

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Annual Report

Justice and Solicitor General 2021-2022

Justice and Solicitor General, Government of Alberta | Justice and Solicitor General 2021-2022 Annual Report

©2022 Government of Alberta | Published: June 2022

ISBN: 978-1-4601-5415-1

ISSN: 2371-2252

Note to Readers: Copies of the annual report are available on the Alberta Open Government Portal website www.alberta.ca

Table of Contents

Preface	2
Minister’s Accountability Statement	3
Message from the Minister	4
Management’s Responsibility for Reporting	6
Results Analysis	8
Ministry Overview	9
Discussion and Analysis of Results	16
Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology	53
Financial Information	56
Reporting Entity and Method Consolidation	57
Ministry Financial Highlights	58
Supplemental Financial Information	64
Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities	65
Other Financial Information	130
Annual Report Extracts and Other Statutory Reports	140

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 Budget 2021 Key Results, the audited Consolidated Financial Statements and Performance Results, which compares actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's strategic plan.

This annual report of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General contains the Minister's Accountability Statement, the ministry's Financial Information and Results Analysis, a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan. This ministry annual report also includes:

- **the financial statements of entities making up the ministry including the the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund, and the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund, for which the minister is responsible;**
- **the financial statements of the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Estates and Trusts, for which the minister is responsible;**
- **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; and**
- **financial information relating to trust funds.**

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, 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 1, 2022** with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

[Original Signed By: Honourable Tyler Shandro, QC]
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

Message from the Minister



The end of the 2021-22 fiscal year coincides with the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic and a gradual return to normalcy throughout Alberta and within the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General. While the effects of the pandemic will undoubtedly remain a presence in our lives for some time, I am proud to be part of a ministry whose employees kept the justice system operating under unprecedented circumstances.

Our ministry's mandate to protect our most vulnerable citizens took on added importance over the past year in the wake of several acts of hate-motivated violence directed at sexual, ethnic and religious minorities and their places of worship. One of the planks of our government's platform was to take action against hate crimes, and we are making good on this promise with a pair of complementary initiatives: the creation of a provincial Hate Crimes Coordination Unit and the Alberta Security Infrastructure Program. The unit works with law enforcement to improve hate crime mitigation efforts across the province and facilitate training opportunities and intelligence gathering that will lead to successful prosecutions. The security infrastructure program provides grants to vulnerable groups for security upgrades to their facilities.

The desire to stand up for Albertans was the impetus behind another significant achievement from the past year. In August, following an ambitious engagement that involved 40,000 people from across the province, Teri Bryant became Alberta's first provincially appointed chief firearms officer. The federal government's firearms policies have long been out of step with the interests of the thousands of firearms owners who live in our province, and our expectation is that Ms. Bryant will use the power of the chief firearms office to advocate for ways of deterring criminals without punishing law-abiding hunters, farmers and collectors.

Our government's ongoing work to combat human trafficking reached a major milestone this past year with Alberta's Human Trafficking Task Force submitting its final report. The task force spent nearly two years consulting with close to 100 stakeholders, law enforcement bodies, and other experts to develop a strategy to take coordinated action against this horrendous crime. Their findings make for upsetting but necessary reading, and we are already working on their recommendations.

We made significant progress in halting the spread of rural crime with the rollout of the Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defence Response program, or "RAPID Response." During Phase 1, about 400 members of the Sheriff Highway Patrol and Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services were trained to respond to a wider range of calls. In Phase 2, officers with the Sheriff Highway Patrol were authorized to respond to a broader variety of traffic-related offences. Together, these changes will reduce the time it takes law enforcement to respond to calls for help in more remote or sparsely populated regions of the province.

Our government will continue to search out ways of improving the justice system for Albertans. The various projects being implemented under the Justice Digital umbrella, for instance, have freed up thousands of hours for lawyers and courthouse staff. As well, the PricewaterhouseCooper report on the feasibility of replacing the RCMP with an Alberta provincial police force provided options on how a made-in-Alberta provincial police service could work. The report also showed it could be possible to do this at the same or lower overall operating cost.

Let me conclude by thanking the Justice and Solicitor General staff and our partners from across the justice and law enforcement system, who played such an important role in ensuring access to justice and protecting Albertans amid all the challenges placed in our path by the pandemic. I admire your dedication and commitment, and I look forward to collaborating with you in the months to come.

[Original Signed By: Honourable Tyler Shandro, QC]
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General includes the Department of Justice and Solicitor General, the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund, and the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund.

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 Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, which includes the financial information, performance results on all objectives and initiatives identified in the Ministry Business Plan, and performance results for all ministry-supported commitments that were included in the 2021-24 Government of Alberta Strategic Plan. The financial information and performance results, out 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 Minister of Justice and Solicitor General 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, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives of the individual entities within the ministry.

[Original Signed By: Frank Bosscha, QC]
Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Solicitor General
June 1, 2022

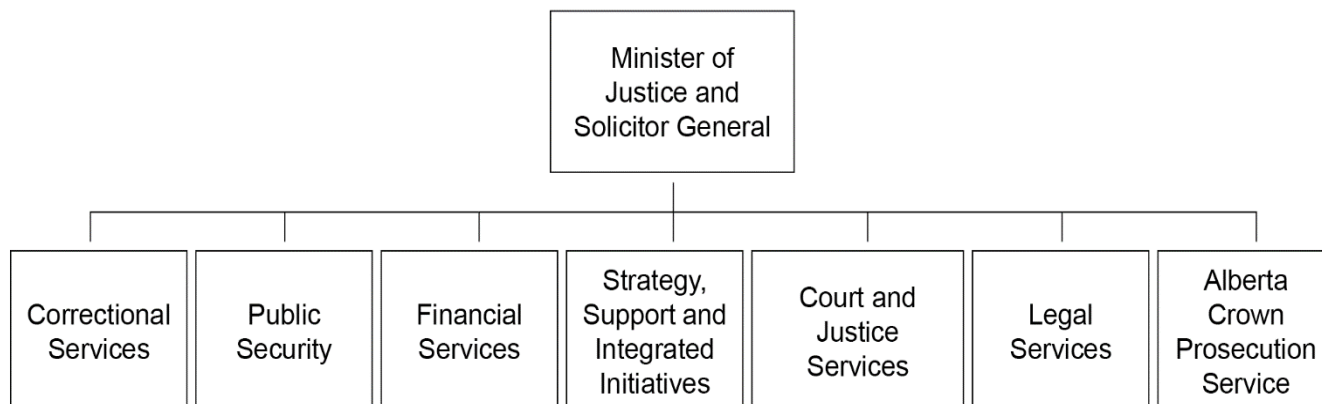
Results Analysis

Table of Contents

Ministry Overview	9
Organizational Structure	9
Ministry Mandate and Structure	9
Operational Overview.....	9
Key Highlights in the Past Year	14
Discussion and Analysis of Results	16
COVID-19/Recovery Plan.....	16
Red Tape Reduction.....	19
Outcome One: Albertans are safe and protected	20
Outcome Two: Alberta’s justice system is fair and effective	34
Outcome Three: Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system.....	43
Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology	53

Ministry Overview

Organizational Structure



Ministry Mandate and Structure

Justice and Solicitor General helps ensure that all Albertans can live in safe and resilient communities while having access to a fair and innovative justice system. It ensures that the rule of law is upheld and government undertakings are administered according to law. Working alongside its partners in law enforcement, family justice, health, the judiciary, the criminal justice system, and other interested groups, the ministry has a direct or shared responsibility in all elements of the justice system in Alberta. Its programs and services help ensure Albertans' security and access to justice through efficient functioning of courts, corrections, and law enforcement.

In 2021-22, the Claims and Recoveries team from Justice and Solicitor General was transferred to Treasury Board and Finance. This supported the government's continued efforts to consolidate collection activities into one department.

In September 2021, Justice and Solicitor General introduced a new organizational structure to better support Alberta's justice system and help improve services for Albertans. The new organizational structure aligns the department with the preferred Government of Alberta financial services delivery model and better integrates strategic functions, ensuring the effective support for government initiatives. The reorganization modernizes business operations and improves efficiencies without affecting costs. The ministry continues to have seven divisions, with some divisions and branches organized differently to leverage the skills and abilities of staff and focus the work of the department on government priorities.

Operational Overview

Justice and Solicitor General

Alberta Crown Prosecution Service Division

The Alberta Crown Prosecution Service (ACPS) is responsible for the prosecution of persons charged under the *Criminal Code*, *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and provincial statute offences.

The ACPS also handles bail, criminal appeals in the Court of Appeal of Alberta and the Supreme Court of Canada on behalf of Alberta's Attorney General, and supports criminal law consultation with other provinces, territories, and the Government of Canada.

The authority to conduct prosecutions, including all of the discretionary decisions that must be made in every case, originates with the office of the Attorney General. With this role also comes the duty to remain independent. Crown prosecutors are appointed to act for the Attorney General and administer justice at the local level. Through these appointments, the Attorney General empowers agents to perform his prosecutorial duties.

Correctional Services Division

Correctional Services is responsible for the effective and efficient custody and supervision of adults and young persons under correctional authority, including the facilitation of rehabilitation opportunities. Custody is reserved for adults who are remanded or serving a sentence of less than two years and for young persons who are remanded or sentenced. Community supervision includes programs such as pre-trial supervision, probation, and alternative measures/sanctions for both adults and young persons.

The Training Academy jointly reports to the Correctional Services Division and Public Security Division, to provide induction training to Correctional Services, and to Alberta's Peace Officers, Sheriffs, and Community Peace Officers as authorized by the Director of Law Enforcement under the *Peace Officer Act*. The Training Academy is accountable to establish standards and provide oversight to peace officer training programs, develop and deliver training, and manage training facilities.

Court and Justice Services Division

Court and Justice Services (CJS) provides resolution and court administration services to Albertans with legal issues as well as court services to support the operations of Alberta's three courts. The division's broad range of services includes information services, referrals to legal resources, dispute resolution, and court assistance. CJS also facilitates the enforcement of court-ordered child, spousal, and partner support. The division supports Albertans in family, surrogate, civil, criminal and traffic matters by facilitating fine payments, document filing, scheduling, and trials.

CJS also implements policies, programs, and legislative and regulatory initiatives related to a number of areas focused on the courts, judicial officers, and justice services.

Financial Services Division

Financial Services provides a full range of financial support functions for the ministry including compliance, budgeting, auditing, facilities and fleet services, procurement, and planning. These services are provided to the entire ministry to establish and maintain strategic priorities and optimize operating efficiency while ensuring division, ministry and Government of Alberta goals are aligned.

Legal Services Division

Legal Services assists the minister in providing legal advice to the Premier and Cabinet. With a comprehensive understanding of government's legislative and regulatory frameworks, policy objectives, and key programs, the division provides legal representation for, and legal advice to, all government departments. The division provides legal and related strategic advice and representation to the Government of Alberta and supports the administration of public affairs according to law. The Legislative Counsel Office within Legal Services Division drafts legislation, regulations, and Orders in Council.

Public Security Division

Public Security is responsible for law enforcement, security and safety. This mandate covers a broad portfolio of functions, such as: integrated and specialized policing initiatives; pursuing forfeiture of proceeds of crime; regulating the civil enforcement industry, security services and investigators and the peace officer program; administers the federal Canadian Firearms program; delivers supplementary law enforcement, including court security, prisoner transport, traffic and commercial vehicle safety enforcement; protection of officials and infrastructure; fish and wildlife enforcement; managing policing contracts; oversight of police and police oversight bodies, private investigators and security guards; and providing security services for government buildings, employees, the judiciary, and members of government.

Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives Division

Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives (SSII) provides strategic and integrated policy and strategic services and functions for the ministry. The division supports cross-divisional and cross-ministry projects such as strategic policy initiatives and business transformations. The division is also responsible for integrated programs including restorative justice, community funding, specialized courts, Alberta law libraries, Indigenous policy and services, official documents and appointments, records and information management, agency oversight, research and evaluation, operational data reporting, as well as business intelligence and analysis. Additionally, the division is responsible for providing victims and their families with general information concerning services available to victims on how the justice system operates and overall oversight and administration of the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act* and the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee also report through this division. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner provides responsive front-line death investigation and death certification services for sudden deaths. The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee provides court appointed personal and financial decision-making support for vulnerable adult Albertans.

The ministry is party to a tri-partite agreement with the Law Society of Alberta and Legal Aid Alberta in the delivery of legal aid to Albertans; oversight of this agreement is carried out within this division.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Alberta Human Rights Commission

The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General is responsible for the *Alberta Human Rights Act* (the Act), which establishes the Alberta Human Rights Commission (the Commission).

Reporting to the Minister, but independent of the Government of Alberta, the Commission protects human rights across the province by resolving complaints made under the Act. Human rights tribunals adjudicate complaints that cannot be resolved. The Commission works to eliminate discrimination and barriers to full participation in society through education and community engagement. The Chief of the Commission and Tribunals, members of the Commission and the Director of the Commission are appointed through Orders in Council.

Alberta Parole Board

The Alberta Parole Board determines parole eligibility for people serving a sentence of less than two years in provincial correctional facilities. The Board has exclusive authority, in accordance with legislated criteria, to determine whether or not to grant parole and is responsible for imposing conditions on individuals released on parole. The board members come from all regions across

Alberta and are appointed through Orders in Council. Each board member has specific knowledge of crime trends and resources in their region.

Alberta Review Board

The Alberta Review Board makes or reviews dispositions concerning any accused adult or young person for whom a verdict of “not criminally responsible because of mental disorder” or “unfit to stand trial” is rendered, according to the provisions of the *Criminal Code*. The board also has the responsibility of determining whether such a person should be subject to a detention order, or be granted either a conditional discharge or an absolute discharge. The board members are appointed through Orders in Council.

Criminal Injuries Review Board

The Criminal Injuries Review Board considers requests for reviews of decisions regarding applications for financial benefits for victims of crime under the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*. The board may request experts to assist with a review and has the power to confirm, rescind, or vary decisions made by the Director of the Victims of Crime Financial Benefits Program. The board members are appointed through Orders in Council. Changes in the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act* will remove the Criminal Injuries Review Board after all open class action files are completed.

Fatality Review Board

The Fatality Review Board is responsible for the review of investigations under the *Fatality Inquiries Act*. The board determines whether there is a need to hold a public fatality inquiry and reviews complaints with respect to misbehaviour, incompetence, or neglect of duty by medical examiners or the inability of medical examiners to perform their duties under the Act. The board members are appointed through Orders in Council.

Judicial Council

The Judicial Council screens individuals to determine whether they are qualified for appointment to the Provincial Court of Alberta. The council is granted jurisdiction to deal with complaints against masters, provincial court judges, and justices of the peace. The council is composed of six members, two of whom are appointed by Ministerial Orders and four who are designated under the *Judicature Act*.

Law Enforcement Review Board

The Law Enforcement Review Board hears appeals from members of the public and police officers who have complaints regarding the actions of police officers, or who are unsatisfied with the disposition of their complaint by the responsible chief of police. The board is established under the *Police Act*. The board also hears appeals relating to peace officer employer authorizations or peace officer appointments cancelled under the *Peace Officer Act*. The board members are appointed through Orders in Council.

Notaries Public Advisory Committee

The Notaries Public Advisory Committee advises the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General on appointments of lay notaries public. The committee consists of a member of the Law Society of Alberta, a member of the community, and a member of the ministry (who acts as the secretary). All are appointed by Ministerial Orders under the *Government Organization Act*.

Provincial Court Nominating Committee

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee makes recommendations to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General on the appointment of individuals to the Provincial Court of Alberta. The committee is composed of 11 members, eight of whom are appointed by Ministerial Orders and include representatives from the legal profession and members of the public. The remaining three committee members are the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta, the President of the Law Society of Alberta, and the President of the Canadian Bar Association (Alberta Branch) or their representatives. By way of convention, the minister uses this committee's recommendations in making recommendations to Cabinet for the appointment of new judges.

Rules of Court Committee

The Rules of Court Committee makes recommendations to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General on amendments to the Rules of Court made under the *Judicature Act*. The committee consists of six members: the Chief Justice of Alberta or designate; the Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench or designate; the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta or designate; two members appointed on recommendation of the Law Society of Alberta; and one member appointed at the discretion of the minister.

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Programs Committee

The Victims of Crime and Public Safety Programs Committee evaluates and makes recommendations on grant applications and provides information on programs and services that promote public safety or assist victims of crime. The committee members are appointed by Ministerial Orders.

Key Highlights in the Past Year

Over the past year, the ministry has continued to deliver on its promise to keep Albertans safe and protected. To address rural crime, the ministry created the Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defence (RAPID) Response. RAPID Response increases law enforcement's response capability by allowing members of the Sheriffs Branch and Fish and Wildlife officers to assist the RCMP and other police services in rural Alberta. The ministry is also addressing child pornography, gang violence, drug trafficking, human trafficking and domestic violence through increased funding to Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT). ALERT works to undermine organized crime's role in the opioid and methamphetamine trade by targeting street-level drug sales, and introducing project-based, intelligence-driven enforcement teams that target wholesale suppliers and distributors. ALERT has developed specialized teams, including the regional property crime and auto crimes units, as well as human trafficking and child internet exploitation units, to help protect property owners and ensure Albertans are safe in their communities.

Justice and Solicitor General continues to protect and support vulnerable Albertans, including those at risk of human trafficking and hate-motivated crime. The Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force was established to provide recommendations on how to best implement the province's Nine-point Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. Their final report was submitted on August 31, 2021, with government accepting all five recommendations in principle or for further analysis. The ministry is moving forward with implementing the recommendations to support victims, target traffickers and prevent this horrendous crime from occurring in the province. A Hate Crime Coordination Unit has been established to support local police in their efforts to reduce hate-themed occurrences throughout Alberta. In 2021-22, the Alberta Security Infrastructure Program provided over \$700,000 to vulnerable groups seeking to implement security improvements to increase protection from potential vandalism and violence associated with hate and bias-motivated crime.

The ministry continues to explore effective approaches to policing, including the modernization of the *Police Act* and the examination of a new policing model, to ensure the safety of all Albertans. Amendments to the *Police Act* are being considered with the goal of establishing an appropriate governance framework to ensure police remain accountable to the communities they serve and are responsive to their needs. Further examination of a provincial police service will allow government to make an informed decision as to whether this approach is in the best interests of Albertans. Justice and Solicitor General is working to fulfill its commitment to hire 50 Crown prosecutors and additional support staff to ensure criminal matters progress through the justice system in a timely and appropriate manner. Twenty prosecutors were hired in 2020-21, and 27 prosecutors were hired in 2021-22, with three remaining prosecutors expected to be hired in 2022-23. Additional prosecutors will ensure the appropriate use of resources and assist in making the justice system more effective, responsive, and sustainable in all parts of Alberta.

The ministry continues to develop democratic reform legislation to strengthen democracy and accountability in Alberta, including the introduction of citizen initiative and recall legislation, the establishment of a set election date, as well as reforms to senate election, referendum, and election legislation. The ministry is also working to implement approved recommendations from Alberta's Fair Deal Panel report to give the province a stronger role within Canada and increase control in areas of provincial jurisdiction. In the past year, the province established a new Alberta Chief Firearms Office and appointed its first chief firearms officer to replace the federally designated chief firearms officer. The new office will allow Alberta to advocate for responsible federal firearms legislation that improves safety and protects the rights of law-abiding firearms owners in Alberta.

The ministry continues work with partner ministries to increase Drug Treatment Court capacity and expand opportunities for individuals with substance abuse concerns to access support. Drug

Treatment Court capacity has increased 200 per cent since 2020, with existing sites operating in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, two new sites in Red Deer and Grande Prairie, and an additional site in Fort McMurray expected in the coming year.

As part of its commitment to enhance online services and digital platforms, the ministry invested \$7.8 million in 2021-22 to implement digital services and technology solutions that enhance Albertans' access to justice, generate efficiencies and reduce processing time within the courts and justice system. New digital services introduced under the Justice Digital initiative have resulted in hundreds of thousands of transactions moving online, making it safer and easier than ever for Albertans to access court and justice services. Additional digital services are expected to launch in the coming year as part of this initiative in areas such as surrogate matters and expansion of digital court filings and scheduling.

Discussion and Analysis of Results

COVID-19/Recovery Plan

Justice and Solicitor General made significant investments in response to COVID-19 to support the continued delivery of court and justice services to Albertans. Courts, law enforcement agencies, correctional services and other ministry departments adopted procedural changes and implemented innovative technology solutions to prioritize the health of Albertans while ensuring a responsive justice system during the pandemic.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministry provided support to Alberta's courts to facilitate safe delivery of services to Albertans. In order to best support public health measures and ensure the safety of trial participants, CJS in partnership with the Alberta Sheriffs and Alberta Infrastructure, established off-site jury locations throughout the province. In selecting appropriate locations, sites were evaluated based on their ability to provide physical distancing and adherence to other health measures for large groups of people while supporting the security necessary for criminal jury trials.

Jury trials are a vital component of the justice system. Not only do they enable citizens to participate in the administration of justice, accused persons also have the right to be judged by a jury of their peers. Jury trials also help bring to light changes in society's attitudes and cultural norms surrounding law, justice, and criminality in ways that judge-only trials cannot. Postponing jury trials has a number of serious consequences. It affects accused persons' right to a speedy trial and risks further backlogs in an already burdened system. These factors can erode society's confidence in the justice system. Delaying jury trials can also jeopardize the ability to seek justice for victims and society harmed by criminal activities. Therefore, it was critical to support the safe and immediate resumption of jury trials during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While locations were difficult to secure, large off-site jury spaces allowed for individuals compelled to attend court, and those working in the facilities to operate in a manner that minimized the risks associated with COVID-19. Special measures in place included physical distancing, physical barriers, voluntary COVID-19 rapid testing for Albertans and staff, enhanced cleaning, and designated pathways through the facilities to support security and public health measures.

The ability to support the operation of jury trials throughout the pandemic has enabled the Court of Queen's Bench to provide continued access to justice and minimize delays in trials. In 2021-22, CJS spent \$854,886 on rental fees for off-site jury locations. Many of these fees were paid to privately owned facilities throughout the province that would have otherwise seen decreases in income due to limited operations under the necessary pandemic restrictions.

In 2021-22, the ministry invested \$7.8 million to deliver new or enhanced online services and digital platforms through Justice Digital. Changes included new online services for the public, the judiciary, legal community, staff, and other system partners. Initial prioritization was focused on maintaining essential services and addressing system backlogs in response to COVID-19 by focusing on virtual courts, traffic, and digital filing and adjournment capabilities. Albertans now have the ability to access the justice system more easily, from anywhere, without the need to come to a courthouse.

In the coming year, the ministry will continue to focus on improving access to justice by expanding online services in areas such as digital filings and case management, among others under Justice Digital. Work will also continue to advance the remote appearance capabilities for Alberta Courts through an analysis of the current network state and audio/visual environment, resulting in

detailed recommendations on potential enhancements for a sustainable, longer-term virtual courts solution.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Justice and Solicitor General worked to prioritize public health and safety in correctional facilities and in the community while maintaining existing supports for clients. Provincial correctional facilities continue to utilize enhanced intake screening, quarantining, and isolation (when required) for all new inmate admissions. Correctional Services Division also increased the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) and video technology for court appearances and youth visitation.

A number of technology projects were expedited to address challenges that arose from COVID-19. Secure “corrections grade” rugged laptops were deployed within all Alberta correctional facilities, which allow inmates to appear in court virtually, to view their electronic disclosure, and allow self-representing inmates to access online law library resources to develop a court defence. Video visitation was provided to youth in custody, and upgrades were made to existing video visitation technology at the Edmonton Remand Centre.

Programming in both adult centres and youth centres was maintained throughout the pandemic via self-study, in-person, or a hybrid model. In-person chaplaincy services, Elder services and youth schooling remained throughout the pandemic; whereas life skills, academic and rehabilitative programming shifted to a self-study format when in-person instruction was not permitted. Program providers are now able to offer both streams of programming to correctional centres, allowing for more flexibility and improved participation.

In community corrections, technology such as software phones and web-based video calls have been used for remote supervision of clients. Staff in frontline probation offices have been outfitted with improved laptop and softphone technology access. Rehabilitative programming in Adult Attendance Centres transitioned to online rather than in-person, which reduced barriers for clients in rural communities to access programming. Technology adaptations allowed staff to stay focused on addressing the needs of clients and focus on rehabilitative opportunities through continued engagement with stakeholders.

Justice and Solicitor General continued to provide legal advice to the Government of Alberta throughout the pandemic. In response to numerous requests for COVID-19-related legal advice, the ministry implemented an online solution aimed at supporting a collaborative and consistent approach to legal issues encountered across government. A database was created to track COVID-19 legal advice and to enable the sharing of research and previously performed legal work throughout the government. This innovative solution improved the timeliness of legal responses while ensuring a consistent approach to pandemic-related legal advice. To date, the ministry has responded to at least 265 unique inquiries related to legal issues involving the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its investigation of reportable deaths under the *Fatality Inquiries Act*, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) investigates deaths that could be due to, or concurrent with, COVID-19 infection. As sites where a high concentration of the virus was inevitable and unavoidable, OCME offices in both Edmonton and Calgary took immediate action to protect visitors, on-site contractors and essential services staff from infection, and to limit transmission of the virus from the OCME to the community. Newly developed protocols for dealing with suspected cases of COVID-19 (similar to those adopted by other provinces in Canada and members of the National Association of Medical Examiners) included:

- Triaging incoming death investigation cases to detect and confirm COVID-19 infection;

-
- Segregating/isolating confirmed COVID-19 cases, including a segregated, enclosed autopsy area;
 - Enhancing Personal Protective Equipment (use of biohazard protective hoods with attached respirator) for confirmed cases;
 - Increasing incoming/outgoing disinfection protocols within and when exiting the autopsy suite; and
 - Implementation of a strategy to deal with an influx of excess bodies and delay in release of bodies due to families taking time to make funeral arrangements and funeral homes unable to deal with their heavy workload.

