

BUDGET 2023

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2023-26

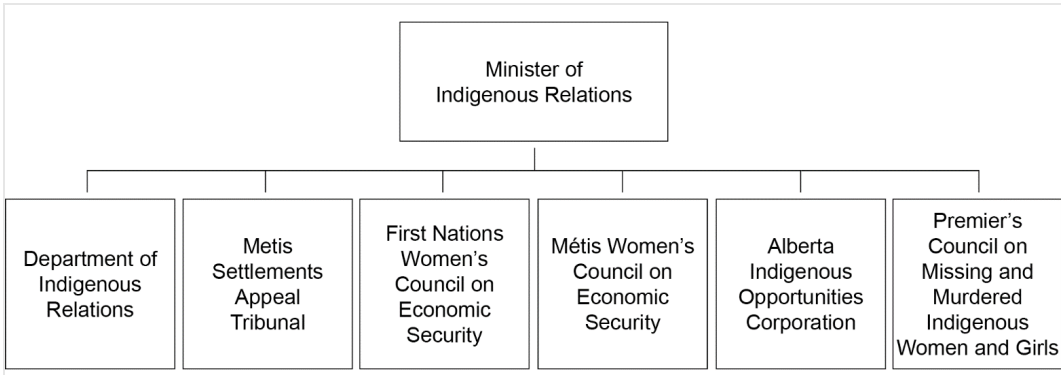
Ministry Business Plan Indigenous Relations

Indigenous Relations

Business Plan 2023-26

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

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



The Department of Indigenous Relations acts as a central point for government to build and maintain relationships with Indigenous governments, communities, groups, industries and organizations in the province. The department provides guidance, specialized knowledge, and expert advice to other Government of Alberta ministries to ensure Indigenous perspectives are heard and considered while developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programs, services and initiatives.

Indigenous Relations also ensures Alberta’s legal duty to consult with First Nations, Metis Settlements and credibly-asserted Métis communities is met where resource development may adversely impact the continued exercise of First Nations Treaty rights and traditional uses of Metis Settlements or credibly asserted Métis community members’ harvesting or traditional use activities. As part of this work, the department ensures coordination with other provincial government ministries including Energy, Environment and Protected Areas, Infrastructure, Transportation and Economic Corridors, along with the federal government, and First Nations, in response to and negotiation of land-related claims.

The department works to advocate and create pathfinding opportunities for key services for communities. Indigenous Relations work in these areas involve leading the facilitation of cross-government collaboration with municipalities, water commissions, and industry to respond to federal Indigenous initiatives and legislation. These include access to safe and clean drinking water; child and family services; the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program; and disaster response and recovery.

Community, social and economic development efforts of First Nations, Metis Settlements, and other Indigenous communities and organizations are supported through:

- the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF), which supports projects including, but not limited to, housing, children, youth and Elder programs, cultural programs, business start-ups and expansion, and employment and training programs;

- administering the Employment Partnerships Program (EPP), which provides funds for direct training and employment supports for Indigenous peoples, and fosters industry partnerships to expand availability, accessibility, and quality of Indigenous employment opportunities;
- the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF), which provides capital funding for Indigenous community-owned economic development projects to increase the number of Indigenous community-owned businesses, increase employment opportunities for Indigenous peoples, and strengthen the economies of Indigenous communities; and
- maintaining and strengthening relationships with the Metis Settlements and Métis communities and advancing the long-term sustainability of the Settlements.

Indigenous Relations also leads the Alberta government's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The Alberta government's cross-government actions towards reconciliation in priority areas, such as economic community development, culture, language, health and families is highlighted on its website. Indigenous Relations also worked with Indigenous communities to design a permanent monument and reconciliation garden to commemorate the lives lost to or harmed by residential schools. It is estimated to be completed on the Alberta legislature grounds in 2023. Indigenous Relations also takes a leadership role in advancing reconciliation through policies and programs guided by Jordan's Principle, which ensures First Nations children in Canada have access to services and supports when they need them.

