

BUDGET 2021

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2021-24

Ministry Business Plan Environment and Parks

Environment and Parks

Business Plan 2021-24

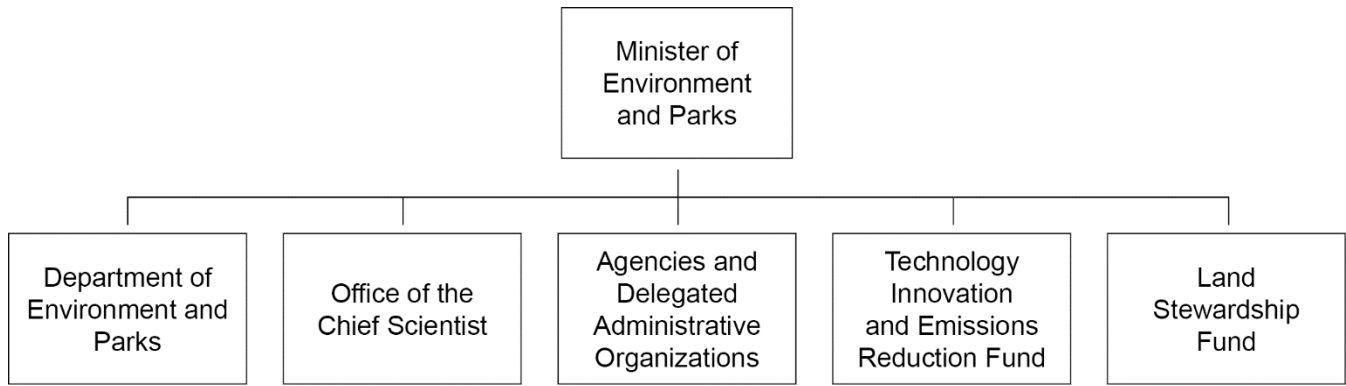
Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The Ministry of Environment and Parks represents the interests of Albertans in delivering balanced, common-sense and results-based stewardship of Alberta’s environment while enabling sustainable resource development for social and economic well-being.

Environment and ecosystem health and integrity are indispensable to the well-being of Albertans. Achieving this requires the ministry to leverage effective consultation, collaboration and partnerships to implement regional and sub-regional land use plans, environmental frameworks, and complementary strategies. The ministry promotes scientific excellence and integrity using an evidence-based approach, inclusive of Indigenous knowledge, citizen science and community-based monitoring and a credible provincial environmental science program to inform quality decision making. Consultation and strong science informs relevant, efficient and environmentally focused legislation, regulation, standards and policy, including a significant regulatory transformation and red tape reduction effort to remove unnecessary burdens for Albertans while balancing environmental and economic outcomes.

The ministry supports Alberta’s sustainable economic development, including job creation opportunities that deliver the economic well-being and quality of life Albertans desire, within environmental capacity. The ministry reduces unnecessary red tape and administrative, regulatory and process burdens while concurrently working to balance interrelated environmental, economic, and social needs through initiatives including the Regulatory Transformation Project and Wetland Policy Implementation Project. Alberta, a resource-based economy that contributes significantly to Canada’s economic well-being, will continue to take consulted and considered actions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by working collaboratively with industrial emitters and investing in innovation and the practical application of technology. We are working diligently to protect hardworking families and businesses from economic hardship caused by the punitive federal carbon tax by fighting for Alberta’s right to make policy decisions that work for our province.

The ministry focuses on the well-being and safety of Albertans and visitors where they live, work and play in Alberta’s outdoors. Alberta’s natural environments offer educational and recreational experiences that positively contribute to public well-being and a diversified economy through sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities. Opportunities are provided to Albertans and visitors to explore natural landscapes, engage in nature-based experiences or outdoor recreational activities, and learn about Alberta’s natural heritage through Alberta’s Crown lands, including parks, public lands and protected areas. The ministry works with Albertans, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders to integrate environmental stewardship with recreational access and conservation. The ministry also works collaboratively with other ministries and agencies, communities and municipalities to protect Albertans from the adverse effects of environmental conditions and events, maintain access to safe drinking water and maintain government owned or operated dams and related water infrastructure. The ministry, in collaboration with communities and municipalities, responds to environmental emergencies and strengthens environmental resilience and adaptation through infrastructure changes and development of comprehensive response plans and programs.



