

BUDGET 2020

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2020-23

Ministry Business Plan Environment and Parks

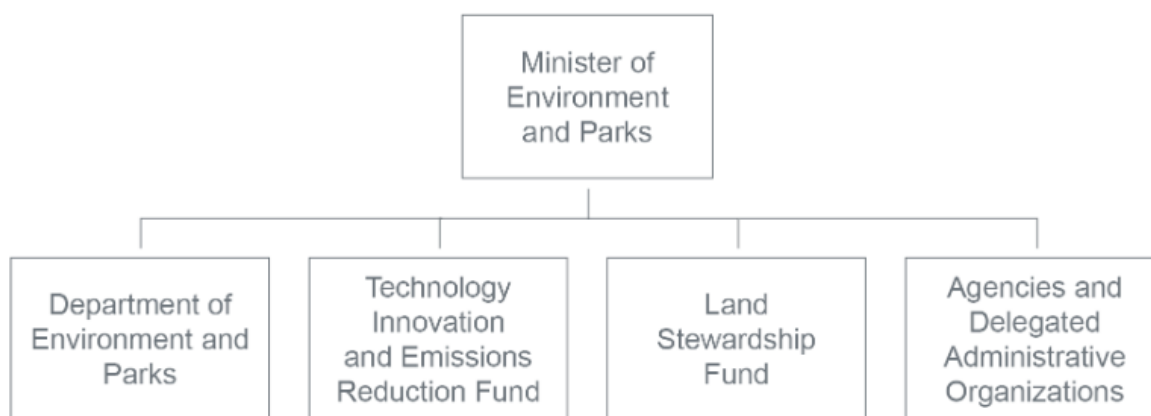
Environment and Parks

Business Plan 2020-23

Ministry Mandate and Structure

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

Within the department’s budget, funding is provided for the Land Use Secretariat and the Integrated Resource Management Secretariat. 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 is committed to the ongoing review of programs and services to ensure that the best possible outcomes are being achieved for Albertans. As part of this ongoing review, the ministry is committed to reducing red tape to make life easier for hard-working Albertans and businesses. This includes reducing regulatory burden and unnecessary processes to encourage economic growth and job creation; and make Alberta one of the freest and fastest moving economies in the world without compromising environmental standards. The ministry is committed to working towards achieving the one-third reduction in the number of regulatory requirements in its statutes, regulations, policies and forms by 2023.

Ministry Outcomes

- Environment and ecosystem health and integrity
- Sustainable economic development
- Public well-being
- Public health and safety from environmental conditions and events

Outcome 1

What We Want To Achieve

Environment and ecosystem health and integrity

Environment and ecosystem health and integrity are indispensable to the well-being of Albertans. Part of achieving and sustaining this outcome includes leadership and leveraging effective consultation, collaboration and partnerships to develop and implement regional and sub-regional land use plans, environmental frameworks, and complementary strategies. Adherence to high scientific standards, improving data collection, and leveraging local and Indigenous knowledge contributes to informed and quality decision making. Legislation and regulation underpin the ministry's approach to implementing policies and programs, and they require periodic updates to address current and emergent issues. These efforts and commitments are reflected in the ministry's key objectives for the next three fiscal years and align with ongoing red tape reduction efforts to remove unnecessary administrative, regulatory and process burdens for Albertans while maintaining robust environmental standards.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Collaborative and integrated regional and sub-regional land use planning and implementation effectively balances environmental, economic and social concerns.
- 1.2 Collaborate with other ministries to establish a balanced and sustainable approach to manage the combined or cumulative effects of resource development.
- 1.3 Leverage traditional and other effective conservation measures in collaboration with non-government partners to develop and advance conservation projects and programs.
- 1.4 Effective stewardship of Alberta's environmental resources is supported through development and implementation of targeted strategies and frameworks.
- 1.5 Alberta's ambient environmental condition is monitored, evaluated and reported upon.
- 1.6 Environmental legislation and regulation is modernized to address current and emerging issues and reduce red tape without sacrificing robust environmental standards and safety.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2020-21, \$10.2 million is allocated to regional and sub-regional land-use planning. The ministry is committed to returning to a comprehensive, collaborative and integrative approach in regional and sub-regional planning to manage cumulative effects and achieve desired economic, social and environmental goals for a region. Land use planning supports coordinated and efficient land use by identifying environmental, social and economic outcomes and approaches for meeting the outcomes while improving efficiency and transparency in regulatory processes. Environmental management frameworks monitor and report trends and, as needed, require management responses to ensure regional environmental outcomes are achieved.
- In 2020-21, \$15 million is allocated to the Land Trust Grant Program and Land Purchase Program. This funding supports efforts aimed at conserving ecologically important lands to prevent habitat fragmentation, maintain biodiversity, and preserve native landscapes.
- In 2020-21, \$22.5 million in combined operating and capital is allocated to science and environment monitoring to provide scientifically sound environment monitoring, evaluation and transparent reporting to inform cumulative effects decision-making.