The department delivers the Indigenous Learning Initiative as part of the Alberta government's commitment to further reconciliation, build relationships and opportunities for respectful dialogue, positive engagement and to further learning. This initiative is offered to all Alberta Public Service employees and agencies, boards and commissions to help them gain increased knowledge of and appreciation for Indigenous cultures and protocols, histories and worldviews.

Indigenous Relations leads Alberta's response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including supporting the work of the Premier's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This public advisory agency provides independent advice to and monitors actions taken by government to prevent violence and increase safety and economic security of Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit plus people. Indigenous Relations also works independently to achieve these same goals.

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 advise the minister directly on policies, programs and services to improve socio-economic outcomes for Indigenous women, their families and communities.

Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is a provincial corporation that enables access to capital funding for Alberta-based Indigenous groups investing in medium to large-scale natural resource, agriculture, transportation, and telecommunication projects and related infrastructure. These projects will support economic prosperity and social improvements in communities for generations to come.

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

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations remains committed to regulatory approaches and program delivery that reduce unnecessary government oversight and emphasize outcomes, to improve access to government services, attract investment, support innovation and competitiveness, and grow Alberta businesses.

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.

2023-26 Business Plan

Outcome 1

Indigenous peoples and communities are engaged as economic partners, and resource or economic development occurs in the context of Alberta's legal duty to consult

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Provide oversight to Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) to enable access to capital, make financing more affordable and improve lending terms to First Nations, Metis Settlements, and other Indigenous communities and organizations in medium to large-scale natural resource, agriculture, transportation, and telecommunication projects and related infrastructure.
- 1.2 Provide secretariat support to First Nations and Metis Women's Council's on economic security and advance the Councils' advice and recommendations to achieve greater economic security for Indigenous women, their families and communities.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Work with other provincial government ministries, the federal government, and First Nations to resolve and negotiate land-related claims.
- 1.5 Deliver funding programs to support community, social and economic development of Indigenous communities.
- 1.6 Lead Alberta's Métis credible assertion process, so a Métis organization, if successful in demonstrating an assertion of Métis Aboriginal rights, will be consulted when Crown land management and resource development decisions may have the potential to adversely impact those credibly asserted Métis Aboriginal rights.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- AIOC will spend up to \$8.5 million per year to enable access to capital, make financing more affordable and improve lending terms to support economic prosperity and social improvements in communities. The current annual operating grant is \$4 million.
- Ongoing development of an online system, the Aboriginal Consultation Office Digital Service, will enhance service delivery to industry, Indigenous communities and ministries involved in Alberta's Indigenous consultation process.
- The Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program will provide \$7 million in funding to assist affected Indigenous communities in participating in consultation related to land and natural resource management activities.
- The First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) will allocate a projected \$146 million in 2023-24 to support community, social and economic development opportunities.
- The Employment Partnerships Program (EPP) and the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) will annually invest \$4.5 million and \$7.5 million respectively in employment, training, and business development opportunities.
- \$2 million will be allocated to support the Métis Credible Assertion process and provide grant funding for the Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program.
- In 2023-24, \$8.9 million will be allocated to support Indigenous communities to invest in public infrastructure projects that will benefit current and future Indigenous people through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- Support of the implementation of the First Nations Regional Drinking Water Tie-In Project with the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors.

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 Indigenous employment initiatives, supported by the Employment Partnerships Program, for the next three years is on par with 25 initiatives in 2022-23.

Targets	2023-24	25	2024-25	25	2025-26	25
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Outcome 2

Government of Alberta programs, initiatives and services reflect Indigenous perspectives and advance reconciliation with its cross-government and industry partners

