

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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# Annual Report

## Executive Council

### 2021-2022

*Alberta* 

Executive Council, Government of Alberta | Executive Council 2021–2022 Annual Report

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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 20 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.

## Premier's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2022, 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 at June 3, 2022 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

[original signed by]

Hon Jason Kenney  
Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Relations

## Message from the Premier



I am pleased to present Executive Council's Annual Report for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Executive Council is responsible for the strategic co-ordination of the government's agenda. This includes Alberta's Recovery Plan, which will create jobs, diversify the economy and create opportunities for every Albertan.

Part of that plan will be a renewed effort to tell Alberta's story to the world—highlighting the many reasons why there is simply no better place on Earth to pursue a dream, raise a family, and build a life. This effort is aimed at attracting job-creating investments and hard-working people from across Canada and around the world.

We will continue efforts to build relationships in developing a North American energy strategy that will establish Alberta as a key player in global energy security while at the same time showcasing Alberta's achievements in lowering emissions.

With the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, we are seeing a strong economic turnaround that is bringing jobs and investment to the province. After navigating through the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, Alberta has its first balanced budget in eight years.

However, Albertans are not immune to record inflation that is making life more expensive all around the world. Executive Council will continue to deliver tangible measures to ease the inflation burden and keep more money in Albertans' pockets.

COVID showed us that despite having one of the best-funded health-care systems in the world, the system has short-comings that we must address. We are doing that by building greater capacity in our health system, expanding and modernizing hospital capacity and recruiting more key health-care workers.

I am proud of the work done by Executive Council staff, as well as the entire public service, who have all served Albertans during a very challenging time in Alberta's history. I am confident that through Executive Council's continuing support, Alberta will remain strong and resilient.

[original signed by]

Hon Jason Kenney  
Premier

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## Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Executive Council includes: Office of the Premier, Office of the Deputy Minister of Executive Council, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Intergovernmental Relations (including Environmental, Social & Governance Secretariat), 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 2021.

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 give consideration to 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



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# Results Analysis

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## Ministry Overview

In 2021-2022, 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, Speech from the Throne and installation of the Lieutenant Governor. The Protocol Office also manages the conference facilities at the Federal Building and 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) works in partnership with CCO to support 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 works with all ministries to support the development of policy options that align with the government’s agenda. 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. PCO provides secretariat support to Cabinet committees, including setting and creating agendas, briefing committee chairs, logistics, developing decision documents and producing official meeting records.

### 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 & Governance Secretariat

Announced in *Budget 2021*, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Secretariat promotes Alberta’s commitment to, and position as, an ESG leader to investors in North America and abroad, bringing new investment to Alberta’s major industry sectors.

## Discussion and Analysis of Results

### COVID-19 / Recovery Plan

In 2021-22, Executive Council coordinated 49 Priorities Implementation Cabinet Committee (PICC) meetings, and 17 Emergency Management Cabinet Committee (EMCC) meetings to consider and mitigate risks to the provincial health system and protect Albertans throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Executive Council also participated in or supported regular federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) First Minister, Minister, Deputy Minister, and officials meetings to facilitate cooperation in response to the pandemic. Alberta and the federal government cooperated to coordinate responses and share information on the ongoing vaccine rollout, rapid testing kit approvals and deliveries, emerging COVID variants, border issues, and economic impacts to protect both the lives and livelihoods of Canadians.

During 2021-22, the Protocol Office remained committed to marshalling its resources and partnerships to continue engagement with the global community through virtual and in person briefings, with a focus on showcasing Alberta as the jurisdiction in which to invest. Several diplomats and consuls general expressed an interest in visiting Alberta in the future when pandemic protocols are removed and diplomats and members of the Consular Corps can enjoy a full official visit.

### 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.

As part of this ongoing review, since 2019 the ministry has reduced its regulatory requirements by almost half, and continues to eliminate administrative burden through more efficient processes. Executive Council has reduced red tape for businesses and consumers by breaking down interprovincial trade barriers, including reducing exceptions under the Canada Free Trade Agreement by 21 trade exceptions between 2019-2021.

