by means other than cash payment.

Government Transfers

Transfers from all levels of governments are referred to as government transfers. Government transfers and associated externally restricted investment income are recognized as deferred contributions if the eligibility criteria for use of the transfer, or the stipulations together with the fund's actions and communications as to the use of the transfer create a liability. These transfers are recognized as revenue as the stipulations are met and, when applicable, the fund complies with its communicated uses of these transfers.

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

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

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

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

Expenses

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

Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the fund has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the government's budget documents.

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets;
- pension costs, which comprise of the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year; and
- valuation adjustments which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay, guarantees and indemnities.

Incurred by Others

Services contributed by other related entities in support of the fund's operations are not recognized but disclosed in Schedule 2.

Grant Expense

Grants are recognized as expenses when authorized, eligibility criteria, if any, are met by the recipients and a reasonable estimate of the amounts can be made.

Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act. The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and other accrued liabilities are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

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 the fund's financial claims, such as receivables from other organizations, employees and other individuals, as well as the below listed assets.

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

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

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

Financial Assets (Cont'd)

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Accounts receivable

Accounts receivables are recognized at the lower of cost or net recoverable value. A valuation allowance is recognized when recovery is uncertain.

Liabilities

Liabilities are present obligations of the fund to external organizations and individuals arising from past transactions or events occurring before 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.

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 are limited to tangible capital assets.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets of the fund are recognized at cost less accumulated amortization and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimate useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is \$250,000 and the threshold for major systems enhancements is \$100,000. The threshold for all other tangible capital assets is \$5,000.

Amortization is only charged if the tangible capital asset is put into service.

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

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

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

Measurement Uncertainty

(in thousands)

Measurement uncertainty exists when there is a variance between the recognized or disclosed amount in the financial statements and another reasonably possible amount, whenever estimates are used.

The areas subject to measurement uncertainty include:

- Accounts receivable recognized as \$34,379 (2023 - \$33,592) excludes certain outstanding federal statute surcharges and provincial statute fine surcharges that are expected to be satisfied by means other than cash payment. The other means include participation in the fine option program or time served in a correctional institution at the option of the person owing the surcharge. Outstanding surcharges expected to be satisfied by other means of \$990 (2023 - \$847) are based on the actual percentage satisfied in this manner from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, and have been deducted from total outstanding surcharges. Changes in the proportion of surcharges satisfied by other means may have a material effect on future operating results.

The allowance for doubtful accounts reported as \$1,582 (2023 - \$1,652) in these financial statements, is based on the actual percentage of surcharges written off from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

- Financial benefits program (Note 8) liabilities total \$14,280 (2023 - \$11,407) are calculated and accrued and contain uncertainty. Estimates are based on historical payments pattern.

The Financial benefits from new program - Victims of Crime Assistance Program was implemented on September 1, 2022 and the financial benefits liability for this program is estimated based on the most recent available transactional data commencing from its operation and professional judgment. As such, a reasonable range relating to measurement uncertainty for the program is not available due to limitation of data.

- financial benefits from former program reported in the amount of \$0 (2023 - \$2);
- financial benefits from new program reported in the amount of \$5,175 (2023 - \$0);
- supplemental financial benefits in the amount of \$6,820 (2023 - \$8,762); and
- compensation claims in the amount of \$2,285 (2023 - \$2,643).

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

NOTE 3 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

(in thousands)

Effective April 1, 2023, Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund adopted the PS 3400 Revenue standard and PSG-8 Purchased Intangible Guideline. Neither standard affected Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund.

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund used prospective application to adopt both the new standard and guideline. As a result, 2023 comparatives are not restated.

NOTE 4 FUTURE CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

On April 1, 2026 (beginning of fiscal year or thereafter), Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund will adopt the following new conceptual framework and accounting standard approved by the Public Sector Accounting Board:

- **The Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting in the Public Sector**
The Conceptual Framework is the foundation for public sector financial reporting standard setting. It replaces the conceptual aspects of Section PS 1000 Financial Statement Concepts and Section PS 1100 Financial Statement Objectives. The conceptual framework highlights considerations fundamental for the consistent application of accounting issues in the absence of specific standards.
- **PS 1202 Financial Statement Presentation**
Section PS 1202 sets out general and specific requirements for the presentation of information in general purpose financial statements. The financial statement presentation principles are based on the concepts within the Conceptual Framework.

