

Executive Council

BUSINESS PLAN 2015–18

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of October 15, 2015.

original signed by

Rachel Notley, Premier

THE MINISTRY

The ministry consists of the Department of Executive Council.

The Department of Executive Council supports the premier, Cabinet and other government departments by providing the information and advice necessary for effective policy development and decision-making as well as the dissemination and promotion of policy decisions and initiatives to Albertans and the broader community. Expected outcomes are achieved by:

- supporting long-term strategic planning and policy coordination for government and promotion of cross-ministry coordination of strategic priorities;
- organizing and coordinating the planning and policy meetings that take place within the decision-making process of government and record-keeping of those decisions;
- providing informed advice based on e-scanning, trend analysis and tracking that assists and supports policy development, strategic priorities and decision-making;
- providing advice and support to the premier regarding government operations and the structure and functions of government and its agencies, boards and commissions;
- leading the coordination of Alberta's policies and activities as they relate to other governments within Canada;
- helping ministries communicate and engage with Albertans and tell Alberta's story around the world;
- providing strategic planning coordination and executing state, official, working and private visits to Alberta for international visitors wanting to meet with Government of Alberta officials; and
- providing leadership to the Alberta Public Service.

A more detailed description of Executive Council and its programs and initiatives is available at www.alberta.ca/executive-council.cfm.

LINK TO GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The desired outcomes and priority initiatives identified in this business plan are aligned with the strategic direction of the Government of Alberta.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

As oil prices have dropped since 2014, Alberta's challenges have become clear: the province's over-reliance on a single commodity; the vulnerability of jobs and public programs to unstable revenues; and the need to better protect the environment while Alberta's population and economy grow.

Alberta's government is moving forward with action to cushion the impact of the downturn on Albertans and build a better future. It is moving to protect jobs and the front-line services Albertans depend on, such as public health care and education; to develop a fairer, more balanced revenue base that will bring stability to public programs; and to foster the growth of a sustainable and diversified economy, whose benefits are widely shared among all Albertans.

Executive Council provides support to the development and advancement of policy and legislative agendas. It provides operations support to Cabinet committees and communications support for informing and engaging Albertans. The ministry is also responsible for provincial ceremonies including the Speech from the Throne, swearing-in ceremonies of Lieutenant Governors, premiers and Cabinet members and state funerals/memorials.

DESIRED OUTCOMES, PRIORITY INITIATIVES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Desired Outcome One: The government's agenda and decision-making are supported and implemented

The premier and Cabinet require objective, comprehensive and coordinated information and support to make decisions. The ministry supports government decision-making by providing advice and guidance on policy and legislative-related issues as well as the development of Cabinet committee agendas.

Executive Council supports departments and public agencies in understanding expectations related to leadership and governance.

Official visits by heads of state or government, ambassadors and high commissioners and national ministers to Alberta provide an opportunity to develop new markets while showcasing the province to those visitors. The ministry supports this work in leading the planning and execution of these visits.

Priority Initiatives:

- 1.1 Provide advice to the premier and Cabinet on the government's policy and legislative priorities to ensure that the government has the best information to implement its agenda.
- 1.2 Provide guidance to ministries to advance policy and legislative proposals that are aligned with addressing priority areas identified by the government.
- 1.3 Support the activities of decision-making bodies and coordinate the policy agenda with Cabinet and its committees.
- 1.4 Provide support and guidance in ensuring a fair and transparent process for recruitment and appointment to public agencies and provide advice on best practices for governance in accordance with the *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act* through the Agency Governance and Appointment Secretariat.
- 1.5 Provide advice and support to the secretary to Cabinet, clerk of Executive Council and deputy minister and associate deputy minister of Executive Council, the premier's chief of staff and the premier on government operations and the structure and function of ministries.
- 1.6 Lead the development of key visits linked to the government's international priorities.

Performance Measure(s)

Performance measure(s) that reflect progress toward achieving outcome one are under development.

Desired Outcome Two: 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 with its partners, clients and stakeholders to develop intergovernmental strategies on issues of importance to Albertans to address challenges and capitalize on new 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. It partners with ministries across government to support effective engagement at intergovernmental meetings on priority issues. The ministry also reviews and approves all intergovernmental agreements to ensure they are consistent with the constitutional obligations and intergovernmental objectives of the Government of Alberta.

Priority Initiatives:

- 2.1 Advance Alberta's interests through a collaborative and principled approach to intergovernmental relations.
- 2.2 Build strong relations with other provincial and territorial governments and the federal government, advocating for Alberta's interests on issues of importance to Albertans.
- 2.3 Provide intelligence, policy advice, strategic analysis and support to the premier and other elected officials to advance Alberta's interests within Canada.
- 2.4 In collaboration with other ministries, define intergovernmental strategies that ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to economic, resource, environmental, social and fiscal policies as they relate to other jurisdictions within Canada.
- 2.5 In collaboration with other ministries, complete timely and consistent reviews and approvals of intergovernmental agreements.

Performance Measure(s)

Performance measure(s) that reflect progress toward achieving outcome two are under development.

Desired Outcome Three: Albertans receive clear and coordinated government communications

Albertans need comprehensive, consistent and coordinated information to engage in two-way communication with their government about programs and services that matter most to them. To achieve this, government communications will be aligned to support ministry communication goals, facilitate the development and implementation of cross-government communication programs and initiatives, efficiently and effectively deliver core communications services and enable the implementation of best practices in communications and governance across government. The delivery of innovative and effective communications will better connect Albertans with the government's initiatives and policy direction.

Priority Initiatives:

- 3.1 Ensure coordinated and effective two-way communication and engagement with Albertans by supporting the development and implementation of strategic communications plans related to departmental priorities and facilitating the development and implementation of cross-government communication programs and initiatives.
- 3.2 Enhance communications with Albertans, other Canadians and the rest of the world by incorporating new technologies, based on emerging trends, and engaging with Albertans to facilitate their feedback on policies and programs.
- 3.3 Efficiently and effectively deliver core government information services, including advertising, corporate products, media planning, research and the government website.
- 3.4 Provide crisis communications coordination and support in times of emergency.

Performance Measure(s)

Performance measure(s) that reflect progress toward achieving outcome three are under development.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
Consolidated Financial Statements Basis

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable			
	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Estimate	2016-17 Target	2017-18 Target
REVENUE				
Premiums, Fees and Licences	2	-	-	-
Other Revenue	42	-	-	-
Total	44	-	-	-
EXPENSE				
Office of the Premier / Executive Council	12,434	14,785	14,785	14,785
Intergovernmental Relations	3,745	3,473	3,473	3,473
Public Affairs	6,474	6,815	6,815	6,815
Total ¹	22,653	25,073	25,073	25,073
Net Operating Result	(22,609)	(25,073)	(25,073)	(25,073)

Note:

¹ The 2015-16 Estimate of \$25.1 million is \$2.1 million less than the comparable 2014-15 Budget of \$27.2 million.