### Reducing Barriers to Internal Trade

Intergovernmental Relations collaborates with other ministries and jurisdictions to reduce barriers to internal trade. IGR's red tape reduction results and activities includes the following:

- Representing Alberta on the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT) under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). The RCT was created to reduce barriers to trade, investment, and labour mobility within Canada by reconciling regulatory differences that companies may experience when doing business across provincial and territorial borders. The RCT is also a forum for Parties to cooperate in the development of future regulatory measures. Recent examples of RCT successes include:

- 
- o Completion of the Reconciliation Agreement on Fall Protection, encompassing seven types of fall protection equipment. Alberta endorsed and signed the Agreement, the signature process by Parties is underway. When fully implemented, the Agreement will ensure that Canadian businesses and workers who operate in multiple jurisdictions no longer need to purchase multiple sets of fall protection equipment.
  - o Alberta's signature of the Construction Codes Reconciliation Agreement. Once fully implemented, the economic benefit to Canada attributable to the harmonization and timely adoption of construction codes is estimated to be between \$750 million to \$1 billion by 2028.
  - o The introduction of Alberta's Regulatory Cooperation Work Plan - enabling temporary rapid registration for workers in times of urgent need (e.g., floods, epidemics). This item aims to address the registration requirements and processes of regulatory authorities, seen as operational barriers to the quick deployment of workers when managing a crisis, by allowing regulators to quickly issue temporary registration to needed workers.
  - Encouraging the federal government and other provinces and territories to follow Alberta's lead to reduce their party-specific exceptions under the CFTA and the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA).
    - o After removing 21 CFTA exceptions across 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, Alberta has the lowest number of exceptions of any party. CFTA exceptions shelter protectionist policies that act as a barrier to trade. Removing these exceptions creates a more open, transparent and competitive marketplace.
    - o Encouraging other provinces and territories to join the New West Partnership Trade Agreement, the most open and comprehensive trade agreement in Canada, which allows goods, services, capital and workers to move freely across provincial boundaries.
  - Continuing to lead Alberta's participation in negotiations to bring financial services and non-medical cannabis under the rules of the CFTA.

## 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 and implementation of public policies, programs and services. Results included the following:

- Supported 84 Cabinet committee meetings. The committees reviewed 477 strategic, policy, regulatory and legislative initiatives. This included coordination of agendas and decisions documents, briefing committee chairs, and working with the Cabinet Coordination Office to produce meeting records.
- Supported the development and introduction of 40 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 and Cabinet committees. CCO also provided advice on Cabinet agenda-setting and the efficient operation of Cabinet and Cabinet committees. Key results included the following:

- Coordinated and supported 28 Cabinet meetings, two Cabinet retreats and four Cabinet electronic polls. CCO also supported 49 meetings of the Priorities Implementation Cabinet Committee and 17 meetings of the Emergency Management Cabinet Committee. These services included briefing the Premier, logistics, developing agendas and decision documents, producing official meeting records and 148 appointments to public agencies, boards, commissions and the courts.
- Worked with ministries, Legislative Counsel Office and the Lieutenant Governor's Office to coordinate the signing of 381 Orders in Council.

### Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

**Key Priority:**  
Protecting livelihoods

**Objective 7:**  
A fair deal for Alberta (pg.17 GoA Strategic Plan)

The Government of Alberta has been working hard on the assessment and implementation of the recommendations provided by the Fair Deal Panel. Some key examples of recommendations implemented over the past year include:

- On October 18, 2021, a referendum on equalization was held with 62% of Albertans voting in favour of equalization being removed from the Constitution.
- Alberta is continuing to press the federal government for much needed changes to the Fiscal Stabilization Program, that have been supported by all provinces and territories through the Council of the Federation.
- Alberta has appointed a Chief Firearms Officer and offices are now in operation with the intent to administer federal firearms legislation and advocate for Alberta's lawful firearms owners.

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.

### **Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan**

#### **Key Priority:**

Protecting livelihoods

#### **Objective 7:**

A fair deal for Alberta (pg.17 GoA Strategic Plan)

The Government of Alberta focused on building coalitions with willing provinces and territories (PTs) to advance objectives that respect Alberta's jurisdiction and improve our prosperity.

- Alberta continued to foster strong relationships with like-minded provinces and territories on priority files.
- Over the past year, Alberta has been working collaboratively with all PTs, through the Council of the Federation, on the consensus request for the federal government to increase its share of provincial-territorial health care costs from 22% to 35% through the Canada Health Transfer.

Alberta continues to push back against federal legislation and initiatives that intrude on areas of provincial jurisdiction, such as the Emissions Reduction Plan and Clean Electricity Standard.

