

SECOND QUARTER UPDATE

- HIGHLIGHTS ◆ The 1998-99 surplus is now forecast at \$247 million, up \$82 million from the budget estimate but down \$30 million from the first quarter forecast.
 - Revenue is expected to be \$852 million higher than the budget forecast. This is primarily due to prior year adjustments of approximately \$470 million and higher-than-expected growth in personal income tax revenue.
 - ◆ Total expense is expected to be \$769 million higher than the budget estimate. The increase in program expense is forecast to be \$627 million, reflecting higher health spending, increased support for municipal transportation infrastructure and higher costs for fighting forest fires. Debt servicing costs are forecast to exceed the budget by \$142 million because of increased foreign exchange provisions.
 - The revenue cushion of \$420 million, provided in the budget to protect against weakness in resource and corporate income tax revenues, has been maintained in this forecast. If the revenue cushion is not required, the surplus could be \$667 million. The province's net debt, excluding pension liabilities, would decline to \$422 million at March 31, 1999.

Consolidated Fiscal Summary^a

		1998-99					
		Budget ^b	2nd Quarter Forecast	Change from Budget	Change from 1st Quarter		
	Revenue						
1	Forecast	15,627	16,479	852	230		
2	Cushion ^c	(420)	(420)	_	_		
3	Budgeted Revenue	15,207	16,059	852	230		
	Expense						
4	Program	13,910	14,537	627	180		
5	Debt Servicing Costs	_1,093	1,235	142	_75		
6	Total Expense	15,003	15,772	<u>769</u>	255		
7	Net Revenue	204	287	83	(25)		
8	Net Increase in Capital Assets						
	affecting Operationsd	39	40	1	5		
9	Consolidated Surplus	165	247	82	(30)		
	·			===	<u>`</u>		
10	Net Debt subject to Balanced Budget and Debt						
	Retirement Act at March 31, 1999 (forecast) ^e	504	422	(82)	30		

^a Subject to the Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act. Includes the province's annual cash payments towards the unfunded pension obligations which will be eliminated over the long term under a separate legislated plan. Does not include the increase in the pension obligations forecast at \$26 million in 1998-99. This is a non-cash expense that does not affect borrowing requirements.

^b Budget numbers have been restated to reflect a change in accounting policy by the Alberta Dairy Control Board, as suggested by the Auditor General. This increases both revenue and expense by \$48 million.

^c As required by the Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act, budgeted revenue excludes a revenue cushion.

^d Converts capital expense to a pay-as-you-go basis for the purposes of the consolidated surplus.

Net debt calculation has been adjusted to reflect actual net debt at March 31, 1998 of \$1,089 million. Assumes revenue cushion is not required and can be applied against net debt.

Revenue

INCOME TAX REVENUE

Personal income tax revenue is now forecast at \$4.52 billion, 18% higher than the budget estimate. Approximately half of the \$685 million increase is due to prior year adjustments for the 1997 tax year. Continued strong employment growth in 1998 and increased migration to Alberta account for the other half of the increase in personal income tax revenue. Corporate income tax revenue is forecast at \$1.67 billion, up \$28 million from the budget estimate but down \$78 million from the First Quarter Update. The decrease from the first quarter forecast is due to higher corporate income tax refunds. The refunds result from the expected resolution of significant and long outstanding tax assessment objections lodged by companies with Revenue Canada which have an impact on taxable income for Alberta purposes.

OTHER TAX REVENUE

Revenue from other taxes is forecast to be \$23 million lower than the budget estimate. The decline is primarily the result of a decrease in insurance corporations tax and financial institutions capital tax due to prior year adjustments. Fuel tax revenue is expected to be lower than forecast due mainly to a decline in diesel fuel consumption.

