

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Annual Report

Executive Council

2022-2023

Executive Council, Government of Alberta | Executive Council 2022–2023 Annual Report

©2023 Government of Alberta | Published: June 2023

ISBN 978-1-4601-5747-3

ISSN 2371-3380

Note to Readers: Copies of the annual report are available on the Alberta Open Government Portal website <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/1481-3726>

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Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 25 ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta contains ministers' accountability statements, the consolidated financial statements of the province and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's strategic plan, previously published in one volume entitled Performance Results.

This annual report of the Ministry of Executive Council contains the Premier's accountability statement, the financial information of the ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan.

This ministry annual report also includes other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*, as separate reports, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report.

Each Ministry Annual Report should be considered along with the Government of Alberta Annual Report to provide a complete overview of government's commitment to openness, accountability and fiscal transparency.

Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2023, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as of June 6, 2023, with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware, have been considered in the preparation of this report.

[original signed by]

Hon Danielle Smith
Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Relations

Message from the Premier



I am pleased to present Executive Council's Annual Report for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Executive Council is responsible for the strategic coordination of the government's agenda, which is ultimately focused on securing Alberta's future. This includes strengthening health care, addressing affordability, growing the economy, supporting job creation, and keeping Albertans and communities safe.

Our government is taking crucial steps to make Alberta a better place to live, to do business and to create prosperity for every Albertan.

We are working hard to ensure Alberta remains open for business – that we have more opportunities for Albertans, including well-paying jobs, and support for strategic and emerging sectors. As it stands, Alberta has the highest net migration in the country and the highest wages, which have continued to grow since 2019! We are focused on ensuring that trajectory continues.

We are delivering real relief for Albertans through the inflation crisis and helping families and those most vulnerable with the rising costs of everyday necessities.

We are making record-high investments in health care, education, and community safety. These investments will attract more doctors, nurses, and other health care workers, improve primary health care and emergency response times. They will ensure there are more teachers and student support staff. And they will allow us to expand policing, increase addiction crises spaces, and combat human trafficking. Together, they will ensure our province has vibrant and safe communities where children can get a good education and where families have access to high-quality health care.

Finally, we are protecting our quality of life in Alberta through a new fiscal framework that will require all future Alberta governments to balance their annual budgets – with certain exceptions – and use surpluses to first pay down debt and save for the future.

I am proud of the work done by Executive Council staff, as well as the entire public service, for their support in implementing the government's agenda. I am confident that through Executive Council's continuing support, Alberta will remain strong and free.

[original signed by]

Hon Danielle Smith
Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Relations

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Executive Council includes the Office of the Premier, Office of the Deputy Minister of Executive Council, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Intergovernmental Relations, Cabinet Coordination & Ministry Services, and the Policy Coordination Office.

The executives of the individual entities within the ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and strategic plan, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the accompanying ministry financial information and performance results for the ministry rests with the Premier. Under the direction of the Premier, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, including the financial information and performance results. The financial information and performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial information is prepared using the government's stated accounting policies, which are based on Canadian public sector accounting standards. The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliable – information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with the underlying source data for the current and prior years' results.
- Understandable – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- Comparable – the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- Complete – outcomes, performance measures and related targets match those included in the ministry's Budget 2023.

As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I am responsible for the ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control, which consider costs, benefits and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under ministry administration;
- provide Executive Council, the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, and the Premier the information needed to fulfill their responsibilities; and
- facilitate preparation of ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives of the individual entities within the ministry.

[original signed by]

Ray Gilmour,
Deputy Minister of Executive Council

Results Analysis

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Ministry Overview

In 2022-23, Executive Council supported the implementation of government policy by focusing its efforts on achieving two outcomes:

- **Outcome One:** Government's agenda is implemented effectively in coordination with ministries.
- **Outcome Two:** Alberta's priorities are advanced across Canada and internationally.

Organizational Structure

Executive Council supports the Premier and cabinet with strategic planning, coordinated policy development, informed decision-making and interactions with other governments to advance the Alberta government's agenda. The ministry consists of the following divisions:

Operational Overview

Office of the Premier

The Office of the Premier provides both strategic and functional support for the Premier. It includes advisors and planners, specialists in issues management and scheduling, media relations, stakeholder outreach, and legislative liaison staff. The office is led by the Chief of Staff who, attentive to the government caucus, is a crucial link in applying the principle of responsible government to the Ministry of Executive Council.

