

BUDGET 2022

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2022-25

Ministry Business Plan Municipal Affairs

Municipal Affairs

Business Plan 2022-25

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

Municipal Affairs supports municipalities in providing well-managed, accountable local government to Albertans. This includes administering municipal grant programs; providing advisory and capacity-building supports; managing public land and providing municipal services in the province's three Special Areas; and providing limited administrative services to six improvement districts. The ministry continues to support municipalities, as they play a significant role in creating local economic conditions that shape Alberta's vibrant communities. Municipal Affairs and local governments are working together to:

- reduce provincial and municipal red tape to enable a culture of innovation;
- remove unnecessary barriers for industry and commerce in municipalities; and
- make public services more accessible and efficient for Albertans.

The ministry works to enable local governments to facilitate Alberta's economic prosperity by:

- providing infrastructure funding to support strategic investment in local projects that both stimulate economic recovery in the short-term and lay the foundations for long-term success;
- reducing red tape to streamline processes for local governments and businesses;
- providing grants for projects in support of provincial economic recovery initiatives; and
- providing ongoing support, training and educational opportunities to facilitate well-managed municipalities.

Municipal Affairs supports the viability of municipalities through a variety of programs, including grants and other financial supports. The Municipal Sustainability Strategy helps improve the long-term viability of municipalities across the province through capacity building tools, targeted funding, and the viability review process. Further, the ministry oversees the property assessment and taxation system, including the preparation of designated industrial property and the equalized assessment, which forms the foundation for setting the province's education property tax. Additional ministry support includes administering the Municipal Internship Program, providing training opportunities, conducting municipal reviews and inspections, and undertaking other advisory activities. Through these actions, Municipal Affairs fosters capacity building, transparency, and accountability, which are essential elements for responsible local government. Ministry-administered grants include:

- the Municipal Sustainability Initiative, the province's primary capital grant program for municipalities;
- the Alberta Community Partnership, which provides targeted funding that focuses on regional collaboration; and
- federal programs, such as the Canada Community-Building Fund.

The ministry manages and provides financial support for the network of municipal library boards and regional library system boards that provide public library services for Albertans. Provincial support in the form of direct operating grants, as well as services such as SuperNet connectivity, e-content, and services to Indigenous populations enables equitable access to library services for all Albertans.

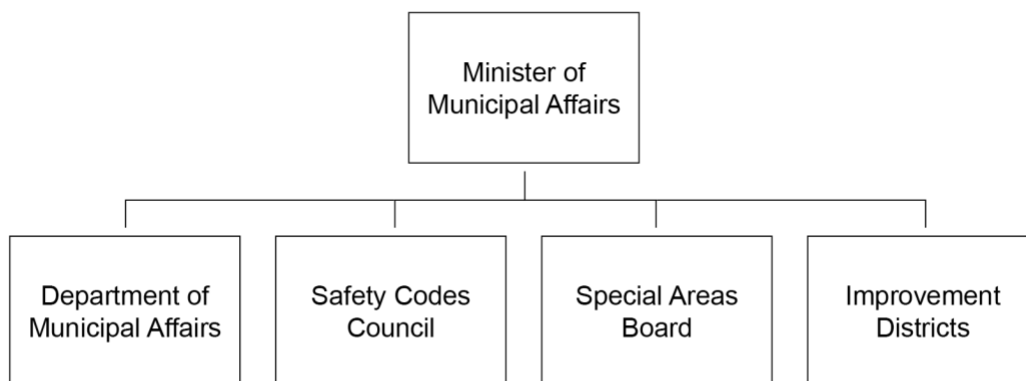
In order to help ensure Albertans are safe in their homes and communities, Municipal Affairs administers the safety codes system to:

- help ensure the construction and maintenance of buildings and equipment meet appropriate safety standards;
- ensure new homes built in Alberta are constructed by a licensed homebuilder and protected under warranty; and
- develop and implement modern safety codes.

