

BUSINESS PLAN 2016–19

Executive Council

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of March 17, 2016.

original signed by

Rachel Notley, Premier

MINISTRY OVERVIEW

The ministry consists of the Department of Executive Council.

The Department of Executive Council supports the premier, Cabinet and government ministries in implementing and communicating the government's agenda and ensures Alberta's interests are advanced across Canada and internationally.

To support the implementation and communication of the government's agenda, Executive Council:

- provides leadership to the Alberta Public Service and government departments;
- supports long-term strategic planning and policy coordination for government;
- supports the decision-making process of government;
- helps ministries communicate with and engage Albertans;
- leads the interactions and partnerships with other governments within Canada; and
- plans and coordinates state, official and working visits to the Alberta government.

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

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The outcomes and key strategies identified in this business plan are aligned with the strategic direction of the Government of Alberta.

Alberta faces very challenging times. The drop in global oil prices has had a direct and significant impact on Alberta's overall economy, affecting businesses, jobs and families, as well as provincial revenues available to government. World markets have changed and Alberta needs to proactively respond to this new reality.

The immediate focus for this government is to help families in need; to provide stability to health care, education and other services Albertans rely on. Government will stimulate and support economic growth through enhanced access to capital and direct investment in infrastructure and building much needed schools, roads, transit and other facilities to help keep Albertans employed.

Government must also be future-focused and will undertake efforts to diversify the economy so that future price shocks to energy resources do not have such a direct effect on Alberta's economy. As an energy producer new challenges are continually emerging - none more profound than climate change and market access. This government will be a national leader on environmental sustainability and a vocal advocate for getting resources to tidewater in a responsible way.

Delivering such a comprehensive and significant agenda requires Executive Council to show leadership and provide Cabinet with well researched, evidence-based policy options that can achieve the government's objectives. Executive Council shares in the strategic risks identified by ministries due to its coordination and policy role, and as such, the ministry will partner with other ministries and other jurisdictions to ensure that Cabinet decisions are implemented in a timely and effective manner. Ministries will communicate with and engage with Albertans so that citizens are aware of government priorities and are engaged in the decisions being made that affect them.

OUTCOMES, KEY STRATEGIES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Outcome One: **Work of ministries is aligned to ensure the efficient implementation of government's agenda**

The premier and Cabinet require objective, comprehensive and coordinated information to make, communicate and implement decisions. Executive Council supports government decision-making by providing advice and guidance on operational, policy and legislative issues.

Key Strategies:

- 1.1 Provide leadership, advice and support to ministries, and their agencies, boards and commissions, in aligning policy and legislative proposals and assisting government in the implementation of public policies, programs and services.
- 1.2 Provide advice and information to the premier and Cabinet in relation to government's policy and legislative priorities to support informed decision-making.
- 1.3 Provide support and guidance in ensuring an effective and transparent process for recruitment and appointment to public agencies.
- 1.4 Provide advice to ministries and public agencies on best practices for governance in accordance with the *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act*.

Performance Measures	Last Actual 2013-14	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18	Target 2018-19
1.a Satisfaction of ministries with the services they receive from Executive Council ¹	88%	90%	90%	90%
1.b Satisfaction of ministries with communications and support services they receive from Executive Council	-	95%	95%	95%

Note:

- ¹ Performance measure 1.a was previously referred to as 'Satisfaction of Policy Coordination Office Clients with Products and Services'; the performance measure has been broadened to include other areas of the ministry.

Linking Performance Measures to Outcomes:

- 1.a Information gathered from ministries about the current level of satisfaction with services will help identify current strengths as well as areas in which the services provided can be improved.
- 1.b This measure will ensure the ministry is held accountable for providing communications leadership, advice and support to ministries across government.

Outcome Two: Alberta’s priorities are advanced across Canada

Executive Council leads the coordination and advancement of Alberta’s priorities as they relate to other governments across Canada. The ministry coordinates Alberta’s leadership and participation within the Canadian federation to serve the needs of Albertans and Canadians. Partnerships with government ministries support effective engagement at intergovernmental meetings, and the ministry works with its partners, clients and affected parties to develop intergovernmental strategies on issues of importance to Albertans to address challenges and capitalize on new opportunities.

The ministry welcomes and coordinates visits by heads of state or representatives from other governments interested in seeing firsthand what Alberta has to offer, with the goal of building partnerships that advance Alberta’s priorities and interests.

Key Strategies:

- 2.1 Build and maintain strong relationships with federal, provincial and territorial governments, advocating for Alberta’s interests on issues of importance to Albertans.
- 2.2 Collaborate with other ministries to define intergovernmental strategies that ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to policies as they relate to other jurisdictions within Canada.
- 2.3 Collaborate with other ministries on timely and consistent reviews and approvals of intergovernmental agreements.
- 2.4 Lead the planning of key visits by heads of state or government, ambassadors and high commissioners, and national ministers to Alberta; providing an opportunity to develop new markets while showcasing the province to those visitors.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2013-14	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18	Target 2018-19
2.a Percentage of related program areas within government satisfied with services to advance Alberta’s interests within Canada	85%	86%	87%	88%

Linking Performance Measures to Outcomes:

- 2.a Information gathered from related program areas within government about the current level of satisfaction with services will help identify current strengths as well as areas in which the services provided can be improved. Ensuring satisfaction with the services, guidance and advice provided is integral to ensuring related program areas perceive value in the ministry’s services and foster the continuation of and integrated and collaborative approach to ensuring Alberta’s interests are well represented.

Outcome Three: **Effective communication of government priorities and initiatives within and outside of government**

Albertans need to know their government is listening to and engaging with them. Executive Council works to provide comprehensive, consistent and coordinated information to engage Albertans in a two-way conversation about programs and services that matter to them. Executive Council ensures efficient and effective communications through industry best practices and innovative approaches connecting Albertans with their government.

Key Strategies:

- 3.1 Enhance communications with and ensure information is accessible to Albertans, Canadians and others by using a variety of platforms and emerging technologies including media, government websites and social media.
- 3.2 Ensure coordinated, reliable and accurate communications from ministries by supporting the development and implementation of strategic communications plans to communicate with Albertans.
- 3.3 Efficiently and effectively deliver core government information services, including advertising, corporate products, media planning, research and government websites.
- 3.4 Provide crisis communications coordination and support in times of emergency.

Performance Measures	Last Actual 2014-15	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18	Target 2018-19
3.a Public satisfaction with government communications	71%	75%	75%	75%
3.b Public satisfaction with the Government of Alberta home page	85%	90%	90%	90%

Linking Performance Measures to Outcomes:

- 3.a Information gathered from the public about the current level of satisfaction with government communications will help identify current strengths as well as areas in which the ministry's efforts can be improved to ensure Albertans feel informed by their government.
- 3.b Information gathered from the public about the current level of satisfaction with the home page will help identify current strengths as well as areas in which the Government of Alberta home page can be improved to ensure Albertans have easy access to the information they need.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2016-17 Estimate	2017-18 Target	2018-19 Target
	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Premiums, Fees and Licences	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other Revenue	42	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	44	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENSE						
Office of the Premier / Executive Council	12,858	15,998	15,998	15,739	15,739	16,047
Intergovernmental Relations	3,745	4,273	4,273	4,193	4,183	4,252
Public Affairs	6,474	6,815	6,815	6,935	6,915	7,051
Consolidated Total	23,077	27,086	27,086	26,867	26,837	27,350
Net Operating Result	(23,033)	(27,086)	(27,086)	(26,867)	(26,837)	(27,350)