Deputy Minister's Office

The Deputy Minister, as Clerk of Executive Council, oversees the ministry in the provision of strategic advice and effective operation of the cabinet decision-making process. As head of the Alberta Public Service, the Deputy Minister also provides leadership and oversight to the Deputy Minister's Council and Alberta Public Service staff. The Deputy Minister's Office supports effective implementation of government's decisions, including the delivery of strategic and operational priorities, and provides advice to departments.

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

The Ministry of Executive Council provides administrative and functional support to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to enable the Vice Regal to focus on duties to represent the Sovereign and ensure the smooth functioning of our parliamentary system.

Cabinet Coordination and Ministry Services

Cabinet Coordination and Ministry Services is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Executive Council. The division consists of the following major entities:

- Cabinet Coordination Office (CCO) is responsible for the organizational and administrative support to cabinet and cabinet committees. CCO provides strategic agenda-setting and development, facilitates information flow to decision-makers, records minutes, and communicates meeting outcomes.

- Operations and Machinery of Government (OMG) monitors operations and identifies emerging issues across government. OMG produces situation briefings to support the Premier's office and Deputy Minister's office, leads corporate planning and reporting, and manages strategic projects.
- Protocol Office supports state, official, working, and private visits to Alberta. By serving as the point of introduction for diplomats and other key visitors, it enhances Alberta's profile on the global stage. The Protocol Office leads domestic ceremonies, such as the swearing-in of cabinet, the Speech from the Throne, the installation of the Lieutenant Governor and the Alberta Flag Policy. The Protocol Office also manages the conference facilities at Government House in Edmonton and McDougall Centre in Calgary. Protocol provides secretariat support to the Alberta Order of Excellence – the highest honour the province can bestow on a citizen.
- Ministry Services supports the day-to-day operations of the ministry, including human resources, finance and administration services, management of the ministry's accountabilities under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, records management, and information and technology support and services.

Policy Coordination Office

The Policy Coordination Office (PCO) supports the implementation of government's policy and legislative agenda.

PCO assists the Premier's office in setting and coordinating the government's annual legislative agenda and working with all ministries to support the development of policy options that align with the government's agenda, including mandate letter and platform tracking. PCO also coordinates the review and approval of government regulations.

PCO provides quality assurance services to ministries so that high-quality decision documents are provided to cabinet and its committees, as well as providing a cross-government lens to policy proposals.

PCO provides secretariat support to cabinet policy committees, including setting and creating agendas, briefing committee chairs, logistics, developing decision documents, and producing official meeting records and minutes.

PCO supports briefings to the Premier prior to committee and cabinet meetings, where deputy ministers from the relevant departments brief the Premier on major initiatives traveling through the decision-making process.

Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) 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. IGR is responsible for supporting the Premier's intergovernmental agenda, missions and meetings. This means advancing Alberta's interests at intergovernmental forums, including the Council of the Federation, First Ministers' Meetings, the Western Premiers' Conference, and bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister and other Premiers.

IGR works with ministries to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to intergovernmental relations. IGR also reviews and approves all of Alberta's intergovernmental agreements to ensure they are consistent with Alberta's goals and objectives. The Internal Trade branch within IGR focuses on showing leadership and collaborating with other provinces to reduce internal trade barriers.

Environmental, Social and Governance Secretariat

The secretariat is a strategic and coordinating body for all ESG-related activities across the Government of Alberta, including the adoption of a standardized jurisdictional ESG framework to enable transparent, comparable jurisdictional assessments and to enhance Alberta's reputation and investors' confidence.

Key Highlights

International Relations

International Relations joined the Intergovernmental Relations division within Executive Council in October 2022. This change in structure combined and centralized the teams responsible for Alberta's relations with Canadian and international governments. Core functions of the division include managing Alberta's International Office (AIO) network and advocating for Alberta's interest in an international setting.

Alberta has maintained offices abroad for more than 50 years. The Government of Alberta currently maintains 16 international offices across four regions: the U.S., Latin America, Europe/Middle East/Africa, and the Indo-Pacific.

In addition to managing the AIO network, the International Relations division is responsible for maintaining Alberta's broad overarching relationships by engaging on key issues, providing policy research and advice on emerging international issues, and negotiating and implementing agreements with foreign jurisdictions. The International Relations division works closely with other divisions across the Government of Alberta to pursue Alberta's international interests.