The continuous requirement for COVID-19 data revealed the need for enhancements to the OCME internal electronic case information system to better generate data for tracking, reporting and analysis. System enhancements are expected to occur in 2022-23.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect the safety of Albertans, police officers and members of the Sheriffs Branch supported the enforcement of the *Public Health Act* and the Chief Medical Officer of Health's Orders pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. Authority was also granted to all Alberta Peace Officers Level 2 (Environment and Parks) and Community Peace Officers Level 1 (through two Ministerial Orders – 13/2021 and 24/2021) to enforce pandemic-related orders between March 4, 2021 and July 1, 2021. Action was taken to address ongoing and escalating threats to public health through the Enforcement Framework Repeat Offenders Operational Group, including members from the Public Security Division, Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, Ministry of Labour and police services, who met weekly to discuss priority enforcement of organizations and ad hoc groups considered “repeat offenders” violating the *Public Health Act* and the Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health's Orders pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Red Tape Reduction

The Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General 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.

Government has set an ambitious target of a one-third reduction of regulatory requirements across the organization by spring 2023. Justice and Solicitor General supported this priority commitment by eliminating almost five percent from the ministry's baseline of regulatory requirements, making the justice system faster and more accessible. Justice and Solicitor General is responsible for several government priority and platform commitments that may overall increase regulatory requirements for the ministry as the government works to further strengthen its overall commitment to public safety and security.

The *Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act* received Royal Assent in December 2021. Changes under this Bill included amendments to the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, which modernized the Alberta Human Rights Commission, allowing it to address complaints more quickly, reduce backlogs, and make tribunal hearings more accessible. The complaints process was made more accessible to Albertans by allowing electronic filing of documents and enabling less formal, more accessible hearings and procedures. The Commission was enabled to more effectively manage resources and resolve complaints more quickly through clearer and streamlined legislative authority.

Justice and Solicitor General is reviewing all program area forms, services and policies on an ongoing basis to continue to identify administrative reductions that will make the ministry more effective and efficient. The ministry has seen success in reducing administrative burdens, and while this does not count towards reducing government's counted regulatory requirements, it has been an important component of the ministry's efforts. For instance, under Justice Digital new online services in areas such as traffic, adjournments, and filings have simplified and streamlined how Albertans, the legal community and system partners access court and justice services. For more information on Justice Digital, please refer to the results analysis for Key Objective 3.2.

JSG anticipates that by 2023, all departmental forms and policies will be reviewed and relevant reductions will be made to streamline the justice system and the programs in the ministry, making it more accessible to Albertans. For more details on ministry red tape reduction efforts, please refer to the results analysis for Key Objective 2.1.

Outcome One: Albertans are safe and protected

Justice and Solicitor General continues to work with justice system partners to ensure Albertans feel safe and protected in their communities. Through collaboration and investment in additional resources, the ministry is improving police response times and deterring crime in the province. Specialized enforcement units and community grants are helping to support and protect individuals at risk of human trafficking and hate-motivated crimes. The ministry continues to explore effective approaches to policing, including the modernization of legislation and the examination of a new policing model, to ensure the safety of all Albertans.

Key Objectives

1.1 Continue to work with policing partners and municipal leaders to address drivers of crime, such as establishing crime reduction units in rural Alberta focusing on organized crime, drug trafficking and proceeds of crime.

The ministry is addressing rural crime through the implementation of RAPID Response initiative. RAPID Response allows Alberta peace officers from Fish and Wildlife Enforcement and Sheriffs Highway Patrol to respond to a wider range of calls. This allows authorities to respond more quickly when Albertans need them, deters crime and makes our highways and communities safer. By April 2021, Fish and Wildlife officers were trained and equipped to assist provincial police in responding to emergencies in rural areas, including responding in the first instance, or as backup, to police calls of a priority nature. By July 2021, Sheriff Highway Patrol officers were trained and equipped to respond to a wider range of traffic-related incidents, such as erratic drivers, collisions and impaired driving in order to free up RCMP officers to focus on higher-priority criminal matters. Engagement with Indigenous community leadership continues to gain support and approval for deployment of RAPID officers in their communities. Funding for RAPID Response in 2021-22 included \$10 million in operational costs and \$664,000 in capital costs.

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

Key Priority One:
Protecting lives

Objective Four:
Make the justice system fairer, faster and more effective

- Justice and Solicitor General invested \$10 million to support RAPID Response to help reduce law enforcement response times for rural crime.

As part of the Rural Crime Strategy, an interim advisory board was created in spring of 2020 with representatives from the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), and the Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG). The interim Board was formed to enhance the voice of rural municipalities (served by the provincial police service agreement) at provincial discussions with the RCMP and the ministry. Its mandate includes providing input into the provincial policing priorities, strategic plans and the RCMP multi-year financial plan, as well as input into the allocation of resources being funded as a result of the Police Funding Model (PFM). During 2021-22, the interim Board continued to connect with their communities, the RCMP and the department to fulfill their mandate and also provided recommendations to the Minister for how a permanent police advisory board could be implemented.

During 2021-22, the ministry worked with Wetaskiwin municipal leaders who had expressed concerns over the high crime severity index (CSI) and *Criminal Code* calls for service in their area.

While there were decreases in the CSI in property crime rates between 2018 and 2019 in the City of Wetaskiwin, the overall CSI increased by 20 per cent and the overall property crime rate increased by 53 per cent between 2015 and 2019. As a result, several initiatives were put in place, including the addition of 10 policing resources and other community supports to address crime issues and to ensure a greater sense of safety and security for its citizens. With additional funding from the ministry, the RCMP established a Regional Crime Reduction Unit with six RCMP members, and the City of Wetaskiwin added another four RCMP members to their municipal service.

Quick Fact

In 2021-22, the Provincial Police Service Agreement supported 1,759 regular member positions, plus six new RCMP member positions in the Wetaskiwin area.

Justice and Solicitor General is delivering on the promise to enhance public safety by investing in rural policing. On April 1, 2020, the *Police Funding Regulation* came into force, creating a new PFM that takes the total cost of frontline officers and redistributes a portion of those costs to municipalities who receive frontline policing from

the RCMP. The new PFM requires communities that have not previously paid for frontline policing to begin contributing a portion of the costs, bringing them in line with larger communities and cities. The PFM is being phased in, with communities contributing 10 per cent of frontline policing costs in 2020, 15 per cent of costs in 2021, 20 per cent in 2022 and 30 per cent in 2023. Costs recovered as part of the new PFM are being used to fund new positions in RCMP detachments and specialized units that benefit rural Albertans.

In 2020-21, the ministry received approximately \$22 million and funded the addition of 76 regular members and 56 civilian support positions as a direct result of the new PFM. In 2021-22, with \$33.3 million received under the PFM, the ministry funded an additional 55 regular member positions and 46 civilian support positions. The PFM is expected to add an additional 40 regular member positions and 52 civilian support positions in 2022-23. Although revenue generated by the PFM is expected to increase in 2022-23, the model does not account for increases in resourcing costs due to the new RCMP collective agreement.

Policing services to Indigenous communities are funded under a federal program, the First Nations Policing Program, in partnership with Alberta. This program provides Indigenous communities with the option of either a self-administered police service or dedicated RCMP policing. These agreements are cost-shared, with the federal government providing 52 per cent and the provincial government providing 48 per cent. Alberta also increased funding to crime prevention efforts within the three communities with self-administered police services and additional officers for Métis settlements. In 2021-22, the ministry provided over \$14 million for Indigenous policing, including:

- \$6.5 million through the 21 Community Tripartite Policing Agreements with the RCMP for 64 officers in First Nations communities across the province;
- \$1.3 million to Métis Settlements for an additional RCMP officer for each of the eight Métis settlements;
- \$6.1 million through the three Self-Administered Policing Agreements for First Nation police services; and
- \$527,000 for three dedicated Crime Prevention Coordinators for each of the three self-administered police services.

Gangs have spread throughout many Alberta communities; these gangs are engaged in a variety of criminal activities including the sale of illegal drugs, extortion, fraud, identity theft, auto theft, human trafficking and living off the avails of prostitution. Work continues under the Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund (GGVAF) with the development of a Gang Exit and Community Outreach

Services (GECOS) program. This is a province-wide program to assist provincially incarcerated inmates and other individuals within the justice system with exiting gang lifestyles upon their transition to the community by connecting them with wrap-around community resources. Since its commencement, 358 persons have accessed the GECOS program. The ministry entered into multi-year contracts (2020-23) totaling \$5.15 million with community agencies to provide this support and assistance to these offenders trying to exit gang life, and approximately \$2.5 million of this was utilized in 2021-22.

In 2021-22, \$1.8 million from the GGVAFF was transferred to ALERT to expand their teams and work on organized crime and reduce the impacts of the involvement of guns and gangs in the commission of criminal offences. The ministry continues to provide \$1 million in grants for youth gang prevention programs, and \$170,000 to the Kainai Transition Centre Society, which provides post-treatment and/or post-custodial release care to Indigenous populations in Southern Alberta and contributes to programming aimed at rural communities.

The funding of a firearms prosecutor within the ACPS has improved the quality of prosecutions of firearms related charges, from both prosecutorial and law enforcement perspectives in Alberta. Plans are currently underway with the Alberta Chief Provincial Firearms Office to establish an “unwanted firearms” program which will lead to the voluntary surrender of firearms that are no longer wanted by owners, thus reducing risk of harm.

The ministry has also utilized GGVAFF funding of \$550,000 to contract a vendor to complete a planning study report, aimed at creating an Alberta Community Safety Data Analytics Laboratory (the Lab). The Lab, once established, is expected to provide better provincial data sharing and evidence-based research and analysis of police and community safety data for informing effective policy and practice. The Lab will help improve public safety by making pertinent crime data more comprehensive, detailed and current, which will lead to informed decisions about how Albertans can protect themselves and their communities. The ministry is also partnering with the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (AMII) and police services to carry out research to explore the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning to reduce gun and gang violence with the goal of improving societal outcomes for all Albertans.

The ministry continues to address organized and serious crime. In 2021-22, the ministry provided an additional \$5.9 million in funding to ALERT to deal with and investigate child pornography, gang violence, drug trafficking, human trafficking and large-scale property and auto crimes. Three hundred and seventy-eight ALERT positions (279 police office and 99 support staff) are partially funded by the Justice and Solicitor General grant, with an additional 56 full-time positions funded by partner agencies (municipal police services, Indigenous police services, and RCMP). Since 2006, more than 11,000 individuals have been arrested and over 35,000 charges have been laid as a result of ALERT’s work.

ALERT is responding to emerging criminal market trends strongly linked to the rural crime epidemic through the launch of a regional property crime unit and two auto crimes units. ALERT has developed specialized teams to help protect property owners and ensure law-abiding Albertans feel safe in their communities. The Lloydminster enforcement team is focused on organized crime related to drugs, firearms, property offences, and emerging trends, while serving communities such as Cold Lake, Bonnyville, St. Paul, Saddle Lake First Nation, Wainwright, and Vermillion. The Southeast Alberta Regional Property Crime team explores the correlation between stolen property being used to finance drug addictions. Investigations by this team led to the recovery of \$3.1 million in stolen property in 2021-22. The Auto Crimes units, based in Edmonton and Calgary, work collaboratively with industry partners, such as the Insurance Bureau of Canada, the Alberta Motor Vehicle Industry Council and the Canadian Board Services Agency, to provide a coordinated

response to auto crimes and organized auto theft. In 2021-22, auto crime investigations resulted in the identification and recovery of \$3.5 million in assets and recovered \$1.1 million in cloned assets.

ALERT is addressing the increase in firearms offences with the implementation of province-wide Section II test firing procedures, providing 20 training sessions during 2021-22. Province-wide test firing procedures support Crown prosecutors in tackling and addressing gun crime through the interpretation of forensic evidence. The provincial lab provides resources and equipment needed to analyze crime guns seized throughout the province. This will provide timely investigative leads to all police agencies and allow investigators to draw correlations between firearm occurrences.

The ministry continues to work with federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) partners on shared issues regarding the challenges posed by methamphetamine and opioids in Western Canada. Deputy Ministers responsible for Justice and Public Safety continue to collaborate on shared issues regarding the challenges posed by methamphetamine and opioids, including increased drug use and community impacts, increased violence and calls for service, and continued need for treatment facilities. In 2021-22, the ministry supported this work by engaging police agencies, the RCMP and ALERT to discuss the multi-jurisdictional interdiction strategy and explore opportunities for further collaboration on drug-related intelligence, information sharing, enforcement and prevention.

ALERT instituted a two-pronged approach to undermine organized crime's role in the opioid and methamphetamine trade; first by targeting street-level drugs sales, and second by initiating project-based, intelligence-driven enforcement teams that will target wholesale suppliers and distributors. In September 2021, ALERT dismantled a fentanyl super lab capable of producing hundreds of millions of doses and arrested 126 street-level drug dealers who were implicated in trafficking, with a combined estimated street value of \$332 million. The totality of ALERT's role in undermining the illegal drug trade is far reaching and multi-faceted, while the ripple effect of drug-related

Quick Fact

Number of complaints investigated by SCAN:

2017	2020	2019	2020	2021
628	833	872	1038	882

community harm relates to health care cost implications, property crimes committed to fuel addiction, and gang-related violence.

Alberta's Safer Communities and Neighborhoods (SCAN) units are improving community safety by targeting and, if necessary, shutting down residential and commercial buildings regularly used for illegal activities. This includes activities such as producing, selling, or using illegal drugs, prostitution, solvent abuse or the unlawful sale

and consumption of alcohol, gang activity, organized crime, and the exploitation of children. SCAN investigators work closely with police partners throughout the province; when criminal activity is detected during a SCAN investigation, the information is turned over to the police to investigate. SCAN received and accepted 882 complaints for investigation in 2021, down from 1038 in 2020. This decrease is due to the establishment of a threshold for investigation protocol developed in 2021 which resulted in approximately 300 complaints not being investigated by SCAN during that year.

With the introduction of the *Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act*, and subsequent transaction tracking, 2021 recorded 165,863 scrap metal transactions, representing nearly \$49 million in sales. Tracking these sales has helped set minimum standards for this multi-million-dollar industry and is providing police better means of supporting legitimate business owners. Through its criminal intelligence section, ALERT has been actively involved in the awareness, education and implementation of the Act across the province. On the operational level, success has been achieved

by sharing suspicious transaction details and subjects of interests with policing partners, subsequently spurring collaborative investigations.

This new legislation is providing accountability for scrap metal dealers, including a framework to support provincial charges against dealers who are deemed non-compliant. Municipalities have also created bylaws to compliment the Act and allow for further compliance and enforcement. A Catalytic Converter Provincial Working Group has been initiated by ALERT to bring together stakeholders across the province to share best practices, and most importantly, to identify changes to legislation and regulations that would assist in deterring criminals looking to sell illegally obtained scrap metal. Further amendments to the Act and Regulation are underway.

Over the past year, the ministry has operationalized a new provincial parole board. The Alberta Parole Board aims to provide a fairer, faster and more responsive justice system that better protects Albertans, their loved ones and their property from repeat offenders, including parolees. By creating the provincial parole board, the government is asserting Alberta's jurisdictional authority, while also ensuring that decisions regarding parole eligibility are made by and for Albertans. The new board has the authority to grant parole for offenders serving sentences fewer than two years in length at provincial correctional facilities. In its first year, the Alberta Parole Board received about 180 applications. The board heard 89 cases, 48 of which were denied parole while 41 were approved.

Alberta is co-leading an FPT working group on rural crime with Public Safety Canada. This group is developing a Pan-Canadian Strategic Framework on Rural Crime to reduce the incidence of criminal activity in rural and remote communities, and improve the overall safety and well-being of Canadians who reside in them. In February 2022, FPT ministers responsible for justice and public safety approved a recommended way forward to finalize the Pan-Canadian Strategic Framework on Rural Crime, including agreement to take a phased approach for implementation, and to continue to engage federal departments and interested provinces and territories on strategies to combat rural crime.

The ministry continues to support safe and healthy communities by investing in restorative justice programs that focus on repairing the harm created by crime. In 2021-22, the annual Alberta Community Restorative Justice (ACRJ) Grant Program funded \$720,000 toward referrals from the justice system for youth and adult matters. Twelve of the funded programs operate in First Nations communities, and include First Nation victims, offenders and the communities they reside in. This funding also included \$50,000 to the Alberta Restorative Justice Association to continue their work that focuses on increasing the voice in public safety issues, give shape to projects and interventions that increase community safety, and support community organizations in delivering services. An additional \$350,000 in grant funds was provided to Youth Justice Committees across the province to support direct intervention for youth offenders as an alternative measure to the criminal justice system. As a result of the ministry's increased focus on restorative justice, referrals to related programs are increasing. Although supporting data is not available for 2021-22, the ministry is focused on better capturing this data in the future.

On March 22, 2022, as part of a commitment to strengthening transparency in the justice system, Justice and Solicitor General introduced Bill 9, the *Public's Right to Know Act*, in the legislature. This legislation is designed to help Albertans better understand the impact of crime and the criminal justice system, and assist policy-makers to make evidence-based decisions that could lead to better outcomes and safer communities. Bill 9 is intended to come into force during the fall 2022 legislative session.

Over the past six years, the ministry has implemented Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) in community corrections case management. EPICS is an evidence-based model developed

by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI). EPICS training teaches probation officers how to apply the principles of the Risk-Need-Responsivity model to their work with offenders, as well as how to identify and change offender thoughts that lead to criminal behaviour by applying a specific set of evidence based interventions and skills known as the Core Correctional Practices.

As projected, and despite continued COVID-19 restrictions, the first iteration of EPICS as part of probation officer induction training was completed in June 2021. Of the ministry's tenured staff, 99 per cent have been trained in EPICS, with the remaining one per cent not attending due to various types of leaves and other unexpected circumstances. EPICS is now fully implemented and an internal training model has been established to support frontline staff in applying EPICS principles in their management of clients.

In the upcoming fiscal year, the department will continue to focus on evidence-based practices, including interviewing practices and effective case planning. The use of EPICS will keep Alberta communities safe by increasing access of targeted services, interventions, and supports for Albertans accused of crime or interacting with the justice system.

The ministry is protecting the province's natural resources by ensuring Albertans understand and comply with the laws meant to safeguard its natural resources. Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services works with partners in Alberta Environment and Parks to deliver education, prevention and enforcement programs that foster the safe, sustainable and lawful use of Alberta lands, waters, fisheries and wildlife. Fish and wildlife officers (FWOs) have specific provincial and federal appointments to enforce fisheries and wildlife laws, they are also appointed Alberta Peace Officers for all provincial and federal conservation law enforcement programs with extra authorities for RAPID Response assistance to the RCMP during rural crime emergencies. This promotes public safety, decreases police response time and ensures the protection of property in regards to wildlife.

Quick Fact

In 2021-22, fish and wildlife officers checked 41,378 users, issued 2,535 warnings and filed 3,248 conservation law charges.

Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services and conservation officers within the Environmental Enforcement Branch in Alberta Environment and Parks work collaboratively under the guidance of the joint Conservation Enforcement Steering Committee to plan, prioritize and deliver a coordinated conservation enforcement program for Albertans. Collaborative efforts have been undertaken to encourage staff to understand mutual priorities and provide assistance to one another as required. This approach supports the effective use of government resources by ensuring high priority calls for service are dispatched to the officer who is closest to the call regardless of which ministry employs them. Both branches focus on coordinating their patrols to ensure that projects and delivery of conservation enforcement activities across the province are efficient and continue to support government priorities.

Quick Fact

Between 2002 and 2021: 20 troops and 355 recruits have completed training at the WCLEA. Nine fish and wildlife officers graduated their induction training in 2021.

Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services is working with Indigenous partners to incorporate an Indigenous observer as part of the Indigenous

Violation Report (IVR) committee. This will allow for increased transparency and understanding among Indigenous peoples for how various laws and policies may legally apply to constitutionally protected Indigenous hunting and fishing communities. An Indigenous observer will enable better

understanding of laws and policies that inform decision-making and open additional opportunities for community input regarding Indigenous harvesting.

Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services is the founding agency and primary host of the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA). WCLEA is a comprehensive 20 week recruit induction training delivered cooperatively with British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Court and Security Services (CSS) provides a vast array of uniformed security within courthouse locations in both urban and rural settings. Encompassing all three levels of court, CSS sheriffs play a vital role in keeping the public safe at courthouses around the province. Perimeter security provided by sheriffs includes baggage x-ray screening, metal detector screening and hand-held metal detection screening. Perimeter Screening Sheriffs are trained to recognize and analyze physical threats such as objects in bags and those carried on visitors' person. Courthouse Sheriffs are positioned to ensure safety, security and that judicial processes are maintained. Transporting arrested persons from police holding cells to provincial correctional facilities or Federal Correctional Facilities in the case of parole suspensions (remanded into custody) and conducting out-of-province escorts for offender movements across Canada is also a responsibility for Alberta Sheriffs.

Quick Fact

Over the past year, Perimeter Security Sheriffs prevents 2,585 prohibited items from entering courthouses.

In 2021-22, the total offender provincial transportation/movements were approximately 220 per day, 5,000 per month and 50,000 per year.

The Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) was established in 2009 and administers the *Civil Forfeiture Act*, which sets out a civil court process that allows CFO to pursue forfeiture of proceeds of crime and property used to carry out crime. CFO also uses an administrative (out-of-court) process to pursue forfeiture in certain cases. The purpose of the civil forfeiture program is to:

- deter crime by taking the profit motive out of crime;
- prevent crime by taking away criminals' tool of the trade (e.g., vehicles, drug houses); and
- support crime prevention and victims of crime through grant funding and compensation paid from forfeitures.

Forfeitures can be used to support crime prevention and victims of crime programs, compensate victims of crime, support police training and operations, and other specified purposes. Over \$29 million in property has been forfeited and \$11.8 million has been awarded in grants to community crime prevention and victims of crime programs since the program's inception. In 2021-22, \$5 million was awarded to ALERT to assist with priority crime, including internet child exploitation, human and drug trafficking and organized property crime. The Civil Forfeiture program is cost-neutral to government as forfeited funds are used to cover CFO's operating costs, including the cost of civil forfeiture litigation.

1.2 Collaborate with partners to protect vulnerable Albertans, including those at risk of human trafficking.

The Government of Alberta is committed to protecting the human rights and dignity of every Albertan, including victims and survivors of the dehumanizing and predatory crime of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a serious crime that takes the forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour trafficking, and trafficking in human organs or tissues. Traffickers exploit people of all ages, ethnicities and genders, forcing their victims to provide labour or sexual services against their will and using threats of violence to trap them in a cycle of exploitation. Alberta has a nine-point provincial action plan to address human trafficking.

In 2020, government appointed the Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force to engage with representatives who could inform and validate the issues and need to suppress this discrete and horrendous crime. The Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force completed their engagements, collaborations, and research in the summer of 2021. Throughout their work, the Task Force heard from over 90 stakeholders, including academics, law enforcement professionals, community agencies, Indigenous groups and most importantly individuals with lived experiences of trafficking. These many engagements and learnings informed the development of the Task Force's final report, *The Reading Stone: The Survivor's Lens to Human Trafficking, Findings and Recommendations Report of the Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force*.

In 2021, government reviewed and responded to the Task Force recommendations, accepting all recommendations in principle or for further analysis. Moving forward with analyzing and implementing the recommendations will advance the government's commitment to protect vulnerable Albertans and combat human trafficking in Alberta.

In 2021-22, \$85,000 was spent to support the task force's endeavors, including engagement and research.

ALERT human trafficking units are based in Edmonton and Calgary, and work alongside multi-disciplinary teams composed of existing law enforcement resources, national, provincial and municipal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. These units specifically address sexual exploitation and forced sex labour, helping to protect vulnerable Albertans and ensure traffickers are brought to justice. In 2020-21, this collaborative, province-wide approach led to 29 arrests and 117 charges laid, as well as specialized assistance being provided 321 times, which included bylaw inspections, welfare checks, information sharing, and survivor interviews. In 2021-22, ALERT made 78 arrests, laid 157 charges and provided specialized assistance 251 times as part of their human trafficking enforcement activities.

Over the past year, human trafficking units expanded to include the addition of two civilian safety network coordinators, whose primary role is to build trust with victims by removing barriers towards exiting the sex industry, safety planning, and facilitating access to community support services. These units specifically address sexual exploitation and forced sex labour, helping to protect vulnerable Albertans and ensure traffickers are brought to justice.

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

Key Priority One:

Protecting lives

Objective Three:

Supporting Albertans most in need

- In 2021, Justice and Solicitor General reviewed and responded to the Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force recommendations, accepting all recommendations in principle or for further analysis, to protect vulnerable Albertans and combat human trafficking in Alberta.

ALERT's Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) unit continues to investigate offences involving child pornography, any computer-related child sexual abuse, child luring over the Internet, voyeurism involving victims under the age of 18, and child sex trade/tourism. Since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, the number of reported instances of online child exploitation has increased by 41 per cent. In response, ALERT charged 284 suspects with 990 criminal offences, most of which included child

Quick Fact

In 2021-22, the ICE unit:

- arrested 99 suspected child sex predators
- laid 328 charges
- seized more than 1,467 exhibits and electronic devices
- identified over 12.8 million child sexual abuse material photos and videos.

luring, sexual assault, extortion, and distributing /making child pornography also known as child sexual abuse material. In tandem with their enforcement initiatives, the unit continues to promote education and awareness for parents, youth, and care providers via online platforms, traditional media, and presentations.

Justice and Solicitor General is committed to protecting Albertans at risk of hate-motivated crime. Through the Alberta Security Infrastructure Program (ASIP), the ministry is supporting the protection of vulnerable organizations serving people who, by virtue of their colour, race, ethnic and/or national origins, sexual orientation, religious affiliation

or some other attribute, are at risk of being the victims of hate, bias or prejudice-motivated crimes. In 2021-22, the ministry provided emergency one-time funding for facility security needs related to specific, immediate crime threats to a facility and/or the individuals who use the facility. The Emergency Alberta Infrastructure Program (E-ASIP) provided \$71.2 million to over 100 organizations, to help reduce the risk of hate and bias-motivated crimes. The ministry also provided \$700,000 in grants to 40 religious, ethnic and Indigenous organizations at risk of being targeted by hate and bias-inspired violence or vandalism, to make security and technology improvements to their facilities. Beginning in 2022, government has increased ASIP funding from \$2 million to \$5 million annually. This funding will support places of worship, not-for-profit agencies, registered charities, and other organizations or identified groups at risk of being targeted by hate crimes or incidents.