- In 2020-21, \$10.3 million is allocated as part of predictable multi-year funding arrangements with a number of local partners supporting the collaborative delivery of air and water monitoring, education and stewardship activities.
- In 2020-21, \$1.8 million is allocated to the Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Program to keep Alberta free from zebra and quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species through watercraft inspection stations on major highways entering the province, development of early detection rapid response plans, eradication and control efforts and outreach to support awareness of aquatic invasive species.

Performance Metrics

- 1.a Performance Measure: Percentage of recognized protected and conserved areas** *(This measure includes protected areas under federal and provincial jurisdiction that meet the International Union for Conservation of Nature definition. Protected and conserved areas contribute to the achievement of biodiversity conservation objectives. These areas provide habitat to support viable species populations and ecosystem services such as water quality and quantity, air purification, and nutrient recycling.)*
The last actual was 14.7 percent (2018-19).

TARGETS

2020-21:	17.00%
2021-22:	17.00%
2022-23:	17.00%

- 1.b Performance Indicator: Percentage of good air quality days in urban areas** *(The air quality index reflects the overall provincial air quality based on ambient air quality objectives and guidelines of five major pollutants: fine particulate matter, ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide. The Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards focus on long-term ambient levels of fine particulate matter and ozone in the province's six air zones and complement the air quality index by guiding air quality management actions.)*

	2016	2017	2018
Actuals	97.0%	95.5%	90.4%

- 1.c Performance Indicator: Percentage of vertebrate species designated as 'at risk'** *(Results are reported once every five years as committed to as a signatory of Canada's Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk.)*

	2005	2010	2015
Actuals	3.4%	3.7%	4.2%

- 1.d Performance Indicator: Kilograms per capita of municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills**

	2016	2017	2018
Actuals	565	558	617

- 1.e Performance Indicator: Number of inter-provincial and international transboundary river water quantity outflow obligations met** *(Interim data from administrative bodies have been used to populate 2016, 2017, and 2018 results.)*