The International Relations branch also facilitates incoming and outgoing missions by senior elected officials or representatives, including missions led by the Premier, and MLAs who are assigned to U.S. transboundary organizations under the purview of Executive Council.

Discussion and Analysis of Results

Actions that support the priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

Key Priority Two: Growing Alberta's economy

Objective One: *Attracting Investment and Growing the Economy.*

Detailed reporting can be found on page 18, below.

Key Priority Two: Growing Alberta's economy

Objective Four: *Standing up for Alberta's Natural Resources.*

Alberta remains opposed to any initiative that prematurely and incorrectly signals the end of Canada's oil and gas sector. Such moves erode investor confidence and discourage the major investments needed to cut emissions while keeping energy secure, affordable and reliable for Canadians.

Alberta is using every tool at our disposal to push back against federal intrusions into provincial jurisdiction. Examples include launching a constitutional challenge of the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (Bill C-69) that is now before the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as intervening in industry's constitutional challenge of the federal designation of plastics as toxic under the Canadian *Environmental Protection Act*.

For years, Alberta has led the world in advancing key climate policy and emissions reduction technologies such as Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage development on a commercial scale. Alberta's largest oil sands producers are on track for net zero emissions from production by 2050.

Strong economic recovery, growth, and inclusion starts with a recognition of the need to stand up for the oil and gas sector given its ability to create jobs – including Indigenous opportunities – generate revenues and grow the economy.

Alberta continues to urge the federal government to listen to industry and provinces and end harmful federal initiatives like Just Transition and the Emissions Reduction Plan.

The ministry also supports the Environmental, Social and Governance Secretariat as a strategic and coordinating body for all ESG-related activities across the Government of Alberta. Detailed reporting can be found on pages 16-17, below.

Key Priority Two: Growing Alberta's economy

Objective Five: *Advancing a Fair Deal for Alberta's Economy.*

The Government of Alberta continues to develop Alberta's economy while remaining resolute in stopping federal attacks on the energy sector. Alberta has worked closely with other provinces and territories regarding federal intrusions that undermine provincial and territorial priorities. The Council of the Federation has not only assisted in gaining better health care funding for Alberta and other provinces, but also provides a forum for exploring ways to promote common provincial and territorial interests, such as expanding economic corridors.

Alberta has also worked diligently to improve internal trade by promoting the removal of internal barriers to trade and provincial exemptions to the Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Red Tape Reduction

Executive Council continues to remove regulatory barriers and reduce costs for Alberta's job creators, modernize our regulatory systems, and improve the delivery of government services while ensuring effective regulatory oversight over vital consumer, environmental, health and safety protections, and fiscal accountability. The Government of Alberta's ongoing commitment to reduce red tape by one-third by 2023 is helping to make the province the most attractive destination for investment and job creation in North America, while strengthening Alberta's competitive advantage.

Removing Barriers to Internal Trade

Alberta has shown strong leadership in dismantling barriers to trade and removing unnecessary red tape. Alberta consistently pushes the federal government and other provinces and territories to review and remove their barriers to trade.

Alberta's actions on internal trade over the past year have resulted in a number of successes, including:

- The removal of half of Alberta's exceptions under the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (from four down to two);
- The negotiation of a mutually satisfactory resolution with Ontario in regards to the liquor trade dispute launched by Alberta in 2018; and
- The successful conclusion of negotiations to cover non-medical cannabis under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), with Alberta only taking exceptions absolutely required to ensure the proper regulation of the cannabis industry within the province.

Alberta is also an active participant in the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table under the CFTA that supports work to eliminate unnecessary barriers to interprovincial trade, including harmonizing and mutually recognizing regulations.

Alberta will continue to identify improvements and challenge barriers wherever we find them.

Outcome One: Government's agenda is implemented effectively in coordination with ministries

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Provide advice and support to ministries to align policy and legislative proposals. Assist government to implement public policies, programs and services.**
- 1.2 Provide advice and information to the Premier and cabinet to support informed decision-making.**

Executive Council helps define and communicate the government's agenda to ministries to ensure effective implementation.