A Hate Crime Coordination Unit (HCCU) was established in early 2022 as part of the government commitment to enhance law enforcement capabilities in relation to the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of hate-motivated crime. This unit works with law enforcement to improve and harmonize hate crime mitigation efforts across the province and facilitate training opportunities, intelligence gathering and investigative supports. The HCCU mandate is to deliver supporting services in relation to the reduction of, victim-centric response to, and community-sensitive recovery from, hate-themed occurrences throughout Alberta. The unit is focused on supporting local policing by enhancing province-wide access to specialized expertise, such as inter-agency coordination, niche intelligence analysis, investigative supports and assistance with proactive community outreach strategies. Longer-term outcomes for the unit is to develop a critical mass of knowledge and expertise within the province to support government, law enforcement, and community response to criminal and non-criminal hate-motivated behaviours. The HCCU has an annual operational budget of \$500,000.

On June 10, 2021, government announced plans to establish Hate Crimes Community Liaisons (HCCL) as part of its response to recent increases in hate-motivated incidents. The HCCLs will forge relationships with communities and community organizations to gather information and coordinate action in ongoing efforts to address hate and bias motivated crimes and incidents. The HCCLs will be appointed as part-time special advisors to Justice and Solicitor General and will

advise the Minister and the Director of Law Enforcement, as required. The appointments are anticipated to occur in early 2022-23.

1.3 Review the delivery of policing services in the province, including a feasibility study of a provincial police service, to ensure Albertans feel safe and confident in their communities.

The ministry continues to work with police and law enforcement partners to modernize policing legislation and practices. In November 2020, the ministry changed provincial policing standards to ban police in Alberta from randomly and arbitrarily stopping members of the public and asking for personal information, a practice known as “carding”. This reform was widely supported by cultural community groups, including Indigenous groups, criminal justice reform groups, and members of the legal and law enforcement community. In spring 2021, amendments to the *Police Act* were introduced to the legislature to create the statutory authority for street checks, ban the practice of carding, and enable implementation of regulations.

Regulations provide clear guidelines on the circumstances in which street checks may be conducted, how information obtained through street checks may be used and retained, police officer training and public education. Police services are now required to submit a Street Check Annual Report to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General and their police commissions by March 31 of each year, and to subsequently share the report with the public. The 2021-22 Street Check Annual Report from police was due to the Minister on

March 31, 2022. With new guidelines to ensure the consistent use of street checks, Albertans can be confident that the practice is done in a way that respects all people’s rights.

Additionally, work is underway to modernize the *Police Act*, including a multi-year, multi-phased review of the Act. Justice and Solicitor General undertook extensive engagement as part of this review in late 2020-21, including a public survey that received 14,357 responses as well as 32 engagement sessions. Over the past year, the department completed a comprehensive review of the engagement results, and began policy development based on the key themes that emerged from the feedback. Amendments based on these themes will help to ensure that police remain accountable to the communities they serve and are responsive to their needs. As part of the review, it was determined that additional expert analysis would be required to ensure the development of an effective police oversight model. In November 2021, the department contracted with an expert vendor to complete research and analysis on a police complaint oversight model. The vendor’s report is expected in mid-2022 and will provide detail about how a consistent police oversight model for police complaints can be established throughout the province, along with the steps for implementation. Amendments to the *Police Act* that address stakeholder concerns and experiences, as well as establish a police oversight model, are being developed for Cabinet consideration in later 2022.

The ministry is prioritizing the safety and security of Albertans and their property through the exploration of an Alberta province police service. Replacing the RCMP with an Alberta provincial police service was a recommendation of the Fair Deal Panel to address concerns heard during public consultations in 2019 and 2020. With a budget of \$2 million, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) LLP was contracted to develop the Alberta Provincial Police Transition Study report, which was

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

Key Priority One:
Protecting lives

Objective Four:

Make the justice system fairer, faster and more effective

- The ministry is conducting a review of the *Police Act* and continues its examination of a provincial police service, to ensure Albertans are protected through the efficient and effective delivery of police services.

delivered on April 30, 2021. The ministry conducted in-depth analysis of the report in summer 2021, before its public release on October 29, 2021. Department officials initiated a period of extensive stakeholder engagement, to gather the opinions on the proposed policing model and concepts, with First Nations, Métis communities, municipalities, municipal and First Nations police services, and public safety interest groups beginning in mid-November 2021 and concluding on April 1, 2022. During this time, the department conducted 60 in-person and virtual engagement sessions at locations across Alberta. The ministry is conducting further study in 2022-23 to allow the government to make an informed decision as to whether a dedicated provincial police service is

Quick Fact

In 2021-22, the Peace Officer Program supported:

- 318 Authorized Employers
- 2000 Community Peace Officers
- 1001 Administrative Peace Officers
- 1512 Alberta Peace Officers, including Sheriffs (908), Parks Conservation Officers (82) and all other departments (522)

in the best interests of Albertans. The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) is a civilian-led government agency whose mandate is to independently and objectively investigate incidents involving Alberta's police that have resulted in serious injury or death, as well as sensitive allegations of police misconduct. ASIRT's workload has continued to increase exponentially in the last 10 years, receiving 32 files in 2012 compared to 65 files in 2021. Increased attention over the several years on the actions of police and expectations around police accountability, increasing complexity of the investigative environment (including taking on complex integrity files, etc.), higher levels of reporting and

compliance by the police services and a greater desire on the part of police services to have ASIRT take carriage of investigations in order to ensure public confidence in today's environment are all also factors in the increased demands on ASIRT. As a result, ASIRT recently modified their workflow for efficiencies and hired a third legal counsel to assist with clearing the backlog of files. During 2021-22, ASIRT was further strained with COVID-19 protocols while preparing for interviews, court cases and fatality inquiries, as well as managing the increase in freedom of information requests. The government has increased ASIRT funding by \$1.4 million (from \$3.9 million to \$5.3 million) over the next year to allow for the hiring of additional resources.

Alberta Policing Standards were introduced in 2006 to ensure that police services in the province are delivered effectively and efficiently, and conducted in a manner that maintains the trust and respect of the public. The Policing Standards and Audits Section manages the Alberta Policing Standards, and conducts audits of police service performance as well as evaluation of their compliance with Policing Standards. In 2021, three police services (Calgary Police Service, Lakeshore Regional Police Service and Taber Police Service) were audited. Although no amendments to the standards were made in 2021, the Provincial Guidelines for Motor Vehicle Pursuits were amended in July 2021 to ensure police officers act lawfully and with reduced risk when engaging in a motor vehicle pursuit. The ministry distributed over \$1 million to police services and the Sheriff Highway Patrol (through the Public Safety Canada Drug-Impaired Driving Training Fund) for training in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Drug Recognition Expert Training, Purchasing Approved Drug Screening Equipment (ADSE) and providing training on this equipment to improve the safety of Alberta's roadways.

Peace officers help ensure Alberta communities are safe places to live, work and raise families. The Peace Officer Program was introduced in 2007 to provide different levels of government and quasi-government agencies the opportunity to obtain peace officer status for community safety enhancement or specialized supplementary law enforcement needs. The program protects the public interest by providing standards and oversight of all authorized employers and their peace

officers and evaluates their adherence to the *Peace Officer Act*, regulations and policies through compliance audits. In 2021, the program undertook a comprehensive policy review and issued a revised policy manual in March 2022. Revisions included reducing administrative processes and duplicate requirements, as well as other initiatives brought forward by the stakeholders. Currently, the program includes Community Peace Officers employed by municipalities, universities and hospitals, and Alberta Peace Officers employed by the Government of Alberta in all ministries and government agencies with enforcement mandates.

The Security Services and Investigators Program was introduced in 2010 and allows government to license businesses and individuals engaged in the security and investigative services industry. The program ensures that security investigation services produce effective and appropriate enforcement in accordance with legislative frameworks that aim to keep Albertans secure and safe. Licensing fees are used to cover programs costs, making the program cost-neutral to government.

Quick Fact

In 2021-22, the Security Services and Investigators Program issued:

- 65 new business licences
- 199 business licence renewals
- 6,072 new individual licences
- 7,618 individual licence renewals

To protect the public interest and ensure that civil enforcement services are effective, appropriate and conducted in accordance with legislative frameworks, the civil enforcement industry was privatized in 1996 and is overseen by the Sheriff-Civil Enforcement department. This department authorizes the appointment of civil enforcement agencies and civil enforcement bailiffs to enforce civil enforcement actions within Alberta. It provides direction to Albertans who are actively pursuing or participating in civil enforcement actions as either creditor or debtor, allowing them to understand their options. The program provides opportunities for Alberta businesses to operate and employ Albertans in the civil enforcement industry. Civil Enforcement agencies/bailiffs conducted approximately 16,800 civil enforcement actions in Alberta during 2021-22. Funding for this program is cost-neutral in that all fees submitted for appointments are used to fund the program.

Performance Indicator 1.a: Violent and property crime rates per 100,000 population

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alberta Violent Crime Rate	1,282	1,312*	1,338*	1,461*	1,428
Rural	2,178	1,982*	1,947	2,275*	2,405
Urban	1,088	1,167	1,208*	1,291*	1,225
Alberta Property Crime Rate	5,335	5,534*	5,470*	5,886*	5,032
Rural	6,676	7,128*	6,863	7,491*	6,815
Urban	5,032	5,181*	5,164*	5,543*	4,654

*Data has been revised by the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics since the 2021-24 business plan's publication.

Crime rate measures the volume of crime, including all *Criminal Code* violations (except traffic infractions), relative to population size. Violent crime involves offences that deal with the application or threat of force to a person. These include homicide, attempted murder and various forms of sexual and non-sexual assault, robbery and abduction. Property crime includes incidents involving unlawful acts committed with the intent of gaining property, which do not involve the use

or threat of violence against an individual. Theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods are examples of property crimes. Crime rates are expressed as the number of crimes per 100,000 people.

In 2020, Alberta's violent crime rate was 1,428, a decrease of 2.3 per cent from the previous year. The violent crime rate was 2,405 in rural Alberta, an increase of 5.7 per cent, and 1,225 in urban Alberta, a decrease of 5.1 per cent. Despite the decrease in 2020, Alberta's violent crime rate has increased by 8.5 per cent compared to 2015, increasing 11 per cent in rural Alberta and 8.4 cent in urban Alberta. The decrease in Alberta's violent crime rate from 2019 to 2020 was driven by a decrease in robbery (21 per cent), sexual assault, level 1 (13 per cent), and assault, level 1 (eight per cent).

In 2020, Alberta's property crime rate was 5,032, a decrease of 14.5 per cent from the previous year. The property crime rate in rural Alberta was 6,815, a decrease of nine per cent, and 4,654 in urban Alberta, a decrease of 16 per cent. Alberta's overall property crime rate is down 4.1 per cent compared to 2015, down 4.8 per cent in urban Alberta and 0.4 per cent in rural Alberta. Property crimes may have decreased given that more Albertans stayed home during the COVID-19 pandemic. The decrease in Alberta's property crime rate from 2019 to 2020 was driven by a decrease in theft under \$5,000 (23 per cent), possession of stolen property (18 per cent) and breaking and entering (13 per cent).

As previously mentioned, the ministry has taken action on a number of fronts as part of its commitment to reduce rural crime, including the implementation of RAPID Response, the addition of provincial police positions, increased funding to ALERT, the introduction of a new, independent Alberta Parole Board, the appointment of Alberta's first-ever chief firearms officer, and an investment in new Crown prosecutors and support staff. These initiatives are ensuring that Albertans are better protected from criminals by the justice system regardless of where crimes take place.

Additional Performance Indicator: Violent and non-violent Crime Severity Index (CSI)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Violent Crime Severity Index					
Alberta	93	99	100	108	107
Canada	77	81	84	90	87
Non-violent Crime Severity Index					
Alberta	110	117	118	124	107
Canada	70	71	73	76	68

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) measures both the volume and severity of crime, and includes all *Criminal Code* and other federal statute violations. Violent crime includes all police-reported violent violations, which deal with the application or threat of force to a person. Non-violent crime involves all police reported property violations, other *Criminal Code* violations, *Criminal Code* traffic violations, and other federal statute violations. To determine the severity of a crime, all crimes are assigned a weight based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, while less serious crimes are assigned lower weights. As a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the index.

The national CSI decreased eight per cent, from 79.8 in 2019 to 73.4 in 2020. The index was 11 per cent lower in 2020 than a decade earlier in 2010. Between 2019 and 2020, nine of 13 provinces or territories saw a decrease in the CSI ranging from one per cent to 11 per cent, with Alberta reporting a decrease of 11 per cent. In Alberta cities, CSI decreased in Lethbridge by three per cent, 17 per cent in Calgary and nine per cent in Edmonton. Alberta decreases were driven by a decrease in breaking and entering, theft of \$5000 or under (non-shoplifting), fraud and robbery.

The national violent CSI was 87 in 2020, a four per cent decrease from 2019, and two per cent lower than in 2010. In Alberta, a one per cent decrease in violent CSI was driven by decreases in robbery and sexual assault (level 1). In 2020, Alberta's non-violent CSI decreased 14 per cent compared to 2019, driven by a decrease in breaking and entering, theft of \$5000 or under, and fraud.

Additional Performance Indicator: Number of provincially funded police officer positions

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-29	2019-20	2020-21	
1,900	1,963	1,947	2,143	2,215

This indicator helps inform the policing capacity within Alberta. Over the past five years, the Government of Alberta has steadily increased the number of provincially funded police officer positions from 1,900 in 2017-18 to 2,215 in 2021-22, an increase of 16.6 per cent. As part of its commitment to address rural crime, the ministry is hiring additional RCMP members to strengthen the province's ability to respond to rural crime. Funding for additional police officer positions is provided through the new PFM, whereby revenues collected from municipalities are directed back to policing and public safety needs in rural Alberta (a total of \$33.3 million in 2021-22).

The 2,215 provincially funded police officer positions in 2021-22 can be broken down as follows:

- 1,759 RCMP Provincial Police Service regular and civilian members;
- 306 ALERT police officers and civilian members;
- 6 ITRAC positions;
- 2 Hate Crimes Officers;
- 9 ASIRT positions;
- 4 Integrated Community Safety positions; and,
- 129 First Nations Policing Program positions.

Outcome Two: Alberta's justice system is fair and effective

Albertans deserve a justice system that is fair and effective. Justice and Solicitor General is reducing red tape to increase access to justice for Albertans and ensure a responsive, sustainable justice system. The ministry continues to implement recommendations from the Fair Deal Panel, including protecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners in Alberta. Key democratic reforms have strengthened government accountability while giving Albertans a more direct role in their democracy.

Key Objectives

2.1 Streamline processes and reduce red tape to increase sustainability and ensure effective use of resources.

The ministry continues to advance the government's commitment to reduce red tape and make life easier for all Albertans. On December 8, 2021, Bill 80, the *Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2021*, received Royal Assent. Key changes under this Bill included amendments to the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, which modernized Alberta Human Rights Commission processes and cut red tape for complainants and respondents. The amendments help protect Albertans' rights by addressing complaints more quickly, reducing backlogs, and making tribunal hearings more accessible. The amendments, which reflect current practice in other provinces and territories, were implemented within the \$6.9 million funding envelope of the Alberta Human Rights Commission in 2021-22.

To ensure criminal matters are dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner, the ministry is working to fulfill its commitment to hire 50 new Crown prosecutors and support staff as well as expand its articling program from eight to 20 articling students. Additional prosecutors will ensure the appropriate use of resources and assist in making the justice system more effective, responsive, and sustainable. Expanding the articling program allows Crown prosecutors to focus on higher-priority duties and prioritizes placement of new students in rural Alberta. Inability to attract and retain individuals for key roles can create challenges in meeting program and service demands, and can lead to unequal and delayed service delivery. The articling program helps mitigate this risk by attracting future lawyers to work as prosecutors, ensuring the government maintains capacity to address the volume of cases in the justice system. A total of twenty prosecutors and eight articling students were hired in 2020-21. In 2021-22, the 50 new prosecutor positions were allocated and by the end of December 2022, 47 of the 50 positions had been hired.

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

Key Priority One:

Protecting lives

Objective Four:

Make the justice system fairer, faster and more effective

- In 2021-22, Justice and Solicitor General invested \$10 million to support government's commitment to increase the ranks of the ACPS by 50 new prosecutors and support staff over three years.

Quick Fact

To date, the ACPS has hired 47 additional Crown prosecutors and increased its articling program from eight to 20 articling students.

The ACPS is working to implement a pre-charge assessment system across the province that ensures charges are reviewed by a prosecutor before being laid by police. This system will reduce the number of cases entering the court system that do not meet the threshold for prosecution. A pre-charge assessment system enhances communication between police and the

prosecutor earlier in the justice continuum leading to stronger cases that are less likely to collapse in court. Pre-charge assessment processes ensure that investigative materials are included in the file at the earliest possible date and that follow-up investigation is concluded wherever possible before charges are laid.

Prosecutorial review of charges before they are laid by police will mitigate the risk of individual Albertans having their liberty restricted and needing to go through the court process. The prosecutorial standard requires that sufficient evidence exists to support a reasonable likelihood of conviction, and that the prosecution be in the public interest. The exclusion of charges that do not meet the prosecutorial standard from Alberta's courts supports the government's efforts to reduce red tape for Albertans who would otherwise have paid to retain counsel or use Legal Aid for court appearances until the file could be assessed fully by a prosecutor.

Expansion of the pre-charge assessment system will increase efficiency in the justice system by ensuring police and Crown resources are focused on viable matters. In 2021-22, Boyle, Camrose, Lacombe, Medicine Hat, Lakeshore Regional Police Service and the Blood Tribe Police Service were added to the system. A staged implementation will continue over the next two years until all law enforcement agencies in the province are using the new system.

2.2 Introduce key democratic reforms, including recall legislation, to strengthen government accountability.

The Alberta government is committed to strengthening democracy and increasing accountability in Alberta through democratic reforms. These reforms include the introduction of citizen initiative and recall legislation, establishment of a set election date, and amendments to senate election, referendum, and election legislation.

The Select Special Democratic Accountability Committee of the Legislative Assembly was asked to review matters pertaining to recall, citizens' initiatives, the *Election Act*, and the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*. The Committee issued its final report on recall and citizens' initiatives in November 2020 and on the *Election Act* and *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* in January 2021.

The *Alberta Senate Election Act* was introduced in spring 2019 to reinstate senate nominee elections in the province. A senate election was held on October 18, 2021 in conjunction with the local authority elections. On October 26, 2021, Elections Alberta released the official results of the senate election and three senate nominees were elected. The names of the Senate nominees will be sent to the prime minister for consideration when filling senate vacancies, thereby supporting Albertans' right to choose their representation in national Parliament.

Albertans can now have a say on issues that affect them to ensure laws and policies best meet their current and future needs. Justice and Solicitor General is providing opportunities for Albertans to have a direct impact on government-led initiatives by introducing referendum legislation. In spring 2020, the *Constitutional Referendum Act* was amended to allow referendums to be held alongside provincial or municipal elections, held separately, or conducted via mail-in ballot. As a result of these amendments, referendums were held on October 18, 2021 in conjunction with the local authority elections. Albertans were asked about equalization and daylight saving time. On October 26, 2021, Elections Alberta released the official results of the referendum: 61.7 per cent of voting Albertans voted in favour of removing the principle of equalization from the Constitution and 50.2 per cent of voting Albertans voted against adopting year-round daylight saving time.

Bill 51, the *Citizen Initiative Act*, and Bill 52, the *Recall Act*, received royal assent on June 17, 2021. Bill 51 gives Albertans a more direct role in democracy by giving voters the ability to propose legislative, policy or constitutional action on issues that affect them through a petition process. Bill

52 provides a method for Albertans to hold elected officials accountable by permitting Albertans to remove their MLAs, municipal councillors, mayors, and school board trustees from office between elections. Both Acts were proclaimed in force on April 7, 2022. Regulations have been developed to support the proclamation of this legislation.

As part of Alberta's commitment to strengthening democracy and making it easier for Albertans to vote, Bill 81, *Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)* was introduced to the legislature in 2021. The Act includes amendments to the *Election Act*, *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, and other election-related legislation, which came into force on March 31, 2022. The Bill prevents other jurisdictions from unduly influencing Alberta elections by prohibiting people who live outside of Alberta or Canada, and non-Canadian corporations and organizations from making political advertising contributions. The Bill makes it easier for Albertans to vote early by allowing an increased number of advance voting stations, and increases the integrity of Alberta elections by requiring voters to produce identification to vote in provincial elections, as in municipal and federal elections.

2.3 Implement approved Fair Deal Panel recommendations to ensure Alberta has a strong voice in Confederation.

The ministry is working to implement approved recommendations from Alberta's Fair Deal Panel report to give the province a stronger role within Canada and increase control in areas of provincial jurisdiction. The province has taken a greater role in the administration of firearms policy in order to support the needs and priorities of Albertans and improve services for law-abiding gun owners. Alberta continues to challenge federal legislation that undermines provincial jurisdiction to ensure a fair deal for Alberta.

Justice and Solicitor General is committed to upholding firearms policies and governance measures that protect Albertans, prosecute criminals and deter illegal gun crime rather than persecuting law-abiding citizens. On September 1, 2021, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General launched the Alberta Chief Firearms Office (ACFO) and appointed Teri Bryant as the provincial chief firearms officer (CFO). The ACFO administers the Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) on behalf of Albertans pursuant to the federal *Firearms Act* and Part III of the *Criminal Code*, overseeing individual firearms licences, business licences and ranges, implementing national firearms safety training standards, and assisting law enforcement agencies to enhance public safety. Since implementation, the ACFO has successfully delivered many valuable services to the province of Alberta.

Quick Fact

On March 1, 2022, after six months in operation, the ACFO has successfully completed:

- 600 Authorizations to Carry for armoured car companies
- 648 minors licence applications
- 2390 Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) applications
- 862 public safety concern investigations
- 300 firearms transfers
- 253 firearms licences revocations.

The ACFO transition team and current staff have successfully established physical offices in Coaldale, Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton and Grande Prairie

and effective virtual offices in Vegreville and Fort McMurray. As of March 31, 2022, the ACFO is fully staffed with 30 employees, onboarding and training continues to ensure proficiency and best practices are being met and improvements to service delivery are being made.

The ACFO supports Alberta's responsible, law abiding and passionate firearms community in all aspects of firearms licencing and continuing compliance. The unit continues to work diligently to build strong relationships with interested groups, including provincial shooting ranges, firearms

businesses, and police agencies such as the Calgary Police Service, Edmonton Police Service, ALERT, and National Weapons Enforcement Support Team, with a focus on targeting public safety concerns and assisting with investigations into firearms trafficking and straw purchases.

As part of its commitment to outreach and education, the ACFO including CFO Bryant made their first official gun show appearance in Stony Plain in December 2021, receiving very positive feedback from the Alberta firearms community. Following this gun show, the ACFO and CFO Bryant have attended a number of gun shows across Alberta including events in: Killam; Vegreville; Edmonton/Stony Plain (2022); and Provost. CFO Bryant has visited approximately 30 businesses, and presented as the guest speaker at the Crowsnest Pass Pistol Club and Taber Shooting Foundation annual general meetings. In October 2021, ACFO staff presented at the Guns and Gangs conference in Canmore to more than 300 Crown prosecutors and law enforcement representatives from across Canada as well as the United States.

The ACFO continues to work with federal and national CFP partners on modernization initiatives, including an online database for licenced individuals to request an Authorization to Transport. An unwanted firearms program is currently under development and will include two components:

- Surrendering unwanted firearms to designated authorities; and
- Public education on transferring (giving or selling) unwanted firearms to licensed businesses, individuals or museums.

The total cost for the ACFO is currently estimated at \$3.8 million per year on an ongoing basis, which is in excess of the federal government's offered annual contribution amount of \$2.61 million. The federal government proposed a pro-rated interim amount of \$1.5 million for the federal to provincial transition period from September 2021 to March 31, 2022, although the actual cost for the interim period is approximately \$2.2 million. Negotiations are underway with the federal government to determine a fair cost-sharing agreement.

Alberta has been challenging federal legislation that undermines provincial jurisdiction and will continue to defend provincial Constitutional jurisdiction. Alberta challenged the constitutionality of the federal government's carbon tax all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) and the Alberta government is steadfast in its commitment to stand up for Alberta. Although the majority of the SCC upheld the constitutionality of the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*, concluding that it comes within the federal parliament's power over peace, order, and good government, the Alberta government has publicly committed to consult with Albertans on options for responding to this decision.

Alberta's reference to the Alberta Court of Appeal challenging the constitutionality of Canada's proposed legislation to "modernize" the federal environmental assessment framework (Bill C-69 – *Impact Assessment Act*) was argued at the Alberta Court of Appeal in February 2021. The Court's decision on the Bill's constitutionality is expected to be delivered in 2022 and the decision of the Alberta Court of Appeal is open to appeal to the SCC.

The province is also considering litigation options for participating in the various legal challenges before the Federal Court, including challenging the federal government's recent, unprecedented use of its extraordinary powers under the federal *Emergencies Act*. This Act authorizes the federal government to use special temporary measures to ensure safety and security during national emergencies and to amend other Acts in accordance with these measures.

The justice system is complex and requires coordination and integration between all components to remain efficient and responsive. The Legal Services Division supports ministries in their compliance with diverse legislation and civil law requirements which assists in the alignment of program areas and mitigates risk of maintaining or creating less effective policies and service delivery models.

Improved coordination and integration results in reduced silos between areas within the ministry, enables a collective response to complex and pressing issues, and promotes a responsive justice system.

Performance Measure 2.a: Provincial Court of Alberta lead time to trial for serious and violent matters

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-20	2019-20	2020-21		
22.3 weeks	22.3 weeks	24.4 weeks	23.9 weeks	22 weeks	26.8 weeks

In 2021-22, Provincial Court lead time for serious and violent offences increased by 12.1 per cent to 26.8 weeks from 23.9 weeks in 2020-21. Lead time has been impacted by court closures associated with the pandemic and an increase in serious and violent charges commenced. In 2021, the number of active serious and violent cases exceeding 18 months in Provincial Court increased by 127 per cent (as of December 31, 2021) over the previous year.

A variety of different factors may contribute to case processing times in the Provincial Court. These include the number of accused; the number and types of charges; the number of court appearances; the number of pre-trial motions; whether there is a guilty plea; whether a trial was held; whether an accused has legal representation; and whether a preliminary inquiry was requested and/or held. Case processing time is also influenced by the availability of court resources (judges and lawyers), case management practices, and differences in the structure and operations of courts.