- Alberta's challenge of Bill C-69 was successful. On May 10, 2022 the Court of Appeal of Alberta ruled in Alberta's favour, and found the Impact Assessment Act unconstitutional.



## 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 2021-2022 included the virtual Council of the Federation Winter Meeting held in February 2022 and the virtual Western Premiers' Conference held in June 2021. Both of these major intergovernmental meetings provide the Government of Alberta with the opportunity to continue to advance Alberta's interests and key priorities at federal, provincial, and territorial tables.

#### Council of the Federation

The Council of the Federation (COF) 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 February 4, 2022 by video-conference. 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 for all Canadians.

Premiers met virtually on a regular basis throughout the year to address the ongoing response to COVID-19 and discuss the main priority of the COF table, which is an immediate increase to the federal share of the Canada Health Transfer. Alberta attended 12 virtual meetings in 2021-2022 in addition to the 2022 virtual Winter Meeting.

#### 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 of a western focus. In June 2021, Nunavut chaired a virtual WPC meeting. Western Premiers met to discuss post-pandemic health systems, the importance of a strong economic recovery, and the collective health of western and northern Canadians. Productive discussions occurred on the need to increase federal health care funding, the importance of securing greater market access for Canadian goods, support for economic corridors that will serve western Canada, and the crucial role that the energy sector will play in Canada's economic recovery.

#### Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

##### Key Priority:

Protecting livelihoods

##### Objective 6:

Standing Up for Alberta's Natural Resources (pg.16 GoA Strategic Plan)

Alberta has continued to advocate for the importance of energy security and increasing market access opportunities to foreign markets.

Alberta continues to have significant concerns with increasing federal intrusion into provincial jurisdiction over natural resources, and the economic implications of federal efforts to undermine Alberta's energy sector.

Over the past year Alberta has urged the federal government to listen to industry and provinces, and end harmful federal initiatives like Just Transition.



## First Ministers' Meeting

The federal government did not act on the Council of the Federation's request for an in-person meeting to discuss the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) in 2021-22. First Ministers did meet on a regular basis via conference call to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and related responses. While recognizing the importance of First Ministers' Meetings on COVID-19, Premiers continue to call upon the Prime Minister to engage in a constructive dialogue on the number one priority of all Canadians: health care, as COVID-19 has further exacerbated the need for increased sustainable health care funding. No long-term commitment from the federal government was provided during 2021-22. Until a new deal is reached, Premiers will continue to call on the Prime Minister to discuss the CHT. Canada's Premiers have invited the Prime Minister to work with them to begin negotiations without further delay so that a First Ministers' Agreement on Sustainable Health Care Funding can be finalized as soon as possible.

In 2021-2022, Alberta attended a total of nine First Ministers' Meetings, including a conference call in January of 2022 where First Ministers' discussed the federal government's decision to invoke the *Emergencies Act*. The meetings were held by the federal government to consult provinces on the first ever invocation of the act during public protests that disrupted major supply-chain routes in Canada.

## Multilateral and Bilateral Meetings

Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) supported the Premier, Ministers and Deputy Ministers at 211 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.

### 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 amongst all jurisdictions within Canada. IGR provided support to the Ministry of Children's Services in implementing the federal-provincial child care agreement to reduce child care fees by an average of 50% in early 2022 and to provide \$10 per day fees, on average, by 2026. IGR worked closely with the Ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure on encouraging Saskatchewan to ensure their procurement practices aligned with their trade obligations under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the New West Partnership Trade Agreement. This work resulted in Saskatchewan bringing their procurement practices in line with their trade obligations.

### 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 182 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 the New West Partnership Trade Agreement to reduce 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.**

In 2021, Alberta participated in the completion of the Fall Protection Reconciliation Agreement, encompassing seven types of fall protection equipment. Alberta also placed a new item on the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table work plan. When completed, this item will allow temporary rapid registration for workers in times of urgent need (e.g., floods, epidemics), thereby removing barriers to the quick deployment of workers to assist with managing a crisis.

**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 towards the inclusion of 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 the strategic and operational engagement activities of the government in support of Alberta’s energy industry and other industries that are being assessed using Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria**

As per the 2021 business plan, the Secretariat was established and staffed. The Secretariat has been working with ministries to create a compelling, unified narrative across all facets of ESG and engaging with stakeholders to bolster Alberta’s ESG reputation.