The Policy Coordination Office (PCO) provided advice and support to ministries to ensure alignment of policy and legislative proposals, as well as the implementation of public policies, programs and services. PCO supported government's agenda by facilitating timely and effective decision-making at cabinet and cabinet committees. PCO also provided advice on cabinet agenda-setting and the efficient operation of cabinet and cabinet committees. Results included the following:

- Supported 70 cabinet policy committee meetings, which reviewed 493 strategic, policy, regulatory and legislative initiatives. This included coordination of agendas and decisions documents, briefing committee chairs, and producing meeting records.
- Supported the development and introduction of 21 government bills in the legislature.
- Provided policy advice and support to all government ministries throughout the policy development process.

The Cabinet Coordination Office (CCO) supported government's agenda by facilitating timely and effective decision-making at cabinet. CCO also provided advice on cabinet agenda-setting and the efficient operation of cabinet. Results included the following:

- Coordinated and supported 27 cabinet meetings. CCO also supported 10 meetings of the Priorities Implementation Cabinet Committee. These services included briefing the Premier, logistics, developing agendas and decision documents, producing official meeting records and 271 appointment packages for public agencies, boards, commissions and the courts.
- Worked with ministries, the Legislative Counsel Office and the Lieutenant Governor's Office to coordinate the signing of 480 Orders in Council.

Operations and Machinery of Government monitored program and project implementation across government to identify and report on emerging operational issues, and provided corporate planning, tracking and project management support to the ministry.

Outcome Two: Alberta's priorities are advanced across Canada and internationally

Key Objectives

2.1 Build and maintain strong relationships with federal, provincial and territorial governments, advocating for Alberta's interests on issues of importance to Albertans.

The ministry coordinates Alberta's leadership and participation within the Canadian federation and welcomes heads of state or representatives from other governments. Key results for 2022-23 included the New West Partnership meeting and Western Premiers' Conference in May 2022, the Council of the Federation (COF) Meeting in July 2022, the virtual COF meeting in December 2022, and the First Ministers' Meeting in February 2023. These major intergovernmental meetings provide the Government of Alberta with the opportunity to advance Alberta's interests and key priorities at federal, provincial, and territorial tables.

Council of the Federation

The Council of the Federation is comprised of all 13 provincial and territorial governments in Canada. Its objectives are to promote interprovincial-territorial cooperation, foster meaningful relationships among governments, and demonstrate leadership on issues important to all Canadians.

The 2022 winter meeting was held on December 9, 2022 by videoconference. Premiers met and had a productive discussion on the urgent need to resolve the structural funding shortfall facing Canada's health care systems, and create a new, sustainable health care funding partnership with the federal government for the good of all Canadians.

The 2022 summer meeting was held from July 11-12, 2022 in Victoria, British Columbia. Premiers discussed affordability, energy security, and the need for increased federal health funding through the Canada Health Transfer.

Premiers met virtually on a regular basis throughout the year to discuss the main priority of the COF table, which was an immediate increase to the federal share of the Canada Health Transfer. In addition to the summer and winter meetings, Alberta participated in six Council of the Federation Premiers' calls in 2022-23.

Western Premiers' Conference

The Western Premiers' Conference (WPC) is comprised of Premiers from Canada's four western provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba) and three territories (Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut) working together on important issues with a western focus. In May 2022, Saskatchewan chaired a WPC meeting in Regina, where western Premiers met to discuss healthcare, economic recovery, and energy security. Productive discussions occurred on the need to increase federal health care funding, reducing barriers for internal trade, support for economic corridors that will serve western Canada, and the crucial role the energy sector will play in Canada's economic recovery.

First Ministers' Meeting

Following two years of calling on the Prime Minister to engage in a constructive dialogue on increased federal funding for the Canada Health Transfer, the Council of the Federation was successful in securing an in-person meeting to discuss increased federal funding for provincial and territorial healthcare systems on February 7, 2023. Following this meeting, provinces and

territories secured a commitment for increased federal funding through the Canada Health Transfer, and targeted funding through bilateral agreements currently under negotiation. This was the only First Ministers' meeting that took place in 2022-23.

Multilateral and Bilateral Meetings

Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) supported the Premier, ministers and deputy ministers at 146 multilateral and bilateral meetings and conferences. These meetings advanced Alberta's interests on a range of issues, including energy infrastructure, climate change, health care, Indigenous issues, internal trade, and economic growth.

International Relations

During 2022-23, the International Relations division of Intergovernmental Relations led or supported more than 40 visits and missions.