The Office of the Chief Scientist provides citizens and the ministry with expert knowledge, research and advice in environmental science. The ministry leads delivery of the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Fund, Alberta’s approach to reducing emissions from large industrial emitters and keeping industry competitive. Within the department’s budget, funding is provided for the Land Use Secretariat and the Integrated Resource Management Secretariat. The ministry also administers the Land Stewardship Fund to conserve ecologically important areas, prevent habitat fragmentation, maintain biodiversity and preserve native landscapes. The ministry is supported by over 20 public agencies and delegated administrative organizations (DAOs) that conduct work on behalf of or provide advice to the government. Information on these public agencies and DAOs is available at www.alberta.ca/public-agency-list.cfm.

A more detailed description of Environment and Parks and its programs and initiatives can be found at www.alberta.ca/environment-and-parks.aspx

The Ministry of Environment and Parks continues to review programs to ensure Albertans receive efficient and client-focused services from their government. As part of this ongoing review, the ministry is committed to making life easier for hard-working Albertans and job creators by reducing regulatory requirements by one-third by 2023, and eliminating administrative burden through more efficient processes. This work will improve service delivery for Albertans; foster economic growth, innovation and competitiveness; and create a strong and attractive investment climate.

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

Business Plan – Core

Outcome 1

Environment and ecosystem health and integrity support Albertans' well-being.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Effectively balance environmental, economic and social concerns through collaborative and integrated regional and sub-regional land use planning and implementation.
- 1.2 Attain a balanced, sustainable approach to manage the cumulative effects of development through collaboration with other ministries, governments, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders combined with leveraging of traditional and other effective conservation measures.
- 1.3 Support Alberta's environmental resource stewardship by targeted strategies and frameworks including a water management strategy and, plastics diversion and recycling strategy.
- 1.4 Deliver effective ambient environmental condition monitoring, evaluation and reporting through Alberta's strong environmental policies using an Environmental, Social and Governance approach.
- 1.5 Use updated environmental legislation and regulation to address current and emerging issues, such as red tape reduction (e.g., Regulatory Transformation Project) while maintaining robust environmental standards and safety.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Combined operating and capital for caribou recovery planning and actions are allocated \$34.8 million in 2021-22.
- \$22.4 million in combined operating and capital is allocated in 2021-22 for environmental science and monitoring.
- Operating and capital funding for the Oil Sands Monitoring Program is allocated up to \$50 million in 2021-22.

Performance Metrics

Performance Measure: under development

Outcome 2

Sustainable economic development is achieved within environmental capacity.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Initiate an effective and integrated regulatory assurance framework to enhance Alberta's environmental approval and compliance processes while reducing the administrative, regulatory and process burdens.
- 2.2 Enhance provincial policy to increase the use of industrial zones, economic corridors/nodes, development credits and conservation offsets.
- 2.3 Mitigate climate change through collaborative implementation of the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) system and effective and innovative program delivery.
- 2.4 Complete mandatory social-economic impact assessments for major environmental protection proposals to strike the appropriate balance between economic growth and environmental protection.
- 2.5 Address reclamation responsibilities through effective liability management policies and providing options to industry to pay adequate security.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2021-22, \$107.1 million derived from the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) system is allocated to Environment and Parks to support investments in innovation and technology in Alberta.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Percentage of provincially priced greenhouse gas emissions.

Pricing of greenhouse gas emissions through provincial regulation furthers responsible and sustainable economic development in Alberta by providing a financial incentive to lower greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Last actuals (2018) were 68% with carbon tax and 52% without carbon tax.

Targets	2021-22	59%	2022-23	59%	2023-24	59%
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Outcome 3

Albertans and visitors have enjoyable and safe experiences where they live, work and play in Alberta’s outdoors.