A jurisdictional ESG framework has been drafted to enable fair and transparent comparison of ESG focus areas across similar jurisdictions and enable discussions with stakeholders on policies and performance in all three areas.

**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.**

**Alberta Protocol Office**

Throughout the year the Protocol Office continued to support high level meetings of Cabinet, Caucus and emergency meetings related to the pandemic and economic recovery both in person and virtually. These included:

- 857 meetings with 10,154 attendees in the Edmonton Federal Building
- 86 meetings with 794 attendees at Government House in Edmonton
- 612 meetings with 3,766 attendees at McDougall Centre in Calgary

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to alter traditional engagement with the diplomatic and consular corps through 2021-22; however, the Protocol Office supported 26 visits (virtual and in

person) focused on building trade and investment relationships with the international community. Alberta Protocol carried on working with Global Affairs Canada and the ministry of Jobs, Economy and Innovation to provide virtual updates to Heads of Mission on the economic environment in Alberta and key investment initiatives underway within the province. The fourth in the series of presentations took place on May 18, 2021 featuring the CEO for Economy and Innovation and the CEO for Emissions Reduction Alberta. A fifth session took place on February 8, 2022 focused on an Alberta economic update presented by Chief Economist, Catherine Rothrock. These virtual meetings remained effective with over 100 Ambassadors/High Commissioners taking part in each of the briefing sessions.

In addition to visits, the Protocol Office fulfilled its mandate of supporting provincial ceremonies including 4 swearing-in ceremonies, the February 22 Open House, and two Alberta Order of Excellence ceremonies in December 2021.

## Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology

### 1.a Performance Measure: Satisfaction of ministries with the services they receive from Executive Council

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
79%	77%	82%	87%	85%	92%

Source: Executive Council Client Survey – Last administered from December 13, 2021 to December 24, 2021. This measure shows the overall satisfaction level of Government of Alberta staff who receive services from the Policy Coordination Office (PCO) and/or the Cabinet Coordination Office (CCO) and Intergovernmental Relations in Executive Council. Satisfaction feedback is gathered through an internal survey distributed to clients of Executive Council across government departments once a year. Based on a 4-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.

### 1.b Performance Measure: 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				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
82%	76%	72%	77%	85%	89%

[Source: Executive Council Client Survey – Last administered from December 13, 2021 to December 24, 2021. This measure shows the overall satisfaction level of Government of Alberta staff who receive services from the PCO and/or the CCO in Executive Council. Satisfaction feedback is gathered through an internal survey distributed to clients of Executive Council across government departments once a year. Based on a 4-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.

**2.a Performance Measure: Satisfaction of ministries with the services they receive from Executive Council to advance Alberta's interests within Canada**

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
88%	88%	92%	97%	90%	98%

[Source: Executive Council Client Survey – Last administered from December 13, 2021 to December 24, 2021. This measure shows the satisfaction level of Government of Alberta staff who receive services from Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) 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. Feedback is gathered through an internal survey distributed to clients of Executive Council across government departments once a year. Based on a 4-point Likert scale, this measure combines the “satisfied” and “very satisfied” results of the questions for a total satisfaction score.

**2.b Performance Measure: Percentage of intergovernmental agreements reviewed within the designated two-week timeframe**

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
N/A	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.

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

Year	Prior Year's Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		
Number of Intergovernmental Meetings (multilateral and bilateral supported)	183	110	194	411	N/A	211

[Source: Internal Database]

# Financial Information

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## Ministry Financial Highlights

### Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited)

Year Ended March 31, 2022

	2022		2021	Change from	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>				
<b>Revenues</b>					
Other revenues	\$ 8	\$ 5	\$ 2	\$ (3)	\$ 3
Ministry total	8	5	2	(3)	3
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Adjusted ministry total	8	5	2	(3)	3
<b>Expenses - directly incurred</b>					
Programs					
Office of the Premier / Executive Council	12,701	11,277	11,895	(1,424)	(618)
Intergovernmental Relations	5,554	3,024	2,630	(2,530)	394
Ministry total	18,255	14,301	14,525	(3,954)	(224)
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Adjusted ministry total	18,255	14,301	14,525	(3,954)	(224)
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (18,247)</b>	<b>\$ (14,296)</b>	<b>\$ (14,523)</b>	<b>\$ 3,951</b>	<b>\$ 227</b>

