

Executive Council

BUSINESS PLAN 2007-10



ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The business plan for the three years commencing April 1, 2007 was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as of March 26, 2007 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in preparing the business plan.

The Ministry's priorities outlined in the business plan were developed in the context of the government's business and fiscal plans. I am committed to achieving the planned results laid out in this business plan.

original signed by

Ed Stelmach, *Premier*

March 29, 2007

THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Executive Council consists of the Department of Executive Council, and includes the following:

Office of the Premier/Executive Council

- Office of the Premier provides planning, communications and administrative support to Office of the Premier in Edmonton and Calgary.
- Office of the Deputy Minister provides advice and support to the Premier on policy and organizational issues and leadership to the Alberta Public Service.
- Cabinet Coordination Office provides organizational and administrative support and advice to Cabinet and its key committees.
- Policy Coordination Office delivers long-term strategic planning and policy coordination for government and promotes cross-ministry coordination in the implementation of strategic priorities.
- Protocol Office plans and coordinates international visits and provincial government ceremonial events and manages Government House operations.
- Executive Council also provides administrative and communications support to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Alberta Order of Excellence Council.

Public Affairs Bureau

- Helps government communicate with Albertans by assigning staff to communications branches across government, develops communications for government's long-term strategic plans and priority initiatives, supports internal government communications and coordinates advertising and the corporate identity program.
- Provides Albertans with two-way access to government through central communications and information resources, including the Alberta government home page and a centralized online feedback and question service.
- Ensures effective and timely communications with Albertans during public emergencies.

VISION

We are recognized leaders in the delivery of sound public sector management and a centre of communications excellence.

MISSION

To ensure effective strategic planning and policy coordination across government and to facilitate clear, two-way communications with Albertans.

VALUES

Executive Council champions the Alberta Public Service Vision and Values.

Vision: Alberta's Public Service – proudly working together to build a stronger province for current and future generations.

Values:

- Respect – we foster an environment in which each individual is valued and heard.
- Accountability – we are responsible for our actions and for contributing to the effectiveness of the public service.
- Integrity – we behave ethically and are open, honest and fair.
- Excellence – we use innovation and continuous improvement to achieve excellence.

LINK TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

Executive Council is linked to *Government of Alberta Strategic Business Plan* Goal 4: Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government and maintain its strong position nationally and internationally. The Ministry contributes to this goal by improving the accountability, transparency and governance of government agencies, boards and commissions, developing democratic reforms that support open and accountable government and taking a coordinated approach to policy development and government communications. Executive Council's strategic priorities to establish a Board Governance Review and develop democratic reforms support Government Priority 1 (Govern with Integrity and Transparency).

SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Government of Alberta is recognized as a leader and for having an innovative public service which provides high quality policy analysis and advice to support elected officials. The environment in which policy making and strategic planning occur is becoming increasingly complex as issues which frequently extend across multiple sectors demand increased coordination. Executive Council staff support decision-makers and ministries by facilitating a collaborative approach for strategic planning and policy development across government. This provides an opportunity to enhance policy capacity and cross-ministry collaboration and to ensure consistency with overall government strategic direction. As the nature of government organization and service delivery continues to change and evolve, there is a need to review the structure and effectiveness of government agencies, boards and commissions. Executive Council will take the opportunity

to establish a governance review to recommend how the government can improve governance, accountability and transparency of Government of Alberta agencies, boards and commissions.

The structure of the Public Affairs Bureau, with communications staff assigned to all government ministries, offers advantages and opportunities to coordinate government communications. The implementation of a strategic communications plan and corporate communications policy for the Government of Alberta, along with continued collaboration with the Policy Coordination Office, will enhance efforts to ensure that government communications with Albertans and government staff are as consistent, meaningful, well coordinated and timely as possible. The result will be targeted and strategic two-way communications that allow government to assess public needs and expectations while ensuring that Albertans enjoy easy access to information about their immediate priorities and government's long-term plans.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2007-10

Through the Ministry's review of external and internal challenges, the strategic priorities described below have been identified. These are in addition to the important ongoing core activities of the Ministry.

GOVERNMENT PRIORITY – GOVERN WITH INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- 1. Establish a Board Governance Review** Establish a Board Governance Review to provide recommendations on how the Government of Alberta can improve the transparency, accountability and governance of its agencies, boards and commissions.

Linkage: Goal 1
- 2. Develop democratic reforms** Develop democratic reforms that include opportunities for all-party committees to work together to better serve Albertans.

Linkage: Goal 1
- 3. Enhance policy capacity** Strengthen policy support to government and facilitate enhanced policy development capacity in the public service.

Linkage: Goal 1
- 4. Implement a strategic communications plan for government** Implement a strategic communications plan to enhance the quality, coordination and consistency of government communications and provide Albertans with improved avenues to access information and give feedback.