Over the past several years, the ministry has actively employed policy and program changes to increase proportionality and reduce serious and violent case lead times to trial. Since the 2016 *R v Jordan* decision, the ministry has demonstrated a collaborative approach in ensuring serious and violent cases move efficiently through the criminal justice system. The Court Case Management program aims to effectively manage criminal cases outside of the courtroom in many locations in the adult Provincial Court, increase public confidence in the justice system and improve access to justice. A focused effort has been made for prosecutors to assess and resolve files at the earliest possible time. Implemented in phases, Bill C-75 made significant changes to the *Criminal Code*. It is in response to the SCC's ruling in *R v Jordan*, as well as the report of the Standing Senate Committee on Results Analysis Legal and Constitutional Affairs, *Delaying Justice is Denying Justice: An Urgent Need to Address Lengthy Court Delays in Canada*. The impact of these changes is being monitored.

The ACPS is in the process of implementing pre-charge assessment across the province. This will help ensure law enforcement's investigative materials are included in the file at the earliest possible date and follow-up investigation is concluded wherever possible before charges are laid. It is anticipated this project will reduce criminal charges by approximately 20 per cent by eliminating matters from the court process that do not meet the prosecutorial standard. Pre-charge assessment creates capacity for all justice system participants including police, prosecutors and the courts ensuring valuable court time is scheduled only for viable matters.

It is impossible to identify any one specific initiative as the source of the changes observed in the statistical trends of this performance measure. The trends reflect the cumulative impact of the above mentioned initiatives and factors combined. Additionally, the closure of courtrooms and the

limited in-person court appearances resulting from COVID-19 have influenced the entire justice system.

Performance Indicator 2.b: Indigenous over-representation in correctional centres

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-29	2019-20	2020-21	
43.3%	41.9%	41.2%	43.6%	43.6%

The proportion of Indigenous persons in adult custody did not change from 2020-21 to 2021-22, although the result had been trending upward in the last five years, with the exception of 2019-20.

Justice and Solicitor General has undertaken a full-scale review of the province's *Police Act*. The review is considering feedback received respecting improving relationships between Indigenous communities and policing services. The review included engagement with Indigenous communities during stakeholder sessions and an online public survey that generated more than 14,000 responses. Those consultations will inform a modernized *Police Act* that responsive to the needs of Indigenous communities and all Albertans.

Through the First Nation and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP), the ministry provides 100 per cent funding for three dedicated Crime Prevention Coordinators for each Indigenous police service. Following the recommendations and Calls to Justice from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) reports, the Crime Prevention Coordinators at Blood Tribe, Lakeshore Regional, and Tsuut'ina Nation police services offer numerous programs, supports and activities that are culturally appropriate and responsive to the needs of their communities. Programs are aimed at youth intervention to help reduce youth criminal involvement and guide youth towards better life choices. Coordinators apply the principles and methods of crime prevention, communication, public information dissemination, public education, and community organization to continue to effectively interact with their Nations. They regularly host education sessions, and provide opportunities to learn about crime trends and address root causes of crime in Indigenous communities. The subjects covered include drug use, human trafficking, bullying, cyber safety, fraud, animal safety, elder abuse, impaired driving, and making homes less desirable targets for break and enters. School presentations and after school programs allow police to spend time with students to educate them on the raw truth behind crime, and provide an opportunity to survey youth to ensure they are engaged with their community in a productive and impactful way. Lastly, a Youth Camp is offered at Tsuut'ina to engage youth on positive decision-making and to encourage them to consider a career in policing.

Networking and collaboration are critical components of crime prevention by building relationships and expanding resources for community members. The three Indigenous police services collaborated on the creation of a joint social media anti-bullying video. These and many more programs and activities are aimed at reducing criminal involvement within Indigenous communities and surrounding areas and to assist with mending the bridge between police and the community.

The Indigenous Court Work Program (ICWP) ensures that Indigenous people receive fair, equitable, culturally responsive treatment in court, by providing Indigenous litigants, their families, and Indigenous victims with services or assistance before, during, and after the court process. The ICWP offers a variety of services in the Criminal, Family, and Youth Divisions of the Provincial Court of Alberta. They include non-legal advice on rights and responsibilities, explaining court processes, and informing the court regarding the client's personal circumstances.

The ICWP aims to address overrepresentation by assisting the court in determining resolutions that are appropriate and effective for Indigenous accused, including alternatives to incarceration. This program promotes the use of alternative measures and community resources by Indigenous people. Indigenous court workers have in-depth knowledge of the programs, services and restorative justice options that are available within the local community. They also provide critical information to the courts regarding the circumstances of the accused at the time of sentencing. The program also reduces the number of Indigenous accused in remand by providing the court with release strategies that address an accused person's bail plan.

In 2021-22, the ICWP assisted approximately 5,900 individuals. Program funding is shared by Justice and Solicitor General (\$2.56 million) and Justice Canada (\$2.03 million).

The Gladue Report Program supports the reduction of Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system by helping the court determine appropriate sentences for Indigenous offenders. Gladue reports outline factors such as the offender's individual history, intergenerational trauma caused by residential school experiences, residential day school experiences, the Sixties Scoop, historical trauma, effects of colonization, systemic racism, and socio-economic circumstances that the court must take into consideration during sentencing. The program works to ensure provincial compliance with the SCC rulings in *Gladue* and *Ipeelee*, which emphasize the factors that the Courts need to consider in sentencing Indigenous offenders.

In 2021-22, 747 Gladue reports were provided to the courts, a 26 per cent increase from the previous year. COVID-19 initially impacted Gladue report numbers as requests were received via fax and court services moved to virtual. Internal processes were amended and submission rates returned to normal. In 2022-23, the number of Gladue report requests is expected to significantly increase due to the recent opening of the Edmonton Indigenous Court, and the transition back to in-person court appearances.

The Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) supports the administration of Indigenous community-based justice programs. These programs reflect Indigenous values and ethics, and offer alternatives to mainstream justice processes. They offer alternatives to incarceration, including diversion, presentencing options, sentencing alternatives, restorative justice, and reintegration services. The IJP provides strategic support on the delivery of 14 programs located in various Métis Settlements and First Nation communities in Alberta. The services provided within each Indigenous community varies, as each are designed to incorporate community perspectives and capacity into mainstream justice processes.

Alberta has circuit courts located on Nation land at Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Siksika Nation, and Tsuut'ina Nation. The Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation uses a restorative justice model that promotes community involvement in the court process. The courthouse on Siksika Nation has a judge of Indigenous heritage with a dedicated prosecutor who supports the provision of culturally sensitive prosecution services. The Tsuut'ina Nation utilizes Provincial Court processes while encompassing Peacemaker processes such as sentencing circles, workshops, and diversionary measures with a dedicated court clerk who is knowledgeable in Indigenous culture, values, worldviews and traditions. The Provincial Court is exploring new ways to enable smudging in Indigenous courtrooms using existing HVAC systems. The Calgary Indigenous Court provides justice services that reflect the culture, values and traditions of Indigenous persons and, leveraging its success, the Edmonton Indigenous Court opened in February 2022.

In the province's correctional and remand centres, programs and services are available that support rehabilitation and seek to reduce individuals' future interaction with the criminal justice system. Interventions are offered at various centres, and are tailored to meet the needs of the Indigenous population. Support is also provided in centres by Indigenous Program Coordinators and Indigenous Elders. Programs and services include Indigenous spiritual, cultural and ceremonial activities.

Well established contracts are in place in two Indigenous communities (Kainai Transition Centre Society and Tsuut'ina Stoney National Corrections Society,) for the provision of community corrections in those communities. These societies supervise clients serving community-based sentences in accordance with community corrections policies.

Additional Performance Indicator: Number of Jordan applications granted

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Actual	Cumulative Total as of March 31, 2022
2017-18	2018-29	2019-20	2020-21		
6	9	7	9	1	38*

*The tracking of *Jordan* applications began in October 2016. Six applications were granted between October 2016 and March 2017 and are included in the cumulative total.

The ACPS tracks criminal cases in Provincial Court and Court of Queen's Bench to ensure matters proceed to trial within the time limits specified by the SCC in *R v Jordan*. As of March 31 2022, 38 cases were stayed by the Courts due to unreasonable delay, a total that represents 9.8 per cent of all *Jordan* applications filed since October 2016.

Jordan's impact on cases adjourned as a result of COVID-19 has been considered by a number of courts in Alberta, and across Canada. Although the final ruling in each case has been dependent on the specific facts, courts have generally interpreted the pandemic to fit within the exceptional circumstance provided for in *Jordan*.

Between October 25, 2016 and March 31, 2022, 65 cases were proactively stayed by the ACPS. In 2021, the ACPS conducted an analysis of these cases on the basis they would not survive a *Jordan* application. Going forward, these analyses will be completed annually to help determine whether practices should be adjusted to mitigate the risk of future stays resulting from delay. Four key recurring reasons were found to impact judicial stays as they relate to *R v Jordan*: the lack of availability of Crown and Court resources; disclosure issues; police issues; and the culture of complacency. The culture of complacency was noted by the SCC in its *R v Jordan* decision and is a national systemic issue. Issues that may be attributed to police include delays in setting first appearance dates and delays in executing warrants. The ACPS is working to improve the quality and efficiency of its disclosure process and will continue to collaborate with police on that process.

Reforming the criminal justice system is a complex and difficult initiative, but it is vitally important and something that one agency, working alone, cannot tackle. The ministry has been working to create better outcomes for Albertans with less reliance on the more formal and typically more expensive parts of the justice system. The ACPS is working with other divisions to create policies that will divert matters, where appropriate, away from the full-court process, while still holding offenders to account.

Additional Performance Indicator: Number of trial prosecutors

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
Not Available*	Not Available*	305	329	345

*Historical data for this indicator is not available because the collection of data began in 2019-20. Previous year business plan and annual report reflected the number of trial prosecutor positions available. The indicator noted here reflects the number of prosecutors on staff.

The data for this indicator is a snapshot in time. As of March 31, 2022, vacancy rate was at 9.9 per cent, down from 10.3 per cent in September 2021. As noted above, under key objective 2.1, Justice and Solicitor General will be investing approximately \$10 million annually to hire 50 new prosecutors and additional support staff over four years. Since this commitment was made, 47 prosecutors have been hired, however due to regular staff turnover, the ACPS is reporting an overall increase of 16 trial prosecutors in the year. Four of the new positions were for pre-charge assessment and one position was allocated to appeals which are not defined as trial prosecutors; those five positions have been filled. The ACPS is actively working to fill the remaining new positions as well as other existing vacant positions. Recruitment and retention challenges are anticipated to decrease with the lifting of the salary freeze in December 2021. The additional prosecutors and support staff will contribute towards addressing workload pressures that can result in low employee engagement and high turnover. The hiring of additional prosecutors will ensure that criminal matters are dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner.

Outcome Three: Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system

Justice and Solicitor General has developed innovative program delivery models and technical solutions to streamline Albertans interactions with the justice system. Transformative initiatives, including Justice Digital, allow for online transactions and virtual interactions to increase access to justice and efficiencies for Albertans and the courts. Recognizing the complex problem that can lead individuals in to a path of crime, the ministry continues to support and grow targeted programs such as Mental Health Court and Drug Treatment Court that provide wrap around supports while holding offenders accountable.

Key Objectives

3.1 Introduce a new model of victim service delivery.

The ministry is committed to ensuring victims of crime have access to the help they need when they need it. Specific actions are being taken to increase access to supports and services for victims of sexual violence and promote public safety initiatives to deter crime and prevent victimization in the first place.

Prior to 2021-22, an MLA-led Victims of Crime Review was concluded, fulfilling government's platform commitment to conduct an immediate review of the current model of victim service delivery, victim assistance funding, and victim compensation to ensure there is necessary assistance to victims of crime. A report with key findings and recommendations was prepared and submitted to government. This Review consisted of two phases, conducted between November 2019 and November 2020. In total, 40 engagement sessions were held with approximately 150 stakeholder groups.

Phase one focused on victim assistance funding and compensation and was completed in January 2020. This review resulted in legislative amendments which discontinued the Victims Financial Benefits Program (VFBP). The interim Victims Assistance Program (VAP) is in place while the review gathers input from interested groups on what should constitute the permanent program.

Phase two, which commenced on September 14, 2020, gathered feedback for the development of the permanent VAP and tested potential solutions for addressing concerns with how services are delivered to victims within communities. Following the conclusion of stakeholder engagement activities, MLAs Angela Pitt and Nathan Neudorf worked with the ministry to draft the MLA Report.

The report provided 19 recommendations that were considered in the development of the submission to Cabinet seeking approval on victim services programming improvements, including the implementation of a new zonal victim services delivery model and a permanent VAP. The new model will ensure victims are provided consistent, professional and appropriate services in all areas of the province.

As part of service delivery model improvements, further engagement, training and information schedules took place with internal and external partners to inform the process. Meetings included a variety of interested groups, including police agencies, victims' service units, specialized victim support agencies, Indigenous organizations, and other ministries including, Health and Community and Social Services. Service delivery improvements through a new victims' assistance model are anticipated to be forthcoming in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

In 2021-22, \$20.4 million was invested in victims' service delivery, which provided funding for 62 board-run, police-based Victim Services Units (VSUs). VSUs support victims of crime in partnership with the RCMP, municipal police services and community-based organizations by providing information on the criminal justice system, support (including court support), how to apply for

victims assistance programming, referrals to specialized supports, and other services. In anticipation of the new victims assistance model, grant applications for victim-serving organizations are paused, but to ensure that there are no interruptions to services to victims during the transition, funding for all current victim service partners has been extended until March 31, 2023.

In order to empower victims of sexual assault, the Sexual Violence Police Advisory Committee (SVPAC) undertook a review in late 2020 to ensure Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEKs) are available when needed and stored appropriately. A significant amount of information was gathered during this process, including the history of SAEKs, their construction, current use and cost, and the benefits and drawbacks of purchasing them from a medical supply company as opposed to having them assembled by the police service. In addition to reviewing materials specific to Alberta, a jurisdictional scan across Canada was conducted to determine the varying structures used for the acquisition, delivery and payment of SAEKs. It was determined that all police stations in Alberta now have access to SAEKs when needed.

The Alberta Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (ITRAC) is responsible for assessments and disclosure statements related to *Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence (Clare's Law) Act*. These assessments provide, where possible, intimate partner violence/violence histories and risk analyses to Albertans who wish to use this information to make more informed decisions about their own safety, due to concerns about current or former intimate partners. As subjects of assessment are higher-risk than typical intimate partner violence offenders, and typical criminal justice system responses have been unsuccessful in mitigating ongoing violence, assessments can help protect Albertans from victimization. ITRAC faces continued resourcing pressures, with referrals outpacing capacity at this time, particularly since the institution of *Clare's Law*. Certification of all current trainees is expected to double current capacity, allowing the program to better manage the increased volume of risk assessments. ITRAC's operating yearly budget is approximately \$2.6 million for staff resources.

The Ministry is working with justice system partners on the continued operations and enhancement of the Restitution Recovery Program (RRP). The RRP addresses the monitoring and recovery of restitution orders for adult offenders and uses reasonable recovery methods, on behalf of the victim, to recover outstanding restitution payments from the offender. Restitution orders are a way for offenders to repay their victims for damaged property, lost money, or additional expenses due to crime. Within this model, victims of crime have access to supports to navigate the justice system and request restitution during the legal process. Additionally, the victim may opt-in to the RRP so that if a restitution order has not been paid, collection efforts may be initiated to recover the debt at no cost to the victim.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, RRP enhancement and ongoing operations were impacted by unexpected and ongoing challenges. While the full impact of these challenges remains undetermined, significant adjustments were required to follow continually evolving provincial public health orders and guidance. Numerous delays, such as the postponement of in-person court

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

Key Priority One:
Protecting lives

Objective Three:
Supporting Albertans most in need

- The *Disclosure to Protect against Domestic Violence (Clare's Law) Act* came into force in April 2021. The Act allows people at risk of domestic violence to find out if their intimate partner has a violent or abusive past. Ensuring the disclosure of this information will protect Albertans at risk and help prevent domestic violence before it occurs. In 2021-22, 452 Clare's Law applications were submitted to ITRAC, with 400 applications proceeding to the assessment phase.

proceedings, resulted in unanticipated challenges to identifying opportunities for improvements to the program. In 2021-22, 67 restitution orders were received by the program, compared to 507 orders granted between June and December of 2020. Lower-than-expected numbers of restitution orders that were eligible for the program delayed internal uptake and made it harder to resolve process issues, resulting in divisions needing to increase or repeat information-sharing and training activities. Despite these challenges, work began to realize operational efficiencies, including increasing dedicated resources to better support increasing RRP inquiries and restitution orders requiring enforcement action; refresher training for internal RRP partners and external victim stakeholder groups to better support victims of crime; and technology enhancements to better inform the data analytics and evaluation of the RRP.

3.2 Continue to implement digital transformation to improve Albertans' access to services in response to the current pandemic, promote system sustainability and reduce red tape.

The ministry continues to implement new or enhanced online services and digital platforms to modernize Alberta's courts and the broader justice system and deliver transformational change. Beginning in 2019, the Government of Alberta committed \$38 million over five years to court and justice service modernization, including \$8 million in 2021-22. Justice Digital has been delivering tangible benefits from the introduction of new digital services resulting in hundreds of thousands of transactions moving online. Over the past year, the following enhancements and projects were completed under the Justice Digital initiative:

- **Adjournment Digital Service:** Enables online adjournments in provincial court adult criminal court where the matter is not ready to proceed and all parties agree. This improves access to justice for accused persons and counsel, and creates efficiencies for judges, prosecutors, and clerks;
- **Transcripts Digital Service:** Streamlines ordering of transcripts for court proceedings, assignment to a transcriber, and payment and fulfilment of the orders digitally;
- **Courtroom Digital Service:** Allows court clerks to create digital endorsements for provincial court criminal matters to ensure the accurate and timely capture of courtroom events and the production of digital records;

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

Key Priority One:
Protecting lives

Objective Four:
Make the justice system fairer, faster and more effective

- Justice and Solicitor General invested \$7.8 million in Justice Digital, which implemented six new digital services in 2021-22, to better meet the needs of citizens, court users, and the judiciary, and reduce red tape for Albertans.

Quick Fact

To date, more than 5,600 adjournment requests have been processed through the Adjournment Digital Service, which is available in all major centres and many regional courts throughout the province.

- **Court Case Management Service:** Enables lawyers to file and schedule Court of Queen's Bench commercial list matters online;
- **Filing Digital Service:** Streamlines the process of filing documents with the Court of Queen's Bench, allowing certain court applications to be submitted, reviewed, and granted digitally. To date, more than 36,000 document packages have been processed in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Red Deer using the service –

freeing up hundreds of hours of clerk time to review more complex filings and assist elsewhere in the courts; and

- **Traffic Ticket Digital Service (TTDS):** Provides online options for requesting more time to pay a ticket, disputing a ticket with a prosecutor, and pleading not guilty and requesting a trial date to every driver in Alberta, regardless of where they live or where their ticket was issued. There is steady growth in the number of transactions being processed through TTDS every week including approximately 6,000 additional time to pay a traffic ticket and 5,400 disputes to a prosecutor requests during 2020-21, eliminating thousands of in-person visits to courthouses and reducing manual processes that require multiple touches, handoffs, emails, and telephone calls in an in-person, paper-based system.

In 2020-21, Justice and Solicitor General worked collaboratively with Alberta Transportation to implement the first phase of the Justice Transformation Initiative (JTI), which is designed to make Alberta roads safer while also restoring justice system capacity. The JTI establishes a simplified, accessible, and swift system for resolving matters involving most first-time impaired driving. The *Provincial Administrative Penalties Act* (PAPA) came into force on December 1, 2020. The PAPA and its regulations provide the legislative framework for the initiative, and established SafeRoads Alberta within the Ministry of Transportation to manage the resolution of impaired driving related contraventions of the *Traffic Safety Act*.

Quick Fact

To date, the JTI has diverted 89 per cent of all impaired driving incidents from the courts, increased police enforcement by 47 per cent and concluded more than 1,700 matters all within 30 days of issuance.

The JTI is diverting impaired driving incidents from the courts, increasing police enforcement and helping matters to conclude faster. Removing these matters from the court system is saving thousands of hours of police and court time per year. This allows Alberta's prosecutors and courts to focus on the most serious justice matters while allowing more police to patrol our streets and providing Albertans with a faster resolution process.

Over the past year, the Correctional Services Division continued to move forward with the Innovative Offender Management and Supervision (IOMS) Project. Through IOMS, mobile monitoring technology was identified as a solution to provide enhanced supervision to offenders in the community and create efficiencies in managing the adult pre-trial and low-risk sentenced offender populations. Mobile monitoring technology allows eligible clients to report to probation officers through a mobile phone application rather than in-person or by telephone, thereby increasing their access to justice services. In July 2021, the Mobile Monitoring Unit (MMU) began to realize its full operational potential. The MMU will continue its phased implementation in 2022-23, progressively increasing its caseload, and creating greater capacity for probation officers across Alberta to focus supervision on moderate and high-risk cases, with the goal of improving community safety.

In preparation for the implementation of mobile monitoring technology, a Pre-Trial Risk Assessment (PTRA) was developed and implemented in December 2020. This assessment tool identifies the risk of pre-trial failure, and complements the ministry's existing suite of risk assessments for sentenced offenders supervised in the community. Implementation of the PTRA will assist probation officers in making evidence-based decisions and help to streamline supervision of the adult pre-trial population. Justice and Solicitor General is moving forward with establishing an Electronic Monitoring (EM) program. Rollout of EM will occur in 2022-23, and will support the commitment to decrease the likelihood of those serving sentences in the community from having contact with their victims. The ministry will continue to explore ways to use mobile monitoring technology to enhance supervision of all offenders in the community, and achieve

continued cost-savings through resource reallocation and identifying additional efficiencies in traditional supervision.

All digital measures the ministry is undertaking are working towards the mitigation of a strategic risk centred on outdated technologies that cannot meet the needs of Albertans for a modern, digital justice system. Justice Digital supports innovation in Alberta's courts and in the broader justice system. As part of this initiative, the ministry is implementing modern, robust and sustainable digital services and technology solutions that will enhance Albertans access to justice, generate efficiencies and reduce processing time for heavily paper-based activities within the courts and justice system. The introduction of mobile monitoring technology provides a modernized approach to offender management that supports an effective and efficient justice system.

3.3 Work with the courts and other stakeholders to develop options for Albertans accused of a crime who could benefit from targeted services, interventions and supports, where feasible and appropriate.

The ministry continues to support Albertans in crisis by providing targeted programs, such as Indigenous Court, Mental Health Court and Drug Treatment Court (DTC). Specialized courts bring a problem-solving and sometimes therapeutic lens to the justice system, recognizing that legal problems are often interlinked with issues stemming from family violence and/or breakdown, poverty, mental health issues, and substance abuse. Specialized courts attempt to address these systemic issues rather than just deciding a dispute or assigning guilt. The ministry works with courts and interested groups to develop options for Albertans accused of a crime who could benefit from targeted services, interventions and supports, where feasible and appropriate.

Mental Health Court in Edmonton addresses the overrepresentation of people with mental illness in the justice system by focusing on underlying mental health issues that often contribute to repeated criminal behaviour. Submissions from legal and health professionals focus on addressing the complex problems underlying the offending behaviour while still holding the individual accountable.

The Calgary Indigenous Court (CIC), established in 2019, operates out of a single courtroom and provides justice services that reflect the culture, values, and traditions of Indigenous persons. Matters such as judicial interim release hearings, sentencing hearings, docket appearances, bail, dispositions, and probation reviews are heard in the Court. The judges who preside at this court, along with the offender, victim, representatives from the community, police, Crown prosecutor, and other interested groups, participate together in circle hearings. In partnership with the Calgary Elizabeth Fry Society, an evaluation of the CIC is currently underway and the report is expected to be completed in 2022. Leveraging the success of the CIC, the Edmonton Indigenous Court (EIC) was developed in collaboration with the Provincial Court.

Quick Fact

The Edmonton Indigenous Court opened on February 17, 2022.

The Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation uses a restorative court model that promotes community involvement in the court process. A local justice committee provides recommendations for sentencing options as well as assistance to the court in identifying appropriate community-based alternatives. The Alexis circuit court returned to Nation land with its first sitting on December 3, 2020.

The courthouse on Siksika Nation is a circuit point run from the Drumheller base court. It has its own courtroom on Nation land and has a judge of Indigenous heritage sitting regularly and a dedicated Crown prosecutor who supports the provision of culturally sensitive prosecution services. In an Indigenous Court model, all participants at the same level, in a round, non-

hierarchical environment. The courtroom on Siksika Nation is currently configured and operates in the conventional manner of most Provincial Court locations. Exploratory discussions are underway between Justice and Solicitor General, Infrastructure, and the First Nation about converting the space and operations to an Indigenous Court model.

The Tsuut'ina First Nation Court implements the Peacemaker process and has a dedicated court clerk that is aware of Indigenous culture, values, and traditions, including restorative justice practices. The Court has jurisdiction over criminal, youth, traffic and bylaw offences committed on the Tsuut'ina Nation. Due to interruptions caused by COVID-19, the re-opening of the courthouse was delayed, but its first sitting occurred on March 1, 2021.

In 2021-22, the government invested \$3 million to expand DTC capacity and worked with partner ministries to expand opportunities for individuals with substance abuse concerns to access supports. DTC is an intensive court-supervised program that holds participants accountable for their crimes, and provides targeted supports to address their drug addiction and criminal behaviour associated with their substance abuse.

Quick Fact

Drug Treatment Court capacity has increased 200 per cent since 2020.

Over the past year, the ministry continued to work with interested groups to bring new DTC services to rural communities, including the establishment of DTCs in Central Alberta (Red Deer) and Grande Prairie. Existing DTC sites serving Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat continue to operate and a seventh site planned in Fort McMurray in 2022. DTC capacity has increased significantly over the past two years and is expected to further increase in 2023 with the addition of the new site in Fort McMurray. Collectively, 120 new spaces per year have been

created for DTC participants since 2020 (from 40 spaces) with the end goal of 180 total spaces per year being available to Albertans in 2023.

