

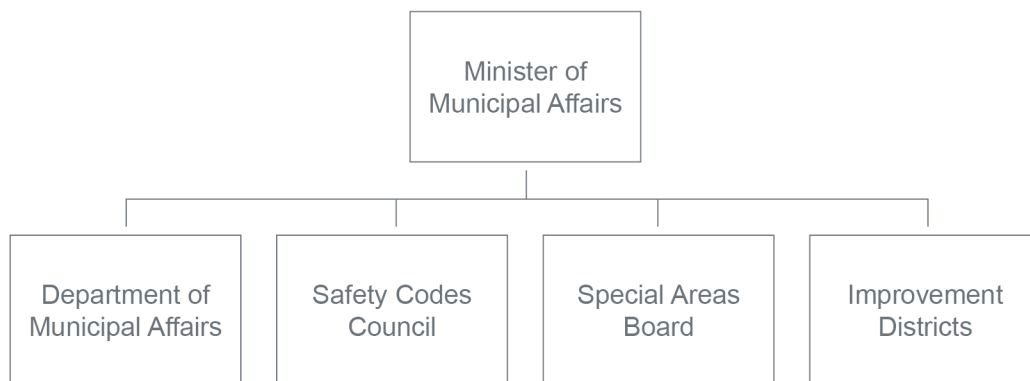
Municipal Affairs

Business Plan 2019–23

Ministry Mandate and Structure

Municipal Affairs assists municipalities in providing well-managed local government to Albertans, including administering municipal grant programs and the preparation of designated industrial property and equalized assessments, managing public land and providing municipal services in the province’s three Special Areas, and providing limited administrative services to seven improvement districts. The ministry manages the network of municipal and library system boards that provides province-wide access to public library services for all Albertans. Municipal Affairs also works to enable local governments to facilitate Alberta’s economic prosperity. The ministry also administers the public safety system that helps ensure that the construction and maintenance of buildings and equipment meet appropriate safety standards. Municipal Affairs leads the co-ordination, collaboration, and co-operation of all organizations involved in the prevention, preparedness, response to and recovery from disasters and emergencies in the province. The ministry’s independent and impartial quasi-judicial boards provide fair and timely decisions on assessment, compensation, and land planning matters.

The ministry consists of the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Safety Codes Council. The ministry also includes the Special Areas Board and seven improvement districts, which are accountable to the minister.



A more detailed description of Municipal Affairs and its programs and initiatives can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-affairs.aspx>.

Ministry Outcomes

- Albertans live in viable municipalities and communities with fiscally responsible, collaborative, and accountable local governments
- Alberta’s economic prosperity is facilitated by local governments
- Albertans are protected with safe buildings, homes, and communities
- Alberta is emergency ready and resilient
- Albertans receive fair, timely, and well-reasoned decisions from the ministry’s quasi-judicial boards

Outcome 1

What We Want To Achieve

Albertans live in viable municipalities and communities with fiscally responsible, collaborative, and accountable local governments

The ministry supports the viability of municipalities by providing grants and other financial support, administering the Municipal Internship Program, providing training opportunities, conducting municipal reviews and inspections, and undertaking other advisory activities. The ministry also provides support through the Municipal Sustainability Strategy, which helps improve the long-term viability of municipalities across the province. Further, the ministry oversees the property assessment and taxation system, including the preparation of designated industrial property and the equalized assessment, which assists with the development of the province's education property tax. Through these actions, Municipal Affairs fosters capacity building, transparency, and accountability, which are essential elements for responsible local government. The ministry also supports communities across the province through enabling equitable access to library services for all Albertans.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Work with municipalities to strengthen regional planning and service delivery through a number of regional governance mechanisms, such as intermunicipal collaboration frameworks and growth management boards.
- 1.2 Support municipalities in continuing to strengthen municipal accountability and transparency through the Municipal Accountability Program, the municipal inspection process, and the introduction of a new annual Alberta Municipalities Measurement Index.
- 1.3 Work collaboratively with municipalities and industry to improve the consistency and efficiency of the property assessment system by completing the transition to the centralized model for designated industrial property assessment and modernizing the assessment models for regulated properties.
- 1.4 Work collaboratively with municipalities and municipal associations in continuing to offer and develop tools and programs to support well-managed, accountable, and sustainable municipalities.
- 1.5 Provide funding to municipalities to help them meet their strategic long-term infrastructure needs and review the fiscal framework for municipal capital funding.
- 1.6 Enhance Albertans' access to public library resources by continuing to provide operating grants to library boards and to continue to invest in the province-wide library network.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2019-20, \$670.8 million is allocated for the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). MSI is the province's primary capital grant program for municipalities, and supports vital local infrastructure such as roads, bridges, fire halls, water/wastewater systems, and recreation centres. The ministry will continue to support delivery of local projects under MSI through the program's planned conclusion in 2021-22.
- The Alberta Community Partnership provides targeted funding which focuses on regional collaboration and finding efficient and effective ways to deliver regional services, building capacity through municipal internships, resolving inter-municipal conflicts, and the exploration of regional governance. The 2019-20 budget is \$16.5 million.
- In 2019-20, \$37 million is allocated for Municipal Affairs to support public library services through: public library operating grants; support for SuperNet access in public libraries; interlibrary loan management and delivery; province-wide electronic content; improving access and eliminating barriers to library services for Indigenous people, print-disabled people, and Albertans living in rural and remote communities.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Measure: Percentage of municipalities deemed to not be at risk based on financial and governance risk indicators

