

BUDGET 2022

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2022-25

Ministry Business Plan Indigenous Relations

Indigenous Relations

Business Plan 2022-25

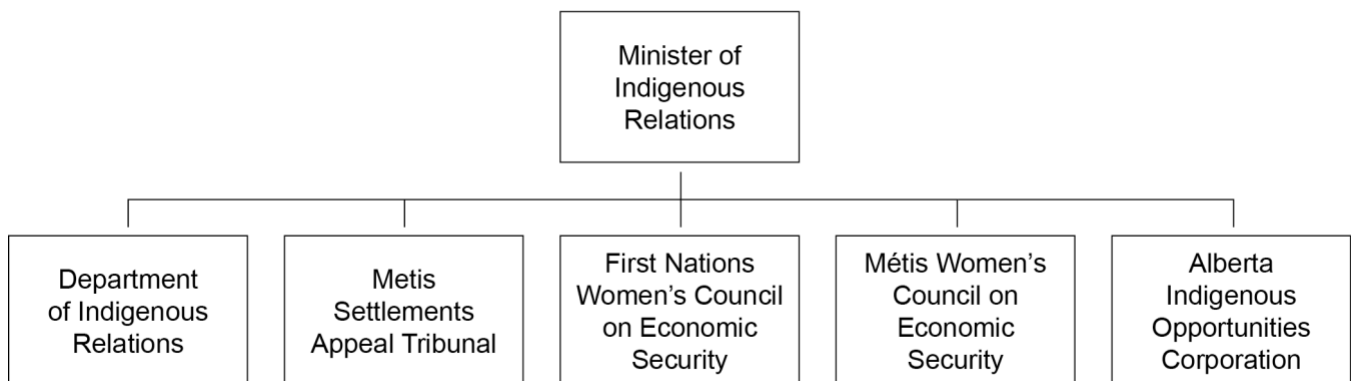
Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The Ministry consists of the Department of Indigenous Relations, Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, First Nations and Métis Women’s Councils on Economic Security, and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC).

Operationally independent from the Department of Indigenous Relations, the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that works to resolve disputes by promoting self-governance, certainty and respect within the Metis Settlements through adjudication, mediation and education. The First Nations and Métis Women’s Councils on Economic Security work to advise the minister directly on policies, programs and services to improve socio-economic outcomes and security for Indigenous women, their families and communities. The department also provides oversight to the AIOC, a Crown corporation that works to improve access to financial supports for Indigenous groups’ ownership and investment in medium to large-scale natural resource projects and related infrastructure, which will support economic prosperity and social improvements in communities for generations to come.

Indigenous Relations provides guidance, specialized knowledge, and expert advice to other Government of Alberta ministries to ensure Indigenous perspectives are heard and considered during the development, implementation and monitoring of policies, programs, services and initiatives, and supports engagement with Indigenous communities. Indigenous Relations ensures Alberta’s legal duty to consult with First Nations is met where resource development may adversely impact their Treaty rights and traditional uses of the land. Indigenous Relations also ensures that Alberta meets its consultation obligations with Metis Settlements and credibly asserted Métis communities where resource development may adversely impact the continued exercise of the harvesting and traditional use activities of their members’.

The ministry is central to facilitating cross-government collaboration on responses to Indigenous matters, policies, programs and initiatives; and advocating for on-reserve key services. Indigenous Relations also acts as a central point for government to build and maintain relationships with Indigenous governments, communities, groups, industries and organizations in the province.