	2016	2017	2018
Actuals	7 out of 7	7 out of 7	7 out of 7

Outcome 2

What We Want To Achieve

Sustainable economic development

Sustainable economic development offers Albertans job creation opportunities for the economic well-being and quality of life they desire, within environmental capacity. In alignment with this outcome, Environment and Parks is transforming client-facing regulatory business processes and reducing unnecessary red tape and administrative, regulatory and process burdens. Alberta, as a resource-based economy that contributes significantly to Canada's economic well-being, will continue work to balance interrelated environment, economy, and social needs through responsible development of the province's natural resources. Alberta is taking action to mitigate greenhouse emissions by working collaboratively with large heavy emitters and investing in innovation and the practical application of technology. Consulted and considered actions will balance protecting at-risk caribou populations while maintaining environmental, social and economic needs and opportunities.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 An integrated regulatory assurance framework that increases the effectiveness of Alberta's environmental approval and compliance processes while reducing the administrative, regulatory and process burdens.
- 2.2 Provincial policy encourages and increases the use of development credits and conservation offsets.
- 2.3 Climate change is mitigated through the implementation of the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) system and effective innovation and practical programming in collaboration with large final emitters and other stakeholders.
- 2.4 Mandatory environmental impact assessments for major economic development proposals and social-economic impact assessments for environmental protection proposals support evidence based decision making.
- 2.5 Reclamation responsibilities are addressed through effective liability management policies and providing options to industry to pay adequate security.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2020-21, \$39.8 million is allocated to caribou recovery planning and actions aimed at stabilizing and ultimately recovering caribou populations that are naturally sustaining. Caribou recovery planning is occurring through holistic sub-regional planning processes to ensure a practical and balanced approach that supports a sustainable economy while demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship. This work is supported by three Caribou Sub-regional Task Forces. Alberta continues to work with partners and invest in caribou habitat restoration and other recovery actions while sub-regional planning is undertaken.
- In 2020-21, \$50 million in combined operating and capital is allocated to the Oil Sands Monitoring Program to deliver ambient environmental monitoring within the oil sands area to enhance understanding of the cumulative effects of oil sands management, implementation of regional plan environmental management frameworks, and inform future regulatory decisions and plans. Oil Sands Monitoring Program development and implementation is a collaborative process inclusive of industry, Indigenous communities, federal and provincial governments, academic institutions, environmental non-government organizations and various monitoring agencies.
- In 2020-21, \$6 million is allocated to the Wetland Restoration Program to enable the Government of Alberta to collect wetland replacement fees and expend them on wetland restoration projects in priority areas.

- In 2020-21, \$147.2 million is allocated to Environment and Parks from funding that is derived from the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) system. The TIER system for Alberta’s large final emitters will protect the competitiveness of Alberta’s industry while achieving real emission reductions.
 - Emissions Management Programming: effective and practical investments in innovation and technology, and related emissions reduction programming will support further reductions.
 - Oil Sands Innovation Fund: partnerships with Alberta’s oil sands sector will support practical investments to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions at emission intensive facilities.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Percentage of provincially priced greenhouse gas emissions (*Environment and Climate Change Canada CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gas emissions results have an 18-month lag, therefore the most current last actual is 64 percent for 2017. The impact of the carbon tax on combustion of transportation and heating fuel emissions introduced in January 1, 2017 is demonstrated in the table below. The revised target of 63 per cent reflects the anticipated overall impact of discontinuing the Carbon Tax and replacing the Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation (CCIR) with the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) system on January 1, 2020. The pricing of greenhouse gas emissions through provincial legislation and regulation furthers responsible and sustainable economic development in Alberta by providing a financial incentive to lower greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.*)

Priced Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2017

With carbon tax	64%
Without carbon tax	48%

TARGETS

2020-21:	63%
2021-22:	63%
2022-23:	63%

2.b Performance Measure: Total greenhouse gas emissions in kilograms per MWh of electricity generated. (*Tracking Alberta’s electricity systems emissions intensity helps to determine how the industrial emissions pathway is being altered as a result of policy and legislation, in particular, the pricing of carbon from large industrial emitters. Environment and Climate Change Canada CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gas emissions results have an 18-month reporting lag.*)

The last actual was 750 kilograms per MWh of electricity generated and reflects 2017 preliminary data.

TARGETS

2020-21:	Decreasing
2021-22:	Decreasing
2022-23:	Decreasing

2.c Performance Measure: Total greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes per cubic meter of oil sands production. (*The oil sands represent a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions in Alberta. Tracking oil sands emissions intensity helps to assess the effectiveness of climate change policy and legislation. Government of Alberta CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gas emissions intensity results have an 18-month reporting lag.*)
In 2017, last actuals were 0.425 for in-situ, 0.470 for oil sands mining with integrated upgraders and 0.268 for stand alone oil sands mines.

