

BUDGET 2021

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2021-24

Ministry Business Plan Indigenous Relations

Indigenous Relations

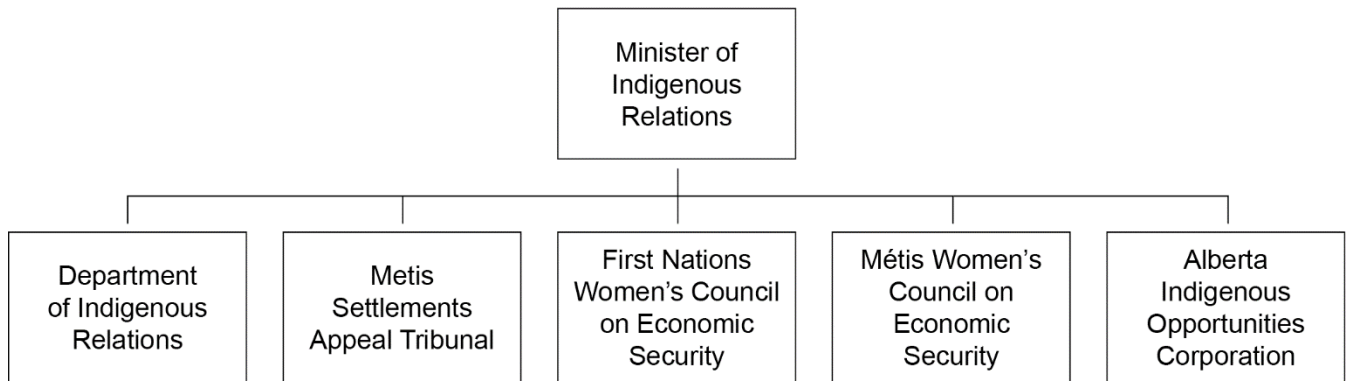
Business Plan 2021-24

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.

Operating at arm’s length from the Department of Indigenous Relations, the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that promotes 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 ways to improve socio-economic outcomes and security for Indigenous women and their families. In addition, the department provides oversight to the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, a Crown corporation that works to improve access to financial supports for Indigenous groups’ ownership and investment in mid- to large-scale natural resource projects, and related infrastructure.

The ministry provides expert advice, guidance, and specialized knowledge to other government ministries to be sure Indigenous perspectives are heard in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies, programs and initiatives, and to support engagement with Indigenous communities. The ministry is central to facilitating cross-government collaboration on responding to Indigenous policies, programs and initiatives; and advocating for on-reserve key services. In addition, 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 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 process; and upholding the honour of the Crown to fulfil the province’s legal duty to consult. The ministry also advocates for a streamlined federal Aboriginal consultation process that provides clear timelines and legal certainty for project proponents and Indigenous communities;
- collaborating and working with other government ministries, 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 Final Report* through review and analysis of its effects on provincial policies, programs and services;
- supporting community, social and economic development efforts of First Nations communities through the First Nations Development Fund, which supports projects including but not limited to housing projects, business start-ups and expansion, and employment and training programs;
- supporting training and employment for Indigenous Peoples through the Employment Partnerships Program, which provides fund 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, 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; disaster response and recovery, including the COVID-19 pandemic; pathfinding opportunities; and advocating for on-reserve key services; and
- working with the Metis Settlements General Council, and the eight Metis Settlements to modernize the *Metis Settlements Act*.

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 making life easier for hard-working Albertans and job creators by reducing regulatory requirements by one-third by 2023, and eliminating administrative burden through more efficient processes. This work will improve service delivery for Albertans; foster economic growth, innovation and competitiveness; and create a strong and attractive investment climate.

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 benefit from security and prosperity in their communities and when Alberta maintains its legal duty to consult