The team has led international missions to strategic markets and important political partners including to Washington, D.C., South Korea, and Germany. The International Relations division also supported visits by foreign elected officials including:

- The April 2022 visit of Senator Joe Manchin to the oil sands in advance of drafting the *Inflation Reduction Act*;
- The joint visit of Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsten Hillman and incoming U.S. Ambassador David Cohen to the oil sands in July 2022; and
- The Consul General of Japan's official visit in March 2023.

International Relations supports Alberta's memberships in a number of U.S. transboundary organizations and supports MLAs appointed to represent Alberta at these meetings. These include the Canadian American Border Trade Alliance; Council of State Governments (CSG) National; CSG Midwest; CSG West; and the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region.

The International Relations division successfully drove the inclusion of Alberta's energy industry in dialogue on North American energy security with the visit of Senator Manchin to Alberta in April 2022, and actively advocated against U.S. policies that discriminate against Alberta exports, such as deforestation measures in California and New York, country-of-origin labelling legislation, and 'Buy American' policies.

In 2022-23, the International Relations division, working in concert with other ministries, led or supported the creation and implementation of memorandums of understanding with two oblasts in Ukraine (Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv - work ongoing), and Jalisco, Mexico.

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.

Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) provides support to other ministries to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to the advancement of Alberta's priorities among all jurisdictions within Canada. IGR provided support to the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance and the Ministry of Health in negotiating increased federal funding for Alberta's healthcare system, resulting in an increase through the existing Canada Health Transfer and a targeted bilateral agreement worth approximately \$5.3 billion in new healthcare funding to our province over ten years. IGR also

worked with Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis to negotiate a mutually satisfactory resolution with Ontario regarding the liquor trade dispute launched by Alberta in 2018.

2.3 Collaborate with other ministries on timely and consistent reviews and approvals of intergovernmental agreements.

Under Section 11 of the *Government Organization Act*, the Minister of Executive Council is responsible for approving all of Alberta's intergovernmental agreements. IGR reviewed 146 agreements between the Government of Alberta and other governments that proceeded to signature.

2.4 Collaborate with other ministries and jurisdictions to reduce red tape and barriers to internal trade. This includes reviewing Alberta's exceptions under its trade agreements to reduce red tape wherever possible and working with other governments through the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table to reconcile existing regulatory measures that act as a barrier to trade, and cooperate to align new regulatory measures.

Alberta has continued to demonstrate its commitment to dismantling trade barriers by removing two of its four party-specific exceptions under the New West Partnership Trade Agreement in early 2022. These exceptions were Alberta's first Investment exception and Alberta's single Energy exception. Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced a two-year pilot project in Lloydminster to address the complex regulations that limit the sale of food, including meat, across provincial borders. Alberta continues to be an active participant in the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

2.5 Promote the free flow of goods, services and labour mobility across Canada.

IGR led collaboration with other ministries and jurisdictions to reduce red tape and barriers to internal trade, such as negotiations toward including financial services and non-medical cannabis in the CFTA. IGR's results and activities on internal trade are itemized in the Red Tape Reduction section of this report.

2.6 Coordinate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-related engagement activities across the Government of Alberta to showcase Alberta as an ESG leader, in order to increase capital and talent flows to Alberta.

Effective Stakeholder Engagement

An engagement program focused on Canada's financial and university sectors was developed and executed to share Alberta's ESG approach and progress. The secretariat met with over 80 firms that included hundreds of participants as part of this engagement program. Engagement with the United States was also expanded through a meeting with several Canadian consulate officers and staff to promote Alberta's ESG reputation. This resulted in a more positive perception of Alberta's ESG credentials, better understanding of our ESG jurisdictional approach and improved Alberta's reputation given our proactive engagement activities. The engagement activities also supported a significant bond purchase by a Canadian institutional investor in fall 2022.

Jurisdictional Framework

In collaboration with a third-party consultant, a Jurisdictional ESG Framework was published. The framework serves as a tool to demonstrate the province's performance and ambition in 13 categories across environmental, social and governance criteria. The categories in the framework were informed by, and aligned to where relevant, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Global Reporting Initiative, Sustainable Accounting Standards Board, and MSCI and S&P Global ESG ratings. The jurisdictional framework is used to map the government's policies and programs that enable strong ESG performance across all ministries, industries, and businesses and to communicate commitment to and ambition for ESG excellence. By providing a clear framework that considers our unique context and priorities, we can drive meaningful progress on ESG issues.