Non-Renewable Resource Revenue

Energy revenue is now forecast to decline by \$77 million from the budget estimate to \$2.48 billion. Natural gas and by-products royalty is forecast to exceed the budget estimate by \$221 million. The 1998-99 natural gas price forecast has been adjusted upward to \$1.95 per thousand cubic feet from the budget estimate of \$1.70. The adjustment reflects an expectation of export pipeline capacity expansion and a revision to the exchange rate forecast. The increase in natural gas revenue is expected to be more than offset by declines in other resource revenues. Conventional oil royalties are expected to decline by \$161 million due to lower world oil prices and weak demand. The West Texas Intermediate crude oil price, originally forecast to average US\$17.50 per barrel for the year, is expected to average only US\$14.75. Revenue from bonuses and sales of Crown leases is forecast to decline by \$125 million from the budget estimate due to lower oil industry cash flow.

TRANSFERS FROM GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Transfers from the Government of Canada are unchanged from the budget estimate. Revenue from the Canada Health and Social Transfer is forecast to be \$27 million higher than the budget estimate. A \$90 million prior year adjustment related to 1996 census adjustments to population estimates has more than offset the reduction in the transfer due to higher personal income tax revenue. (Higher income tax revenues reduce the cash component of this transfer). Recoveries under the labour market development program are expected to be \$24 million lower than the budget estimate due to reduced demand for services.

OTHER REVENUE

Total revenue from other sources is expected to increase by \$239 million from the budget estimate. As reported in the First Quarter Update, Lottery Fund revenue is forecast to increase by \$108 million and revenue from liquor sales is expected to be \$22 million higher. The Alberta Treasury Branches net income is forecast to increase by \$34 million from the budget estimate mainly as a result of increased net interest income and improvement in the credit quality of the loan portfolio. Health care insurance premiums are forecast to increase by \$23 million, reflecting population and employment growth in the province. Minor changes in other revenue sources account for the remainder of the increase.

Revenue

(millions of dollars)	1998-99					
	Budget ^a	2nd Quarter Forecast	Change from Budget	Change from 1st Quarter	Main Reason for Change from Budget	
IncomeTaxes	_		_		_	
Personal income tax	3,835	4,520	685	356	Prior year adjust.&employment growth	
Corporate income tax	1,642 5,477	1,670 6,190	28 713	<u>(78)</u> 278	Continued economic growth	
Other Taxes						
School property tax	1,099	1,099	_	_		
Fuel tax	570	560	(10)	(10)	Decline in diesel fuel consumption	
Tobacco tax	345	345		_	D:	
Insurance corporations tax Freehold mineral rights tax	112 101	101 105	(11) 4	_ 1	Prior year adjustment Higher natural gas prices	
Financial institutions capital tax	39	31	(8)		Prior year adjustment	
Hotel room tax	41	43	2	_	Increased tourism	
	2,307	2,284	(23)	(9)		
Non-Renewable Resource Revenue						
Natural gas and by-products royalty	1,282	1,503	221	13	Higher natural gas prices	
Crude oil royalty	644	483	(161)	15	Lower oil prices	
Synthetic crude oil and bitumen royalty	50	53	` 3	16	Lower oil prices	
Coal royalty	17	17			Lawrence than the second of	
Bonuses and sales of Crown leases	650	525	(125)	(75)	Lower oil industry cash flow Reduced land sales	
Rentals and fees Royalty tax credit	147 (233)	144 (245)	(3) (12)	(2) (13)	Reduced land sales Revised forecast	
Royalty tax ordal				<u></u> -	Nevised forecast	
	2,557	2,480	(77)	<u>(46)</u>		
Transfers from Government of Canada	0.40	007	07	04	Delagora	
Canada health and social transfer Labour market development	940 121	967 97	27 (24)	81 (13)	Prior year adjustment Reduced program demand	
Agriculture support programs	77	71	(6)	(7)	Reduced program demand	
Other	157	160	3	(2)	Miscellaneous changes	
	1,295	1,295	_	59	-	
InvestmentIncome						
Heritage Fund	701	705	4	(86)	Volatile capital markets	
Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation	484	482	(2)	·—·	Lower long-term interest rates	
Farm credit stability program	40	38	(2)	_	Revised forecast	
Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Endowment Fund	63	63				
Other	121	126	5	(2)	Miscellaneous changes	
	1,409	1,414	_ 5	(88)	gee	
Promiumo Food and Licenses						
Premiums, Fees and Licences Health care insurance premiums	641	664	23	11	Population and employment growth	
Motor vehicle licences	172	185	13	2	Volume increases	
Crop and hail insurance premiums	83	81	(2)	(3)	Lower participation rates	
Timber rentals and fees	70	76	6	11	Softwood lumber export tax rebates	
Land titles Other	48 208	62	14	2	Volume increases Miscellaneous changes	
Otilei		214	6	(1)	wiscellarieous criariges	
	1,222	1,282	60			
Net Income from Commercial Operations	057	070	00			
Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission	357 46	379 80	22 34	— 13	Increase in liquor sales	
Other	40	12	8	6	Higher net interest income Miscellaneous changes	
	407	471	64	19	Wilder and Griding G	
Other Brown						
Other Revenue Lottery Fund revenue	660	768	108	_	Increased electronic gaming activity	
Sale of capital assets	25	28	3	_	Revised forecast	
Fines and penalties	26	22	(4)	(3)	Revised forecast	
Miscellaneous	242	245	3	<u>(3)</u>	Miscellaneous changes	
	953	1,063	110	(5)		
Forecast Revenue	15,627	16,479	852	230		
Revenue Cushion	(420)	(420)	_	_		
Budgeted Revenue	15,207	16,059	852	230		
•	. —					