COVID-19 has continued to impact the number of admissions to Alberta's DTCs. Restraints and public health restrictions have affected policing, court systems, pre-trial incarcerations, and custodial sentences, all of which are drivers for DTC admissions. Although admissions were lower than usual due to the pandemic, this fiscal year saw a slight increase in admission rates (55 individuals) over last year (49 individuals) and is comparable to admission rates in 2019-20 (56 individuals) applications and interest from participants, and it is anticipated that these programs will see a steady demand for services once restrictions are fully relaxed and criminal justice systems return to normal operations.

Focus continues on specialized courts and the province is working to unify these programs to ensure services are delivered as part of a consistent continuum of justice system supports for Albertans. The province will develop an overarching framework to administer its specialized court programs of Drug Treatment Courts, Domestic Violence Courts, Mental Health Courts and Indigenous Courts. This same framework would be transferrable to any newly created specialized courts in the province.

The Government of Alberta is committed to a recovery-oriented system of care (ROSC) that provides easy access to a full continuum of services. In addition to

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

Key Priority One:
Protecting lives

Objective Four:
Make the justice system fairer, faster and more effective

- As planned, the ministry has worked to open two additional Drug Treatment Courts in Red Deer and Grande Prairie to expand opportunities for individuals with substance abuse concerns to access supports, an investment of \$3 million in 2021-22.

existing funding, a \$140 million investment over four years (beginning in 2019-20), is supporting the addition of new publicly funded treatment spaces; the elimination of daily user fees for publicly funded residential addiction treatment; expansion of opioid agonist treatment; and services to reduce harm such as the Digital Overdose Prevention System (DORS) mobile app and the initiation of a pilot program to distribute and evaluate nasal naloxone kits in Edmonton.

ROSC is a coordinated network of person-centred, community-based services and supports that builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to achieve a life free of illicit drugs, and improved health, wellness, and quality of life for those with or at risk of alcohol and drug problems or mental health issues.

Justice and Solicitor General is part of the multi-ministry Alberta Recovery Council, which was tasked with drafting an implementation plan for addressing the Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council's (MHAAC) recommendations. The MHAAC's report and recommendations were released by Government on March 15, 2022.

The Alberta Recovery Council continues its cross-ministry work to implement MHAAC report recommendations, which includes the following Justice and Solicitor General initiatives:

- The Regional Case Management Group (RCMG), which is a formalized collaborative table of ministry representatives and community agencies that addresses the issues faced by Albertans with complex needs, who also intersect with the justice system.
- The HealthIM system is a digital platform that supports police officers' response to mental health related calls. The platform includes a pre-response briefing to enhance the safety of all parties; a mental health risk screening tool to quickly and accurately assess risk and support decision-making with respect to the *Mental Health Act*; inter-agency communication tools to facilitate transfer of information to health services and improve quality of care; and access to reporting and analytics. Alberta Health is providing provincial funding for HealthIM, while Justice and Solicitor General will be managing the grant. The Edmonton Police Service is in the process of implementing the tool, with the majority of other police services to follow over the next year.
- The Law Enforcement Mental Health Phone Line, which will provide clinical addiction and mental health supports to police officers responding to mental health calls, operated by Alberta Health Services and funded by Alberta Health, will involve collaboration with Justice and Solicitor General and police forces across the province. The Phone Line is anticipated to initially launch in June 2022 with three police forces yet to be identified.

In addressing repeat offenders, the Integrated Community Safety Unit (ICSU) continues work on the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) strategy. The operating yearly budget for the ICSU is approximately \$1.2 million for staff resources. Research shows that repeat/chronic/habitual offenders very often have complex underlying needs fueling their criminality. The ICSU brings together police, government, and community agencies in local areas to provide interventions to individuals who are creating the most harm (such as repeat offenders) in Alberta's communities by addressing the factors that contribute to their criminal behaviour. Offenders are selected using an objective, data-driven methodology using crime severity index scoring.

Communities are provided support from the ICSU to set up Case Management Groups, which have proven to be an effective approach to focusing on those individuals who are creating the most harm in communities, mobilizing resources to assist them, and holding them accountable by encouraging their participation in interventions. Through partnerships and evidence-based support, the ICSU helps build capacity within police services, agencies, and communities, removes organizational and other barriers for prolific/habitual/repeat offenders to address the criminogenic factors that led to their offending behavior, and resolves issues in service delivery across the province in both rural and urban settings.

Case Management Groups operate in several centers in Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary, Wetaskiwin, Fort Saskatchewan, Strathcona County, Drayton Valley, Evansburg, Breton, Beaverlodge, Lac La Biche, and Red Deer) with more communities expressing interest, particularly in the rural areas. This is a process-based approach to use existing resources and services efficiently and effectively when addressing complex community issues.

Moving forward, the ministry is establishing a System Integration Leadership Group (SILG), bringing together director-level representatives from multiple ministries and community-based agencies that will identify and resolve systemic barriers for individuals access CMGs.

The ICSU and the overarching Integrated Offender Management Strategy supports integration and collaboration between policing partners in service delivery. This approach ensures partner agencies work in a coordinated fashion, thereby mitigating risk associated with lack of alignment and coordination. Collaboration ensures effective feedback loops with external partners and promotes coordinated responses to complex issues, creating a more responsive and effective justice system.

Quick Fact

In 2021-22, following grants were awarded in support of DVJR:

- \$750,000 to Homefront
- \$606,000 to Nalah Program (within the Edmonton John Howard Society)

The ministry continues to work with partners in policing, prosecutions and health services to make referrals, re-direct, and otherwise prevent entry into the criminal justice system by actively promoting and utilizing diversion options. Diversion programs connect offenders with support services that can assist in addressing the underlying causes of criminal behaviour, such as drug abuse. An inventory of existing diversion programs has been developed and other jurisdictional models for diversion of low-level drug offences are being examined.

The Ministry is working with justice system partners on continued implementation and expansion of the provincial Domestic Violence Justice Response (DVJR). This best-practice service delivery model is community-led and formalizes integrated partnerships and processes among community and justice partners including: Crown; correctional services; police; victim case managers; and community treatment partners. Within this model, interested criminal justice groups work together to ensure that victims and their families affected by the complex crime of intimate partner violence (IPV) receive specialized and enhanced levels of services to support their needs for information, support, and safety. Additionally, the model supports more efficient court processes and better outcomes. For example, streamlining victims in IPV charge files to DVJR programs reduces the demand on police-based victim service units to provide specialized IPV supports, and offers a more refined and intense suite of services to victims of domestic violence that are linked to important domestic violence court processes and community service providers. Evaluation of DVJR service delivery has found that the model results in court efficiencies including reduced time from charge to file completion, and reduction in the number of trials set.

Presently, there are two formalized DVJR service delivery models operating in Alberta; a long-standing program in Calgary (Homefront) and a new program in Edmonton (Nalah Program). Both programs were awarded Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund (VOCPSF) grants in 2021-22. The Nalah Program within the Edmonton John Howard Society (EJHS) had previously received a VOCPSF grant totaling \$1.5 million for the term of January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021 to coordinate and deliver services for the DVJR Edmonton Pilot Project. This pilot project was the first instance in which the foundational components of Calgary's successful DVJR service delivery model were replicated in another Alberta

Quick Fact

During 2021-22, the Case Management Groups supported 11 communities and facilitated the case management of 33 individuals.

community. The pilot project successfully concluded in June 2021, and EJHS was awarded a further VOCPSF grant for the 2021-22 fiscal year. This funding moved the Edmonton initiative from pilot project into full program status. Recent grants to HomeFront and EJHS are the largest VOCPSF grants ever allocated, demonstrating the ministry's commitment to implementation of the DVJR service delivery model, and to supporting victims of intimate partner violence. Grants to HomeFront and EJHS's Nalah Program have been extended to March 31, 2023, through an administrative process to ensure consistent service delivery while the provincial re-design of victim service delivery is being developed and implemented.

Grande Prairie, followed by Red Deer, have been identified as priority communities for DVJR expansion based on their capacity to mobilize and identified need. Victims Services coordinated a preliminary DVJR Grande Prairie meeting in January 2022, and is in the process of convening a Grande Prairie DVJR working group to move this initiative forward. Expansion of the DVJR service delivery model into other Alberta communities is part of the provincial victim service delivery re-design.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to contribute to challenges for DVJR service delivery in 2021-22, as a result of continued postponements of in-person court and the provision of remote service delivery wherever possible. In 2020-21, DVJR partners had to adapt, including convening previously in-person early case resolution meetings on a virtual platform. This resulted in some benefits or efficiencies, including increasing the ability for all parties to participate. However, it also presented challenges related to scheduling, coordination, and developing effective and efficient participation processes within a model that was not part of the original service design. It is unknown how service delivery will be impacted in upcoming fiscal years, as additional adaptations may be required to move back to in-person or hybrid service delivery. These impacts will continue to be monitored and addressed in upcoming fiscal years.

Performance Measure 3.a: Number of court and justice services available online through Justice Digital

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-29	2019-20	2020-21		
Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	5	6

Justice Digital has provided new online tools to increase access for drivers to manage their traffic ticket matters, expedite the ability of counsel to make first appearance adjournment requests, facilitate electronic filing of over 100 Queen's Bench documents, enable online transcript ordering, deliver productivity tools for court clerks, and establish court case management services for the Queen's Bench Commercial list. The new services are delivering tangible benefits to Albertans, the legal community, community agencies, Legal Aid Alberta, judiciary, and court staff.

Justice Digital went on to exceed expectations by launching one additional service during the year, Court Case Management for the Queen's Bench Commercial list. In future years, areas such as virtual courts, case management and digital filing will continue to be prioritized as part of the government's commitment to increase online services for Albertans.

A total budget of \$7.8 million was invested in Justice Digital in 2021-22.

Additional Performance Indicator: Number of individuals admitted to Drug Treatment Court

Prior Years' Results				2021-22 Actual
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
43	49	56	49	55

In 2021-22, two new DTCs were established in Central Alberta (Red Deer) and Grande Prairie, adding to the province's existing DTC program which has sites in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. Since 2020, the \$20 million funding commitment to DTCs has been used to double the capacity of the Calgary and Edmonton DTCs, develop new DTCs in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat (which are now fully operational), and create the two newest sites in Central Alberta and Grande Prairie, which will be fully operational in 2022. Although the number of individuals admitted to DTCs has increased 28 per cent over the last five years, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to drive lower than anticipated increases in performance, as court closures and public health restrictions have significantly reduced the number of new participants admitted to the province's DTCs.

As pandemic restrictions have loosened in early 2022, the provincial DTCs have begun to see an increase in applications and admissions to their programs. This increase is anticipated to continue through 2022, and should result in higher participant admissions this fiscal year. All existing DTC sites have the operational capacity funded to support their existing service level and any anticipated increases in admissions in 2022-23.

The expansion of DTCs in the province is continuing, and it is anticipated that the final DTC site will open in late 2022 in Fort McMurray. This new DTC site will increase the total number of DTC spaces to 180 in the coming year. Funding for all Alberta DTCs is budgeted at \$5 million annually.

Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology

Performance Measure 1.a:

Violent and property crime rates per 100,000 population

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS). Data is available annually. CCJCSS CANSIM Table data was available on October 14, 2021.

Crime rate is calculated using Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) data, which measures police-reported crime in each Canadian jurisdiction. Crime rate measures the volume of police-reported crime, expressed as the number of crimes per 100,000 people. Historical results are revised annually to reflect updated data provided by police services for incidents that occurred in previous years. Property crime includes theft, break-and-enter, fraud, and possession of stolen goods. It does not include the use of threat of violence against an individual. Violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, robbery, abduction and various forms of sexual assault. It also does not include traffic incidents that result in death or bodily harm.

Performance Measure 2.a:

Provincial Court of Alberta lead time to trial for serious and violent matters

Source: Justice and Solicitor General Administrative Data, Alberta Crown Prosecution Service and Court and Justice Services

Provincial Court lead time to trial for serious and violent matters is the average number of weeks between the date serious and violent cases are scheduled for trial and the date that the trial or hearing is scheduled to occur. This average is not impacted by the trial or hearing not proceeding on the date scheduled. This measurement of lead times includes only serious and violent *Criminal Code* charges. Serious and violent crimes include: sexual offences against children; possessing/publishing/creating/distributing/selling child pornography; criminal negligence; manslaughter; murder; discharging of firearms; administering a noxious thing; dangerous driving; dangerous operation of a motor vehicle; impaired driving causing bodily harm or death; criminal harassment; threats; assault; sexual assault; kidnapping; human trafficking; robbery with violence/assault/weapon; intimidation; and arson.

The ministry uses data from Justice Business Intelligence Datamart, which pulls its data from Justice Online Information Network (JOIN). Provincial Court lead-time data is calculated through a query to the Justice Information Management System (JIMS) Datamart. The time between the date a case is set down for trial and the date that the trial or hearing is scheduled to occur is obtained for each case that involves a serious and violent crime. The average lead time is then calculated for all cases with serious and violent offences in that year.

Performance Measure 2.b:

Indigenous over-representation in correctional centres

Source: Offender Records and Correctional Administration (ORCA) - Adult Offender Population Report

This indicator reflects the percentage of the average daily custody population represented by Indigenous people. It is calculated by dividing the average number of Indigenous persons in custody by the total average number of persons in custody, multiplied by 100 per cent. Indigenous is defined as those inmates who self-identify as Aboriginal (Status), Aboriginal (Non-Status), Métis, or

Inuit. Daily counts are averaged over 365 days. The indicator includes inmates in a provincial correctional facility, and those temporarily in hospital, out to court or in transit to another Alberta provincial correctional facility. It does not include inmates under custodial supervision but out of the centre on temporary absence programs, in mental health hospitals, in police cells, on provincial parole, or intermittent servers on non-reporting days. The source of information is the Offender Records and Correctional Administration Adult Offender Population Report that identifies the average number of persons in custody in Alberta's adult correctional centres during a given time period.

Performance Measure 3.a:

Number of court and justice services available online through Justice Digital

Source: Justice and Solicitor General Administrative Data, Court and Justice Services

Number of court and justice services made available online through Justice Digital status reporting. Regular bi-weekly status reports outlining the progress of each digital service under development are maintained by the Justice Digital Program Management Office.

Additional Performance Measures

Performance Indicator:

Violent and non-violent Crime Severity Index (CSI)

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS). Data is available annually. CCJCSS CANSIM Table data was available on October 14, 2021.

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) is a measure of the seriousness of police reported crime. Each criminal offence is weighted based on the sentence imposed upon the offender. More serious offences, such as homicide or serious assault, are weighted more heavily than minor thefts and minor assaults. The crime severity index is calculated using Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) data. It should be noted that Incident-based UCR2 data was not available for all respondents for the period from 1998 to 2015. Instead, these police services continued to report to the Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), which meant that a process of imputation was necessary to translate UCR data into its UCR2 equivalents. Approximately 80 per cent of the offence codes in the aggregate survey mapped 1:1 onto the incident-based violation codes in the UCR2. For the remaining categories of violation (such as the "aggregate other *Criminal Code*" category), it was necessary to estimate their seriousness by looking at the distribution of other *Criminal Code* offences in the reports of existing UCR2 respondents.

Performance Indicator:

Number of provincially funded police officer positions

Source: Justice and Solicitor General Administrative Data, Public Security Division

Provincially funded police officer positions includes regular RCMP members and civilian members under the PPSA, ALERT, IRAC, ASIRT and ISCU, 48 per cent funding for the First Nations Community Tripartite Agreements (CTAs) with the RCMP, 48 per cent funding for the Self-Administered First Nations Police Services and 100 per cent funding for three Crime Prevention positions for the First Nations Policing Program (FNPP). Funding agreements exist between the ministry and police organizations, which identify the number of police officer positions being funded each fiscal year. Public Security Division then totals the number of funded positions for this performance indicator.

Performance Indicator:
Number of *Jordan* applications granted

Source: Justice and Solicitor General Administrative Data, Alberta Crown Prosecution Service

On a weekly basis, a report is run from JOIN to identify the cumulative cases where a *Jordan* application has been filed with the Provincial Court and the Court of Queen's Bench. This information is tracked and monitored on an on-going basis using the Prosecution Information and Scheduling Management System (PRISM) and with follow-up with the *Jordan* prosecution coordinators. The status of *Jordan* applications as they make their way through the judicial system is reported to executive on a quarterly basis. The number of successful *Jordan* applications annually is calculated by subtracting the total of cumulative successful applications as of March 31 of the previous fiscal year from the total of cumulative successful applications identified on March 31 of the current fiscal year.

Performance Indicator:
Number of trial prosecutors

Source: Justice and Solicitor General Administrative Data, Alberta Crown Prosecution Service

The number identified in the 2021-24 Business Plan is the number of positions, and the number identified in this annual report is the actual number of people. The number is a point-in-time-number, as of a specific date, and changes often throughout the fiscal year due to staffing turnover. The number is obtained from an internal database managed by the Director of Workforce Planning. Not included in the trial prosecutor count are Bail Crown, Appellate Counsel, Education/Policy Counsel, Project Counsel, and Executive Directors.

Performance Indicator:
Number of individuals admitted to Drug Treatment Court

Sources: Administrative Data – Calgary Drug treatment Court; Edmonton John Howard Society; McMan Youth, Family and Community Services (Lethbridge Drug Treatment Court); McMan Youth, Family and Community Services (Medicine Hat Drug Treatment Court), John Howard Society of Red Deer (Central Alberta DTC), and John Howard Society of Grande Prairie (Grande Prairie DTC).

The number of individuals admitted to Drug Treatment Court (DTC) is the aggregate of the number of participants reported by each provincial DTC during the fiscal year. DTC clients are tracked by each DTC as part of an administrative process. This fiscal year, the total includes data from Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Central Alberta and Grande Prairie DTCs.

Financial Information

Table of Contents

Reporting Entity and Method Consolidation	57
Ministry Financial Highlights	58
Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited).....	58
Revenue and Expense Highlights.....	59
Breakdown of Revenues (unaudited).....	61
Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited).....	63
Supplemental Financial Information	64
Tangible Capital Assets (unaudited).....	64
Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities	65
Human Rights Education an Multiculturalism Fund.....	66
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund.....	83
Office of the Pubic Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trust.....	103
Other Financial Information	130
Statement of Compromises and Write-Offs.....	131
Civil Law and Legal Services Delivery.....	132
Fine Activity information (unaudited).....	133
Statement of Credit or Recovery.....	134
Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited).....	135
Payments Based on Agreements.....	130

Reporting Entity and Method Consolidation

The financial information is prepared in accordance with government's stated accounting policies, which are based on Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

The reporting entity is the ministry for which the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General is accountable. The accounts of the Ministry, which includes the department of Justice and Solicitor General, the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund, and the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund, are fully consolidated using the line-by-line method, with the accounting policies described below.

The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee administers client trust and estates as required under the *Public Trustee Act*. As a trust fund, the accounts are not consolidated.

Under this method, accounting policies of the consolidated entities are adjusted to conform to government accounting policies and the results of each line item in their financial statements (revenue, expense, assets and liabilities) are included in government's results. Revenue and expense, capital, investing and financing transactions and related asset and liability balances between the consolidated entities have been eliminated.

A list of the individual entities making up the ministry are shown on the "Management's Responsibility for Reporting" statement included in this annual report.

Ministry Financial Highlights

Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited)

End of the year March 31, 2022

	2022		2021	Change from	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	2021 Actual
<i>In thousands</i>					
Revenues					
Federal government grants	\$ 48,852	\$ 53,230	\$ 46,351	\$ 4,378	\$ 6,879
Premiums, fees and licences	33,640	28,110	26,483	(5,530)	1,627
Investment income	2,155	504	730	(1,651)	(226)
Other	330,370	264,997	235,002	(65,373)	29,995
Ministry total	415,017	346,841	308,566	(68,176)	38,275
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	(133)	(1,909)	(133)	1,776
Adjusted ministry total	415,017	346,708	306,657	(68,309)	40,051
Expenses - directly incurred					
Programs					
Ministry Support Services	24,254	24,709	23,137	455	1,572
Resolution and Court Administration Services	176,286	188,608	183,024	12,322	5,584
Legal Services	40,252	41,176	44,328	924	(3,152)
Alberta Crown Prosecution Service	98,751	101,747	102,753	2,996	(1,006)
Justice Services	154,508	132,699	159,988	(21,809)	(27,289)
Public Security	524,486	631,897	537,706	107,411	94,191
Correctional Services	263,207	293,434	288,843	30,227	4,591
Alberta Human Rights	6,918	5,337	6,189	(1,581)	(852)
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund	62,887	64,737	56,279	1,850	8,458
Ministry total	1,351,549	1,484,344	1,402,247	132,795	82,097
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	(2,073)	(385)	(2,073)	(1,688)
Adjusted ministry total	1,351,549	1,482,271	1,401,862	130,722	80,409
Annual Deficit-before inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	\$ (936,532)	\$ (1,137,502)	\$ (1,093,681)	(200,970)	(43,821)
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	1,940	(1,524)	1,940	3,464
Adjusted annual deficit	\$ (936,532)	\$ (1,135,562)	\$ (1,095,205)	(199,030)	(40,357)

Revenue and Expense Highlights

Revenues

Budget to Actual

- Ministry revenues in 2021-22 are \$346.7 million, which is \$68.3 million or 19.7 per cent lower than budgeted. The decreased revenues are mainly the result of:
- \$64.2 million less than budget in Fines and Surcharges due to lower than anticipated payments of *Traffic Safety Act* tickets and associated Victims of Crime and Public Safety surcharges.
- \$5.5 million less than budget primarily due to reduced Court fees as a result of changes to the Courts due to the pandemic resulting in reduced traffic within the court houses and waiving the Ticket Processing eServices Portal three dollar fee in order to encourage Albertans to use the online portal instead of paying in person.
- \$1.6 million less than budgeted due to market uncertainties associated with the pandemic.

Offset by:

- \$4.4 million more than budget in Federal Government Grants primarily due to the Corrections Exchange Services Agreement, and the Divorce Act Official Languages Funding Agreement.

Actual to Actual

Actual revenues in 2021-22 reflect an increase of \$40 million or 13 per cent:

- \$11.6 million increase in Fines and Surcharges as a result of lessening of pandemic restrictions in comparison to 2020-21.
- \$11.2 million increase in the Police Funding Model as the program is phased in over multiple years.
- \$8.9 million increase due to transfers from other funds.
- \$6.9 million increase in Federal Government Grants.

Expenses

Budget to Actual

The total operating expense in 2021-22 was \$1,482.3 million, which is \$130.7 million or 9.3 per cent higher than budget.

- \$93.2 over budget in Public Security Division, primarily for the PPSA (\$75.8 million for RCMP Collective Bargaining and \$5 million for the Coutts Border protest), \$5.8 million in Sheriffs Branch associated with increased operational costs due to Rapid Response and inflation, and Indigenous Policing Services for the RCMP Collective Bargaining and other agreements. Less Supplies and Services expenses tied to Rapid Response were transferred to Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund Public Safety Initiatives than the prior year.
- \$5.6 million over budget for increases in Court and Justice Services, primarily tied to technology improvements, such as Microsoft 365 Implementation.
- \$4.8 million over budget for increases in Correctional Services, primarily tied to inflationary increases in the Food Services and Chaplaincy contracts.

- \$1.6 million over budget in Ministry Support Services, primarily for the Alberta Provincial Police Transition Study.

Actual to Actual

Actual operating expenses were \$80.4 million or 5.7 per cent higher than 2020-21. The increase in expenses are mainly the result of:

- \$101 million increase compared to 2020-21, primarily due to increased costs for the RCMP collective bargaining, increases in the Police Funding Model, and the Coutts Freedom Convoy protest.
- \$5.5 million increase compared to 2020-21, primarily due to rising overtime pressures in correctional services being driven by COVID-19 protocols.
- \$3.9 million increase compared to 2020-21, primarily due to a decrease in traffic ticket write-offs associated with a policy change.

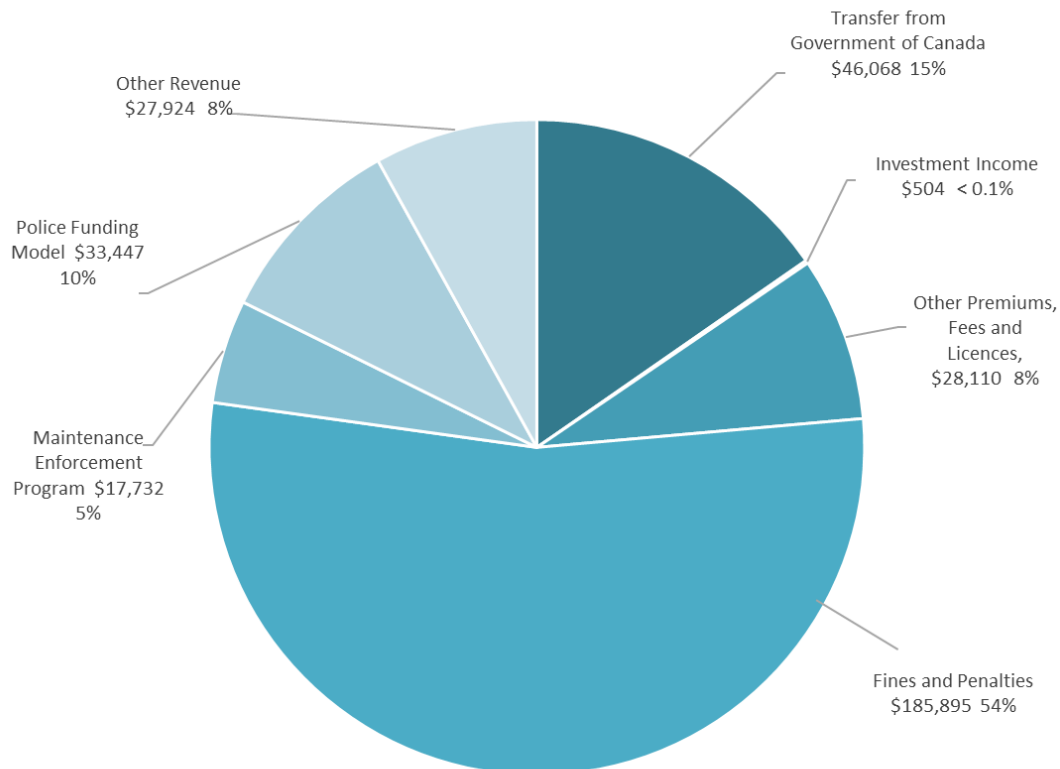
Offset by:

- \$28.7 million decrease compared to 2020-21, primarily due to decreased funding to Legal Aid Alberta in order to offset ministry projected voted operating deficit and decreased funding for victims through the Financial Benefits Program due to the program no longer accepting new applications.