Improved Public Awareness

A webpage that informs Albertans and other stakeholders of government's ESG approach and key performance aspects was published, in partnership with Communications and Public Engagement, to improve understanding of Alberta's ESG leadership.

2.7 Lead the planning and implementation of key visits by foreign heads of state and government, ambassadors and high commissioners to Canada, consuls general with jurisdiction for Alberta, ministers of foreign national governments and governors of sub-national jurisdictions officially twinned with Alberta, to Alberta. These visits provide an opportunity to develop new markets while showcasing the province.

In 2022-23, the Protocol Office supported 22 visits and meetings from high level diplomats and dignitaries focused on building trade and investment and cultural relationships with the international community, including the visits of Ambassadors of the U.S., Belgium, Norway, Estonia, Italy, El Salvador and Bulgaria, and Consuls General including Japan, Chile, Portugal, and the U.K.

Several of the visits to Alberta were from European nations affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. These nations are looking to Alberta (Canada) to build closer ties in the energy sector and other area of trade important to energy and food security.

In addition to supporting traditional visits to the province by ambassadors and consuls general, the Protocol Office was a key support for the July 2022 visit of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Death of Queen Elizabeth II

Alberta Protocol was the lead office in developing and implementing the plan for the Demise of the Crown over the course of four years. The plan set out the provincial requirements for transitioning from Queen Elizabeth II to King Charles III.

In addition to overseeing the mandatory obligations following the death of our monarch (i.e. half-masting flags, updating legislation, and renaming the Queen's Court and Provincial printer to reflect the King), Alberta Protocol coordinated the public provincial memorial ceremony for Queen Elizabeth II held outdoors at the Alberta Legislature Building.

The Protocol Office also managed a significant uptick in the use of Government House in Edmonton and McDougall Centre in Calgary. These meeting spaces provide the Lieutenant Governor, Premier, Ministers, officials and stakeholders a secure, cost-effective environment in which to carry out essential government business. Government House saw a 531 per cent increase in use over the previous year and McDougall Centre saw a 167 per cent increase in use over the previous year.

Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology

Performance Measure 1.a:

Satisfaction of ministries with the services they receive from Executive Council

Prior Years' Results				2022-23 Target	2022-23 Actual
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
77%	82%	87%	92%	85%	91%

Source: Satisfaction feedback is gathered through the Executive Council Client Survey, which is an annual internal survey of Executive Council's clients that was last administered between January 4, 2023, and January 13, 2023. This measure shows the overall satisfaction level of Government of Alberta staff who receive services from the Policy Coordination Office (PCO) or the Cabinet Coordination Office (CCO) in Executive Council. Based on a four-point Likert scale, this measure combines the "satisfied" and "very satisfied" results of the questions for a total satisfaction score. Information gathered from ministries about the level of satisfaction with services helps to identify current strengths and areas where services can be improved.

Performance Measure 1.b:

Satisfaction of ministries that the advice and support from Executive Council assists the ministries in advancing the policy and operational mandates of the government

Prior Years' Results				2022-23 Target	2022-23 Actual
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
76%	72%	77%	89%	85%	88%

Source: Feedback on effectiveness is gathered through the Executive Council Client Survey, which is an annual internal survey of Executive Council's clients that was last administered between January 4, 2023, and January 13, 2023. This measure shows the overall effectiveness level of Government of Alberta staff who receive services from the PCO and/or the CCO in Executive Council. Based on a four-point Likert scale, this measure combines the "somewhat effective" and "very effective" results of the questions for a total effectiveness score. Information gathered from ministries about the level of effectiveness of services received helps to identify current strengths and areas where services can be improved.

Performance Measure 2.a:

Satisfaction of ministries with the services they receive from Executive Council to advance Alberta's interests within Canada

Prior Years' Results				2022-23 Target	2022-23 Actual
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
88%	92%	97%	98%	90%	97%

Source: Satisfaction feedback is gathered through the Executive Council Client Survey, which is an annual internal survey of Executive Council's clients that was last administered between January 4, 2023, and January 13, 2023. This measure shows the satisfaction level of Government of Alberta staff who receive services from Intergovernmental Relations in Executive Council. It does not include the satisfaction of staff who receive services from the Policy Coordination Office or the Cabinet Coordination Office in Executive Council. Based on a four-point Likert scale, this measure combines the "satisfied" and "very satisfied" results of the questions for a total satisfaction score. Information gathered from ministries about the level of satisfaction with services helps to identify current strengths and areas where services can be improved.