Linkage: Goal 2
- 5. Implement a corporate communications policy for government** Implement a corporate communications policy for the Government of Alberta.

Linkage: Goal 2

CORE BUSINESSES, GOALS, STRATEGIES & PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Core Business One: Support strategic planning, policy development and decision-making for the Government of Alberta

GOAL ONE

1

Government policy and planning are coordinated and effective

What it means Decision-makers need comprehensive and coordinated policy and planning advice and analysis in order to make strategic decisions. Ministries need analytical and coordination support to ensure that initiatives align with the overall vision and goals for government. Achieving this goal ensures that decision-makers and ministries are provided with the appropriate context and support to meet our government vision and goals.

Strategies

- 1.1 Coordinate policy development across government, ensuring alignment with government direction, and provide advice and analysis to support policy development.
- 1.2 Establish a Board Governance Review to provide recommendations on how the Government of Alberta can improve the transparency, accountability and governance of its agencies, boards and commissions.
- 1.3 Develop democratic reforms that include opportunities for all-party committees to work together to better serve Albertans.
- 1.4 Coordinate the government strategic planning process and promote cross-ministry coordination in the implementation of strategic priorities.
- 1.5 Strengthen policy support to government and facilitate enhanced policy development capacity in the public service.
- 1.6 Organize and coordinate planning and policy meetings that take place within the senior decision-making processes of government.

Performance Measures

Performance measure is under development.

Core Business Two: Help government ministries communicate with Albertans

GOAL TWO

2

Albertans receive clear, consistent and timely communications about government programs and have convenient access to the government information they need

What it means Albertans have said they want comprehensive, two-way communications about government programs and services that matter most to them. They also have a right to receive clear facts about the issues faced by the province so they can form their own opinions about how they want government to handle those issues. Achieving this goal ensures Albertans receive clear and timely communications from government.

Strategies

- 2.1 Implement a Government of Alberta strategic communications plan to enhance the quality, coordination and consistency of government communications and provide Albertans with improved avenues to access information and give feedback.
- 2.2 Implement a corporate communications policy for the Government of Alberta.
- 2.3 Deliver strategic and comprehensive communications support in all priority areas, including key Government of Alberta business plan goals and cross-ministry priorities.
- 2.4 Enhance the government's internal communications programs to better align internal and external communications and provide more comprehensive information resources for Government of Alberta staff.
- 2.5 Strengthen the current emergency response communications program to ensure that plans, communications tools and staff training levels are sufficient to deliver effective communications support in the case of a major public emergency.

Performance Measures	Last Actual (2005-06)	Target 2007-08	Target 2008-09	Target 2009-10
2.a Public satisfaction with government communications ¹	62%	75%	75%	75%
2.b Public satisfaction with the Government of Alberta Home Page	88%	90%	90%	90%
2.c Government client satisfaction with communications support and services received	91%	95%	95%	95%

Note:

- 1 New last actual and targets for measure 2.a. This measure represents an average of public satisfaction with government communications in priority areas and public satisfaction with access to government information. These were previously reported as two separate measures.

EXPENSE BY CORE BUSINESS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2007-08 Estimate	2008-09 Target	2009-10 Target
	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Budget	2006-07 Forecast			
Office of the Premier / Executive Council - Support strategic planning, policy development and decision-making for the Government of Alberta	6,359	7,692	7,692	8,887	9,054	9,321
Public Affairs Bureau - Help government ministries communicate with Albertans	12,028	13,950	13,950	14,322	14,692	15,062
MINISTRY EXPENSE	18,387	21,642	21,642	23,209	23,746	24,383

MINISTRY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2007-08 Estimate	2008-09 Target	2009-10 Target
	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Budget	2006-07 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Other Revenue	46	-	-	-	-	-
MINISTRY REVENUE	46	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENSE						
Program						
Office of the Premier / Executive Council	6,214	7,692	7,692	8,887	9,054	9,321
Public Affairs	11,848	13,950	13,950	14,322	14,692	15,062
Valuation Adjustments and Other Provisions	325	-	-	-	-	-
MINISTRY EXPENSE	18,387	21,642	21,642	23,209	23,746	24,383
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET OPERATING RESULT	(18,341)	(21,642)	(21,642)	(23,209)	(23,746)	(24,383)

CONSOLIDATED NET OPERATING RESULT

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2007-08 Estimate	2008-09 Target	2009-10 Target
	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Budget	2006-07 Forecast			
Ministry Revenue	46	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Revenue	46	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry Expense	18,387	21,642	21,642	23,209	23,746	24,383
<i>Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Expense	18,387	21,642	21,642	23,209	23,746	24,383
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSOLIDATED NET OPERATING RESULT	(18,341)	(21,642)	(21,642)	(23,209)	(23,746)	(24,383)