Breakdown of Revenues (unaudited)

The following information presents detailed revenues of the ministry. The objective of detailed revenues disclosure is to provide information that is useful in understanding and assessing the financial impact of government's revenue raising and for enhancing legislative control.

2022 Revenues Actuals In thousands



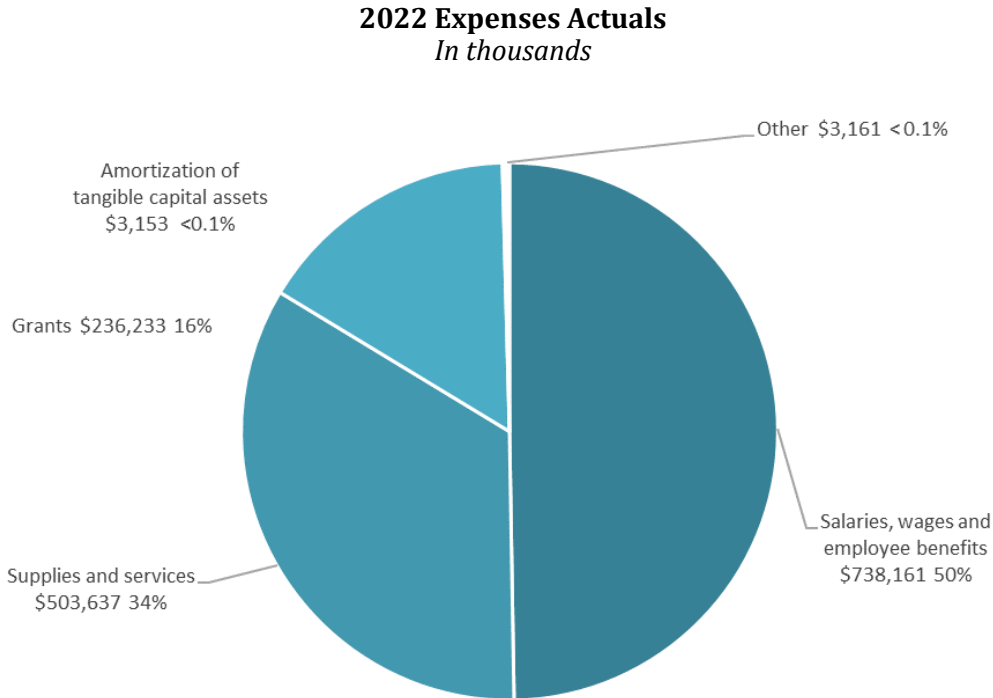
- **Fines and Penalties** (\$185.9 million). Overall, *Traffic Safety Act* fines make-up the majority of this category, and includes the following:
 - Ticket Processing Retention fee – 40 per cent of all *Traffic Safety Act* fines across the province as well as the full amount of fines levied by Highway Traffic Sheriffs on Alberta highways;
 - Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund (VoCPSF) also levies a 20 per cent Fine Surcharge on all traffic ticket fine amounts that is deposited in the fund with statutory authority to spend on victims;
 - Federal Victims Surcharge from federal *Criminal Code* offences may also be imposed by the judiciary and submitted to the VoCPSF; and
 - Late Payment Penalty collected when tickets not paid on time.
- **Transfers from Government of Canada** (\$53.2 million). Revenue from federal agreements, primarily in support of Young Offenders Programs, Legal Aid services, Child Centered Family

Justice, Indigenous Court Worker Program, and the Guns and Gangs and Drug Impaired Driving Training programs.

- **Other Premiums, Fees and Licences** (\$28.1 million). Resolution and Court Administration Services is responsible for collecting fees for some of the services provided to the public including: bankruptcy, civil commencement, trial, search, surrogate and transcript fees. Security Services and Investigator fees, official documents and appointments application and license fees, Medical Examiner autopsy and toxicology fees.
- **Maintenance Enforcement (\$17.7 million)**. Comprised mainly of amounts subrogated by the Crown's Family Support Order Services for the Maintenance Enforcement Program.
- **Investment Income** (\$0.5 million). Comprised mainly of interest earned on the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund and Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund, and department funds invested in the Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund.
- **Other Revenue** (\$27.9 million). Mainly from recoveries for Enhanced Policing Services and Edmonton International Airport policing service.

Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited)

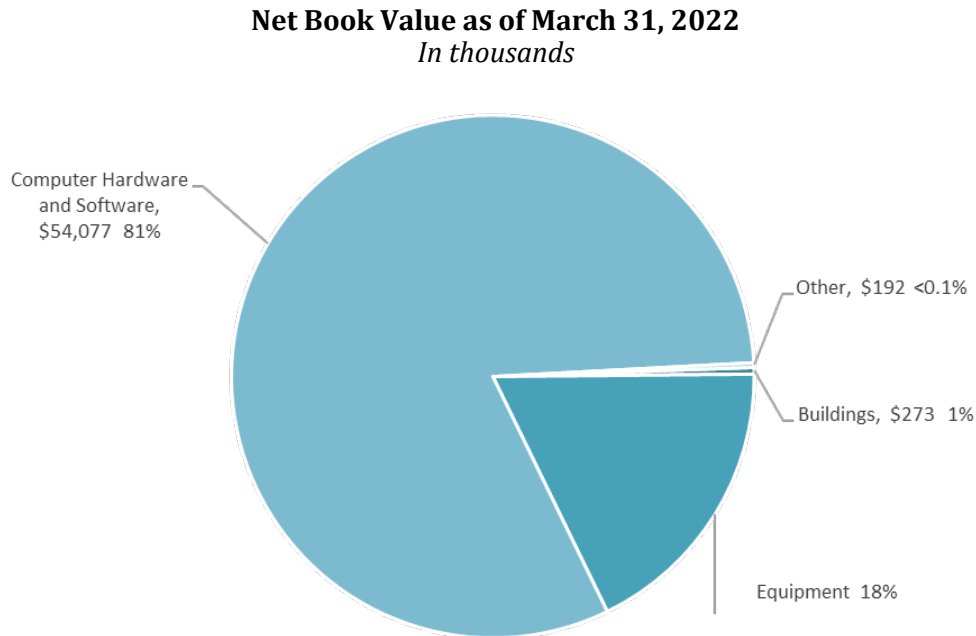
The following information presents expenses of the ministry that were directly incurred by object. The objective of disclosure of expenses by object is to provide information that is useful in evaluating the economic impact of government acquiring or consuming various types of resources.



- Salaries, wages and employee benefits expenses of \$738.1 million are the ministry's largest operating expense, or 50 per cent of total operating expense. The ministry provides frontline programs and services that ensure Albertans have safe and protected communities and fair access to the justice system. Funding primarily covers positions in correctional facilities, Crown prosecutors, judicial and court staff, sheriffs and enforcement workers, legal counsel and other justice services staff.
- Supplies and services spending of \$503.6 million or 34 per cent of total spending is primarily for the Provincial Police Services Agreement and inmate food services contracts in Correctional Services. In addition to contract services, the ministry purchases all materials and supplies for courthouses and correctional facilities across the province.
- Grants spending of \$236.2 million or 16 per cent of total spending provides operational funding for delivery of services by key stakeholders and partners via support to individuals, organizations and communities through JSG grant programs. This includes the operating grant to LAA to ensure low- income Albertans have access to legal services; the grant to ALERT to combat gangs and serious crime; the grants for Policing Assistance to Municipalities in support of effective and adequate policing for Alberta communities; and grants to victims organizations from the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund.
- The remainder of ministry expenses were classified as amortization of tangible capital assets (\$3.1 million) and other expenses (\$3.1 million).
- Inter-ministry elimination (-\$2.1 million) for the services provided by Alberta Health Services.

Supplemental Financial Information

Tangible Capital Assets (unaudited)



- The ministry's largest category of tangible capital assets, Computer Hardware and Software, represents 81 per cent (\$54 million) of the Net Book Value (NBV). This category is primarily comprised of Justice System Technology Renewal, Justice Digital, and the Justice Transformation Initiative, as well as additional technology for courtrooms.
- Equipment, with a value of \$11.9 million (18 per cent), is the second largest category of tangible capital assets, and includes x-ray equipment for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, vehicles, in-car video and distributed antenna system for the Public Security Division, and additional equipment in the courts and other divisions.

Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities

Table of Contents

Index of Audited Financial Statements

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund	66
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund	83
Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trust.....	103

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Financial Statements

Table of Contents

Independent Auditor's Report.....	67
Statement of Operations	70
Statement of Financial Position	71
Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets	72
Statement of Cash Flows.....	73
Notes to the Financial Statements	74
Schedule 1: Expenses-Directly Incurred Detailed by Object.....	80
Schedule 2: Allocated Costs.....	81
Schedule 3: Related Party Transactions.....	82

Independent Auditor's Report



To the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund (the Fund), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at March 31, 2022, and the results of its operations, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The financial statements of the Fund are included in the *Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General*. The other information comprises the information included in the *Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General* relating to the Fund, but does not include the financial statements of the Fund and my auditor's report thereon. The *Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General* is expected to be made available to me after the date of this auditor's report.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I will perform on this other information, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless an intention exists to liquidate or to cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

[Original signed by W. Doug Wylie FCPA, FCMA, ICD.D]
Auditor General

June 1, 2022
Edmonton, Alberta

Statement of Operations

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022		2021
	Budget	Actual	Actual
<i>In thousands</i>			
Revenues			
Internal Government Transfer			
Department of Justice and Solicitor General	\$ -	\$ -	-
Investment income	50	10	21
Other Premiums and Fees	25	5	1
Other revenue	5	-	-
	<u>80</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>
Expenses - Directly incurred (Note 2(a) and Schedule 1 and 2)			
Programs			
Support to Community Groups	-	-	-
Education Initiatives	-	2	2
Administration	-	-	-
General	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Annual surplus	<u>\$ 80</u>	<u>\$ 13</u>	<u>\$ 20</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

As at March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	<i>In thousands</i>	
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 4,199	\$ 4,183
Accounts receivable	-	1
	<u>4,199</u>	<u>4,184</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	-	-
	<u>4,199</u>	<u>4,184</u>
Net financial assets		
	<u>4,199</u>	<u>4,184</u>
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 6)	-	2
Net assets	<u>\$ 4,199</u>	<u>\$ 4,186</u>
Net assets at beginning of year	\$ 4,186	\$ 4,166
Annual surplus	13	20
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 4,199</u>	<u>\$ 4,186</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022		2021	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>			
Annual surplus	\$ 80	\$ 13	\$ 20	
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 6)	-	2	2	
Increase in net financial assets	\$ 80	\$ 15	\$ 22	
Net financial assets at beginning of year	-	4,184	4,162	
Net financial assets at end of year	\$ 80	\$ 4,199	\$ 4,184	

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	<i>In thousands</i>	
Operating transactions		
Annual surplus	\$ 13	\$ 20
Non-cash items Included in annual surplus		
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 6)	2	2
	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>
Decrease in accounts receivable	1	6
Decrease in accounts payable and other accrued liabilities (Note 5)	-	(3)
Cash provided by (applied to) operating transactions	<u>16</u>	<u>25</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 16	\$ 25
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	4,183	4,158
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 4,199</u>	<u>\$ 4,183</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 1 AUTHORITY

The Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund (the fund) operates under the authority of the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, Chapter A-25.5, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

The purpose of the fund is to promote equality, increase understanding and acceptance of Alberta's diverse racial and cultural composition, and inform Albertans about their rights and responsibilities under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*.

The fund is owned by the Crown in Right of Alberta and as such has a tax exempt status.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting Revenues

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Government Transfers

Transfers from all levels of governments are referred to as government transfers.

Government transfers are recognized as deferred contributions if the eligibility criteria for the transfer, or the stipulations together with the fund's actions and communications as to the use of transfers, create a liability. These transfers are recognized as revenue, as the stipulations are met and, when applicable, the fund complies with its communicated uses of these transfers.

All other government transfers, without stipulations for the use of the transfer, are recognized as revenue when the transfer is authorized and the fund meets eligibility criteria (if any).

Expenses

Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the fund has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the government's budget documents.

In addition to program operating expenses such as supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include amortization of tangible capital assets.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (Cont'd)

Expenses (Cont'd)

Incurring by Others

Services contributed by other related entities in support of the fund's operations are not recognized but are disclosed in Schedule 2.

Grant Expense

Grants are recognized as expenses when authorized, eligibility criteria, if any, are met by the recipients and a reasonable estimate of the amounts can be made.

Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable and other accrued liabilities are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations and are not for consumption in the normal course of operations.

Financial assets are the financial claims, such as advances to and receivables from other organizations and other individuals, as well as the below listed assets.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Cash equivalents are held for the purpose of meeting short-term commitments rather than for investment purposes.

Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are recognized at the lower of cost or net recoverable value. A valuation allowance is recognized when recovery is uncertain.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (Cont'd)

Liabilities

Liabilities are present obligations of the fund to external organizations and individuals arising from past transactions or events occurring before the year end, the settlement of which is expected to result in the future sacrifice of economic benefits. They are recognized when there is an appropriate basis of measurement and management can reasonably estimate the amounts.

Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed, or developed assets that do not normally provide resources to discharge existing liabilities, but instead

- a) are normally employed to deliver government services;
- b) may be consumed in the normal course of operations; and
- c) are not for sale in the normal course of operations.

Non-financial assets are limited to tangible capital assets.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets of the fund are recognized at cost less accumulated amortization and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is \$250,000 and the threshold for major systems enhancements is \$100,000. The threshold for all other tangible capital assets is \$5,000.

Amortization is only charged if the tangible capital asset is put into service.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 3 FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES

The Public Sector Accounting Board has approved the following accounting standards:

- **PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations (effective April 1, 2022)**
This standard provides guidance on how to account for and report liabilities for retirement of tangible capital assets.
- **PS 3400 Revenue (effective April 1, 2023)**
This standard provides guidance on how to account for and report on revenue, and specifically, it addresses revenue arising from exchange transactions and unilateral transactions.
- **PS 3160 Public Service Partnerships (effective April 1, 2023)**
This standard provides guidance on how to account for public private partnerships between public and private sector entities, where the public sector entity procures infrastructure using a private sector partner.

Management is currently assessing the impact of these standards on the financial statements.

NOTE 4 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

(in thousands)

Cash and cash equivalents include deposits in the Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund (CCITF) of the Province of Alberta. The CCITF is managed with the objective of providing competitive interest income to depositors while maintaining appropriate security and liquidity of depositors' capital. The portfolio is comprised of high-quality, short-term securities with a maximum term to maturity of three years. As at March 31, 2022, securities held by the fund have a time weighted return of 0.21% (2021 – 0.42%) per annum. Due to the short-term nature of CCITF investments, the carrying value approximates fair value.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 5 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER ACCRUED LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

	2022	2021
Other Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ -

NOTE 6 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

(in thousands)

	2022	2021
	Equipment	
	3-40 years	
Estimated useful life		
Historical Cost		
Beginning of year	\$ 17	\$ 17
Additions	-	-
Disposals including write-downs	-	-
	17	17
Accumulated amortization		
Beginning of year	15	13
Amortization expense	2	2
Effect of disposals including write-downs	-	-
	17	15
Net book value at March 31, 2022	\$ -	
Net book value at March 31, 2021		\$ 2

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 7 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS *(in thousands)*

Contractual obligations represent a legal obligation of the fund to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of those contracts or agreements are met.

As at March 31, 2022, the fund has no obligations under contracts and programs. (2021 - \$0).

NOTE 8 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The deputy minister and the senior financial officer approved these financial statements.

Expenses-Directly Incurred Detailed by Object

Schedule 1

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022		2021	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>			
Supplies and services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Grants	-	-	-	-
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 6)	-	2		2
Total expenses	\$ -	\$ 2	\$	2

Allocated Costs

Schedule 2

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

Program	2022			2021
	Expenses ⁽¹⁾	Expenses - Incurred by Others		Total s
		Accommodation Costs ⁽²⁾	Total s	
<i>In thousands</i>				
Support to Community Groups	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Education Initiatives	2	-	2	2
Administration	-	-	-	-
General	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 2</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2</u>	<u>\$ 2</u>

(1) Expenses – Directly Incurred as per Statement of Operations

(2) Accommodation Costs, including grants in lieu of taxes, allocated by square meters

Related Party Transactions

Schedule 3

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Government of Alberta's Consolidated Financial Statements. Related parties also include key management personnel in the fund and their close family members.

The fund paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for premiums, licenses and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this schedule.

The fund had the following transactions with related parties reported on the Statement of Revenues and Expenses and the Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between related parties:

	2022	2021
	<i>In thousands</i>	
Revenues		
Transfer from the Department of Justice and Solicitor General	\$ -	\$ -

The fund also had transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not reported in the financial statements but are disclosed in Schedule 2.

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund**Financial Statements****Table of Contents**

Independent Auditor's Report.....	84
Statement of Operations	87
Statement of Financial Position	88
Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets	89
Statement of Cash Flows.....	90
Notes to the Financial Statements	91
Schedule 1: Expenses-Directly Incurred Detailed by Object.....	100
Schedule 2: Allocated Costs.....	101
Schedule 3: Related Party Transactions.....	102

Independent Auditor's Report



To the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund (the Fund), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at March 31, 2022, and the results of its operations, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The financial statements of the Fund are included in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General. The other information comprises the information included in the *Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General* relating to the Fund, but does not include the financial statements of the Fund and my auditor's report thereon. The *Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General* is expected to be made available to me after the date of this auditor's report.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I will perform on this other information, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless an intention exists to liquidate or to cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

[Original signed by W. Doug Wylie FCPA, FCMA, ICD.D]
Auditor General

June 1, 2022
Edmonton, Alberta

Statement of Operations

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022		2021	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	
<i>In thousands</i>				
Revenues				
Government transfers				
Federal and other government grants	\$ 1,362	\$ 824	\$	630
Investment income	1,000	57		357
Other				
Provincial fine surcharge	54,395	41,909		39,274
Federal fine surcharge	2,500	524		668
Refunds of Expense	-	1,703		1,886
	<u>59,257</u>	<u>45,017</u>		<u>42,815</u>
Expenses - directly incurred (Note 2(a) and Schedule 1 and 2)				
Programs				
Financial Benefits	5,039	5,491		13,395
Assistance to Victims Organizations	19,030	21,350		18,563
Public Safety Initiatives	38,000	38,113		23,425
Criminal Injuries Review Board	-	-		164
Program Support Services	818	(217)		732
	<u>62,887</u>	<u>64,737</u>		<u>56,279</u>
Annual (deficit)/surplus	<u>\$ (3,630)</u>	<u>\$ (19,720)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>(13,464)</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

As at March 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	<i>In thousands</i>	
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 29,209	\$ 52,184
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	33,781	42,931
	<u>62,990</u>	<u>95,115</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 7)	<u>19,017</u>	<u>31,513</u>
Net financial assets	<u>43,973</u>	<u>63,602</u>
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 8)	<u>61</u>	<u>151</u>
Net assets	<u>\$ 44,034</u>	<u>\$ 63,753</u>
Net assets at beginning of year	\$ 63,753	\$ 77,217
Annual (deficit)/surplus	(19,720)	(13,464)
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 44,033</u>	<u>\$ 63,753</u>

Contingent assets (Note 6)

Contractual Obligations (Note 9)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022		2021
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>		
Annual (deficit)/surplus	\$ (3,630)	(19,720)	\$ (13,464)
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 8)	69	91	91
(Decrease)/Increase in net financial assets	\$ (3,561)	(19,629)	\$ (13,373)
Net financial assets at beginning of year		63,602	76,975
Net financial assets at end of year	\$ (3,561)	43,973	\$ 63,602

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	<i>In thousands</i>	
Operating transactions		
Annual (deficit)/surplus	\$ (19,720)	\$ (13,464)
Non-cash items included in annual surplus		
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 8)	91	91
	<u>(19,629)</u>	<u>(13,373)</u>
(Increase)/Decrease in accounts receivable	9,150	(12,666)
Increase/(Decrease) in accounts payable and other accrued liabilities (Note 7)	(12,496)	5,414
	<u>(22,975)</u>	<u>(20,625)</u>
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(22,975)	(20,625)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	52,184	72,809
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 29,209</u>	<u>\$ 52,184</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 1 AUTHORITY

The Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund (the fund) operates under the authority of the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*, Chapter V-3, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

The purpose of the fund is to provide grants to victims' programs and to pay benefits to victims, or their dependents, who suffer injury or death as the result of a criminal offence specified in the regulations of the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*, using provincial and federal surcharge revenues.

The fund is owned by the Crown in Right of Alberta and as such has a tax exempt status.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Surcharges on fine revenues are recognized at the point of conviction, which excludes certain outstanding federal statute and provincial statute fines that are satisfied by means other than cash payment.

Government Transfers

Transfers from all levels of governments are referred to as government transfers.

Government transfers are recognized as deferred contributions if the eligibility criteria for use of the transfer, or the stipulations together with the fund's actions and communications as to the use of transfers, create a liability. These transfers are recognized as revenue as the stipulations are met and, when applicable, the fund complies with its communicated uses of these transfers.

All other government transfers, without stipulations for the use of the transfer, are recognized as revenue when the transfer is authorized and the fund meets eligibility criteria (if any).

Expenses

Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the fund has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the government's budget documents.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (cont'd)

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets;
- pension costs, which comprise of the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year; and
- valuation adjustments which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay, guarantees and indemnities.

Incurred by Others

Services contributed by other related entities in support of the fund's operations are not recognized but disclosed in Schedule 2.

Grant Expense

Grants are recognized as expenses when authorized, eligibility criteria, if any, are met by the recipients and a reasonable estimate of the amounts can be made.

Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and other accrued liabilities are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations and are not for consumption in the normal course of operations.

Financial assets are financial claims, such as receivables from other organizations, employees and other individuals, as well as the below listed assets.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (cont'd)

Financial Assets (Cont'd)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Cash equivalents are held for the purpose of meeting short-term commitments rather than for investment purposes.

Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are recognized at the lower of cost or net recoverable value. A valuation allowance is recognized when recovery is uncertain.

Liabilities

Liabilities are present obligations of the fund to external organizations and individuals arising from past transactions or events occurring before year end, the settlement of which is expected to result in the future sacrifice of economic benefits. They are recognized when there is an appropriate basis of measurement and management can reasonably estimate the amounts.

Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed, or developed assets that do not normally provide resources to discharge existing liabilities, but instead:

- a) are normally employed to deliver government services;
- b) may be consumed in the normal course of operations; and
- c) are not for sale in the normal course of operations.

Non-financial assets are limited to tangible capital assets.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets of the fund are recognized at cost less accumulated amortization and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimate useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is \$250,000 and the threshold for major systems enhancements is \$100,000. The threshold for all other tangible capital assets is \$5,000.

Amortization is only charged if the tangible capital asset is put into service.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (Cont'd)

Measurement Uncertainty

(in thousands)

Measurement uncertainty exists when there is a variance between the recognized or disclosed amount in the financial statements and another reasonably possible amount, whenever estimates are used.

The areas subject to measurement uncertainty include:

- Accounts receivable recognized as \$33,781 (2021 - \$42,931) excludes certain outstanding federal statute surcharges and provincial statute fine surcharges that are expected to be satisfied by means other than cash payment. The other means include participation in the fine option program or time served in a correctional institution at the option of the person owing the surcharge. Outstanding surcharges expected to be satisfied by other means of \$750 (2021 - \$947) are based on the actual percentage satisfied in this manner from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 and have been deducted from total outstanding surcharges. Changes in the proportion of surcharges satisfied by other means may have a material effect on future operating results.

The provision for doubtful accounts reported as \$513, (2021 - \$1,194) in these financial statements, is based on the actual percentage of surcharges written off from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

- Financial benefits program (Note 10) liabilities total \$13,572 (2021 - \$16,794) and include:
 - financial benefits reported in the amount of \$86 (2021 - \$3,559);
 - supplemental financial benefits in the amount of \$10,455 (2021 - \$9,786); and
 - compensation claims in the amount of \$3,031 (2021 - \$3,449).

NOTE 3 FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES

The Public Sector Accounting Board has approved the following accounting standards:

- **PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations (effective April 1, 2022)**
This accounting standard provides guidance on how to account for and report liabilities for retirement of tangible capital assets. The Ministry plans to adopt this accounting standard on a modified retroactive basis, consistent with the transitional provisions in PS 3280, and information presented for comparative purposes will be restated.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 3 FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES (Cont'd)

- PS 3400 Revenue (effective April 1, 2023)**
 This standard provides guidance on how to account for and report on revenue, and specifically, it addresses revenue arising from exchange transactions and unilateral transactions.
- PS 3160 Public Service Partnerships (effective April 1, 2023)**
 This standard provides guidance on how to account for public private partnerships between public and private sector entities, where the public sector entity procures infrastructure using a private sector partner.

Management is currently assessing the impact of these standards on the financial statements.

NOTE 4 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

(in thousands)

Cash and Cash Equivalents include deposits in the Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund (CCITF) of the Province of Alberta. The CCITF is managed with the objective of providing competitive interest income to depositors while maintaining appropriate security and liquidity of depositors' capital. The portfolio is comprised of high-quality, short-term securities with a maximum term to maturity of three years. As at March 31, 2022, securities held by the fund have a time weighted return of 0.21% (2021 - 0.42%) per annum. Due to the short-term nature of CCITF investments, the carrying value approximates fair value.