Performance Measure 2.b:

Percentage of intergovernmental agreements reviewed within the designated two-week timeframe

Prior Years' Results				2022-23 Target	2022-23 Actual
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Internal database.

This measure shows the extent to which new or proposed intergovernmental agreements submitted to IGR by other Government of Alberta ministries are reviewed within the designated two-week service standard.

Performance Indicator 2.c:**Number of intergovernmental meetings (multilateral and bilateral) supported**

Prior Year's Results				2022-23 Target	2022-23 Actual
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
110	194	411	211	N/A	146

Source: Internal Database

Performance Indicator 2.d*:

Percentage of ministries utilizing the ESG Secretariat for data and narrative that showcases Alberta's performance and ambition across the full spectrum of ESG

* Performance Indicator under development. This indicator is new as the ESG secretariat was newly established as a division of Executive Council in 2021.

The ESG secretariat was transferred to Environment and Protected Areas in October 2022. This transfer and the broader government reorganization impacted data collection and reporting.

Financial Information

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Ministry Financial Highlights

Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited)

Year Ended March 31, 2023

	(\$ thousands)				
	2023		2022	Change from	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	2022
	(Restated)		(Restated)		
Revenues					
Other revenues	\$ 8	\$ 230	\$ 10	\$ 222	\$ 220
Ministry total	8	230	10	222	220
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	(227)	-	(227)	(227)
Adjusted ministry total	8	3	10	(5)	(7)
Expenses - directly incurred					
Programs					
Office of the Premier / Executive Council	12,936	14,125	11,277	1,189	2,848
Intergovernmental Relations	12,924	13,490	10,739	566	2,751
Ministry total	25,860	27,615	22,016	1,755	5,599
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Adjusted ministry total	25,860	27,615	22,016	1,755	5,599
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ (25,852)	\$ (27,612)	\$ (22,006)	\$ (1,760)	\$ (5,606)

Revenue and Expense Highlights

Comparison of budget to actual expense results

Revenues

(in thousands)

2022-23	2022-23
Actual	Budget
230	8

Revenues for the ministry were \$222 thousand above budget.

- Budgeted revenues for Executive Council are generated through events hosted at Government House.
- Fiscal year 2022-23 revenue is \$230 thousand, \$222 thousand higher than the budget due to a \$227 thousand reimbursement of salary expense.

Expenses

(in thousands)

2022-23	2022-23
Actual	Budget
27,615	25,860

Expenses for the ministry were \$1,755 million (6.8 per cent) above restated budget.

- Increase from restated budget is due to government re-organization, transition costs and increased contract service and travel expenses.

Comparison of year-over-year results (actual to actual)

Revenues

(in thousands)

2022-23	2021-22
Actual	Actual
230	10

Revenues for the ministry were \$200 thousand higher than in 2021-22.

- Fiscal year 2022-23 revenue is \$230 thousand, \$220 thousand higher than the prior year due to a \$227 thousand reimbursement of salary expense.

Expenses

(in thousands)

Actual	Actual
2022-23	2021-22
27,615	22,016

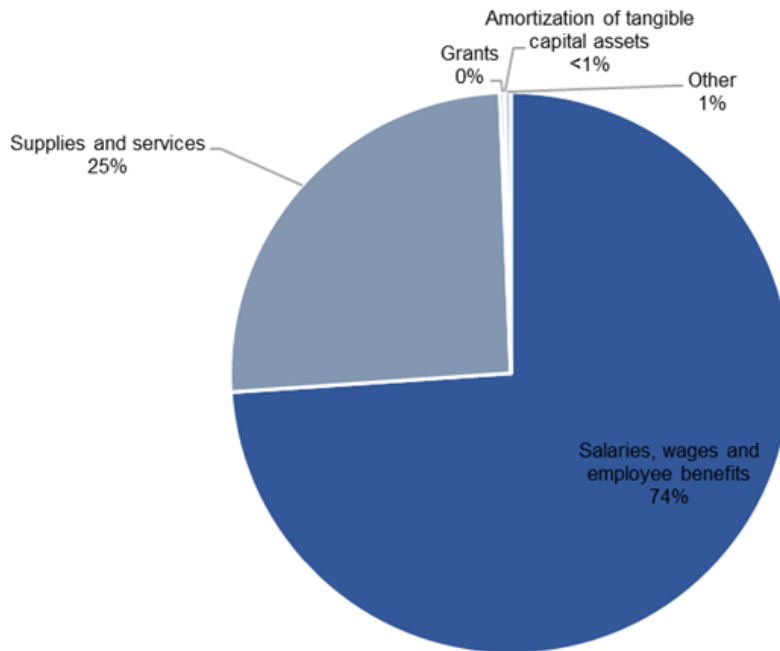
Expenses for the ministry were \$5,599 thousand (25 per cent) higher than in 2021-22.

