

# 2021-23

# Strategic Plan

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Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society

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Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society – 2021- 23 Strategic Plan

## About the Council

The Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society (the Council) is comprised of individuals representing diverse regions and perspectives. The council provides independent advice to government on its relationship with civil society addressing pressing social issues. The council is accountable to the Premier, through the Minister of Community and Social Services.

## Strategic Context

The council is part of the Government of Alberta's commitment to "harness the power of civil society." It reflects a conviction that the most effective, lasting solutions to pressing social issues often lie with civil society, and that government has a key role in supporting these efforts.

Civil society includes a diverse and evolving array of organizations and individuals, from formally established non-profit organizations (including registered charities), informal groups or movements pursuing shared interests or values, philanthropic organizations, to a range of businesses and individuals pursuing social good.

In 2020, at the request of the Minister of Community and Social Services, the council engaged with civil society organizations and experts regarding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on civil society and produced a report, *Moving Forward: Charting a Path to Civil Society Recovery*. The report identifies key opportunities to support an effective and sustainable recovery for civil society.

## Vision, Mission and Values

### Vision

Government and civil society work in partnership to build strong, resilient and caring communities where all Albertans can thrive.

### Mission

To engage with civil society and provide bold, informed and strategic advice to the Government of Alberta on its relationship with civil society, and how civil society can flourish in addressing pressing social issues.

## Values

The council is bound by the values and principles outlined in its Code of Conduct. Additionally, the council's work will reflect the following values:

- Collaborative: expressed through strong partnerships based on mutual respect, trust and a commitment to learning.
- Evidence-based: demonstrated by reliance on leading experts and the best available research or data.
- Inclusive: reflected in engagement processes that embrace diverse perspectives.

## Priorities, Objectives/Key Activities

### **Priority #1: Support efforts to improve the sustainability and financial resilience of civil society organizations.**

#### *Objectives/Key Activities*

- a) Promote awareness and action to advance social enterprises and strengthen the social finance ecosystem.
- b) Support on-going efforts to enhance Government of Alberta funding approaches to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, support accountability and enable financial stability for recipients.
- c) Collaborate with government and civil society leaders to foster charitable giving and the development of consistent and sustainable revenue sources.

### **Priority #2: Champion the development of innovative, system-level approaches that enable collaboration and increase the impact of civil society efforts to address social issues.**

#### *Objectives/Key Activities*

- a) Support efforts to build capacity and expand coordination and collaboration among civil society organizations and communities.
- b) Engage government and civil society leaders to advance research, data collection and data sharing.
- c) Work with government and civil society partners to build on Alberta's rich tradition of volunteerism.

**Priority #3: Build strong relationships with civil society actors, relevant experts and government partners addressing social issues.**

*Objectives/Key Activities*

- a) Establish processes for ongoing dialogue with leading non-profit/voluntary sector organizations and relevant government departments and agencies.
- b) Engage informal community groups or associations and business sector leaders to explore their role in addressing social issues, including through companies' environmental, social and governance (ESG) efforts.
- c) Lead the development of frameworks or strategies to strengthen government's partnership with civil society and guide efforts in priority areas.