The Ministry of Indigenous Relations is accountable for the following:

- leading programs, initiatives and policy development to promote security and prosperity for Indigenous Peoples; providing certainty to regulators, industry and Indigenous communities through Alberta’s consultation policy and guidelines; and upholding the honour of the Crown to fulfil the province’s legal duty to consult;
- collaborating with other provincial government ministries (e.g. Children’s Services, Education, Infrastructure, etc.) the federal government, and First Nations, in response to and negotiation of land-related claims;

- leading Alberta’s response to the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, which will be informed by the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls’ report and recommendations, to address violence against Indigenous women, girls and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual plus people in Alberta;
- responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee Calls to Action, Indigenous Relations is leading Alberta’s Residential Schools Community Research Grant program which funds Indigenous-led engagement, research and related activities associated with the documented and undocumented deaths and burials of Indigenous children at any of the historical Indian residential school sites in Alberta;
- supporting community, social and economic development efforts of First Nations through the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF), which supports projects including but not limited to housing projects, children, youth and Elder programs, cultural programs, business start-ups and expansion, and employment and training programs;
- supporting training and employment for Indigenous Peoples through the Employment Partnerships Program (EPP), which provides funds for direct training and employment supports, and fosters industry partnerships to expand availability, accessibility, and quality of Indigenous employment opportunities;
- supporting economic development efforts through the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF), which supports projects to increase the number of Indigenous community-owned businesses, increase employment opportunities and strengthen economies of Indigenous communities;
- facilitating cross-government collaboration with other Government of Alberta ministries, municipalities, water commissions, and industry to respond to federal Indigenous initiatives, such as access to safe and clean drinking water; the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program; disaster response and recovery, including the COVID-19 pandemic; pathfinding opportunities; and advocating for key services; and
- leading the Indigenous Learning Initiative offered to all Alberta Public Service employees to help them gain increased knowledge of, and appreciation for, Indigenous cultures and protocols, histories and worldviews. This can create a desire for further learning, respectful dialogue, positive engagement, improved relationships and ultimately reconciliation.

A more detailed description of Indigenous Relations and its programs and initiatives can be found at: alberta.ca/ministry-of-indigenous-relations.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations continues to review programs to ensure Albertans receive efficient and client focused services from their government. As part of this ongoing review, the ministry is committed to protecting and supporting Albertans and job creators by reducing red tape by one-third by 2023, modernizing regulations, eliminating unnecessary regulatory requirements, and reducing administrative burden through more efficient processes including digital solutions.

Ministry business plans should be considered in conjunction with all budget documents - including the Fiscal Plan, Government Strategic Plan, and Estimates - which work together to provide a complete overview of government’s commitment to responsible fiscal management.

Business Plan – Core

Outcome 1

Indigenous Peoples and communities benefit from security and prosperity and Alberta maintains its legal duty to consult

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Provide oversight to the AIOC to facilitate investments by Indigenous groups in natural resource projects and related infrastructure.
- 1.2 Lead Alberta’s legal duty to consult, including advocating for a streamlined federal Aboriginal consultation process, that provides clear timelines and legal certainty for project proponents and Indigenous communities.
- 1.3 Work with other provincial government ministries, the federal government, and First Nations to resolve and negotiate land-related claims.
- 1.4 Support community, social and economic development through: funding programs; First Nations and Métis Women’s Councils on Economic Security; and implementation of actions to address the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report and violence against Indigenous women, girls and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual plus people

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2022-23, \$8.5 million is allocated to the AIOC, to support Indigenous groups seeking to make medium to large-scale investments in natural resource projects that benefit Alberta’s economy;
- The FNDF is supported by a percentage of revenues from government-owned slot machines operating in First Nations casinos in Alberta, projected to be \$113 million in 2022-23, to support community, social and economic development opportunities;
- The EPP and ABIF will invest \$4.5 million and \$5 million respectively in employment, training, and business development opportunities; and
- The Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program is \$6 million, to assist Indigenous communities to participate in consultation related to resource development and land management activities.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Measure: Number of Indigenous employment initiatives

This measure supports Indigenous Peoples, communities and organizations to fully participate in Alberta’s economy. The target of 25 for the next three years is on par with 25 participants in 20221-22.