Budget numbers have been restated to reflect a change in accounting policy by the Alberta Dairy Control Board, as suggested by the Auditor General. This increases both revenue and expense by \$48 million.

Expense

PROGRAM EXPENSE

Health spending is being increased by \$223 million over the budget estimate. In the First Quarter Update, spending was increased by \$162 million to provide more funding for services provided by the Regional Health Authorities; for new agreements with the Alberta Medical Association, and to cover Alberta's share of costs for assistance to Hepatitis C victims and the start up of the Canadian Blood Services agency. As announced on October 14, an additional \$61 million has been provided to Regional Health Authorities based on the recommendations of the Health System Funding Review Committee.

Environmental Protection spending is forecast to increase by \$191 million over the budget estimate and \$79 million over the first quarter forecast. The increase is due to the high fire suppression and reforestation costs resulting from the severe 1998 forest fire situation.

As noted in the First Quarter Update, **Economic Development** is to transfer \$130 million from the Lottery Fund to **Transportation and Utilities** to fund assistance for municipal transportation infrastructure. \$10 million also will be transferred to **Municipal Affairs** for a regional co-ordination initiative in the capital region. A further \$9 million will be provided from the Lottery Fund to support the development of a specialized medical laboratory by the Calgary Regional Health Authority.

Treasury spending is forecast to be \$72 million over the budget estimate. Several private sector corporations have had tax objections outstanding with Revenue Canada for taxation years as far back as the early 1980s. The resolution of these objections is expected to result in the companies' taxable income for Alberta being reduced. This will result in tax refunds and the payment of interest on the overpayments. The interest refunds are currently forecast at \$97 million. Savings in pension liability funding costs and a decrease in valuation adjustments due to a lower provision for doubtful accounts partly offset the increase in Treasury expense.

As noted in the First Quarter Update, **Family and Social Services** expects a \$14 million net increase in spending. Increased spending on Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped, Child Welfare, Persons with Developmental Disabilities and other support programs is partly offset by savings due to a reduction in Supports for Independence caseloads and lower demand for employment training programs.

The reduction in spending by **Advanced Education and Career Development** noted in the First Quarter Update is now forecast at \$40 million. Alberta's strong labour market and resulting lower demand for employment-related training and services is expected to reduce spending by \$24 million. The balance of the decrease is due mainly to a declining number of adult students requiring upgrading programs in order to re-enter the labour force or go on to further studies.

DEBT SERVICING COSTS

Debt servicing costs are expected to be \$142 million higher than the budget estimate. The higher forecast reflects increased foreign exchange provisions on unhedged United States dollar debt due to the weakness of the Canadian dollar. This provision is expected to be \$240 million higher than forecast in the Budget. (The lower Canadian dollar also increases resource revenue by about \$325 million.) The Canada/United States exchange rate is now forecast to be $68\phi/US$ at March 31, 1999, down 6ϕ from the budget estimate. Partly offsetting the increase in the foreign exchange provisions are lower interest costs due to higher than anticipated debt repayments in 1997-98 and lower interest rates on refinanced debt in 1998-99.