NOTE 5 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

(in thousands)

Accounts receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

	2022			2021	
	Gross Amount	Fine Option and Time Served	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	Net Realizable Value	Net Realizable Value
Government of Canada Surcharge	\$ 1,767	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,767	\$ 2,277
Provincial	28,460	464	476	27,520	24,559
Federal	1,007	286	37	684	550
Other	3,810	-	-	3,810	15,545
	<u>\$ 35,045</u>	<u>\$ 750</u>	<u>\$ 513</u>	<u>\$ 33,781</u>	<u>\$ 42,931</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 6 CONTINGENT ASSETS

(in thousands)

Fine revenues are recognized at the point of conviction, which excludes certain outstanding federal statute and provincial statute fines that are satisfied by means other than cash payment. At March 31, 2022, the estimate of contingent assets for fines revenue is \$7,072 (2021 - \$6,657)

NOTE 7 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER ACCRUED LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Grants to non-profit organizations	\$ 3,634	\$ 1,735
Financial benefits program (Note 10)	13,573	16,794
Other program expenses	1,810	12,984
	<u>\$ 19,017</u>	<u>\$ 31,513</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 8 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (in thousands)

	2022	2021
	Computer Hardware and Software	
Estimated Useful Life	3 -10 years	
Historical Cost		
Beginning of year	\$ 868	\$ 868
Additions	-	-
Recategorization	-	-
Disposals, Including Write-downs	-	-
	<u>868</u>	<u>868</u>
Accumulated Amortization		
Beginning of year	717	626
Amortization Expense	91	91
Transfer-In/(Out)	-	-
Effect of Disposals	-	-
	<u>808</u>	<u>717</u>
Net Book Value at March 31, 2022	<u>\$ 60</u>	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2021		<u>\$ 151</u>

NOTE 9 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS (in thousands)

Contractual obligations represent a legal obligation of the fund to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of those contracts or agreements are met.

As at March 31, 2022, the fund has obligations under contracts and programs totaling \$17,713 (2021 - \$14,064).

Estimated payment requirements for the next year are as follows:

Obligations under Operating Leases, Contracts and Programs

2022-23	<u>\$ 17,713</u>
---------	------------------

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 10 FINANCIAL BENEFITS PROGRAM

(in thousands)

Financial Benefits

As at March 31, 2022, there were eleven (2021 – five hundred eighteen) active applications for financial benefits.

Financial Benefits liability of \$86 (2021 - \$3,559) is estimated based on historical decision patterns, average award values, and case progress at year end. Additional information may be required to determine the amount for individual cases under regulations of the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*.

Supplemental Benefits

As at March 31, 2022, twenty two (2021 – twenty three) eligible recipients received a monthly payment of \$1,000 for supplemental benefits.

Supplemental benefits liability of \$10,455 (2021 - \$9,786) is estimated using a projection of monthly payments and statistical life expectancy figures. In addition, a present-value methodology has also been applied in calculating this estimated liability. This methodology projects benefit cost streams into the future and discounts them to present-value using a discount rate, which reflects the current return on assets used to fund the liability. The injuries of a recipient receiving a supplemental financial benefit must be reviewed every 12 months to determine whether the severity of injuries is still in accordance with regulations under the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*.

Former Crimes Compensation Board

As at March 31, 2022, twenty one (2021 – twenty four) eligible recipients received a monthly payment for compensation claims assumed from the former Crimes Compensation Board.

Compensation claims liability of \$3,031 (2021 - \$3,449) is estimated using a projection of monthly payments and statistical life expectancy figures. The same present-value methodology described above for supplemental benefits has been used to calculate this estimated liability. The payments are subject to periodic review to confirm continued eligibility for entitlements and/or adjustment to the monthly amount.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

March 31, 2022

NOTE 11 BENEFIT PLANS
(in thousands)

At December 31, 2021, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$1,348,160 (2020 – surplus of \$809,850), the Public Service Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$4,588,479 (2020 – surplus of \$2,223,582), and the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers reported a deficiency of \$20,982 (2020 – deficiency of \$59,972).

NOTE 12 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The deputy minister and the senior financial officer approved these financial statements.

Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object

Schedule 1

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022		2021
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>In thousands</i>		
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	\$ 21,731	\$ 23,108	\$ 10,420
Supplies and services	9,410	5,650	9,267
Grants	31,677	39,790	40,322
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 8)	69	91	91
Provision for financial benefits program	-	(3,902)	(3,821)
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 62,887</u>	<u>\$ 64,737</u>	<u>\$ 56,279</u>

Related Party Transactions

Schedule 3

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

Year ended March 31, 2022

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Government of Alberta's Consolidated Financial Statements. Related parties also include key management personnel in the fund and their close family members.

The fund and its employees paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for premiums, licenses and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this schedule.

The fund had the following transactions with related parties reported on the Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	Entities in the Ministry		Other Entities	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	<i>In thousands</i>		<i>In thousands</i>	
Expenses - Directly Incurred				
Alberta Health Services	\$ -	-	\$ 16	\$ 16
Service Alberta	-	-	9	10
Public Service Commission	-	-	-	-
Alberta Risk Management	-	-	-	-
	-	-	\$ 25	\$ 26
Payable to	\$ (647)	\$ (10,192)	\$ -	\$ (1)
Receivable from	\$ 11	\$ 12		

The fund also had transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not reported in the financial statements, but are disclosed in Schedule 2.

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trust**Financial Statements****Table of Contents**

Management's Report.....	104
Independent Auditor's Report.....	105
Statement of Operations	108
Statement of Financial Position	109
Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets	110
Statement of Cash Flows.....	111
Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses.....	112
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	113
Schedule 1: Client's Guaranteed Accounts.....	128

Management's Report

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards for all areas except trust assets under administration. The integrity and objectivity of these statements are management's responsibility. Management is also responsible for all of the notes to the financial statements and schedules, and for ensuring that this information is consistent, where appropriate, with the information contained in the financial statements.

Management is also responsible for implementing and maintaining a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that reliable financial information is produced.

The Public Trustee is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control and exercises these responsibilities through the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. The Public Trustee reviews external audited financial statements annually.

The external auditor, Auditor General of Alberta, conducts an independent examination, in accordance with Canadian auditing standards, and expresses their opinion on the financial statements. The external auditor has full and free access to financial management of the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee and meets when required.

On behalf of the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee,

[Original Signed By]

Kelly Tyler
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Strategy, Support and Integrated
Initiatives Division
Justice and Solicitor General

[Original Signed By]

Cheryl Fix
Public Trustee
Office of the Public Guardian &
Trustee

Independent Auditor's Report



To the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Estates and Trusts, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022, and the statements of operations, remeasurement gains and losses, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Estates and Trusts as at March 31, 2022, and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses, its changes in net assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies as described in Note 2 of the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Estates and Trusts in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of matter - basis of accounting

I draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to account for assets held in trust under the *Public Trustee Act* and *Public Trustee Investment Regulation*. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. My report is not modified in respect to this matter.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the *Annual Report*, but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The *Annual Report* is expected to be made available to me after the date of this auditor's report.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I will perform on this other information, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies as described in Note 2 of the financial statements, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Estates and Trusts' ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless an intention exists to liquidate or to cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Estates and Trusts' financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Estates and Trusts' internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Estates and Trusts' ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's

report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Estates and Trusts to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

[Original signed by W. Doug Wylie FCPA, FCMA, ICD.D]
Auditor General

May 31, 2022
Edmonton, Alberta

Statement of Operations

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Revenues		
Pensions, Benefits and Settlements	\$ 108,683	\$ 128,266
Interest and Dividends <i>(Note 5)</i>	11,284	11,864
Common Fund Realized Gains	4,166	3,000
	<u>124,133</u>	<u>143,130</u>
Expenses		
Client Care and Maintenance	80,248	80,052
Administrative Fees <i>(Note 12)</i>	5,692	5,521
Management fees	1,313	1,038
Transfer from Common Fund to Ministry of Justice <i>(Note 12)</i>	3,398	2,115
	<u>90,651</u>	<u>88,726</u>
Annual Surplus	<u>\$ 33,482</u>	<u>\$ 54,404</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

As at March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Financial Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents <i>(Note 7)</i>	\$ 4,308	\$ 7,481
Interest and Dividends Receivable	2,539	2,538
Common Fund Investments <i>(Note 8)</i>	540,102	534,884
Other Trust Assets Under Administration <i>(Note 9)</i>	164,494	157,552
	<u>711,443</u>	<u>702,455</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities <i>(Note 10)</i>	3,712	2,295
Clients' Accounts, Mortgages, and Loans Payable <i>(Note 11)</i>	46,988	49,076
	<u>50,700</u>	<u>51,371</u>
Accumulated Remeasurement Gains	11,030	10,951
	<u>11,030</u>	<u>10,951</u>
Net Financial Assets	<u>\$ 649,713</u>	<u>\$ 640,133</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of Change in Net Assets

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

	Clients' Equity 2022	Accumulated Surplus 2022 <i>(in thousands)</i>	Total 2022	Clients' Equity 2021	Accumulated Surplus 2021 <i>(in thousands)</i>	Total 2021
Annual Surplus	\$ -	\$ 33,482	\$ 33,482	\$ -	\$ 54,404	\$ 54,404
Allocated to Clients for Future Distribution Interest from Common Fund Earnings <i>(Note 1d)</i>	11,587	(11,587)	-	11,503	(11,503)	-
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures <i>(Note 6)</i>	22,980	(22,980)	-	42,921	(42,921)	-
Trust Assets Acquired <i>(Note 9b)</i>	49,125	-	49,125	53,177	-	53,177
Assets released to Clients, Beneficiaries and Heirs	(28,497)	-	(28,497)	(27,894)	-	(27,894)
Cash distributions to Clients, Beneficiaries and Heirs	(44,529)	-	(44,529)	(41,911)	-	(41,911)
	10,666	(34,567)	(23,901)	37,796	(54,424)	(16,628)
Increase (Decrease) in Net Financial Assets	10,666	(1,085)	9,581	37,796	(20)	37,776
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	566,142	73,991	640,133	528,346	74,011	602,357
Net Assets - End of Year	\$ 576,808	\$ 72,906	\$ 649,714	\$ 566,142	\$ 73,991	\$ 640,133

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Operating Transactions		
Annual Surplus	\$ 33,482	\$ 54,404
Items not affecting cash:		
Interest and Dividends from Clients' Investments outside of Common Fund	(237)	(228)
Amortization of Premium and Discounts	2,733	2,346
	<u>35,978</u>	<u>56,522</u>
(Decrease) Increase in Interest and Dividends Receivable	(1)	291
Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	1,415	126
	<u>1,414</u>	<u>417</u>
Cash Provided by Operating Transactions	<u>37,392</u>	<u>56,939</u>
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of Trust Assets	(4,586)	(4,544)
Proceeds of Sale of Trust Assets	16,421	6,186
	<u>11,835</u>	<u>1,642</u>
Investing Transactions		
Purchase of Portfolio Investments	(273,421)	(231,696)
Disposal of Portfolio Investments	265,549	218,555
	<u>(7,872)</u>	<u>(13,141)</u>
Financing Transactions		
Distribution to Clients, Beneficiaries and Heirs	(44,528)	(41,911)
(Decrease) Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(3,173)	3,529
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>7,481</u>	<u>3,952</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u>\$ 4,308</u>	<u>\$ 7,481</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Unrealized Gains (Losses) Attributable to:		
Investments	\$ 2,762	\$ 12,501
Foreign Exchange	(857)	(1,713)
Amounts Reclassified to the Statement of Operations		
Investments	(1,714)	997
Foreign exchange	(112)	(676)
Increase in Net Financial Assets	<u>79</u>	<u>11,109</u>
Accumulated Remeasurement Gains (Losses), Beginning of Year	<u>10,951</u>	<u>(158)</u>
Accumulated Remeasurement Gains, End of Year	<u>\$ 11,030</u>	<u>\$ 10,951</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

1. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

Office of The Public Trustee of Alberta (“Public Trustee”) was established in 1949 pursuant to the Public Trustee Act and now operates under the authority of the *Public Trustee Act*, SA 2004, C.P. 44.1, (“the Act”) and other provincial statutes to protect the financial interests of vulnerable Albertans by administering the estates of represented adults, decedents and minors. Effective April 1, 2014, the Office of the Public Trustee merged with the Office of the Public Guardian creating the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT).

The mandate of the Public Trustee is to:

- a) Administer the property and finances of adults who are incapable of managing their financial affairs;
- b) Administer the estate of deceased persons;
- c) Protect property rights of children under eighteen years of age;
- d) Management of Common Fund;

The *Public Trustee Act* Section 31(2) requires (with certain exceptions) that the money received by the Public Trustee for a client be paid into the Common Fund. Section 33(3) requires any amount paid into the Common Fund for a client under section 31(2) be credited to the client’s guaranteed account (Schedule 1) with the Public Trustee. Section 31(4) of the Act states that no client or other person has any claim to or against the Common Fund except as provided by section 33. Section 33(6) states that the amount outstanding on a client’s guaranteed account is a charge against the assets of the Common Fund and is unconditionally guaranteed by the Crown. Section 32(1) of the Act states that assets may be transferred out of the Common Fund only as expressly required or permitted under the Act.

Section 32(2) allows funds to be transferred out of the Common Fund to pay the client, to pay an expense or a liability of the client. Amounts transferred from the Common Fund under section 32(2) are deducted from the client’s guaranteed account.

Section 34 of the Act states that the Public Trustee, in accordance with the Public Trustee Investment Regulation (Regulation), sets the interest rate to be credited to client guaranteed accounts.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting

The financial statements have been presented to report on Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee’s fiduciary responsibilities in respect of the administration of client trusts and estates and Common Fund as required under the Public Trustee Act and the Public Trustee Investment Regulation.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (cont'd)

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (Cont'd)

These financial statements reflect the operations of the Common Fund and the assets held in trust and activity for the estates and trusts administered by Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT).

The operating costs of Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee are paid by the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General. As such, the operating costs are not included in these statements and can be found in the financial statements of the Ministry.

All balances except for other trust assets under administration have been prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. The accounting policies for other trust assets are described in Note 2(c).

(b) Common Fund Investments

Common Fund investments consist of bonds, debentures, mortgages, asset backed securities, shares and Exchange Traded Funds (ETF). The carrying value of all financial instruments included in the Common Fund is measured at cost or fair value. The long term investments, except shares and ETF, are reported at amortized costs less any write down associated with a loss in value that is other than a temporary decline. Discounts and premiums arising on the purchase of fixed income securities are amortized over the term of the investment. Shares and ETF are stated at market value determined with reference to quoted market value.

Short term investments are stated at cost, which approximates market value.

Forward foreign currency contracts are held to protect the fund from foreign currency exchange risk. Forward foreign exchange contracts are valued based on fair value.

Unrealized gains and losses are recorded in the statement of remeasurement gains and losses.

When a financial instrument is derecognized, the cumulative amount of the remeasurement gain or loss previously reported is reversed and the gain or loss on the disposal of units held by the Common Fund is recognized in the statement of operations.

Disclosure of the hierarchy of inputs used in the determination of fair value for investments is reported according to the following levels:

- (a) Level one: fair value is based on quoted prices in an active market.
- (b) Level two: fair value is based on model based valuations methods for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market or quoted prices for similar but not identical assets.
- (c) Level three: fair value is based on valuation methods where inputs that are based on non-observable market data have a significant impact on the valuation.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (cont'd)

Reporting Entity

These financial statements reflect the assets and liabilities of the Common Fund and estates and trusts under the administration of the Public Guardian and Trustee of Alberta. In addition, these financial statements reflect the annual changes in those assets and liabilities including:

- i. Revenues earned on behalf of clients;
- ii. Income received on behalf of clients;
- iii. New client account additions;
- iv. Released client withdrawals;
- v. Payment made on behalf of clients; and
- vi. Administration fees payable to the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General

The clients' equity represents funds that are available for distribution to clients or their beneficiaries.

Revenues

Revenues are recognized in the period in which the transactions or events occurred that gave rise to the revenues. All revenues are recorded on an accrual basis, except when the accruals cannot be determined with a reasonable degree of certainty or when their estimation is impracticable. Amount not received prior to the year-end is reported as accounts receivable. Purchase price premiums or discounts are amortized on a straight-line basis over the remaining term of the investment. Realized gains and losses on the disposition of Common Fund investments are recorded on the date of trade of the disposal transaction.

A portion of revenues generated by Common Fund investments are credited to clients' equity. Section 34 of the *Act* states that the Public Trustee shall set the interest rate for each category of guaranteed accounts in accordance with the Regulation. The interest is calculated on the minimum daily balance of each client's account according to the Regulation and is credited to the client's account monthly. The interest rate as at March 31, 2022 is 2.50% (2021 – 2.50%).

Expenses

All expenses are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. The cost of all goods consumed and services received during the year are expensed. Transfers from the Common Fund to the General Revenue Fund, investment management expenses related to the Common Fund investments, and assurance payments are recorded using the accrual basis of accounting with amounts incurred in the fiscal year but not paid prior to year-end reflected as accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (cont'd)

Administrative Fees

Public Trustee fees on all official guardian accounts are calculated and collected in the month of the annual anniversary of the opening of the file. Fees are accrued for the period from the anniversary date to the date of financial statements.

Public Trustee fees for represented adult accounts are calculated and collected annually on the trust's anniversary date. Fees are accrued for the period from the anniversary date to the date of financial statements.

Public Trustee fees on decedent accounts are not collected until the trust or account is distributed. Fees are accrued from the period of the date the trust account was opened until the date of financial statements.

In addition to the above stated administration fees the Public Trustee may, in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of the Act, charge the client any fee that the Public Trustee deems is reasonable for any service. Under section 40(1)(b), the Public Trustee is entitled to collect from the client any expense reasonably incurred on the client's behalf.

Administration fees paid by the clients to OPGT, with the exception of cost recoveries, are remitted to the Minister of Finance and are included in the revenues of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is comprised of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Cash equivalents are held for the purpose of meeting short term commitments rather than for investment purposes.

(c) Other Trust Assets under Administration

Trust assets under administration consist of accounts receivable, investments, real property and other assets that are held outside of the Common Fund. Assets acquired through new clients are recorded as direct increases to net assets and not as revenues. When assets are disposed of back to the beneficiary they are removed from net assets and not recorded as an expense.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (cont'd)

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consist of mortgages, loans, external bank account balances prior to the transfer to the Public Trustee, pension plan and other benefit and miscellaneous receivables. The accounts receivable are recorded at their estimated fair value.

Clients' Investments Outside of Common Fund

Clients' investments outside of Common Fund consists of retirement plans, registered disability savings plans (RDSPs), guaranteed investment certificates and deposits, Government bonds, shares and other securities. These assets are valued at fair value based on the information available at the time OPGT assumes responsibility.

On a go forward basis, the cost based approach for investments is considered most appropriate as it is not practical to determine the investment market value. Due to the numerous unique client investments the change in value is not easily measurable and not actively managed by OPGT.

Structured Settlements and Annuities

Structured Settlements and Annuities are recorded at the present value of their guaranteed term. If there is not a guaranteed term, the settlement or annuity is recorded at a nominal value of \$1.

Real Property

Real property consisting of land and buildings are tangible capital assets and are recorded at cost. The cost is considered to be the initially recorded fair value based on the property tax assessments and other information at the time OPGT assumes responsibility for the property.

Amortization is not appropriate considering the properties are held as inventory.

Other Assets

Other assets are stated at amounts determined from information available to OPGT at the date the Trustee assumes responsibility of the assets. Subsequent adjustments are made if additional valuation information is received. If no valuation is available, these assets are recorded at a nominal value of \$1.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (cont'd)

Clients' Accounts, Mortgages and Loans Payable

Client accounts, mortgages and loans payable represent the administration fees payable to OPGT and the encumbrances of client assets that are payable to independent third parties.

These client obligations are settled as client resources become available. In some cases, a client's liabilities exceed the stated value of their assets. These items are included as accounts payable when they have been verified by the creditor and are paid as the resources of the client become available.

Liabilities

All liabilities are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of assumption of the liability. The carrying value of all liabilities approximates their fair value.

Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between the carrying value of assets held by OPGT and its liabilities.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations.

Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, interest and dividends receivable, accounts payable, accrued liabilities and clients' accounts are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short-term nature of these instruments. Fair values of mortgages and loans payable are not reported due to there being no organized financial market for the instruments and it is not practicable within constraints of timeliness or cost to estimate the fair value with sufficient reliability.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

3. MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

Measurement uncertainty exists when there is a variance between the recognized or described amount and another reasonably possible amount. In particular, the fair value of many assets is estimated at the time that OPGT assumes the responsibility for the assets. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts revenues and expenses for the reported period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

4. BUDGET

Budget amounts have not been disclosed as Public Guardian and Trustee's nature of operations does not provide for relevant budget amounts to be reasonably determined.

5. INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Interest and Dividends - Common Fund Investments	\$ 11,047	\$ 11,636
Interest and Dividends from Clients' Investments outside of Common Fund	237	228
Interest and Dividends	\$ 11,284	\$ 11,864

6. EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES - ALLOCATED TO CLIENTS FOR FUTURE DISTRIBUTIONS

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Interest and Dividends from Clients' Investments outside of Common Fund	\$ 237	\$ 228
Pensions, Benefits and Settlements	108,683	128,266
Total Revenues	108,920	128,494
Client Care and Maintenance	80,248	80,052
Administrative Fees	5,692	5,521
Total Expenses	85,940	85,573
Excess of Revenues over Expenses - Allocated to Clients for Future Distribution	\$ 22,980	\$ 42,921

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

7. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Operating Bank Accounts	\$ 2,211	\$ 5,388
Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund (CCITF)	2,097	2,093
	<u>\$ 4,308</u>	<u>\$ 7,481</u>

Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund (CCITF) is administered by the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance with the objective of providing competitive interest income to depositors while maintaining maximum security and liquidity of depositors' capital. The portfolio comprises high quality short-term and mid-term fixed-income securities with a maximum term-to-maturity of three years. As at March 31, 2022, securities held by the CCITF have a time-weighted rate of return of 0.21% per annum (2021 – 0.42% per annum).

8. COMMON FUND INVESTMENT

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
<u>Items at Cost or Amortized Cost</u>		
Interest Bearing Securities (a)	\$ 495,852	\$ 472,981
<u>Items at Fair Value</u>		
Equities Listed in Active Market	39,805	44,028
Other Designated to Fair Value	4,445	17,875
	<u>44,250</u>	<u>61,903</u>
Total Common Fund Investments	<u>\$ 540,102</u>	<u>\$ 534,884</u>

(a) Quoted market value of interest bearing securities \$481,124 (2021 - \$480,873) is arrived at using a combination of level one and level two valuation methods.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

8. COMMON FUND INVESTMENT (cont'd)

Fair Value Hierarchy

The table below provides a summary of management's estimate of the relative reliability of data or inputs used by OPGT to measure the fair value of OPGT's investments. The measure of reliability is determined based on the following three levels:

Level One: Fair value is based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities traded in active markets. Level one includes primarily traded listed equity investments.

Level Two: Fair value is based on valuation methods that make use of inputs, other than quoted prices included within level one, that are observable by market participation either directly through quoted prices for similar but not identical assets or indirectly through observable market information used in valuation models. Level two primarily includes debt securities and derivative contracts not traded on a public exchange and public equities not traded in an active market. For these investments, fair values are either derived from a number of prices that are provided by independent pricing sources or from pricing models that use observable market data such as swap curves and credit spread.

Level Three: Fair value is based on valuation methods where inputs that are based on non-observable market data have a significant impact on the valuation. For these investments trading activity is infrequent and fair values are derived using valuation techniques.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	<i>(in thousands)</i>			
Equities Listed in Active Market	\$ 39,805	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,805
Others designated to fair value	4,445	-	-	4,445
March 31, 2022 - Total	\$ 44,250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,250

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

8. COMMON FUND INVESTMENTS (cont'd)

Financial Risk Management

OPGT is exposed to financial risks associated with the underlying securities held in the investment funds. These financial risks include credit risk, market risk and liquidity risk. Credit risk relates to the possibility that a loss may occur from the failure of another party to perform according to the terms of a contract. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and price risk. Liquidity risk is the risk the Fund will not be able to meet its obligations as they fall due.

OPGT investments are managed in accordance with the Statement of Investment Policies and Goals (SIP&G). The policy and goals are designed to mitigate risks by placing restrictions on the overall content, quality and quantity of permitted investments. Pursuant to the policy and goals, the investments are high quality, highly rated fixed income securities, equity investments in Canadian and foreign currency and mortgages. Exposure to foreign currencies has provided diversification benefits.

OPGT works with an investment advisor and an investment manager that actively manages the asset class allocations based on the policies and goals in the SIP&G. On a quarterly basis, the investment manager provides performance and compliance reports and meets with the Public Guardian and Trustee, the investment advisor and the Investment Advisory Committee.

a) Credit Risk

Counterparty credit risk is the risk of loss arising from the failure of a counterparty to fully honour its financial obligations with OPGT. The credit quality of financial assets is generally assessed by reference to external credit ratings. Credit risk can also lead to losses when issuers and debtors are downgraded by credit rating agencies usually leading to a fall in the fair value of the counterparty's obligations. Credit risk exposure for financial instruments is measured by the positive fair value of the contractual obligations with counterparties. The fair value of all investments is directly or indirectly impacted by credit risk to some degree. OPGT's investments in debt securities are with counterparties considered to be investment grade.

b) Foreign Currency Risk

OPGT is exposed to foreign currency risk associated with 4.96% (March 31, 2021 - 5.51%) of the underlying securities held in the Common Fund investments. Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The fair value of investments denominated in foreign currencies is translated into Canadian dollars using the reporting date exchange rate.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

8. COMMON FUND INVESTMENTS (cont'd)

c) Interest Rate Risk

OPGT is exposed to interest rate risk associated with the underlying interest-bearing securities held in the investment funds. Interest rate risk relates to the possibility that the fair value of investments will change due to future fluctuations in market interest rates. In general, investment returns from bonds and mortgages are sensitive to changes in the level of interest rates, with longer term interest bearing securities being more sensitive to interest rate changes than shorter-term bonds. If interest rates increased by 1%, and all other variables are held constant, the potential loss in fair value to OPGT would be approximately 2.42% (March 31, 2021 - 2.36%) of total investments.