TARGETS	In-situ	Oil sands mining with integrated upgraders	Stand alone oil sands mines
2020-21 Target:	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing
2021-22 Target:	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing
2022-23 Target:	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing

2.d Performance Indicator: Megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per \$1000 GDP produced by large industry. *(Environment and Climate Change Canada's CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gas emissions results have an 18-month reporting lag.)*

Actuals	2017
Oil and gas emissions intensity	1.57
Electricity emissions intensity	15.70
Heavy industry emissions intensity	1.85

2.e Performance Indicator: Total million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions *(Environment and Climate Change Canada's CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gas emissions results have an 18-month reporting lag.)*

	2015	2016	2017
Actuals	275	264	273

Outcome 3

What We Want To Achieve

Public Well-being

Alberta's natural environments offer educational and recreational experiences that positively contribute to human health and quality of life. These same experiences contribute to a diversified economy through sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities. The ministry provides Albertans, and visitors, opportunities to explore natural landscapes, engage in nature-based experiences or outdoor recreational activities, and learn about Alberta's natural heritage through access to Alberta Parks, urban parks, public lands, issuing licences and certificates, and providing educational, interpretative and experiential programs and services. The ministry works with Albertans and associated agencies, including Indigenous populations, to integrate environmental stewardship with recreational access and conservation while providing appropriate and sustainable recreational opportunities.

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Improve recreational access management through effective public lands management, introducing an Alberta Trails Act and establishing a trail fee to restore and create trails.
- 3.2 Local and issue-based land use planning ensures all Albertans can enjoy and appreciate parks and public lands, including through creation of the capital region Big Island Provincial Park and development of a public lands backcountry outdoor recreation, education and management plan.
- 3.3 Engagement and consultations with stakeholders and the public maintains or improves operations and visitor enjoyment of Alberta Parks and public lands.

- 3.4 Continue revitalizing angling in Alberta by enhancing fisheries management through increased stocking programs, stewardship and public engagement and increased recreational fish harvest opportunities.
- 3.5 Renew focus on game species management, increased hunting opportunities, engagement with hunters, addressing human-wildlife conflicts and species at risk conservation efforts, including woodland caribou, native trout and wood bison.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2020-21, \$52.1 million in combined operating and capital funding is allocated for various capital programs to refurbish and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities on Crown land, including funds to plan refurbish, repair and maintain natural features and buildings. Funds are also allocated for specific regions to enhance infrastructure in South Saskatchewan Regional Plan Implementation, Lower Athabasca Regional Plan Implementation, Castle Provincial Park and Big Island Provincial Park.
- In 2020-21, \$47.5 million is allocated to Alberta Parks operations and visitor services to support opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism. Over the coming years, Alberta Parks envisions a system managed by many partners and will seek to increase partnerships with municipalities, Indigenous communities and non-profit societies to assist with provision of park operations and quality visitor experiences. This will allow for focused spending in high value areas (conservation, recreation, tourism) of the parks system and improved leveraging of resources.
- In 2020-21, \$8.2 million is allocated to the provincial fish stocking program through capital investment in four government facilities to increase available trout numbers and species for stocking in select Alberta lakes. Modernization of the Cold Lake Fish Hatchery, through energy efficiency and improved fish production, will lead to lasting operational cost savings. Alternative species such as Walleye or other species will be explored as options to diversify the fish stocking program and to provide more angler recreational opportunities based on public consultation and feedback.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Percentage of Albertans who purchased a hunting wildlife certificate.

(Environment and Parks issues hunting wildlife certificates and sportfishing fishing licences to provide Albertans opportunities to participate in nature-based recreational activities. Monitoring certificate and licence sales helps assess the success of maintaining hunting and fishing at sustainable levels.)

The last actual was 2.88 percent (2018-19).

TARGETS

2020-21:	3.00%
2021-22:	3.00%
2022-23:	3.00%

3.b Performance Measure: Percentage of Albertans who purchased a Canadian sportfishing licence.

The last actual was 6.18 percent (2018-19).

