

BUDGET 2023

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2023-26

Ministry Business Plan Technology and Innovation

Technology and Innovation

Business Plan 2023-26

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

Technology and Innovation has a strategic role within government to support Alberta’s economic growth by driving technology and innovation policy and strategy, creating programs and tools that will help grow Alberta’s economy, modernizing government and fostering efficient delivery of government programs, services, and information. The ministry’s focus is to:

- develop and deploy modern secure government digital services that are better, faster and smarter that allow Albertans to more easily access government services online, and government to operate more efficiently;
- support the growth and development of Alberta’s technology and innovation sector to make Alberta a destination of choice for entrepreneurs, innovators and investors, and foster economic growth and diversification; and
- ensure the privacy and personal information of Albertans is protected and managed through a privacy by design approach.

The ministry consists of the Department of Technology and Innovation, as well as its agencies: Alberta Innovates and Alberta Enterprise Corporation. Under the direction of the Minister, these agencies play a vital role in supporting the department to deliver on its outcomes, objectives and initiatives, including the various strategies identified below.

Technology and Innovation drives Alberta’s economic diversification by engaging and supporting innovators, entrepreneurs, and businesses to advance strategic initiatives that enhance industry growth. The Alberta Technology and Innovation Strategy (ATIS) aims to position Alberta as an internationally recognized technology and innovation hub that develops and attracts people, business, and investment to accelerate growth of the technology and innovation sector.

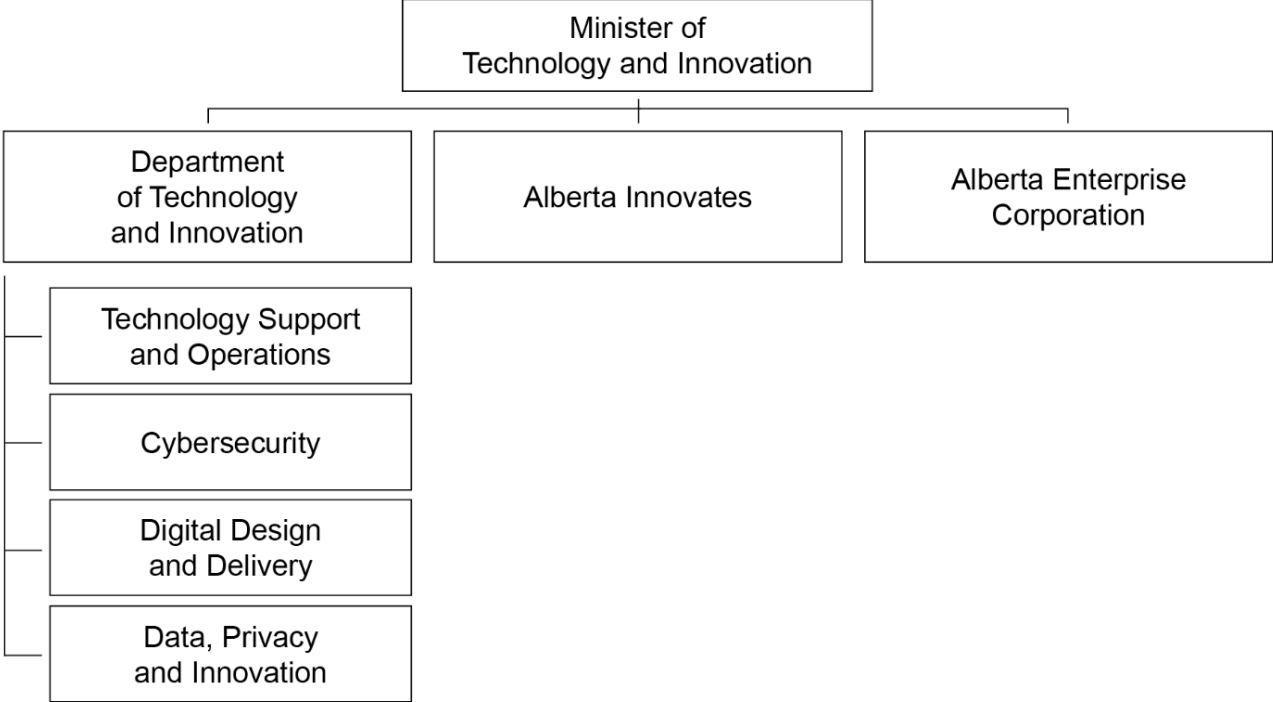
Technology and Innovation will increase government productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness through increased collaboration with ministry partners, modernizing business processes, managing data and information as a key resource, and adopting user-focused service design methods. Technology and Innovation will improve program delivery across government by delivering better, faster, and smarter services.

