Budget 2015 has three priorities:

- stabilizing front-line public services, including health care, education and social services — about 75% of government spending;
- setting out a plan to return to balance by restoring fairness to government revenue and ensuring the province is in a stronger fiscal position when the economy recovers; and
- partnering with job creators, entrepreneurs and visionaries to stimulate economic growth and diversification.

STABILIZING PUBLIC SERVICES

- **Health**: Over $800 million invested to protect front-line health care.
- **Education**: Three-year projected enrollment fully funded and reversed cuts to school boards.
- **Advanced Education**: Stable, predictable funding and two year tuition freeze.
- **Human Services**: New funding to strengthen social services and support vulnerable families.

PLAN TO RETURN TO BALANCE

- Government plans to balance the budget in 2019-20.
- Provincial revenue is expected to grow by about 6% per year over the next four years, while expense will grow by just over 2%.
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION

• 15% increase in capital spending, estimated to add about 0.5% to Alberta’s real GDP and about 8,000 to 10,000 in employment over next three years.

• Job Creation Incentive Program: grants of up to $5,000, supporting up to 27,000 new jobs.

• New Ministry of Economic Development and Trade established.

• Improved access to capital for businesses at all stages of growth.

OTHER NUMBERS TO NOTE

• Total Expense is forecast to be $49.9 billion, $1.5 billion more than 2014-15.

• Total Revenue will be $43.8 billion, $5.7 billion less than 2014-15.

• The estimated deficit is $6.1 billion for 2015-16.

• Total Capital Plan spending is forecast to be $7.9 billion in 2015-16.

• The Capital Plan will support $34 billion in infrastructure projects over five years with another $4 billion for projects financed by Alberta Health Services, school boards and post-secondary institutions.