TARGETS

2020-21:	7.00%
2021-22:	7.00%
2022-23:	7.00%

3.c Performance Measure: Percentage of Albertans that are satisfied with the quality of services and facilities of provincial parks or protected areas *(Alberta Parks manages land, facilities and services within the provincial parks and protected areas system to provide enjoyable visitor experiences, educational programs and recreational opportunities in nature. Measuring visitor satisfaction with the quality of facilities, campgrounds, day use areas and trails, as well as public education programs and tours, and reservation and public information services provides valuable feedback for future planning and continuous improvement.)*
The last actual was 87.2% percent (2018-19).

TARGETS

2020-21:	90.00%
2021-22:	90.00%
2022-23:	92.00%

3.d Performance Indicator: Percentage of Albertans who visited provincial parks or protected areas *(Alberta Parks visitation has shifted from a performance measure to a performance indicator as results are highly influenced by external factors and the ministry has limited contribution toward achieving performance metric results. In 2018-19, a new baseline was established, as results are not comparable to previous years due to survey question design changes. The use of provincial parks and protected areas maps, lists of locations, and search features were added to the visitation question in an online survey to aid in respondent location recall and brand recognition. This improved methodology discovered visitation was 63.4 percent (last actual) not 34.5 percent as reported under the old methodology in the ministry's 2018-19 Annual Report.)*

2018-19

Actual	63.4%
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Outcome 4

What We Want To Achieve

Public health and safety from environmental conditions and events

Albertans and visitors want to be safe when they live, work and play in Alberta’s outdoors. Environment and Parks works with other ministries and agencies to protect Albertans from the adverse effects of environmental conditions and events and maintains access to safe drinking water and maintenance of dams and related water infrastructure. The ministry also works collaboratively with communities and municipalities to effectively respond to emergencies and strengthen environmental resilience and adaptation through infrastructure changes and development of comprehensive response plans and programs.

Key Objectives

- 4.1 Impact of environmental conditions and events including floods, droughts and invasive species are anticipated, responded to and mitigated.
- 4.2 Visitors to Alberta's parks, protected areas and other public lands have a safe and pleasant experience.
- 4.3 Environment and Parks regulated drinking water systems provide high quality potable water to Albertans; federal initiatives to meet the drinking water needs of Indigenous communities are supported through Environment and Parks programs such as the Operator Certification program.

- 4.4 Alberta Government owned or operated water management and monitoring infrastructure is safe and effective.
- 4.5 Albertans are resilient to environmental impacts through increased awareness, skills and capacity for adaptation.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2020-21, \$16.9 million is allocated to conservation officers and Alberta Environment and Parks Support and Emergency Response Team (ASERT) to ensure effective holistic emergency response, public safety, security and lawful use of Alberta Crown lands through the Alberta’s Conservation Officer and seasonal Park Rangers programs, and ASERT.
- In 2020-21, \$19.4 million is allocated to water management infrastructure operations. The department operates and maintains approximately \$9 billion of provincially owned water management infrastructure that contributes to managing multi-purpose water supply in the face of potentially adverse impacts from flood and drought conditions. As the single largest dam owner in the province, the department ensures compliance with Dam and Canal Safety Regulations and mitigates infrastructure risk related to public safety, environmental impacts and economic losses.
- In 2020-21, \$2 million is allocated to undertake a feasibility study of the three reservoir options within the Bow Reservoir Water Management Project. The study consisting of stakeholder and First Nation engagement, site investigation, geotechnical investigation and a drilling program will identify a preferred site for future dam development consideration.
- In 2020-21, \$0.2 million is allocated as part of a predictable multi-year grant for Avalanche Canada to keep Albertans safe by developing knowledge and understanding of avalanches, promoting industry standards in avalanche country, and providing high quality information and education to backcountry users.

Performance Metrics

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

(Water management infrastructure status is based on an aggregate assessment of physical condition, functional adequacy, utilization and consequence of failure, measured in current year replacement value dollars.

Good: Infrastructure requiring normal maintenance or operations, rated low or medium priority for rehabilitation and replacement.