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

NOTE 5 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

(in thousands)

Cash and cash equivalents include deposits in the Consolidated Liquidity Solution (CLS). A CLS participant is paid interest on monthly basis on their cash balance at an interest rate based on 12 week rolling average of the Province's 3 month cost of borrowing.

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

NOTE 6 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

(in thousands)

Accounts receivables are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

	2024			2023	
	Gross Amount	Fine Option and Time Served	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	Net Recoverable Value	Net Recoverable Value
Government of Canada	\$ 1,651	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,651	\$ 1,766
Surcharge					
Provincial	29,038	753	1,452	26,833	27,809
Federal	1,186	237	(23)	972	807
Other	5,076	-	153	4,923	3,210
	<u>\$ 36,951</u>	<u>\$ 990</u>	<u>\$ 1,582</u>	<u>\$ 34,379</u>	<u>\$ 33,592</u>

NOTE 7 CONTINGENT ASSETS

(in thousands)

Fine revenues are recognized at the point of conviction, which excludes certain outstanding federal statute and provincial statute fines that are satisfied by means other than cash payment. At March 31, 2024, the estimate of contingent assets for fines revenue is \$7,319 (2023 - \$7,077).

NOTE 8 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER ACCRUED LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

	2024		2023	
Grants to non-profit organizations	\$	3,909	\$	425
Financial benefits program (Note 11)		14,280		11,407
Other program expenses		1,428		1,503
	<u>\$</u>	<u>19,617</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>13,335</u>

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

NOTE 9 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS
(in thousands)

	2024	2023
	Computer Hardware and Software	
	3-10 years	
Estimated Useful Life		
Historical Cost		
Beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 868
Additions	-	-
Recategorization	-	-
Disposals, Including Write-downs	-	-
	-	868
Accumulated Amortization		
Beginning of year	-	808
Amortization Expense	-	60
Transfer-In/(Out)	-	-
Effect of Disposals	-	-
	-	868
Net Book Value at March 31, 2024	\$ -	\$ -
Net Book Value at March 31, 2023	\$ -	\$ -

NOTE 10 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS
(in thousands)

Contractual obligations represent a legal obligation of the fund to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of those contracts or agreements are met.

As at March 31, 2024, the fund has obligations under contracts and programs totaling \$55,050 (2023 - \$19,022).

Estimated payment requirements for the next three years are as follows:

Obligations under Operating Leases, Contracts and Programs		
2024-25	\$	22,895
2025-26		26,688
2026-27		5,467
	\$	55,050

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

NOTE 11 FINANCIAL BENEFITS PROGRAM

(in thousands)

Financial Benefits

On September 1, 2022, a new Victims of Crime Assistance Program (VAP) was implemented to replace the former program that was closed in 2022-23.

As at March 31, 2024, there were two hundred seventeen (2023 – one from former program) active applications for financial benefits.

Financial Benefits liability of \$5,175 (2023 - \$2 from former program) is estimated based on historical decision patterns, average award values, and case progress at year end. Additional information may be required to determine the amount for individual cases under regulations of the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*.

Supplemental Benefits

As at March 31, 2024, twenty three (2023 – twenty three) eligible recipients received a monthly payment of \$1 for supplemental benefits.

Supplemental benefits liability of \$6,820 (2023 - \$8,762) is estimated using a projection of monthly payments and statistical life expectancy figures. In addition, a present-value methodology has also been applied in calculating this estimated liability. This methodology projects benefit cost streams into the future and discounts them to present-value using a discount rate, which reflects the current return on assets used to fund the liability. The injuries of a recipient receiving a supplemental financial benefit must be reviewed every 12 months to determine whether the severity of injuries is still in accordance with regulations under the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*.

Former Crimes Compensation Board

As at March 31, 2024, eighteen (2023 – twenty) eligible recipients received a monthly payment for compensation claims assumed from the former Crimes Compensation Board.

Compensation claims liability of \$2,284 (2023 - \$2,643) is estimated using a projection of monthly payments and statistical life expectancy figures. The same present-value methodology described above for supplemental benefits has been used to calculate this estimated liability. The payments are subject to periodic review to confirm continued eligibility for entitlements and/or adjustment to the monthly amount.

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

NOTE 12 BENEFIT PLANS

(in thousands)

At December 31, 2023, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$1,316,313 (2022 – surplus of \$924,735), the Public Service Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$4,542,500 (2022 – surplus of \$4,258,721), and the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers reported a deficiency of \$21,343 (2022 – deficiency of \$25,117).