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Provide oversight to the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation to facilitate investment by Indigenous groups in natural resource projects and related infrastructure.
- 1.2 Administer the Indigenous Litigation Fund to support Indigenous Peoples’ voices in legal action that affects responsible resource development and advances Alberta’s interests.
- 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 government ministries, the federal government, and First Nations to resolve and negotiate land-related claims.
- 1.5 Support community, social and economic development through the:
 - First Nations Development Fund;
 - Employment Partnerships Program;
 - Aboriginal Business Investment Fund; and
 - First Nations and Métis Women’s Councils on Economic Security who advise government on ways to improve the socio-economic security of Indigenous women and their families.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2021-22, \$8.5 million is allocated for the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation in order for the entity to support Indigenous groups seeking to make medium to large-scale investments in natural resource projects that benefit the Alberta economy;
- The Indigenous Litigation Fund is \$3 million in 2021-22, which supports Indigenous voices in legal actions that support responsible resource development;
- The First Nations Development Fund is projected to be \$123 million in 2021-22, which supports community, social and economic development;
- The Employment Partnerships Program is \$4.5 million in 2021-22, which supports increasing Indigenous participation in training and employment;
- The Aboriginal Business Investment Fund is \$5 million, which supports economic development projects; and
- The Indigenous Consultation Capacity Program is \$6 million, which assists Indigenous communities to support their participation 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. In 2019-20, 28 Indigenous employment initiatives were funded, which exceeded the target of 25.

Targets	2021-22	25	2022-23	25	2023-24	25
---------	---------	----	---------	----	---------	----

Outcome 2

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

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Build on the one-third reduction of regulatory and administrative burdens achieved by Indigenous Relations.
- 2.2 Collaborate, as requested, with other provincial government ministries to provide advice and support for the development of policies, programs, and initiatives that reflect Indigenous perspectives and consideration.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2021-22, \$29.7 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.

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

In 2019-20, 98 per cent of pre-consultation assessments and 98 per cent of adequacy assessments were issued within established timelines, which both exceeded the target of 95 per cent. This measure demonstrates how the ministry is continuing to support red tape reduction efforts by reducing project delays and providing timeline certainty to industry and Indigenous communities.

Pre-consultation Assessments:

Targets	2021-22	95%	2022-23	95%	2023-24	95%
---------	---------	-----	---------	-----	---------	-----

Consultation Adequacy Assessments:

Targets	2021-22	95%	2022-23	95%	2023-24	95%
---------	---------	-----	---------	-----	---------	-----

Outcome 3

Relationships with Indigenous leadership and organizations are maintained and strengthened

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Lead the Government of Alberta in supporting 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 and modernizing the *Metis Settlements Act*.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Protocol agreements which support collaboration between the government and First Nations is \$1 million;
- 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 2021-22; and
- the Métis Nation of Alberta Framework Agreement, which is to promote and facilitate the advancement of Alberta Métis will total \$1.5 million in 2021-22.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Number of protocol agreements renewed or developed

This measure demonstrates how the ministry is increasing opportunities for reconciliation with Indigenous leadership and organizations. In 2020-21, two new protocol agreements between the Government of Alberta and the Stoney-Nakoda – Tsuut'ina Tribal Council and the Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations were signed.

Targets	2021-22	4	2022-23	4	2023-24	4
---------	---------	---	---------	---	---------	---

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2021-22 Estimate	2022-23 Target	2023-24 Target
	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Premiums, Fees and Licences	-	-	1,758	2,475	2,475	2,475
Transfers from Government of Canada	95	11,778	13,749	29,776	21,025	6,700
Labour Market Development	3,100	3,664	3,664	4,547	4,547	4,547
Other Revenue	4,916	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	8,111	15,442	19,171	36,798	28,047	13,722
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	4,962	4,942	4,942	4,545	4,499	4,499
First Nations and Métis Relations	19,955	22,155	21,205	22,633	17,350	12,350
Indigenous Women's Initiatives	1,144	1,355	1,355	1,237	1,226	1,226
First Nations Development Fund	104,424	135,000	80,000	123,000	140,000	147,000
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,133	1,171	1,121	1,121	1,108	1,108
Consultation, Land and Policy	31,985	17,758	16,758	15,098	14,881	14,881
Investing in Canada Infrastructure	95	11,778	13,749	29,776	21,025	6,700
Land and Legal Settlement	-	7,670	500	8,324	-	-
Indigenous Litigation Fund	188	9,750	1,750	3,000	-	-
Climate Change Initiatives	577	-	-	-	-	-
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation	1,125	10,000	8,390	8,475	8,475	8,475
Ministry Total	165,588	221,579	149,770	217,209	208,564	196,239
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(41)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	165,547	221,579	149,770	217,209	208,564	196,239
Net Operating Result	(157,436)	(206,137)	(130,599)	(180,411)	(180,517)	(182,517)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	-	25	25	25	25	25
Consultation, Land and Policy	6	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	6	25	25	25	25	25