## Revenue and Expense Highlights

### Revenues

- Revenues for Executive Council are generated primarily through events hosted at Government House.
- Revenues have increased from prior year but are still lower than the budget due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

### Expenses

#### Comparison of budget to actual expense results

(in thousands)

2021-22	2021-22
Actual	Budget
\$14,301	\$18,255

#### Expenses for the ministry were \$3,954 (22 per cent) below budget.

- Office of the Premier/Executive Council expenses were \$1,424 lower than budget primarily due to less travel in the current year due to COVID-19, savings due to staff vacancies and a reduction to discretionary spending.
- The majority of the lapse occurred in Intergovernmental Relations. Expenses were \$2,530 lower than budget due to staff vacancies, and lower than budgeted supplies and services in the Environmental, Social and Governance Secretariat. The Secretariat was announced in Budget 2021 and was in the process of being established in 2021-22.

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

2021-22	2021-22
Actual	Actual
\$14,301	\$14,525

#### Expenses for the ministry were \$224 (2 per cent) lower than in 2020-21.

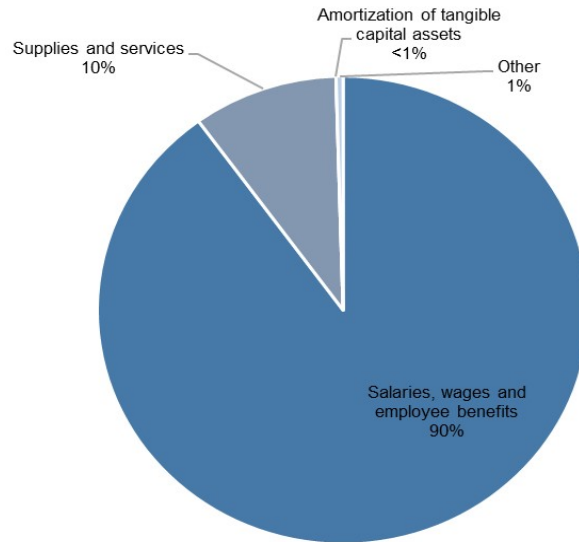
- Expenses were \$224 lower than prior year due to lower salary and benefit payments, which were partially offset by an increase in supplies and services.



## 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 2021-22 for Executive Council were \$14,301. This represents a decrease from budget of \$3,954 (22 per cent).



### Salaries, wages and employee benefits

(\$12,868 or 90 per cent of total expenses)

- Salaries, wages and employee benefits were lower than budget by \$3,366 (21 per cent). The decrease was predominantly due to delays in filling vacated positions which created a lapse of \$3,366 in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

### Supplies and Services

(\$1,366 or 10 per cent of total expenses)

- Supplies and Services were lower than budget by \$575 (30 per cent). The lapse was a result of lower than budgeted travel and hospitality expenses due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## Other Financial Information

### Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)

(in thousands)

Expense Vote by Program	Voted Estimate <sup>(1)</sup>	Supplementary Supply	Adjustments	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals <sup>(2)</sup>	(Unexpended) Over Expended
<b>Operating Expense</b>						
Office of the Premier/Executive Council						
1.1 Office of the Premier / Executive Council	\$ 12,087	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,087	\$ 10,784	\$ (1,303)
1.2 Office of the Lieutenant Governor	614	-	-	614	477	(137)
	<u>12,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,701</u>	<u>11,261</u>	<u>(1,440)</u>
Intergovernmental Relations						
2.1 Intergovernmental Relations	5,554	-	-	5,554	3,041	(2,513)
	<u>5,554</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,554</u>	<u>3,041</u>	<u>(2,513)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 18,255</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 18,255</b>	<b>\$ 14,302</b>	<b>\$ (3,953)</b>
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						<u>\$ (3,953)</u>
<b>Capital Investment Vote by Program</b>						
Department Capital Acquisitions						
Office of the Premier/Executive Council						
1.1 Office of the Premier / Executive Council	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
1.2 Office of the Lieutenant Governor	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						<u>\$ -</u>

(1) As per "Expense Vote by Program" page 109 of 2021-22 Government Estimates.

(2) Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments.

## 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:

	2022	2021
Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat	<u>\$ 233</u>	<u>\$ 241</u>

## 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, 2021 and March 31, 2022.