NOTE 13 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The deputy minister and the senior financial officer approved these financial statements.

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2024

Schedule 1 - Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object

	2024		2023
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	\$ 6,894	\$ 4,461	\$ 4,616
Supplies and services	1,410	1,810	1,548
Grants	31,177	29,458	21,491
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 9)	5	-	60
Provision/(Recovery of) for financial benefits program	-	2,805	(1,027)
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 39,486</u>	<u>\$ 38,534</u>	<u>\$ 26,688</u>

Schedule 2 - Allocated Costs

Program	2024			2023	
	Expenses ⁽¹⁾	Expenses - Incurred by Others		Total Expenses	Total Expenses
Accommodation Costs ⁽²⁾		Legal Services ⁽³⁾			
	<i>(in thousands)</i>				
Financial Benefits	\$ 9,985	\$ 190	\$ -	\$ 10,175	\$ 2,746
Assistance to Victims' Organizations	28,188	741	-	28,929	22,564
Criminal Injuries Review Board	-	-	-	-	2
Program Support Services	361	94	2	457	1,627
	<u>\$ 38,534</u>	<u>\$ 1,025</u>	<u>\$ 2</u>	<u>\$ 39,561</u>	<u>\$ 26,939</u>

- (1) Expenses – Directly Incurred as per Statement of Operations.
- (2) Accommodation Costs, including grants in lieu of taxes, allocated by square meters.
- (3) Legal Services Costs, allocated by estimated costs incurred by each program.

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Schedule to Financial Statements

Schedule 3 - Related Party Transactions

Year ended March 31, 2024

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 in the fund and their close family members.

The fund and its employees paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for premiums, licenses, and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this schedule.

The fund had the following transactions with related parties reported on the Statement of Operations and Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	Entities in the Ministry		Other Entities	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Revenues				
Alberta Finance - Treasury Management	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,604	\$ (965)
Expenses - Directly Incurred				
Alberta Health Services	-	-	95	10
Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction	-	-	-	5
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 95</u>	<u>\$ 15</u>
Payable to Public Safety and Emergency Services	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (72)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Receivable				
from Alberta Finance - Treasury Management	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 263	\$ 173
from Public Safety and Emergency Services	-	13	-	-
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 13</u>	<u>\$ 263</u>	<u>\$ 173</u>

The fund also had transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not reported in the financial statements but are disclosed in Schedule 2.

Other Financial Information

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Other Financial Information

Certain disclosures (unaudited) required by legislation and regulations, and financial information relating to trust funds include the following where applicable:

- Disaster Recovery Program

In addition to the above, other schedules (unaudited) that form part of this section include the following and the presentation:

- Statement of Credit or Recovery [FAA S.24(3)]
- Lapse / Encumbrance [FAA S.28(5) and 28.1(4)]
- Payments Based on Agreement [FAA S. 25(3)]

Disaster Recovery Program (unaudited)

Department of Public Safety and Emergency Services

For the year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

The Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) is administered by the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA). AEMA is part of the Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services. 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 the criteria as outlined in the regulation.

The Ministry recognizes the DRP expense when the Government of Alberta (GoA) issues a Ministerial Order.

The Ministry recognizes Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) revenue when the Government of Canada (GoC) issues an Order in Council (OiC) declaring the Alberta disaster to be of a concern to the GoC. The estimated DFAA revenue is determined by assessing eligible DRP expenses under the DFAA guidelines. As a result, some DRP expenses are excluded when calculating the estimated DFAA revenue.

The Ministry will continue to pursue revenue from the GoC for expenses that are excluded from the estimated DFAA calculation.

The following schedule lists disasters being administered by AEMA at March 31, 2024:

Disaster	GoC OiC (5)	Total Projected DRP Expense (1)	Payments to Date	Accrued Liabilities	Total Projected DFAA Revenue (1) (2)	Advances/ Payments Received (3)	Accounts Receivable
2013 Southern Alberta Flood DRP	162	1,371,736	1,371,210	526	968,236	600,000	368,236
2014 Southwestern Alberta DRP	181	19,304	19,304	-	9,784	-	9,784
2016 Wood Buffalo Wildfire DRP	197	511,516	510,884	632	405,136	307,000	98,136
2018 Spring Flood DRP	218	34,029	23,450	10,579	4,630	-	4,630
2019 Northwest Alberta Wildfires DRP	222	72,601	64,912	7,689	21,301	16,164	5,137
2020 Northern Alberta Floods DRP	232	177,598	132,967	44,631	54,045	27,152	26,893
2023 Alberta Spring Wildfire (5)	-	175,127	37,590	137,537	-	-	-
2023 North Central Flood (5)	-	67,988	210	67,778	-	-	-
Other DRPs (4)	-	88,843	35,938	52,905	-	-	-
March 31, 2024		\$ 2,518,742	\$ 2,196,465	\$ 322,277	\$ 1,463,132	\$ 950,316	\$ 512,816
March 31, 2023		\$ 2,336,136	\$ 2,182,048	\$ 154,088	\$1,476,762	\$969,345	\$507,417