Municipal Affairs leads the coordination, collaboration, and cooperation of all organizations involved in the prevention, preparedness, response to, and recovery from disasters and emergencies in the province. To help municipalities and communities better manage emergencies and disasters, the ministry provides a range of supports through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. These supports include:

- providing strategic policy advice and leadership to emergency management partners;
- maintaining and staffing the Provincial Operations Centre to coordinate the Government of Alberta’s response to emergencies and disasters;
- maintaining Alberta Emergency Alert, which alerts the public with critical life-saving information about ongoing disasters;
- providing quality, cost-effective, secure, and reliable land-radio mobile communications to all first responders in Alberta through the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System;
- improving community and individual disaster resilience through the development of public education materials, tools and programming to encourage disaster risk reduction behaviour;
- helping Albertans and communities recover from disasters by providing financial assistance, recovery advice, and coordinating resources across the Government of Alberta ministries and recovery stakeholders; and
- ensuring that Alberta’s 911 system is robust, agile, and adaptable to new technological requirements.

The ministry also supports the Land and Property Rights Tribunal. The tribunal delivers fair, impartial, and well-reasoned decisions and recommendations on a variety of planning and assessment matters, including designated industrial property assessment, commercial and multi-residential property assessment, subdivision appeals, development appeals, and annexations. The tribunal grants right of entry when operators require access to private land or occupied Crown land for the purposes of developing subsurface resources and decides compensation disputes involving right of entry, expropriation, and surface lease matters. The tribunal also provides parties with a dispute resolution process to help resolve their disputes prior to a formal hearing. Finally, the tribunal supports municipalities by providing certification training for board members and clerks of municipal Assessment Review Boards and Subdivision and Development Appeal Boards.



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

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

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs 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 protecting and supporting Albertans and job creators by reducing red tape by one-third by 2023, modernizing regulations, eliminating unnecessary regulatory requirements, and reducing administrative burden through more efficient processes including digital solutions.

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

Alberta’s local governments encourage and support economic prosperity

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Streamline regulatory requirements in municipal legislation for municipalities and industry in order to encourage economic growth and improve the efficiency and accountability of local government.
- 1.2 Work with municipalities to reduce municipal red tape and impediments to economic growth that may be a barrier to investment, to ensure that communities are well-positioned to support economic recovery.
- 1.3 Work with industry and municipal stakeholders to modernize the assessment models for regulated property.
- 1.4 Reduce ministry red tape, and work to increase the effectiveness of ministry programs and legislation.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Review regulations under the *Municipal Government Act*, with a focus on regulations relating to planning, development, and growth management.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Measure: Red tape reduced across the ministry

For 2020-21, the ministry reduced red tape by eliminating 25.3 per cent of its mandatory requirements, exceeding the 12 per cent target.

Targets	2022-23	33%	2023-24	Zero net increase	2024-25	Zero net increase
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Outcome 2

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

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Enhance municipal service delivery through regional cooperation and growth management boards.
- 2.2 Collaborate with municipalities and municipal associations to develop tools, programs, and training to support well-managed, accountable, and sustainable municipalities.
- 2.3 Provide capital grants to support sustainable investment in municipal infrastructure, operating grants, and work with municipal partners to develop details of the Local Government Fiscal Framework.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2022-23, \$485 million is budgeted for the Municipal Sustainability Initiative.
- In 2022-23, \$15.4 million is budgeted for the Alberta Community Partnership.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Percentage of municipalities who have met or exceeded the minimum performance targets for financial and governance risk indicators

Measures ability of municipalities to meet legislated obligations and serve their communities. The 2020-21 actual result (for 2019) of 94 per cent exceeded the target of 90 per cent.

Targets	2022-23	90%	2023-24	90%	2024-25	90%
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Outcome 3

Albertans are protected with safe buildings, homes, and communities

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Align the safety system to a quality assurance framework that increases partner autonomy and accountability.
- 3.2 Represent Alberta and its interests, including the reduction of trade barriers, during the development of national and international codes for potential adoption in Alberta.
- 3.3 Reduce red tape for home builders to lower the regulatory cost that has contributed to the increased price of new housing.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Work with the Safety Codes Council to implement a renewed provincial accreditation framework for accredited entities to facilitate more efficient approaches, such as risk-based inspections to best focus their resources.

