

International and Intergovernmental Relations

BUSINESS PLAN 2013-16

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of February 13, 2013.

original signed by

Cal Dallas, Minister
February 20, 2013

THE MINISTRY

The ministry consists of the Department of International and Intergovernmental Relations. Within the department's budget, funding is provided for the Asia Advisory Council, which advises and makes recommendations to the minister on measures to expand existing economic, research, educational and cultural opportunities between Alberta and Asia. The Council is established by the *Asia Advisory Council Act*.

International and Intergovernmental Relations' mission is to advance Alberta's interests by leading government-wide strategies that capitalize on Alberta's regional, national and global relationships and opportunities. Its core businesses are international relations and intergovernmental relations.

Programs and services delivered by the ministry will be reviewed for relevance, effectiveness and efficiency in accordance with the Government of Alberta's *Results-based Budgeting Act*.

A more detailed description of International and Intergovernmental Relations and its programs and initiatives can be found at www.international.alberta.ca.

This business plan is aligned with the government's goals as set out in the *Government of Alberta Strategic Plan*.

GOALS, PRIORITY INITIATIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

As a result of the ministry's review of its goals, environment, opportunities and challenges, a number of priority initiatives have been identified. Focused agenda items, the six specific areas where government will focus its attention over the next three years, are identified with a *. Additional government commitments to Albertans are identified with a ✓.

Goal One: Alberta's international policy objectives are met

The ministry is responsible for Alberta's International Strategy and leads the coordination of Alberta's economic, strategic, cultural and social international policies and activities. It works toward developing cooperative approaches on international issues of mutual importance with its partners, clients and stakeholders to address challenges and take advantage of and grow opportunities. The ministry and its international offices also help Alberta businesses, industry associations, educators, researchers and cultural promoters connect with their counterparts around the world.

Priority Initiatives:

- ✓ 1.1 Implement a renewed Alberta's International Strategy, including the recommendations of the International Offices review.
- 1.2 Expand international and bilateral partnerships to develop cooperative approaches on issues of mutual importance with other governments.

- 1.3 Provide policy advice, strategic analysis and support to the premier and other elected officials to advance Alberta's position at international meetings.
- 1.4 Support the Asia Advisory Council in its work to provide advice on expanding existing economic, research, educational and cultural opportunities for Alberta in Asia.
- 1.5 Administer the Alberta Abroad Program to provide recent Alberta post-secondary graduates opportunities to develop specialized skills and gain international work experience.

Performance Measures	Last Actual Year	Target 2013-14	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16
1.a Percentage of clients satisfied with services to advance Alberta's international policy objectives	87% (2011-12)	90%	91%	92%
1.b Percentage of clients satisfied with the services of international offices (biennial survey)	77% (2010-11)	n/a	88%	n/a

Note:

A new performance measure, tracking the percentage of objectives in the international strategy accomplished annually, is currently under development for inclusion in the ministry's 2014-17 business plan.

Goal Two: Alberta business activity in targeted foreign markets is increased

The ministry coordinates the Government of Alberta's international activities in priority markets. With the support of its network of international offices, it promotes the export of Alberta goods and services to target markets, and leads initiatives to attract, retain and expand international investment in Alberta, to facilitate the growth, diversification and competitiveness of Alberta's economy.

Priority Initiatives:

- *2.1 Expand Alberta's market access to become a preferred global supplier.
- 2.2 Engage in strategic advocacy activities with key influencers within Canada and internationally to demonstrate that Alberta is a secure, reliable and responsible energy provider.
- 2.3 Promote the advantages of doing business in Alberta to attract foreign direct investment to the province.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2011-12	Target 2013-14	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16
2.a Percentage of clients satisfied with services to support Alberta business activity in targeted foreign markets	89%	92%	93%	94%

Note:

A new performance measure, tracking Alberta's rank compared to other provinces and territories in total investment per capita, is currently under development for inclusion in the ministry's 2014-17 business plan.

Goal Three: Alberta's policy interests within Canada are advanced

The ministry leads the coordination of Alberta's economic, resource, environmental, social and fiscal policies and activities as they relate to other governments within Canada. It also works towards developing an intergovernmental strategy on issues of importance to Canadians with its partners, clients and stakeholders to address challenges and take advantage of and grow opportunities. The ministry coordinates Alberta's leadership and participation within the Canadian federation in pursuit of a federal system that best serves the needs of Albertans and Canadians.

Priority Initiatives:

- ✓ 3.1 Expand multilateral and bilateral partnerships to develop cooperative approaches on issues of mutual importance with other governments.
- 3.2 Foster stronger relations with the Government of Canada and advocate Alberta's perspective on important intergovernmental issues, with the support of the Alberta Office in Ottawa.

- 3.3 Provide policy advice, strategic analysis and support to the premier and other elected officials, to advance Alberta's interests within Canada.
- 3.4 In collaboration with other ministries, define an intergovernmental strategy that ensures a coordinated and consistent approach to economic, resource, environmental, social and fiscal policies as they relate to other jurisdictions within Canada.
- 3.5 In collaboration with other ministries, complete timely and consistent reviews and approvals of intergovernmental agreements.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2011-12	Target 2013-14	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16
3.a Percentage of clients satisfied with services to advance Alberta's interests within Canada	87%	89%	90%	91%

Goal Four: An effective rules-based system supports Alberta's priorities in trade in goods and services, investment flows and labour mobility

The ministry enhances opportunities for Albertans through the negotiation, implementation and ongoing management of trade agreements that promote the free flow of goods, services, people and investment within Canada and internationally.

Priority Initiatives:

- ✓ 4.1 Reduce barriers to trade, labour mobility and investment.
- 4.2 Represent Alberta's interests in negotiations that promote liberalization of trade, investment and labour mobility.
- 4.3 Anticipate, prevent and manage disputes and defend Alberta's interests under existing trade and investment agreements.
- 4.4 Develop an analytical framework and process to monitor and assess foreign investment in Alberta.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2011-12	Target 2013-14	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16
4.a Percentage of clients satisfied with services to support a stable set of rules for Alberta's exports and investments	87%	87%	87%	88%

Note:

A new performance measure, to be drawn from a report card on Alberta's policy framework in trade, investment and labour mobility, is currently under development for inclusion in the ministry's 2014-17 business plan.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable			2013-14 Estimate	2014-15 Target	2015-16 Target
	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2012-13 Forecast			
Operational Expense						
Ministry Support Services	4,238	5,058	5,654	6,200	6,400	6,400
Intergovernmental Relations	3,949	6,718	6,118	6,318	6,318	6,318
International Relations	14,868	24,201	20,205	24,676	25,076	24,676
Total	23,055	35,977	31,977	37,194	37,794	37,394

CAPITAL PLAN

Capital Spending						
Ministry Support Services	17	25	25	25	25	25
Total	17	25	25	25	25	25