(1) DRP expense and DFAA revenue are calculated based on management estimates. The projected DRP expenses and DFAA revenue are adjusted to reflect management's best estimate of the remaining obligations of the DRP and expected DFAA revenue.

(2) A province or territory may request GoC disaster financial assistance when eligible expenditures exceed an established initial threshold based on the provincial or territorial population.

(3) The GoC may provide advance payments to provincial and territorial governments as funds are expended under the provincial/territorial DRP.

(4) "Other DRPs" includes DRPs with accrual balances or transactions during the 2023-24 fiscal year that are DFAA ineligible.

(5) Federal Order in Council (OIC) for 2023 Alberta Spring Wildfire and 2023 North Central Flood is expected to be declared in Spring 2024.

Statement of Credit or Recovery (unaudited)

Department of Public Safety and Emergency Services

For the year ended March 31, 2024
(in thousands)

	2024				
	Authorized Spending	Actual Revenue Recognized	Unearned Revenue	Total Revenue Received/ Receivable	(Shortfall)/ Excess ⁽¹⁾
EXPENSE AMOUNTS	<i>In thousands</i>				
Edmonton Regional Airports Authority Policing Services Agreement ⁽³⁾	\$ 4,180	\$ 4,188	\$ -	\$ 4,188	\$ 8
Credit or Recovery (Shortfall)	\$ 4,180	\$ 4,188	\$ -	\$ 4,188	\$ 8 ⁽²⁾

(1) Shortfall is deducted from current year's corresponding funding authority.

(2) The revenue of each credit or recovery is included in the Statement of Revenues and Expenses.

(3) Edmonton Regional Airport Authority Policing Services Agreement revenues are received on a full cost recovery basis from the Edmonton Regional Airport Authority for policing services provided to the Edmonton International Airport under the Provincial Police Service Agreement.

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)

Department of Public Safety and Emergency Services

For the year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

The following has been prepared pursuant to Section 24(4) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

	Voted Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Supplementary Estimate ⁽²⁾	Adjustments ⁽³⁾	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals ⁽⁴⁾	Over Expended (Unexpended)
EXPENSE VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Ministry Support Services						
1.1 Minister's Office	\$ 897	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 897	\$ 879	\$ (18)
1.2 Deputy Minister's Office	907	-	-	907	869	(38)
1.3 Corporate Services	23,325	513	-	23,838	20,923	(2,915)
	<u>25,129</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,642</u>	<u>22,671</u>	<u>(2,971)</u>
Public Security						
2.1 Alberta Sheriffs	132,139	-	-	132,139	123,650	(8,489)
2.2 Alberta Serious Incident Response Team	5,357	-	-	5,357	5,841	484
2.3 Provincial Security Intelligence Office	1,959	-	-	1,959	2,137	178
2.4 Law Enforcement Oversight	25,049	-	-	25,049	9,551	(15,498)
2.5 Contract Policing and Policing Oversight	370,508	-	-	370,508	371,457	949
2.6 Indigenous Policing Services	19,954	-	-	19,954	19,597	(357)
2.7 Policing Support Grant	98,819	-	-	98,819	126,111	27,292
2.8 Organized and Serious Crime	55,620	11,779	-	67,399	65,358	(2,041)
	<u>709,405</u>	<u>11,779</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>721,184</u>	<u>723,702</u>	<u>2,518</u>
Correctional Services						
3.1 Correctional Planning and Innovation	5,028	-	-	5,028	3,248	(1,780)
3.2 Custody Operations	261,764	-	-	261,764	251,234	(10,530)
3.3 Community Corrections	53,542	-	-	53,542	48,245	(5,297)
3.4 Correctional Programs and Services	13,212	454	-	13,666	10,738	(2,928)
3.5 Training Academy	6,666	-	-	6,666	6,377	(289)
	<u>340,212</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>340,666</u>	<u>319,842</u>	<u>(20,824)</u>
Alberta Emergency Management Agency						
4.1 Managing Director's Office	606	-	-	606	504	(102)
4.2 Strategy and Systems Support	5,100	-	-	5,100	4,323	(777)
4.3 Operations	7,996	-	-	7,996	17,913	9,917
4.4 Recovery Operations	2,351	49,725	-	52,076	2,497	(49,579)
4.5 Disaster Recovery	-	19,000	-	19,000	44,578	25,578
4.6 Emergency Preparedness Grants	150	-	-	150	150	-
4.7 Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System	16,992	-	-	16,992	17,418	426
	<u>33,195</u>	<u>68,725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,920</u>	<u>87,383</u>	<u>(14,537)</u>
Total	<u>1,107,941</u>	<u>81,471</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,189,412</u>	<u>1,153,598</u>	<u>(35,814)</u>
Credit or Recovery Shortfall						-
(Lapse)/Encumbrance	<u>\$ 1,107,941</u>	<u>\$ 81,471</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,189,412</u>	<u>\$ 1,153,598</u>	<u>\$ (35,814)</u>
						<u>\$ (35,814)</u>