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

Measures the overall safety of buildings and associated systems. The 2020-21 (2020) result was 0.59, below the target of 0.87. Targets re-established based on actual results.

Targets	2022-23	0.69	2023-24	0.65	2024-25	0.64
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Outcome 4

Alberta is emergency-ready and resilient to the impacts of disasters

Key Objectives

- 4.1 Work with and support Albertans and their communities as they manage the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.2 Lead the implementation of a provincial hazard identification and risk assessment framework to help inform disaster risk reduction decision-making.
- 4.3 Work with municipalities to deliver timely and fiscally responsible disaster recovery programs that help Albertans impacted by disaster.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2022-23, \$1.9 million is allocated to support the Provincial Operations Centre's disaster response and coordination activities, including the Alberta Emergency Alert system, and the 24/7 Watch station.

Performance Metrics

4.a Performance Measure: Percentage of communities visited by an Alberta Emergency Management Agency field officer and had their Community Emergency Management Plan reviewed annually

Measures the effectiveness of provincial oversight in reviewing local emergency plans, accounting for capacity issues from unpredictability of extraordinary disaster events. The 2020-21 actual results were 83 per cent, due to a reduction in visits because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exceeded the target of 80 per cent.

Targets	2022-23	90%	2023-24	90%	2024-25	90%
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STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2022-23 Estimate	2023-24 Target	2024-25 Target
	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Transfers from Government of Canada						
Canada Community-Building Fund	244,029	255,121	502,024	255,121	266,214	266,214
Disaster Assistance	36,772	-	17,900	-	-	-
Other	144	40,099	22,702	37,957	17,521	4,539
Premiums, Fees and Licences	36,084	38,554	51,357	62,778	63,251	63,622
Investment Income	582	250	267	319	301	284
Other Revenue	128,335	26,000	27,237	26,200	26,200	25,900
Ministry Total	445,946	360,024	621,487	382,375	373,487	360,559
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(32,276)	-	(1,231)	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	413,670	360,024	620,256	382,375	373,487	360,559
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	4,293	5,441	5,441	5,411	5,411	5,411
Municipal Services	43,821	46,060	46,060	45,970	45,970	45,970
Municipal Assessments and Grants	21,831	25,982	26,094	26,182	26,182	25,882
Municipal Sustainability Initiative	1,000,000	1,226,000	1,226,000	515,000	515,000	-
Local Government Fiscal Framework	-	-	-	-	-	752,000
Federal Grant Programs	820,431	295,218	524,724	293,075	284,377	270,750
Grants in Place of Taxes	28,874	30,025	30,025	30,025	30,025	30,025
Alberta Community Partnership	10,250	25,400	26,626	15,400	15,400	15,400
Technical and Corporate Services	13,946	14,757	14,757	14,667	14,449	14,302
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	308,887	110,583	178,885	102,002	102,252	102,752
Land and Property Rights Tribunal	6,907	6,963	6,963	6,920	6,920	6,920
2016 Wood Buffalo Wildfire	287	-	-	-	-	-
Municipal Stimulus Program	499,115	-	-	-	-	-
Safety Codes Council	13,519	14,716	13,950	15,095	15,276	15,464
Ministry Total	2,772,161	1,801,145	2,099,525	1,069,747	1,061,262	1,284,876
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(2)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	2,772,159	1,801,145	2,099,525	1,069,747	1,061,262	1,284,876
Net Operating Result	(2,358,489)	(1,441,121)	(1,479,269)	(687,372)	(687,775)	(924,317)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	6	-	-	-	-	-
Municipal Assessments and Grants	1,387	4,071	6,621	709	600	550
Alberta Emergency Management Agency	2,113	5,117	7,869	2,300	2,300	2,300
Safety Codes Council	823	375	195	170	170	168
Consolidated Total	4,329	9,563	14,685	3,179	3,070	3,018