This measure includes a “percentage achievement” target that commits to a high standard of expected performance at the set rate of 90 per cent. The 2018-19 actual results (for 2017) were 93 per cent.

TARGETS

2019-20 (2018):	90%
2020-21 (2019):	90%
2021-22 (2020):	90%
2022-23 (2021):	90%

Outcome 2

What We Want To Achieve

Alberta’s economic prosperity is facilitated by local governments

Municipal Affairs and the province’s local governments are well-positioned to help deliver on the Government of Alberta’s plan to reignite the economy, support job creators, and get Albertans working again.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Streamline regulatory requirements in municipal legislation and regulation that are hampering administrative efficiencies for municipalities. The proposed amendments will allow municipalities to be more responsive to the needs of their residents and businesses.
- 2.2 Enable municipalities to foster economic growth by ensuring they have the tools to do so, including facilitating pre-approved industrial zones and allowing municipalities to offer multi-year property tax incentives.
- 2.3 Develop and deliver on a red tape reduction plan to make sure the ministry’s current and new regulations are free of unnecessary red tape, as required by the *Red Tape Reduction Act*.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In advance of an assessment model review that is expected to reduce assessed values of shallow gas wells next year, the ministry is supporting municipalities to reduce 2019 property taxes on shallow gas wells and related pipelines by 35 per cent, which will be offset with an education tax credit. This will provide urgently needed short-term relief to this sector, which supports jobs and investment in Alberta communities, and costs \$23 million.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Number of regulatory requirements reduced across the ministry

Municipal Affairs is reviewing all statutes, regulations, and associated policies, forms, and guides to establish a baseline count for the number of regulatory requirements that require citizens and/or businesses and/or government to complete an action in order to comply with statutes and regulation, or access government services. Once a baseline count is validated, targets will be established and the ministry will set about to eliminate unnecessary regulatory burdens. This is a new measure and initial results are expected in spring 2020 and will be reported in the ministry’s 2019-20 Annual Report.

TARGETS

2019-20:	N/A
2020-21:	N/A
2021-22:	N/A
2022-23:	N/A

Outcome 3

What We Want To Achieve

Albertans are protected with safe buildings, homes, and communities

In order to help ensure Albertans are safe in their homes and communities, the ministry oversees a safety system that includes administration of the *Safety Codes Act*, the development and implementation of modern safety codes, and support for local delivery of fire and rescue services. Municipal Affairs also administers the *New Home Buyer Protection Act*, which requires that all new homes built in Alberta are protected under warranty and all new home construction is performed by a licensed homebuilder.

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Align the safety codes system to a quality assurance framework that enables partners to act autonomously while holding them accountable.
- 3.2 Represent Alberta and its interests during the development of national and international codes for potential adoption in Alberta.
- 3.3 Reduce provincial trade barriers in safety codes.
- 3.4 Hold residential builders accountable to construction standards for quality and code compliance.
- 3.5 Lower regulatory costs on new housing.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2019-20, \$3.3 million is allocated for the Residential Protection Program, which includes processing builder license applications and renewals, administering a publicly accessible online registry of new residential homes covered under the warranty requirements, and promoting and enforcing the legislated requirements.