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Support Alberta’s economic growth by facilitating Indigenous participation in the consultation process for natural resource development activities.
- 2.2 Collaborate with other provincial government ministries to provide expert advice and support to develop policies, programs, initiatives, and services that reflect Indigenous perspectives and advance reconciliation.
- 2.3 Implement and support government actions set out in the Alberta Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Roadmap to prevent violence, increase safety and economic security for Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual plus people.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Allocate \$3.9 million to the Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative to support economic growth and projects that revitalize and enhance culture, traditions and languages.
- Dedicate the establishment of a reconciliation monument and garden on the Alberta Legislature grounds with completion anticipated in 2023.
- Allocate \$5.9 million to implement the Alberta MMIWG Roadmap, which includes supporting the Premier’s Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, community engagement, community-based projects, and research initiatives.
- Further advance reconciliation through policies and programs that are guided by Jordan’s Principle, which ensures First Nations children in Canada have access to services and supports when they need them.
- Support cross-ministry partners to connect with Indigenous partners within communities to ensure Indigenous communities play a central role in Alberta’s provincial energy strategy and economic partnerships.

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	2023-24	95%	2024-25	95%	2025-26	95%
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Consultation Adequacy Assessments:

Targets	2023-24	95%	2024-25	95%	2025-26	95%
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Outcome 3

Relationships with Indigenous leadership and organizations are maintained and strengthened

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Enhance discussions with First Nations and government through protocol or relationship agreements.
- 3.2 Develop and implement programs or initiatives in discussion with communities that support community and social development of First Nations, Metis Settlements, and other Indigenous communities and organizations.
- 3.3 Maintain and strengthen Alberta's relationships with the Metis Settlements General Council, Metis Settlements, the Métis Nation of Alberta and other Métis organizations and groups.
- 3.4 Establish and strengthen Alberta's relationships with Indigenous women's and Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual plus organizations.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Enhance and support collaboration between the provincial government and First Nations through a \$1 million annual budget allocated to implementing and maintaining the First Nations protocol and relationship agreements.
- Dedicate \$1.5 million in 2023-24 towards the Métis Nation of Alberta Framework Agreement, which promotes and facilitates the community, cultural and economic advancement of Métis people in Alberta.
- Develop and implement a streamlined approach to relationships with the eight Metis Settlements, including supporting direct relationships with the Settlements themselves.
- Allocate \$2 million to support the Metis Settlements Enhanced Policing initiative for community policing services on Settlements.
- Assist Metis Settlement's administrations with building governance capacity and access to existing Government of Alberta programs to support Metis Settlement sustainability.
- Engage with organizations led by Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual plus to maintain and strengthen relationships.
- Collaborate and engage with Métis organizations to support reconciliation and enhance relationships

Performance Metrics

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

Indigenous Relations has the mandate to proceed with four First Nations protocol or relationship agreements. There are two active protocol agreements (Blackfoot Confederacy and Stoney Nakoda-Tsuut'ina Tribal Council), and one active relationship agreement with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations.

The Ministry will continue to engage First Nations leadership in Treaty 8 to pursue an agreement.

Targets	2023-24	4	2024-25	4	2025-26	4
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STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable		2023-24 Estimate	2024-25 Target	2025-26 Target
	2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Forecast			
REVENUE					
Premiums, Fees and Licences	2,475	1,511	4,527	4,544	4,544
Transfers from Government of Canada	11,719	20,194	9,031	100	100
Labour Market Development	4,547	4,547	4,547	4,547	4,547
Consolidated Total	18,741	26,252	18,105	9,191	9,191
EXPENSE					
Ministry Support Services	4,499	4,499	5,016	5,088	5,109
First Nations and Métis Relations	22,350	26,459	25,499	25,613	25,643
Indigenous Women's Initiatives	2,126	2,126	7,391	7,410	7,415
First Nations Development Fund	113,000	126,000	147,250	148,500	149,000
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,108	1,108	1,161	1,174	1,177
Consultation, Land and Policy	15,981	16,861	22,583	22,730	22,771
Investing in Canada Infrastructure	11,719	20,194	9,031	100	100
Land and Legal Settlement	4,674	4,148	3,825	275	25
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	8,475	5,111	8,527	8,544	8,544
Consolidated Total	183,932	206,506	230,283	219,434	219,784
Net Operating Result	(165,191)	(180,254)	(212,178)	(210,243)	(210,593)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT					
Ministry Support Services	25	25	25	25	25
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	-	200	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	25	225	25	25	25