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited-cont'd)

Department of Public Safety and Emergency Services

For the year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

	Voted Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Supplementary Estimate ⁽²⁾	Adjustments ⁽³⁾	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals ⁽⁴⁾	Over Expended (Unexpended)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Ministry Support Services	\$ -	\$ 1,170	\$ -	\$ 1,170	78	(1,092)
Public Security	2,695	-	-	2,695	2783	88
Correctional Services	1,280	-	-	1,280	696	(584)
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	2,300	-	3,699	5,999	3,598	(2,401)
Total	6,275	1,170	3,699	11,144	7,155	(3,989)
Credit or Recovery Shortfall	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 6,275</u>	<u>\$ 1,170</u>	<u>\$ 3,699</u>	<u>\$ 11,144</u>	<u>\$ 7,155</u>	<u>\$ (3,989)</u>
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						<u>\$ (3,989)</u>
FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Recovery Program - Flooding	4,196	-	-	4,196	1677	(2,519)
Total	4,196	-	-	4,196	1,677	(2,519)
Credit or Recovery Shortfall	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 4,196</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,196</u>	<u>\$ 1,677</u>	<u>\$ (2,519)</u>
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						<u>\$ (2,519)</u>
CONTINGENCY						
OPERATING EXPENSE						
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	10,527	10,527	10,527	-
Credit or Recovery Shortfall	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 10,527</u>	<u>\$ 10,527</u>	<u>\$ 10,527</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						<u>\$ -</u>

(1) As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program", "Financial Transaction Vote by Program", and "Contingency Vote by Program" page 174-175 of 2023-24 Government Estimates on February 28, 2023.

(2) Per the Supplementary supply estimates approved on March 21, 2024.

(3) Adjustments include encumbrances, capital carry forward 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, accretion, valuation adjustments, and other provisions) are excluded as these amounts do not require any expenditure or payment of public money. Year-end expense accruals & payables which will immediately require a cash outlay (payment of public money) to settle or otherwise extinguish the liabilities are included in Actuals.

Payments Based on Agreements (unaudited)

Department of Public Safety and Emergency Services

For the year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

The Department has entered into agreements to deliver programs and services that are fully funded by the Government of Yukon Territory (Yukon) and the Government of Canada (GC). Costs based on these agreements are incurred by the Department under authority in Section 25 of the Financial Administration Act. Accounts Receivable includes \$58 (2023 - \$47) from Yukon, and \$792 (2023 - \$703) from the GC relating to payments based on agreements.

The agreement with the Yukon is for the purpose of conducting investigations of Serious Incidents respecting members of the Territorial Police Service.

The agreements with the Government of Canada are to deliver the Alberta First Nations Emergency Management Support Program.

Amounts paid and payable based on agreements with program sponsors are as follows:

	2024	2023
Territorial Police Services- Yukon	\$ 221	\$ 202
First Nations Emergency Management Support Program	1,398	1,570
	\$ 1,619	\$ 1,772

The Department has also entered into an agreement to disburse the provincial share of net forfeitures from proceeds of crime on behalf of the Department of Justice Canada (Justice Canada). Proceeds received from Justice Canada under this agreement are in accordance with Section 10 of the Federal Seized Property Management Act resulting from the investigation efforts by law enforcement agencies in Alberta.