Performance Metrics

- 3.a Performance Measure: Number of injuries and fatalities caused by structural or mechanical failure of buildings and associated systems per 100,000 population in Alberta** *(The 2018-19 results are not yet available; however, the ministry will target to provide results as part of the 2020-23 business plan.)*

TARGETS

2019-20:	0.91
2020-21:	0.87
2021-22:	0.82
2022-23:	0.78

3.b Performance Indicator: Number of injuries and fatalities involving buildings or associated systems not caused by structural or mechanical failure per 100,000 population in Alberta *(The 2018-19 results are not yet available; however, the ministry will target to provide results as part of the 2020-23 business plan.)*

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Actuals	6.03	6.59	6.15	5.43

3.c Performance Indicator: Number of fire reports not caused by structural or mechanical failure of buildings and associated systems, per 100,000 population in Alberta *(2016 actuals includes the Fort McMurray wildfires. When the wildfires are excluded, the number of fire reports per 100,000 population in 2016 is 100.54. The 2018-19 results are not yet available; however, the ministry will target to provide results as part of the 2020-23 business plan.)*

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Actuals	116.74	124.09	399.61	96.61

Outcome 4

What We Want To Achieve

Alberta is emergency ready and resilient

To help Alberta’s municipalities and communities better manage emergencies and disasters, the ministry provides a range of supports. Through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, the ministry provides strategic policy advice and leadership to emergency management partners, and maintains and staffs the Provincial Operations Centre to co-ordinate the Government of Alberta’s response to emergencies and disasters. The ministry also helps Albertans and communities recover after disasters by providing financial assistance, expert recovery advice, and co-ordinating resources across the Government of Alberta ministries and recovery stakeholders.

Key Objectives

- 4.1 Work with and support communities in implementing recent changes to the emergency management legislative framework to improve emergency preparedness at the community-level.
- 4.2 Improve Alberta’s emergency preparedness and response capability through regional incident management teams.
- 4.3 Improve community and individual-level disaster resilience by providing on-line and in-person emergency management training to municipalities and through public awareness campaigns.
- 4.4 Assist communities and Albertans to recover from disasters by administering disaster financial assistance, providing disaster recovery co-ordination, and co-ordinating Government of Alberta disaster expenditures.
- 4.5 Improve resilience within the Government of Alberta by strengthening the current business continuity and consequence management programs and by leading in the development of a provincial hazard and risk assessment and disaster resilience strategy.
- 4.6 Ensure Albertans have access to 911 and emergency public alerting services that are technologically current and agile.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Municipal Affairs makes the Alberta Emergency Alert available to municipal, federal, and provincial users, enabling emergency notifications to be sent to Albertans. In 2019-20, \$0.35 million is budgeted for this program.
- Municipalities and Government of Alberta departments are supported through the 2019 Northwest Alberta Wildfire Disaster Recovery Program, as well as funding provided to municipalities and residents impacted by other extraordinary flooding events in 2019. In 2019-20, \$150.8 million is budgeted primarily for 2018 and 2019 events (wildfires and floods).
- In 2019-20, \$17 million will be provided to 911 call centres to support the services they provide to Albertans who need emergency assistance.

Performance Metrics

4.a Performance Measure: Percentage of communities (municipalities, First Nations, and Metis Settlements) that have been visited by an Alberta Emergency Management Agency field officer and had their Community Emergency Management Plan reviewed annually

This measure includes a “percentage achievement” target that commits to a high standard of expected performance at the set rate of 90 per cent. Field officer capacity is impacted by the unpredictability around the type, frequency, and severity of extraordinary disaster events. The 2018-19 actual results were 93 per cent.

TARGETS

2019-20:	90%
2020-21:	90%
2021-22:	90%
2022-23:	90%

4.b Performance Measure: Percentage of residential disaster financial assistance files that have received 90 per cent of its estimated funding within 90 days of being determined eligible for disaster financial assistance

This measure includes a “percentage achievement” target that commits to a high standard of expected performance at the set rate of 90 per cent, taking into account the unpredictability around the type, frequency, and severity of extraordinary disaster events. Other factors that add the variability in performance are the volume and complexity of individual disaster financial assistance applications received. The 2018-19 actual results were 94 per cent.