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Improve recreational access management through effective engagement and a modern and integrated approach to Crown lands management (including public lands and parks), implementation of the *Alberta Trails Act* and establishment of a sustainable recreation funding framework.
- 3.2 Provide angling and hunting opportunities through effective fish and wildlife management.
- 3.3 Effectively manage Alberta government owned or operated water management and monitoring infrastructure.
- 3.4 Anticipate, respond to and mitigate the impact of environmental conditions and events including floods, droughts and invasive species.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Environmental enforcement to ensure public safety and lawful use of crown lands is allocated \$15.4 million in 2021-22.
- The environmental emergency response and management program is allocated \$3.6 million in 2021-22.
- \$79.4 million in combined operating and capital funding is allocated in 2021-22 for various capital programs to refurbish and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, natural features and buildings in provincial parks.
- The provincial fish stocking program to improve angling opportunities including capital investment in the Cold Lake Fish Hatchery and Raven Creek Brood Trout Station is allocated \$20.8 million in 2021-22.
- Water management infrastructure operations is allocated \$18.6 million in 2021-22.
- Flood adaptation and resilience is allocated \$60.7 million in combined operating and capital funding in 2021-22.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Percentage of water management infrastructure in good, fair and poor status.

Maintaining provincially owned water management infrastructure contributes to water supply and mitigates adverse impacts of flood and drought. Targets reflect maximum acceptable limits. Last actuals (2019-20) were 17.7 per cent fair and 4.3 per cent poor.

Targets	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Fair	≤20.0%	≤20.0%	≤20.0%
Poor	≤5.0%	≤5.0%	≤5.0%

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2021-22 Estimate	2022-23 Target	2023-24 Target
	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Transfers of Assets or Liabilities from Related Parties	32,172	31,582	31,582	29,132	29,132	29,132
Transfers from Government of Canada	38,200	23,253	5,302	91,256	39,879	3,962
Investment Income	14,696	9,067	5,363	1,687	1,703	1,718
Premiums, Fees and Licences	124,529	123,340	124,436	142,477	136,968	137,278
Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Fund	389,752	413,000	308,000	352,000	384,000	361,000
Other Revenue	82,838	97,457	97,221	90,872	65,872	65,872
Ministry Total	682,187	697,699	571,904	707,424	657,554	598,962
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(42,235)	(43,446)	(43,446)	(40,996)	(40,996)	(40,996)
Consolidated Total	639,952	654,253	528,458	666,428	616,558	557,966
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	25,583	22,750	22,750	22,488	22,285	22,285
Air	19,670	19,345	19,345	18,984	18,889	18,889
Land	63,590	59,698	67,669	72,488	70,882	65,182
Water	124,922	146,960	181,121	145,502	115,569	108,848
Fish and Wildlife	34,647	61,114	62,050	54,789	55,380	54,500
Integrated Planning	32,133	30,720	30,463	30,093	29,931	29,931
Parks	104,744	112,483	119,129	125,157	125,111	132,560
Land Use Secretariat	3,268	5,174	5,174	5,133	5,124	5,124
Science and Monitoring	72,479	72,487	65,826	73,085	72,975	72,975
Emissions Management	180,257	147,173	420,603	107,126	96,899	66,562
Quasi-Judicial Bodies	16,337	7,129	51,769	6,998	6,992	6,992
2013 Alberta Flooding	-	401	359	42	-	-
Ministry Total	677,630	685,434	1,046,258	661,885	620,037	583,848
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(17,536)	(13,209)	(13,209)	(13,209)	(13,209)	(13,209)
Consolidated Total	660,094	672,225	1,033,049	648,676	606,828	570,639
Net Operating Result	(20,142)	(17,972)	(504,591)	17,752	9,730	(12,673)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	50	2,875	3,300	425	425	425
Air	27	-	-	950	750	-
Land	272	5,602	1,102	9,631	12,602	12,602
Water	32,966	31,132	31,953	36,811	35,132	29,132
Fish and Wildlife	10,839	13,186	6,115	31,397	10,437	837
Integrated Planning	614	-	-	-	-	-
Parks	16,213	42,932	50,231	67,382	24,429	26,552
Science and Monitoring	1,503	3,107	3,836	2,300	1,900	1,600
Quasi-Judicial Bodies	-	17	17	17	17	17
2013 Alberta Flooding	1,329	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry Total	63,813	98,851	96,554	148,913	85,692	71,165
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(32,172)	(31,582)	(31,582)	(29,132)	(29,132)	(29,132)
Consolidated Total	31,641	67,269	64,972	119,781	56,560	42,033