Disbursements to law enforcement agencies and crime and drug prevention organizations based on this agreement are made by the Department under authority in Section 25 of the Financial Administration Act. Only the amounts received from Justice Canada and not disbursed are reflected in these financial statements. For the year ended March 31, 2024, amounts payable to law enforcement agencies and crime and drug prevention organizations under this agreement are \$2,466 (2023 - \$2,471) and are reflected in the Statement of Financial Position.

Annual Report Extracts and Other Statutory Reports

The *Criminal Code* requires the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services to report annually on the following parts of the Act.

Criminal Code s.83.3 (3) – Anti-Terrorism Act

In accordance with subsection 83.3(4) of the *Criminal Code*, a peace officer who suspects, on reasonable grounds, that the detention of a person is necessary to prevent a terrorist activity, may arrest the person without a warrant.

Pursuant to subsection 83.31(3) of the *Criminal Code*, the minister responsible for policing in every province shall publish or otherwise make available to the public an annual report for the previous year on the operation of subsection 83.3 of the *Criminal Code* that includes:

- The number of arrests without warrant that were made under subsection 83.3(4) and the period of the arrested person’s detention in custody in each case; and
- The number of cases in which a person was arrested without warrant under subsection 83.3(4) and was released.

Information has been received from all police services in Alberta indicating that two arrests without a warrant were made under this subsection in the previous year; therefore, the report for 2023 is two.

Criminal Code s.25.3 – Organized Crime and Law Enforcement – Designations

Section 25.3 of the *Criminal Code* provides a limited justification for otherwise illegal acts and omissions by law enforcement officers, and others acting at their discretion. An essential condition is that it can apply only to officers designated by a competent authority. In the case of municipal police services, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services is the competent authority.

The competent authority is responsible for publishing an annual report on the designations and authorizations provided under subsections 24.1 to 25.4 of the *Criminal Code*. This report shall include information on the amount and nature of the acts or omissions committed by those officers designated under this legislation.

Alberta began designating officers under this legislation in March 2003. The designations for January 1 to December 31, 2023 include:

- Number of times that acts and omissions were committed: Three (3)
- Nature of conduct being investigated: Organized crime and kidnapping (One) and 5(1) CDSA Trafficking (Two).
- Nature of act or omission: Direct person/agency to complete tasks involving minor vehicle damage (One). Sell, offer for sale, transport, deliver, distribute, possess for the purpose of sale, a tobacco product not stamped (Two).

Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

Section 32 of the *Public Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* requires the chief officer of a department to report annually on all disclosures made to the designated officer of the department, public entity or office of the legislature for which the chief officer is responsible.

This constitutes the annual report of the chief officer of the department covering the period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Chief Officer Report as at March 31, 2023

In relation to the reporting requirements under section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act*, designations for April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 include:

- Number of disclosures of wrongdoing: Two
- Number of investigations and reports submitted: zero
- Number of wrongdoings identified: zero

Ministry Response to Recommendations from the Alberta Child and Youth Advocate

In response to a recommendation from the Alberta Child and Youth Advocate, the Custody Operations Branch of the Correctional Services Division has committed to public annual reporting of emergency incidents that required the use of Oleoresin Capsicum spray (OC spray) and incidents where secure separation was required within a provincial young offender centre.

For the period of April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 the Custody Operations Branch reports the following:

I. Total Number of Incidents of OC Spray Deployment in Provincial Young Offender Centres

The use of OC spray is based on a variety of exceptional circumstances that are unique to each situation. It is only used when all lesser use of force options are exhausted, and to reduce the likelihood of injury or harm for young person(s) and staff involved. Data is collapsed to the provincial level, in order to protect the privacy of youths involved in the OC spray incidents. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, 18 incidents of OC Spray occurred within provincial young offender centres.

II. Secure Separation in Provincial Young Offender Centres

Correctional Services Division has implemented a number of changes to policies and practices regarding segregation of youth in correctional facilities. Previously referred to as administrative segregation, new policies outline standards for secure separation of youth. These changes support trauma-informed practices and include clearer parameters for confinement conditions, revised review protocols, and the implementation of a case conference mechanism to determine appropriate courses of action following behavioral incidents. Correctional Services Division remains committed to public transparency and in 2023-24, initiated new methodology to assess and monitor the use of secure separation of young persons in correctional facilities for future reporting.