The ministry is committed to the ongoing implementation of the Alberta Broadband Strategy to ensure every Albertan has access to reliable, high-speed internet by the end of fiscal year 2026-27. Making connectivity a foundational part of the province will encourage investment, job creation, and economic diversification. In addition, the ministry will explore options to address cell phone coverage across Alberta’s major highways.

Technology and Innovation collaborates with innovative technology companies to test global best practices and new technologies to deliver services faster, more securely, and more efficiently. Developing advances in technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotic process automation will help the province become one of the most innovative public sector jurisdictions in the world.

The ministry will continue to respect and protect the privacy of Albertans’ personal information and will ensure the government is transparent through the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act* and the *Personal Information Protection Act*. Technology and Innovation will enhance the management of data and information which supports more informed decision making.

As cyberattacks continue to increase in quantity, variety, and sophistication worldwide, the ministry will continue to address these by leveraging a responsive framework of practices with a focus to ensure the confidentiality, information integrity, and availability. This year, the ministry established the CyberAlberta Community of Interest, a committee led by Technology and Innovation and formed with the cybersecurity leads of Alberta public and private organizations with a goal of strengthening Alberta’s overall cybersecurity posture. This committee works collaboratively to establish a common cybersecurity strategy and standard controls and best practices while also resolving common problems and threats.



A more detailed description of Technology and Innovation and its programs and initiatives can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/technology-and-innovation.aspx>

The Ministry of Technology and Innovation remains committed to regulatory approaches and program delivery that reduce unnecessary government oversight and emphasizes outcomes, in order to improve access to government services, attract investment, support innovation and competitiveness, and grow Alberta businesses.

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

2023-26 Business Plan

Outcome 1

Government services are modernized and accessible to all Albertans

Create improved and more accessible service experiences for Albertans by increasing availability of digital government services, accessible anywhere, anytime.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Based on best practices of global digital leaders, develop, and implement a digital strategy to accelerate the adoption of technology and innovation in government operations.
- 1.2 Build capability and modernize infrastructure and service delivery approaches to create a stronger, more efficient government that delivers better, faster, and smarter services that are accessible to more Albertans.
- 1.3 Modernize the way government’s data and information is managed, which includes the use of enhanced data analytics, and by introducing common and consistent ways of classification, organization, and access.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Continue investment of \$390 million (\$229 million in 2023-24) to improve broadband services across the province by the end of fiscal year 2026-27 and ensure that rural, remote, and Indigenous communities are included in the province’s economic growth.
- In 2023-24, \$1.36 million is targeted to continue modernizing government’s collaboration, security, and information management tools, by implementing Microsoft 365 as the Enterprise Content Management system, making the public service more efficient, and enhancing management and security of government data.
- In 2023-24, \$7.5 million is allocated to continue the implementation of the Data Strategy; the Government of Alberta’s vision of realizing the full potential of Alberta’s data for the benefit of Albertans, while respecting privacy.
- In 2023-24, \$40 million is allocated to the Digital Accelerator program to modernize government service delivery and provide better online digital services for Albertans.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Measure: Number of services released on modern digital platforms

As of 2022-23, 134 government services have been made available online through MyAlberta eServices, improving accessibility of government services to Albertans.

Targets	2023-24	140	2024-25	150	2025-26	160
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1.b Performance Measure: Total number of visits to the Open Government Portal

In 2022-23, there were just over 10 million visits to the Open Government Portal, allowing Albertans to access government information and datasets, and enhancing government transparency.

Targets	2023-24	10,200,000	2024-25	10,400,000	2025-26	10,600,000
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Outcome 2

Digital government services to Albertans are safe to use, secure and their privacy is protected

Continue to grow and maintain a secure and trusted interface to Government services for Albertans and businesses.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Security and privacy controls for digital government services are modernized and optimized to detect and prevent cybersecurity and privacy incidents.
- 2.2 Provide enterprise privacy services, including the development of a Privacy Management Framework to provide strategic direction from which subsequent policy instruments, training and processes will be developed and enhanced.
- 2.3 Develop new cybersecurity talent across the province in collaboration with post-secondary institutions and other Alberta stakeholders and partners to support job diversification and to create new employment opportunities.
- 2.4 Ensure that Government of Alberta critical assets' resiliency is annually tested by conducting disaster recovery tests.
- 2.5 Leverage existing internal and external sources of threat intelligence and evaluate emerging trends to improve government's digital assets protection and provide advice to Alberta stakeholders.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2023-24, \$500,000 is allocated to implement a Development, Security and Operations (DevSecOps) approach to the development and maintenance of digital services to ensure that cybersecurity is embedded throughout the entire lifecycle of all business systems.
- In 2023-24, \$1.7 million is allocated to implement user-behavior-based fraud detection systems to minimize the potential for fraudulent activities on Government of Alberta digital services.
- In 2023-24, \$800,000 is assigned to the CyberAlberta program to assist with collaborative work across the cybersecurity industry and post-secondary institutions to fast-track the development of cybersecurity talent across the province of Alberta.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Indicator: Number of malware infections prevented

In 2022-23, 7.8 million malware infections were prevented by cybersecurity controls.