Fair: Infrastructure requiring above normal maintenance and/or modified operations, rated elevated priority for rehabilitation or replacement.

Poor: Infrastructure requiring significantly above normal maintenance and/or significantly modified operations, rated high priority for rehabilitation or replacement with an action plan for implementation.

Environment and Parks is responsible for maintaining provincially owned water management infrastructure that contributes to managing water supply and adverse impacts of flood and drought. The maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure ensures that the physical condition, functional adequacy and utilization of infrastructure to meet service levels and standards. Consequences of infrastructure failure is factored into assessments to manage risks related to public safety, environmental impacts and economic losses.)

In 2018-19, last actuals were 76.2 percent of water management infrastructure was in good status, 18.7 percent was in fair status and 5.1 percent was in poor status.

TARGETS

	Good	Fair	Poor
2020-21:	N/A	≤20.0%	≤5.0%
2021-22:	N/A	≤20.0%	≤5.0%
2022-23:	N/A	≤20.0%	≤5.0%

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable			2020-21 Estimate	2021-22 Target	2022-23 Target
	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Transfers of Assets or Liabilities from Related Parties	127,074	35,011	35,011	31,582	29,132	29,132
Transfers from Government of Canada	4,610	34,408	34,495	23,253	34,697	6,057
Investment Income	12,547	11,554	10,567	9,067	8,035	6,971
Premiums, Fees and Licences	147,424	118,142	116,759	123,340	123,067	125,459
Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Fund	517,835	546,000	476,000	413,000	456,000	479,000
Other Revenue	89,653	78,208	82,583	97,457	100,462	100,487
Ministry Total	899,143	823,323	755,415	697,699	751,393	747,106
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(138,021)	(49,649)	(49,649)	(43,446)	(40,996)	(40,996)
Consolidated Total	761,122	773,674	705,766	654,253	710,397	706,110
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	27,061	25,728	24,728	22,750	22,782	22,682
Air	21,613	20,011	20,011	19,345	19,345	19,345
Land	65,211	64,618	64,907	59,698	64,250	64,612
Water	107,281	129,882	127,770	146,960	127,030	113,916
Fish and Wildlife	42,731	38,473	38,194	61,114	65,028	65,794
Integrated Planning	51,216	31,100	31,100	30,720	30,713	30,713
Parks	110,281	112,140	113,472	112,483	107,666	108,113
Land Use Secretariat	6,080	5,232	5,232	5,174	5,169	5,169
Science and Monitoring	77,476	73,777	72,670	72,487	73,485	73,485
Emissions Management	238,720	231,226	190,965	147,173	156,043	153,330
Quasi-Judicial Bodies	14,223	7,154	16,946	7,129	7,129	7,126
2013 Alberta Flooding	10,327	1,100	-	401	-	-
Ministry Total	772,220	740,441	705,995	685,434	678,640	664,285
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(24,246)	(15,983)	(15,983)	(13,209)	(13,209)	(13,209)
Consolidated Total	747,974	724,458	690,012	672,225	665,431	651,076
Net Operating Result	13,148	49,216	15,754	(17,972)	44,966	55,034
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	112	3,295	3,295	2,875	425	425
Air	12	-	-	-	-	-
Land	5,899	6,342	6,342	5,602	5,602	5,602
Water	263	32,284	32,284	31,132	36,132	35,132
Fish and Wildlife	6,422	19,379	13,932	13,186	20,987	10,437
Integrated Planning	501	-	-	-	-	-
Parks	37,243	43,306	43,306	42,932	40,932	25,482
Science and Monitoring	2,745	2,248	2,655	3,107	2,300	1,900
Quasi-Judicial Bodies	-	17	17	17	17	17
2013 Alberta Flooding	4,658	1,378	2,077	-	-	-
Ministry Total	57,855	108,249	103,908	98,851	106,395	78,995
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	-	(35,011)	(35,011)	(31,582)	(29,132)	(29,132)
Consolidated Total	57,855	73,238	68,897	67,269	77,263	49,863