Approximately nil (March 31, 2021 - nil) of interest-bearing securities are invested with variable interest rate with minimum interest rate risk exposure.

d) Price Risk

Price risk relates to the possibility that equity investments will change in fair value due to future fluctuations in market prices caused by factors specific to an individual equity investment or other factors affecting all equities traded in the market. OPGT is exposed to price risk associated with the underlying equity investments held in investment funds. If equity market indices (S&P/TSX, S&P500, S&P1500 and MSCI ACWI and their sectors) declined by 10%, and all other variables are held constant, the potential loss in fair value to OPGT would be approximately 0.76% (March 31, 2021 - 0.82%) of total investments.

e) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk arises if OPGT should encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with its financial liabilities. Liquidity requirements of OPGT are met through income generated from investments, clients' revenues and by investing in publicly traded liquid assets traded in active market that are easily sold and converted to cash. These sources of cash are used to pay clients' obligations, their operating expenses and settle clients' final payments associated with the termination of OPGT's responsibilities towards clients.

OPGT currently has minimal liquidity risk.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

9. OTHER TRUST ASSETS UNDER ADMINISTRATION

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
a) Trust assets under administration		
Accounts Receivable	\$ 10,118	\$ 9,044
Real Property	17,963	18,636
Other Assets	1,381	1,657
Clients' Investments Outside the Common Fund	72,364	72,684
Annuities	62,668	55,531
Total Other Trust Assets Under Administration	164,494	157,552
Clients' Accounts, Mortgages, and Loans Payable	(46,988)	(49,076)
Other Trust Assets Under Administration	117,506	108,476
Increase in Other Trust Assets Under Administration, net	\$ 9,030	23,869
b) Trust Assets Acquired		
Increase in Other Trust Assets Under Administration	\$ 9,030	\$ 23,869
Assets Released to Clients, Beneficiaries and Heirs	28,497	27,894
Proceeds on Sale of Trust Assets	16,421	6,186
Acquisition of Trust Assets	(4,586)	(4,544)
Interest and Dividends from Clients' Investments outside of Common Fund	(237)	(228)
Trust Assets Acquired	\$ 49,125	\$ 53,177

10. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Transfer from Common Fund to Minister of Finance	\$ 3,398	\$ 2,115
Accrued Investment Fees and Other Payable	314	180
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 3,712	\$ 2,295

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

11. CLIENTS' ACCOUNTS, MORTGAGES AND LOANS PAYABLE

	2022		2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 38,518	\$	40,105
Administrative Fees Payable	5,683		6,257
Mortgage and Loans Payable	2,787		2,714
	<u>\$ 46,988</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>49,076</u>

The five year repayment schedule for mortgage and loans payable is not presented due to the uncertainty in timing for the clients' account settlements.

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

	2022		2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Statement of Financial Position			
Transfer from Common Fund to Ministry of Justice	\$ 3,398	\$	2,115
Administration Fees Payable	5,683		6,257
Statement of Operations			
Administrative Fees	\$ 5,692	\$	5,521
Transfer from Common Fund to Ministry of Justice	3,398		2,115

Transfers to the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General consist of system development costs to replace the legacy system and management fees that are remitted to the Minister of Finance and are included in the revenues of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General.

Estate administration fees charged to clients' accounts, with the exception of cost recoveries, are remitted to the Minister of Justice and are included in the revenues of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General.

The *Public Trustee Act* states that unclaimed property must be held for at least ten years from the date of an order declaring the person to be missing or after the date that the Public Trustee publishes a notice in *The Alberta Gazette*. After ten years of inactivity, trust balances held by the OPGT may be transferred to the Ministry of Justice. For the year ended March 31, 2022 the amount transferred was

\$1,185 (2021 - \$254). The amount appears on the financial statements as part of the Cash Distributions to Clients, Beneficiaries and Heirs.

The operating costs of the Public Trustee portion of OPGT are included in the financial statements of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General. For the year ended March 31, 2022, the operating costs were \$15,159 (2021 - \$14,205).

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

13. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

The Public Trustee has been named in two (2021: one) claims of which the outcome is not determinable. The claims have a specified amount of Nil (2021: one claims with a specified amount of \$6,500). Included in the total claims, \$0 (2021: one claim totaling to Nil) is covered in whole or in part by the Alberta Risk Management Fund. The resolution of indeterminable claims may result in a liability, if any, that may be significantly lower than the claimed amount.

14. CONTINGENT ASSETS

The Public Trustee initiated legal matters where possible assets are being sought. The outcomes from these matters will likely result in recognition of assets. These amounts have not been recognized in the financial statements.

15. FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES

The Public Sector Accounting Board has approved the following accounting standards:

- **PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations**

Effective April 1, 2022, this standard provides guidance on how to account for and report liabilities for retirement of tangible capital assets. Management has assessed that this standard is not applicable as the OPGT does not own any tangible capital assets.

In addition to the above, the Public Sector Accounting Board has approved the following accounting standards, which are effective for fiscal years starting on or after April 1, 2023:

- **PS 3400 Revenue**

This accounting standard provides guidance on how to account for and report on revenue, and specifically, it differentiates between revenue arising from exchange and non-exchange transactions. Management is currently assessing the impact of this standard on the Estates and Trusts financial statements.

- **PS 3160 Public Private Partnerships**

This accounting standard provides guidance on how to account for public private partnerships between public and private sector entities, where the public sector entity produces infrastructure using a private sector partner. Management has assessed that this standard is not applicable as the OPGT does not participate in public private partnerships.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

Year ended March 31, 2022

16. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Public Trustee and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice and Solicitor General – Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives Division approved these financial statements.

Clients' Guaranteed Accounts

Schedule 1

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Estates and Trusts

As at March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Clients' Equity	\$ 576,808	\$ 566,143
Clients' Accounts, Mortgages, and Loans Payable	46,988	49,076
Total Clients' Liabilities and Equity	623,796	615,219
Less: Other Trust Assets Under Administration	164,494	157,552
Clients' Guaranteed Accounts	\$ 459,302	\$ 457,667

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of these financial statements.

Other Financial Information

Table of Contents

Statement of Compromises and Write-Offs.....	131
Civil Law and Legal Services Delivery.....	132
Fine Activity Information (unaudited).....	133
Statement of Credit or Recovery (unaudited).....	134
Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited).....	135
Payments Based on Agreements.....	139

Other Financial Information

Certain disclosures (unaudited) required by legislation and regulations, and financial information relating to trust funds include the following where applicable:

- Statement of Compromises and Write-offs [FAA S.23]
- Civil Law Legal Serviced Delivery
- Fine Activiy Information – Updated information to be provided

In addition to the above, other schedules (unaudited) that form part of this section include the following and the presentation:

- Statement of Credit or Recovery [FAA S.24(3)]
- Lapse / Encumbrance [FAA S.28(5) and 28.1(4)]
- Payments Based on Agreements [FAA Sec. 25(3)]

Statement of Compromises and Write-Offs

Department of Justice and Solicitor General

Year ended March 31, 2022

In thousands

The following Statement of Compromises and Write-offs has been prepared pursuant to Section 23 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

Compromises:	2022	2021
Motor Vehicle Accident Recoveries	-	-
Maintenance Enforcement	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Write-offs:		
Motor Vehicle Accident Recoveries	-	2,896
Fines	-	-
Fines - Late Payment Penalties	-	-
Abandoned and Seized Vehicles	7	18
Maintenance Enforcement	2,945	1,113
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Compromises and Write-offs:	<u>2,952</u>	<u>4,027</u>

Civil Law and Legal Services Delivery

Current and Prior Year Comparison

Staff Providing Services

Civil Law provides legal and related strategic services to all government ministries. Civil Law maintains a time keeping system to enable its lawyers, paralegals and articling students to record and report the hours of legal services provided in total to each ministry and their respective programs. In 2021-22, 299 lawyers, paralegals and articling students recorded in excess of 315,570 hours of provided legal services and in 2020-21, 312 such staff recorded more than 315,514 hours. The total hours of service to each Ministry is used as the basis to allocate legal services costs.

Cost of Legal Services

The costing methodology to estimate the costs for providing legal services for allocation to all client ministries includes the total cost of Civil Law less expenditures on contracted services and grants to third parties. A proportionate amount for support services provided by Corporate Support Services are included in the estimate. The estimate includes accommodation costs for office space in government owned or leased buildings as paid by and reported by the Ministry of Infrastructure and also includes all or part of salary and benefit costs for lawyers paid directly by client ministries. The estimated costs are allocated to each ministry based on the hours of service received. The Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General, as a service provider, sends the legal services cost information to each ministry for disclosure in the Related Party Transactions Schedule and the Allocated Costs Schedule to the Financial Statements of each ministry's annual report.

Current and Prior Year Comparison

The table below summarizes the estimated cost of allocated legal services, the number of hours allocated and the average hourly cost.

Cost Estimates	2021-22	2020-21
Total Civil Law Costs	\$ 37,295,215	\$ 40,785,956
Deduct: Contract Services, Grants and Amortization	500,361	613,571
	<u>\$ 36,794,854</u>	<u>\$ 40,172,385</u>
Add: Support Services	633,104	548,687
Accommodation	2,483,276	2,422,509
Client Cost for Lawyers	13,124,614	11,476,438
Total Legal Services Costs for Allocation	<u>\$ 53,035,848</u>	<u>\$ 54,620,019</u>
Number of Hours of Service Provided	315,750	315,514
Average Hourly Cost	\$ 167.97	\$ 173.11

Fine Activity Information (unaudited)

Federal and Provincial Statute Offences and Municipal Bylaw Offences

A management information report summarizes fine activity by the recipients entitled to the fine or penalty revenue. The municipalities receive specific provincial statute offence fines and all municipal bylaw fines for offences occurring within municipal boundaries. The majority of municipal fine activity occurs in cities, towns, counties and municipal districts. The Alberta government receives fine revenue for provincial statute offences occurring on primary highways and other specific provincial statute offences. The Alberta government receives any late payment penalties on overdue fines and some fines under the *Criminal Code of Canada*. Effective April 1, 2020, the Alberta government retains 40 percent of *Traffic Safety Act* fines.

The Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund receives a 20 percent surcharge on all provincial statute fine and a 30 per cent surcharge on selected federal statute offences. These surcharge revenues are used to fund victims programs in Alberta. The federal government receives fine revenue for federal statute offences and selected fines under the *Criminal Code*.

The tables below summarize fines payments for the twelve months from April 2021 to March 2022 and for the twelve months from April 2020 to March 2021 by the recipient level of government.

Fine Payments – April 2021 to March 2022

Recipient	Number of Fine Payments	Dollar Value of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Dollar Value
Municipalities	1,617,812	\$ 136,740,205	43.4%
Alberta Government	153,637	23,190,872	7.4%
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund	Note	43,184,893	13.7%
Federal Government	523	476,718	0.2%
Late Payment Penalty	840,820	26,810,287	8.5%
Fine Retention	Note	84,442,617	26.8%
Total	2,612,792	\$ 314,845,592	100.0%

Fine Payments – April 2020 to March 2021

Recipient	Number of Fine Payments	Dollar Value of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Dollar Value
Municipalities	1,570,177	\$ 142,948,059	45.3%
Alberta Government	156,421	25,679,279	8.2%
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund	Note	39,751,550	12.6%
Federal Government	571	3,845,925	1.2%
Late Payment Penalty	887,938	27,517,250	8.7%
Fine Retention	Note	75,585,168	24.0%
Total	2,615,107	\$ 315,327,231	100.0%

Note: The Number of Fine Payments for Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund and Fine Retention have been accounted for in the other recipient categories.

Statement of Credit or Recovery (unaudited)

Department of Justice and Solicitor General

Year ended March 31, 2022

In thousands

The following has been prepared pursuant to Section 24(3) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

	2022				
	Authorized Spending	Actual Revenue Recognized	Unearned Revenue	Total Revenue Received/ Receivable	(Shortfall)/ Excess ⁽¹⁾
	<i>In thousands</i>				
Maintenance Enforcement ⁽³⁾	\$ 7,493	\$ 5,402	\$ -	\$ 6,095	\$ (2,091)
Provincial Civil Claims ⁽⁴⁾	1,500	1,056	-	1,056	(444)
Edmonton Regional Airport Authority ⁽⁵⁾	4,085	6,599	-	2,953	2,514
	<u>\$ 13,078</u>	<u>\$ 13,057</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 10,104</u>	<u>\$ (21)</u> ⁽²⁾

- (1) Shortfall is deducted from current year's corresponding funding authority.
- (2) The revenue of each credit or recovery is included in the Statement of Revenues and Expenses.
- (3) Maintenance Enforcement revenues represent deterrent penalties and service fees to promote timely payment of maintenance to improve and expand services available for clients.
- (4) Provincial Civil Claims revenues represent funding from fees levied to commence action in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars in Provincial Court. These revenues are dedicated towards the costs of processing these claims.
- (5) Edmonton Regional Airport Authority revenues are received on a full cost recovery basis from the Edmonton Regional Airport Authority for policing services provided to the Edmonton International Airport under the Provincial Police Service Agreement.

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)

Department of Justice and Solicitor General

Year ended March 31, 2022

In thousands

The following has been prepared pursuant to Section 24(4) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

	Voted Estimate	Supplementary Estimate	Adjustments	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals	Over Expended (Unexpended)
EXPENSE VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Ministry Support Services						
1.1 Minister's Office	\$ 844	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 844	\$ 827	\$ (17)
1.2 Deputy Ministers' Offices	1,693	-	-	1,693	2,074	381
1.3 Corporate Services	20,203	-	-	20,203	20,524	321
	<u>22,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,740</u>	<u>23,425</u>	<u>685</u>
Resolution and Court Administration Services						
2.1 Program Support	13,973	-	-	13,973	16,900	2,927
2.2 Resolution Services	4,994	-	-	4,994	9,629	4,635
2.3 Provincial Civil Claims	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,057	(443)
2.4 Provincial Court of Alberta	107,570	-	-	107,570	102,817	(4,753)
2.5 Alberta Court of Queen's Bench	33,747	-	-	33,747	32,846	(901)
2.6 Alberta Court of Appeal	7,050	-	-	7,050	7,328	278
	<u>168,834</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>168,834</u>	<u>170,577</u>	<u>1,743</u>
Legal Services						
3.1 Civil Law	37,064	-	-	37,064	37,078	14
3.2 Legislative Counsel	3,064	-	-	3,064	2,861	(203)
3.3 Law Reform	100	-	-	100	100	-
	<u>40,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,228</u>	<u>40,039</u>	<u>(189)</u>
Alberta Crown Prosecution Service						
4.1 Program Support	2,762	-	-	2,762	16,407	13,645
4.2 Criminal and Youth Prosecutions	78,060	-	-	78,060	69,451	(8,609)
4.3 Appeals and Regulatory Prosecutions	17,770	-	-	17,770	12,125	(5,645)
	<u>98,592</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>98,592</u>	<u>97,983</u>	<u>(609)</u>
Justice Services						
5.1 Program Support	7,086	-	-	7,086	6,573	(513)
5.2 Family Support Order Services	16,103	-	-	16,103	15,653	(450)
5.3 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	12,225	-	-	12,225	13,333	1,108
5.4 Public Guardian and Trustee Services	23,812	-	-	23,812	23,256	(556)
5.5 Support for Legal Aid	94,292	-	-	94,292	75,146	(19,146)
	<u>153,518</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>153,518</u>	<u>133,961</u>	<u>(19,557)</u>
Public Security						
6.1 Program Support Services	6,538	-	-	6,538	5,115	(1,423)
6.2 Law Enforcement Review Board	616	-	-	616	590	(26)
6.3 Alberta Serious Incident Response Team	3,921	-	-	3,921	4,125	204
6.4 Law Enforcement Standards and Audits	6,172	-	-	6,172	5,620	(552)
6.5 Contract Policing and Policing Oversight	289,117	-	-	289,117	293,689	4,572
6.6 Indigenous Policing Services	13,576	-	-	13,576	14,218	642
6.7 Policing Assistance to Municipalities	89,208	-	-	89,208	90,183	975
6.8 Organized and Serious Crime	28,674	-	-	28,674	31,873	3,199
6.9 Sheriffs Branch	85,076	-	-	85,076	84,129	(947)
	<u>522,898</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>522,898</u>	<u>529,543</u>	<u>6,645</u>

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)

Department of Justice and Solicitor General

Year ended March 31, 2022

In thousands

Correctional Services

7.1	Program Support Services	4,605	-	-	4,605	4,462	(143)
7.2	Adult Remand and Correctional Centres	189,214	-	-	189,214	192,291	3,077
7.3	Young Offender Centres	22,052	-	-	22,052	24,364	2,312
7.4	Community Correctional Services	36,581	-	-	36,581	38,575	1,994
7.5	Young Offender Community Correctional Services	9,469	-	-	9,469	9,646	177
		<u>261,921</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>261,921</u>	<u>269,339</u>	<u>7,418</u>

Alberta Human Rights

8.1	Alberta Human Rights Commission	6,913	-	-	6,913	6,420	(493)
8.2	Assistance to the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
		<u>6,913</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,913</u>	<u>6,420</u>	<u>(493)</u>

Total		<u>1,275,644</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,275,644</u>	<u>1,271,288</u>	<u>(4,356)</u>
Credit or Recovery (Shortfall)							21
(Lapse)/Encumbrance							<u>\$ (4,335)</u>

CAPITAL INVESTMENT VOTE BY PROGRAM

Ministry Support Services	20	-	-	20	233	213	
Resolution and Court Administration Services	9,330	-	3,600	12,930	8,759	(4,171)	
Legal Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Alberta Crown Prosecution Service	380	-	-	380	2,247	1,867	
Justice Services	4,649	-	-	4,649	2,684	(1,965)	
Public Security	695	-	-	695	663	(32)	
Correctional Services	3,184	-	314	3,498	1,423	(2,075)	
Total	<u>18,258</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,914</u>	<u>22,172</u>	<u>16,010</u>	<u>(6,162)</u>	
Credit or Recovery (Shortfall)						-	
(Lapse)/Encumbrance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (6,162)</u>

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)

Department of Justice and Solicitor General

Year ended March 31, 2022

In thousands

	Voted Estimate	Supplementary Estimate	Adjustments	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals	Over Expended (Unexpended)
CONTINGENCY						
Ministry Support Services						
1.1 Minister's Office	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
1.2 Deputy Ministers' Offices	-	-	1,200	1,200	1,200	-
1.3 Corporate Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	1,200	1,200	1,200	-
Resolution and Court Administration Services						
2.1 Program Support	-	-	3,778	3,778	3,778	-
2.2 Resolution Services	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,500	-
2.3 Provincial Civil Claims	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.4 Provincial Court of Alberta	-	-	3,400	3,400	3,400	-
2.5 Alberta Court of Queen's Bench	-	-	4,600	4,600	4,600	-
2.6 Alberta Court of Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	14,278	14,278	14,278	-
Legal Services						
3.1 Civil Law	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.2 Legislative Counsel	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.3 Law Reform	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alberta Crown Prosecution Service						
4.1 Program Support	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.2 Criminal and Youth Prosecutions	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.3 Appeals and Regulatory Prosecutions	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Justice Services						
5.1 Program Support	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
5.2 Family Support Order Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.3 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	-	-	2,100	2,100	2,100	-
5.4 Public Guardian and Trustee Services	-	-	600	600	600	-
5.5 Support for Legal Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	3,700	3,700	3,700	-
Public Security						
6.1 Program Support Services	-	-	800	800	800	-
6.2 Law Enforcement Review Board	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.3 Alberta Serious Incident Response Team	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.4 Law Enforcement Standards and Audits	-	-	2,200	2,200	2,200	-
6.5 Contract Policing and Policing Oversight	-	-	81,371	81,371	81,371	-
6.6 Indigenous Policing Services	-	-	1,251	1,251	1,251	-
6.7 Policing Assistance to Municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.8 Organized and Serious Crime	-	-	2,650	2,650	2,650	-
6.9 Sheriffs Branch	-	-	12,000	12,000	12,000	-
	-	-	100,272	100,272	100,272	-

Payments Based on Agreements

Department of Justice and Solicitor General

Year ended March 31, 2022

In thousands

The Department has entered into agreements to deliver programs and services that are fully funded by the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT), the Government of Nunavut (GN), the Government of Canada (GC), and the Government of Yukon Territory (Yukon). The Department previously had agreements with the Government of Saskatchewan (GS), and the Government of British Columbia (GBC). Costs based on these agreements are incurred by the Department under authority in Section 25 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Accounts Receivable includes \$61 (2021 - \$58) from the GNWT, \$52 (2021 - \$56) from the GN, \$93 (2021 - \$49) from the GC and \$ (2021 - \$46) from Yukon relating to payments based on agreements.

The agreements with the GNWT and the GN, are for services provided by the Medical Examiner's Office. Services include examination of remains, medico-legal autopsy, toxicology analysis, and expert testimony in court or at a coroner's inquest.

The agreement with the GC is for enhanced French language training in order to prepare Alberta Provincial Court judges to sit on the Itinerant Francophone Provincial Court Bench.

The agreement with the Yukon is for the purpose of conducting investigations of Serious Incidents respecting members of the Territorial Police Service.

Amounts paid and payable based on agreements with program sponsors are as follows:

	2022	2021
Medical Examiner Services – GNWT	\$ 245	\$ 146
Medical Examiner Services – GN	86	74
Medical Examiner Services – GS	-	8
Medical Examiner Services – Yukon	6	6
Enhanced French Language Training – GC	93	204
Territorial Police Services - Yukon	192	224
	<u>\$ 622</u>	<u>\$ 662</u>

The Department has also entered into an agreement to disburse the provincial share of net forfeitures from proceeds of crime on behalf of the Department of Justice Canada (Justice Canada). Proceeds received from Justice Canada under this agreement are in accordance with Section 10 of the *Federal Seized Property Management Act* resulting from the investigation efforts by law enforcement agencies in Alberta.

Disbursements to law enforcement agencies and crime and drug prevention organizations based on this agreement are made by the Department under authority in Section 25 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Only the amounts received from Justice Canada and not disbursed are reflected in these financial statements. For the year ended March 31, 2022, amounts payable to law enforcement agencies and crime and drug prevention organizations under this agreement are \$841 (2021 - \$496) and are reflected in the Statement of Financial Position.

Annual Report Extracts and Other Statutory Reports

The *Criminal Code* requires the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General to report annually on the following parts of the Act.

Criminal Code s.83.31 – Anti-Terrorism Act

Section 83.31 of the *Criminal Code* requires the Attorney General of Alberta to publish an annual report on the operation of those parts of the Act dealing with investigative hearings and recognizance with conditions.

This constitutes the annual report of the Attorney General of Alberta covering the period from December 24, 2020 to December 24, 2021.

I. Report on the Operation of sections 83.28 and 83.29

(Investigative Hearing)

The Attorney General of Alberta reports that there were no applications initiated under these sections of the *Criminal Code*. As such, there is no data to report in relation to the reporting requirements under paragraphs 83.31(1)(a) to (c) of the *Criminal Code*.

II. Report on the Operation of Section 83.3

(Recognizance with Conditions)

The Attorney General of Alberta reports that there were no cases initiated under this section of the *Criminal Code*. As such, there is no data to report in relation to the reporting requirements in paragraphs 83.31(2)(a) to (f) of the *Criminal Code*.

Criminal Code s.83.3 (3) – Anti-Terrorism Act

In accordance with subsection 83.3(4) of the *Criminal Code*, a peace officer who suspects, on reasonable grounds, that the detention of a person is necessary to prevent a terrorist activity, arrest the person without a warrant.

Pursuant to subsection 83.31(3) of the *Criminal Code*, the minister responsible for policing in every province shall publish or otherwise make available to the public an annual report for the previous year on the operation of subsection 83.3 of the *Criminal Code* that includes:

- The number of arrests without warrant that were made under subsection 83.3(4) and the period of the arrested person's detention in custody in each case; and
- The number of cases in which a person was arrested without warrant under subsection 83.3(4) and was released.

Information has been received from all police services in Alberta indicating that no arrests were made under this subsection in the previous year; therefore, the report for 2021 is zero.

Criminal Code s.25.3 – Organized Crime and Law Enforcement – Designations

Section 25.3 of the *Criminal Code* provides a limited justification for otherwise illegal acts and omissions by law enforcement officers, and others acting at their discretion. An essential condition is that it can apply only to officers designated by a competent authority. In the case of municipal police services, the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General is the competent authority.

The competent authority is responsible for publishing an annual report on the designations and authorizations provided under subsections 24.1 to 25.4 of the *Criminal Code*. This report shall include information on the amount and nature of the acts or omissions committed by those officers designated under this legislation.

Alberta began designating officers under this legislation in March 2003. The designations for January 1 to December 31, 2021 include:

- Number of times that acts and omissions were committed: seven
- Nature of conduct being investigated: Homicide and trafficking in stolen property over \$5000
- Nature of act or omission: Uttering Threats, Sec 346(1) CCC; Extortion, Sec 264.1 CCC; and Gifting in Contraband Cigarettes, Sec 121 CCC.

Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

Section 32 of the *Public Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* requires the chief officer of a department to report annually on all disclosures made to the designated officer of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature for which the chief officer is responsible.

This constitutes the annual report of the chief officer of the department covering the period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Chief Officer Report as at March 31, 2022

In relation to the reporting requirements under section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act*, designations for April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 include:

- Number of disclosures of wrongdoing: one
- Number of investigations and reports submitted: zero
- Number of wrongdoings identified: zero

Ministry Response to Recommendations from the Alberta Child and Youth Advocate

In response to a recommendation from the Alberta Child and Youth Advocate, the Custody Operations Branch of the Correctional Services Division has committed to public annual reporting of emergency incidents that required the use of Oleoresin Capsicum spray (OC spray) and incidents where Administrative Placement was required within a provincial young offender centre.

This constitutes the annual report of the Custody Operations Branch covering the period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

I. Total Number of Incidents of OC Spray Deployment in Provincial Young Offender Centres

The use of OC spray is based on a variety of exceptional circumstances that are unique to each situation. It is only used when all lesser use of force options are exhausted, and to reduce the likelihood of injury or harm for young person(s) and staff involved. Data is collapsed to the provincial level in order to protect privacy of individuals involved in the OC spray incidents. To adhere to privacy reporting requirements, the number of OC spray incidents in young offender centres is not reported when fewer than six, which is the case for fiscal year 2021-22.

II. Total Number of Administrative Placements in Provincial Young Offender Centres

The Custody Operations Branch executive director may authorize administrative placement if a young person has a recent and ongoing series of violent behaviour incidents, and if the current placement of the young person in a living unit is likely to pose a significant threat to other young persons, to themselves, or to staff. There were zero administrative placements for the fiscal year 2021-22.