- Expense increase from prior year related to higher salary expenses as vacancies were staffed, government re-organization and transition costs and increased contract services and travel expenses.

Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited)

(in thousands)

The following information presents the expenses of the ministry that were directly incurred by object. The total expenses in 2022-23 for Executive Council were \$27,615. This represents an increase from restated budget of \$1,755 (6.8 per cent).



Salaries, wages, and employee benefits (\$20,417 or 74 per cent of total expenses)

- Salaries, wages, and employee benefits were in line with the restated budget being \$187 lower than restated budget.
- Salaries compared to prior year were higher by \$3,739 mainly as vacancies were filled and severances paid in the current year due to government re-organization.

Supplies and Services (\$7,026 or 25 per cent of total expenses)

- Supplies and Services were higher than restated budget by \$1,850. The variance is primarily related to higher than budgeted contract services and travel expenses.
- Supplies and Services were higher than prior year by \$2,782 mainly resulting from increases in contracting services and travel expenses.

Supplemental Financial Information

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)

Year Ended March 31, 2023

(in thousands)

	Voted Estimate ^{(1) (2)}	Supplementary Estimate	Adjustments	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals ⁽³⁾	Over Expended (Unexpended)
EXPENSE VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Office of the Premier/Executive Council						
1.1 Office of the Premier/Executive Council	\$ 12,322	\$ 80	\$ -	\$ 12,402	\$ 13,193	\$ 791
1.2 Office of the Lieutenant Governor	614	-	-	614	580	(34)
	12,936	80	-	13,016	13,773	757
2 Intergovernmental Relations	12,924	5,858	-	18,782	13,407	(5,375)
Total	25,860	5,938	-	31,798	27,180	(4,618)
Credit or Recovery Shortfall						-
	\$ 25,860	\$ 5,938	\$ -	\$ 31,798	\$ 27,180	\$ (4,618)
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						\$ (4,618)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT VOTE BY PROGRAM						
1 Office of the Premier/Executive Council	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ (25)
2 Intergovernmental Relations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	25	-	-	25	-	(25)
Credit or Recovery Shortfall						-
	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ (25)
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						\$ (25)

Footnotes

- ✓ (1) As per "Expense Vote by Program" page 103 of 2022-23 Government Estimates.
- ✓ (2) Voted Estimates are restated due to Government re-org as per Order in Council # 362/2022
- ✓ (3) Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments.
- ✓ (4) As per Bill 12/2023 Supplementary Supply Appropriation and 2022-23 Supplementary Supply Estimates page 45-48

Payments Based on Agreements (unaudited)

(In thousands)

The ministry has entered into agreements to coordinate services that are proportionately funded by all ministries of the Government of Alberta. The ministry pays service providers for services rendered under the agreements and apportions the expenses to the ministries. Costs based under these agreements are incurred by the ministry under authority of Section 25 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

The agreements cover the Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat costs.

Amounts paid and payable based on agreements are as follows:

	2023	2022
Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat	\$ 214	\$ 233

Annual Report Extracts and Other Statutory Reports

Section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* reads:

- 32(1) Every chief officer must prepare a report annually on all disclosures that have been made to the designated officer of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature for which the chief officer is responsible.
- (2) The report under subsection (1) must include the following information:
 - (a) the number of disclosures received by the designated officer, the number of disclosures acted on and the number of disclosures not acted on by the designated officer;
 - (b) the number of investigations commenced by the designated officer as a result of disclosures;
 - (c) in the case of an investigation that results in a finding of wrongdoing, a description of the wrongdoing and any recommendations made or corrective measures taken in relation to the wrongdoing or the reasons why no corrective measure was taken.
- (3) The report under subsection (1) must be included in the annual report of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature if the annual report is made publicly available.

There were no disclosures of wrongdoing filed with the Public Interest Disclosure Office for Executive Council between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.