2.b Performance Measure: Percentage of Government of Alberta critical business systems' disaster recovery plans tested annually

The ratio of Critical Systems tested in 2022-23 was 96 percent.

Targets	2023-24	100%	2024-25	100%	2025-26	100%

2.c Performance Measure: Annually develop new cybersecurity talent via the work experience program of the Government of Alberta

Four individuals were developed through the cybersecurity work experience program in 2022-23 to support job diversification and to create new employment opportunities.

Targets	2023-24	8	2024-25	8	2025-26	8

Outcome 3

Technology-led innovation contributes to economic diversification and growth

Supporting a vibrant innovation system will lead to technology commercialization, talent creation, highly skilled jobs, company growth as well as economic growth and diversification.

Key Objectives:

- 3.1 Lead the government’s implementation of the Alberta Technology and Innovation Strategy to ensure that Alberta is the destination of choice for innovators, entrepreneurs and investors resulting in more jobs, investment and companies in the technology sector supporting Alberta’s economic diversification.
- 3.2 Incent investment in research and development to build the province’s innovation capacity.
- 3.3 Provide innovation and commercialization programming, through Alberta Innovates.
- 3.4 Increase venture capital investments in Alberta’s technology companies through the work of the Alberta Enterprise Corporation.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Continue the implementation of the Alberta Technology and Innovation Strategy with \$22.5 million in 2023-24 for key initiatives including support for emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum science, and development of an intellectual property commercialization framework.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Sponsored research revenue attracted by Alberta’s comprehensive academic and research universities (\$ millions)

In 2021-22, Alberta’s comprehensive academic and research universities attracted \$1,123 million in sponsored research revenue.

Targets	2023-24	\$1,151	2024-25	\$1,180	2025-26	\$1,209
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3.b Performance Measure: Cumulative value of Alberta Enterprise Corporation attracted venture capital funds (and their syndicate partners) invested in Alberta businesses (\$ millions)

In 2021-22, the cumulative value of funds invested in Alberta businesses was \$1 billion which was higher than the target of \$680 million.

Targets	2023-24	\$1,151	2024-25	\$1,219	2025-26	\$1,286
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STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable				
	2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Forecast	2023-24 Estimate	2024-25 Target	2025-26 Target
REVENUE					
Internal Government Transfers	89,790	89,790	88,790	88,790	88,790
Transfers from Government of Canada	5,600	7,000	4,200	3,600	3,600
Investment Income	500	500	500	500	500
Other Revenue	86,173	91,173	85,376	85,376	85,376
Ministry Total	182,063	188,463	178,866	178,266	178,266
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	(131,143)	(136,143)	(129,346)	(129,346)	(129,346)
Consolidated Total	50,920	52,320	49,520	48,920	48,920
EXPENSE					
Ministry Support Services	4,123	4,123	4,448	4,448	4,448
Data, Privacy and Innovation	230,138	230,138	169,005	178,005	178,005
Technology Support and Operations	491,469	411,433	603,375	436,394	437,074
Digital Design and Delivery	98,420	97,198	118,113	107,113	107,113
Cybersecurity	8,874	8,874	12,748	13,759	13,759
Alberta Innovates Corporation	250,722	250,722	252,896	251,869	246,869
Alberta Enterprise Corporation	3,050	3,050	3,837	3,837	3,837
Ministry Total	1,086,796	1,005,538	1,164,422	995,425	991,105
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	(197,177)	(202,177)	(152,077)	(156,077)	(151,077)
Consolidated Total	889,619	803,361	1,012,345	839,348	840,028
Net Operating Result	(838,699)	(751,041)	(962,825)	(790,428)	(791,108)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT					
Technology Support and Operations	28,200	29,373	28,105	25,869	24,077
Digital Design and Delivery	54,369	33,280	84,280	84,280	84,280
Alberta Innovates Corporation	16,503	16,503	20,107	15,847	15,444
Ministry Total	99,072	79,156	132,492	125,996	123,801
Consolidated Total	99,072	79,156	132,492	125,996	123,801