Expense		199	8-99	
(millions of dollars)	Budgeta	2nd Quarter Forecast	Change from Budget	Change from 1st Quarter
Program				
Legislative Assembly	39	39	_	-
Advanced Education and Career Development Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Community Development Economic Development Education Energy ^b Environmental Protection Executive Council Family and Social Services Health Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Justice Labour	1,311 513 366 222 3,030 136 292 12 1,375 4,206 34 384 28	1,271 523 367 371 3,030 138 483 12 1,389 4,429 34 388 28	(40) 10 1 149 — 2 191 — 14 223 — 4	(21) (22) — 19 — 2 79 — 61 — 4
Municipal Affairs	245	258	13	-
Public Works, Supply and Services Science, Research and Information Technology Transportation and Utilities ^b Treasury Consolidation adjustments	468 68 539 800 (158)	466 70 669 872 (300)	(2) 2 130 72 (142)	 72 (14)
Consolidated Program Expense	13,910	14,537	627	180
Debt Servicing Costs Gross debt servicing costs Consolidation adjustments	1,224 (131)	1,359 (124)	135	72 3
Consolidated Debt Servicing Costs Total Consolidated Expense	1,093 15,003	<u>1,235</u> 15,772	142 769	75 255
Total Collsolidated Expense	15,003	13,772	709	===

^a Budget amounts have been restated to reflect a change in accounting policy by the Alberta Dairy Control Board, as suggested by the Auditor General. This increases both revenue and expense by \$48 million.

^b Budget amounts have been adjusted to reflect a change in ministerial responsibilities.

Net Change in Capital Assets

The net increase in capital assets affecting operations is forecast to be virtually unchanged from the budget estimate.

Capital investment is forecast at \$276 million, down \$3 million from the budget estimate. As noted in the First Quarter Update, **Family and Social Services** expects to reduce its capital investment by \$9 million due to a delay in its systems redesign. Partly offsetting this is an increase of \$6 million in capital investment by **Agriculture, Food and Rural Development** to upgrade its computer systems.

Total capital amortization is forecast at \$236 million, down \$4 million from the budget estimate.

Net Change in Capital Assets

(millions of dollars)

	1998-99				
	Budget	2nd Quarter Forecast	Change from Budget	Change from 1st Quarter	
Capital Investment	279	276	(3)	3	
Less: Capital Amortization	(<u>240</u>)	(<u>236</u>)	4	<u>2</u>	
Net Increase in Capital Assets affecting Operations	<u>39</u>	40	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	

Capital Investment and Amortization

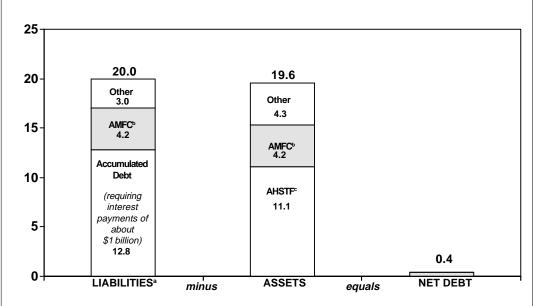
		Capital Investment				Capital Amortization			
	Budget	2nd Quarter Forecast	Change from Budget	Change from 1st Quarter	Budget	2nd Quarter Forecast	Change from Budget	Change from 1st Quarter	
Legislative Assembly	_	_	_	_	1	1	_	_	
Advanced Education and Career Development	3	2	(1)	(1)	2	2	_	_	
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	3	9	6	_	5	6	1	_	
Community Development	1	1	_	_	1	1	_	_	
Economic Development	1	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	
Education	1	1	_	_	1	1	_	_	
Energy	3	4	1	1	6	3	(3)	(3)	
Environmental Protection	8	7	(1)	_	25	25	_	_	
Executive Council	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	
Family and Social Services	9	_	(9)	_	3	2	(1)	_	
Health	1	1	_	_	1	1	_	_	
Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	
Justice	2	2	_	_	1	1	_	_	
Labour	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	
Municipal Affairs	3	4	1	1	28	28	_	_	
Public Works, Supply and Services	62	62	_	_	62	61	(1)	_	
Science, Research and Information Technology	2	3	1	_	2	2	_	_	
Transportation and Utilities	174	174	_	_	100	100	_	_	
Treasury	6	5	<u>(1)</u>	2	2	2	=	1	
Total Capital Investment/Amortization	279	276	(3)	3	240	236	(4)	(2)	
	_		=	=	=		=	=	