TARGETS

2019-20:	90%
2020-21:	90%
2021-22:	90%
2022-23:	90%

Outcome 5

What We Want To Achieve

Albertans receive fair, timely, and well-reasoned decisions from the ministry’s quasi-judicial boards

The Municipal Government Board, New Home Buyer Protection Board, Surface Rights Board, and Land Compensation Board deliver fair and impartial quasi-judicial dispute resolution processes for assessment, compensation, land planning, and other matters that impact Albertans and the municipalities in which they live.

Key Objectives

- 5.1 Deliver an efficient and impartial appeals process for land planning, compensation, assessment, and other matters referred to the Boards.
- 5.2 Assist parties with resolving their disputes by providing effective alternative dispute resolution and mediation services.
- 5.3 Provide certification training and support to municipal Assessment Review Boards.
- 5.4 Strengthen the rights of landowners and operators to fair and timely decisions on surface rights matters by streamlining internal processes and reducing timelines for issuing decisions.
- 5.5 Legislatively amalgamate the Municipal Government Board, the New Home Buyer Protection Board, the Surface Rights Board, and the Land Compensation Board into a single board, to further reduce duplication and ensure efficiency.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2019-20, \$0.8 million will be provided to support Municipal Assessment Review Boards across Alberta, providing board members to preside over composite assessment review board hearings.

Performance Metrics

5.a Performance Measure: Percentage of parties to Municipal Government Board appeals who are satisfied or neutral regarding the Board’s performance of services in support of planning, annexation, designated industrial property, and equalized assessment appeals

The 2018-19 actual results were 89 per cent.

TARGETS

2019-20:	88%
2020-21:	88%
2021-22:	88%
2022-23:	88%

5.b Performance Indicator: Percentage satisfied or neutral regarding Municipal Government Board support to Municipal Composite Assessment Review Boards

The 2018-19 actual results were 96 per cent.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Actuals	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable		2019-20 Estimate	2020-21 Target	2021-22 Target	2022-23 Target
	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 Actual				
REVENUE						
Transfers from Government of Canada						
Federal Gas Tax Fund	229,516	228,827	476,544	244,029	255,121	255,121
Disaster Assistance	-	31,129	-	-	-	-
Other	8,400	8,494	5,000	-	-	-
Investment Income	150	495	475	475	475	475
Premiums, Fees and Licences	32,829	38,496	37,974	38,844	39,040	39,336
Other Revenue	17,320	74,643	15,045	17,246	16,411	16,324
Consolidated Total	288,215	382,084	535,038	300,594	311,047	311,256
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	9,214	8,211	8,425	8,224	8,224	8,224
Municipal Services and Legislation	11,670	9,364	9,980	9,636	9,636	9,636
Municipal Assessments and Grant Administration	28,496	26,696	25,645	27,108	26,273	26,186
Municipal Sustainability Initiative	668,000	663,852	670,773	993,000	927,200	-
Local Government Fiscal Framework	-	-	-	-	-	890,000
Federal Grant Programs	246,316	245,815	486,544	244,029	255,121	255,121
Grants in Place of Taxes	58,662	53,486	44,554	30,197	30,025	30,025
Alberta Community Partnership	18,500	21,371	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Public Safety	17,105	14,550	15,439	14,892	14,942	15,010
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	33,011	115,195	65,214	33,144	33,144	33,144
Quasi-Judicial Boards	7,204	6,503	6,204	6,231	6,231	6,231
Library Services	36,954	38,071	37,070	37,062	37,062	37,062
2016 Wood Buffalo Wildfire	1,063	935	873	-	-	-
Municipal Cannabis Transition Program	-	11,150	-	-	-	-
2019 Northwest Alberta Wildfires	-	-	118,360	-	-	-
Safety Codes Council	10,821	14,713	15,184	15,192	15,255	15,255
Ministry Total	1,147,016	1,229,912	1,520,765	1,435,215	1,379,613	1,342,394
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	-	(218)	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	1,147,016	1,229,694	1,520,765	1,435,215	1,379,613	1,342,394
Net Operating Result	(858,801)	(847,610)	(985,727)	(1,134,621)	(1,068,566)	(1,031,138)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Municipal Assessments and Grant Administration	3,000	213	1,787	7,413	2,000	2,200
Public Safety	911	1,209	-	-	-	-
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	2,000	1,512	2,317	800	-	-
Safety Codes Council	1,318	2,336	305	625	1,000	1,000
Consolidated Total	7,229	5,270	4,409	8,838	3,000	3,200