Targets	2022-23	25	2023-24	25	2024-25	25
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Outcome 2

Indigenous perspectives and Alberta’s interests with its cross-government and industry partners are heard and included in Government of Alberta policies, programs, initiatives and services

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Support Alberta’s economic recovery by maintaining one-third reduction of red tape through active monitoring, while supporting Indigenous participation.
- 2.2 Collaborate with other provincial government ministries to provide expert advice and support for the development of policies, programs, and initiatives that reflect Indigenous perspectives and advance reconciliation.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2022-23, \$11.6 million is allocated to support Indigenous communities to invest in public infrastructure projects that will benefit current and future Albertans through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- Developing a new online system i.e. Aboriginal Consultation Office Digital Service, that will provide enhanced service delivery to industry, Indigenous communities and ministries involved in Alberta's Indigenous consultation process.
- Working collaboratively with other Alberta ministries and regulators to further improving consultation process efficiencies and information sharing.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that pre-consultation assessments (4 working days) and consultation adequacy assessments (10 working days) are issued within established timelines

This measure demonstrates how the ministry is continuing to support red tape reduction efforts by reducing project delays and providing timeline certainty to Indigenous communities and industry. Improved consultation review timelines are critical in building investor confidence in Alberta's natural resource development sector and enhancing economic opportunities for Indigenous communities.

In 2020-21, both pre-consultation assessments and adequacy assessments were issued within the established timelines every week (i.e. at 100 per cent), which exceeded the target of 95 per cent.

Pre-consultation Assessments:

Targets	2022-23	95%	2023-24	95%	2024-25	95%
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Consultation Adequacy Assessments:

Targets	2022-23	95%	2023-24	95%	2024-25	95%
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Outcome 3

Relationships with Indigenous leadership and organizations are maintained and strengthened

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Support First Nations to improve economic and social outcomes and support First Nations in environmental discussions through protocol agreements.
- 3.2 Maintain and strengthen Alberta's relationships with the Metis Settlements General Council, Metis Settlements and the Métis Nation of Alberta through agreements.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- \$1 million budgeted for Protocol Agreements to support collaboration between the provincial government and First Nations;
- the Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements Agreement, a 10-year agreement with the Metis Settlements General Council and seven Metis Settlements will total \$5 million in 2022-23; and
- the Métis Nation of Alberta Framework Agreement, which promotes and facilitates the advancement of Alberta Métis will total \$1.2 million in 2022-23.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Number of First Nations protocol agreements

Indigenous Relations has the mandate to proceed with four protocol agreements. There are two active protocol agreements (Blackfoot Confederacy and Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council). The Ministry will continue to engage First Nations leadership in both Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 to pursue protocol agreements.

Targets	2022-23	3	2023-24	4	2024-25	4
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STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2022-23 Estimate	2023-24 Target	2024-25 Target
	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Premiums, Fees and Licences	-	2,475	667	2,475	2,475	2,475
Transfers from Government of Canada	1,539	29,776	23,525	11,719	6,700	100
Labour Market Development	3,664	4,547	4,547	4,547	4,547	4,547
Other Revenue	5,135	-	485	-	-	-
Ministry Total	10,338	36,798	29,224	18,741	13,722	7,122
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(1,389)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	8,949	36,798	29,224	18,741	13,722	7,122
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	4,157	4,545	4,545	4,499	4,499	4,499
First Nations and Métis Relations	20,600	22,633	29,253	22,350	17,350	17,350
Indigenous Women's Initiatives	1,158	1,237	1,237	2,126	2,126	2,126
First Nations Development Fund	63,598	123,000	113,000	113,000	120,000	120,000
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,000	1,121	1,121	1,108	1,108	1,108
Consultation, Land and Policy	15,995	15,098	15,978	15,981	15,981	15,981
Investing in Canada Infrastructure	1,539	29,776	23,525	11,719	6,700	100
Land and Legal Settlement	113	8,324	3,500	4,674	50	50
Indigenous Litigation Fund	-	3,000	1,000	-	-	-
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	2,565	8,475	5,334	8,475	8,475	8,475
Ministry Total	110,725	217,209	198,493	183,932	176,289	169,689
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(114)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	110,611	217,209	198,493	183,932	176,289	169,689
Net Operating Result	(101,662)	(180,411)	(169,269)	(165,191)	(162,567)	(162,567)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	-	25	25	25	25	25
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	-	-	24	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	-	25	49	25	25	25