Liabilities, Assets and Net Debt

The net debt subject to the *Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act* is forecast to be \$422 million as at March 31, 1999, down \$667 million from the March 31, 1998 level of \$1,089 million. Total liabilities (excluding pension obligations) will be approximately \$20.0 billion. This is mostly offset by \$19.6 billion in financial assets. Debt servicing costs are based on the province's accumulated debt, forecast at approximately \$12.8 billion at March 31, 1999. The province will still have accumulated debt and debt servicing costs after the net debt is eliminated.



Forecast of Liabilities and Offsetting Assets at March 31, 1999



^a Excludes pension obligations of \$4.9 billion which are scheduled for elimination under a separate 1993 legislated plan.

^b Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation.

^c Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund — net of internal holdings.

Borrowing Requirements

(millions of dollars)

	1998-99				
	Budget	2nd Quarter Forecast	Change from Budget	Change from 1st Quarter	
Targeted net debt repayment ^a	(585)	(667)	(82)	30	
Add:					
Retained surpluses of other funds and agencies	105	121	16	34	
Provincial corporations' borrowing requirements	432	372	(60)	_	
Funding of school board loan repayments to AMFC	104	104	`—'	_	
Inflation proofing of Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund	85	5	(80)	5	
Other adjustments to cash	65	(272)	(337)	(80)	
Less:	(20)	(260)	(240)	(79)	
Foreign exchange valuation Repayments of farm credit and small business program deposits	(200)	(175)	(240) 25	(78) —	
Cash Receipts	(14)	(772)	(758)	(89)	
Term Debt Maturities and Redemptions	3,305	3,498	193	18	
Total Direct Borrowing Requirements	3,291	2,726	(565)	<u>(71</u>)	
^a Surplus plus revenue cushion.					

Sensitivities and Fiscal Year Assumptions, 1998-99

		Sensi	itivitiesª (\$ mil	lions)	Assu	mptions
	Change	Revenue	Spending	Surplus	Budget	2nd Quarter Forecast
Oil Price (WTI US\$/bbl)	-\$1.00	-123	_	-123	17.50	14.75
Natural Gas Price (Cdn\$/mcf)	-10¢	-176	_	-176	1.70	1.95
Exchange Rate (US¢/Cdn\$)	-1¢	54	44	+10	74.00	67.50
Interest Rates	1%	4	43	-39		
3-month Canada Treasury Bills					4.50	4.80
10-year Canada Bonds					6.25	5.30

^a Sensitivities are based on current prices and rates and show the impact for a full 12 month period. Sensitivities can vary significantly at different price and rate levels. The interest rate sensitivity is also affected by the timing of changes during the fiscal year.



SIX MONTH CASH FLOW STATEMENT

METHOD OF CONSOLIDATION

This financial summary is prepared on the same basis as Budget '98.

Consistent with the policy that capital assets are not included in the province's financial assets, losses on disposal and write-downs of capital assets do not affect revenues, expenses or surplus for the period.

The results of all government departments, funds and agencies, except those designated as commercial enterprises, are consolidated on a line-by-line basis. Revenue and expense transactions between consolidated entities have been eliminated.

The accounts of Crown-controlled corporations and provincial agencies designated as commercial enterprises are consolidated on an equity basis, the equity being computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Comparative 1997-98 figures have been restated to conform to the 1998-99 presentation.

BASIS OF FINANCIAL REPORTING

The consolidated fiscal summary reports revenues (including proceeds from sale of capital assets), expenses (including amortization of capital assets), and net revenue. The annual change in unfunded pension obligations has been excluded from expenses. The intermediate result of operations (net revenue) is then adjusted for the difference between capital investment and capital asset amortization. The final result is the consolidated surplus subject to the *Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act*.

Expenses include the province's annual cash payments towards the unfunded pension obligations. Expenses exclude the annual change in the unfunded pension obligations, forecast to increase by \$26 million in 1998-99, which is a non-cash expense that does not affect borrowing requirements.

Revenues are recorded on a cash basis, except for non-renewable resource revenue and investment income which are recorded on an accrual basis. Expenses are recorded on a cash basis, except for debt servicing costs and provision for loan losses of provincial funds and agencies, which are recorded on an accrual basis. Debt servicing costs include interest payable, amortization of discount on debt issues, and amortization of unrealized exchange gains and losses on unhedged foreign currency debt.

Consolidated Fiscal Summary^a

for the Six Months ended September 30, 1998 (unaudited)

	First Si	x Months	
	1998-99	1997-98	Change
Revenue			
Income Taxes	2,748	2,426	322
Other Taxes	1,056	1,142	(86)
Non-Renewable Resource Revenue	1,096	2,081	(985)
Investment Income	682	870	(188)
Transfers from Government of Canada	547	580	(33)
Premiums, Fees and Licences	683	680	3
Net Income from Commercial Operations	276	233	43
Other	_519	503	16
Total Revenue	7,607	8,515	(908)
Expense			
Program	6,842	6,790	52
Debt Servicing Costs	620	583	37
Total Expense	7,462	7,373	89
Net Revenue	145	1,142	(997)
Net Decrease (Increase) in Capital Assets affecting Operations ^b	(25)	21	(46)
Consolidated Surplus	120	1,163	(<u>1,043</u>)

^a Subject to the Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act. Includes the province's annual cash payments towards the unfunded pension obligations which will be eliminated over a longer term under a separate legislated plan. Does not include the annual change in the unfunded pension obligations, forecast to increase by \$26 million for 1998-99, which is a non-cash expense that does not affect borrowing requirements.

^b Converts capital expense to a pay-as-you-go basis for the purposes of the consolidated surplus.

Expense

for the Six Months ended September 30, 1998 (unaudited)

	First Six	Months		
	1998-99	1997-98	Change	
Program				
Legislative Assembly	17	17	_	
Advanced Education and Career Development	586	524	62	
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	201	186	15	
Community Development	169	158	11	
Economic Development	95	70	25	
Education	1,413	1,416	(3)	
Energy	54	54		
Environmental Protection	298	173	125	
Executive Council	6	6		
Family and Social Services	718	722	(4)	
Health	2,179	2,199	(20)	
Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs	27	19	8	
Justice	165	152	13	
Labour	13	13	_	
Municipal Affairs	138	125	13	
Public Works, Supply and Services	200	205	(5)	
Science, Research and Information Technology	24	21	3	
Transportation and Utilities	274	264	10	
Treasury	360	519	(159)	
Consolidation adjustments	(95)	(53)	(42)	
	6,842	6,790	52	
Debt Servicing Costs	620	583	37	
Total Expenses	7,462	7,373	89	
			=	

Net Change in Capital Assets affecting Operations

for the Six Months ended September 30, 1998 (unaudited)

	First Six		
Capital Investment	1998-99	1997-98	Change
Legislative Assembly	_	_	_
Advanced Education and Career Development	_	_	_
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	1	1	_
Community Development	_	_	_
Economic Development	_	_	_
Education	_	1	(1)
Energy	1	1	<u> </u>
Environmental Protection	1	1	_
Executive Council	_	_	_
Family and Social Services		_	_
Health			_
Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs	_	_	_
Justice	_	_	_
Labour	_	_	_
Municipal Affairs	_	1	(1)
Public Works, Supply and Services	25	18	7
Science, Research and Information Technology	1	_	1
Transportation and Utilities	104	60	44
Treasury	2	1	1
	135	84	51
Less: Capital Amortization Reversal	110	105	5
Net Decrease (Increase) in Capital Assets affecting Operations	(25)	21	(46)