

BUDGET 2021

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2021-24

Ministry Business Plan Seniors and Housing

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Business Plan 2021-24

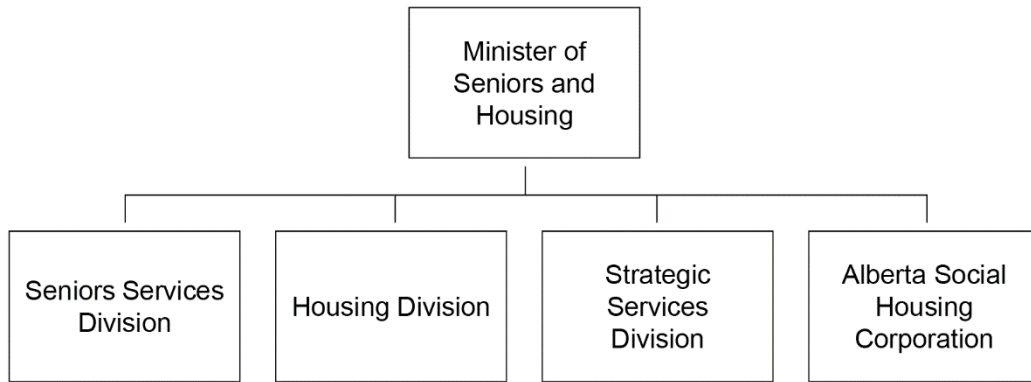
Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The ministry consists of the Department of Seniors and Housing and the Alberta Social Housing Corporation. Seniors and Housing promotes the well-being and quality of life of Alberta seniors, and those in need of affordable housing. The ministry also supports Alberta's Recovery Plan by protecting the health and safety of seniors.

Seniors and Housing develops and delivers programs and services that assist seniors and promote safety and well-being for older Albertans. Seniors' benefits help provide financial support for seniors with low income to meet their basic needs. Alberta's benefits will continue to support seniors through the maintenance of one of the highest financial support programs in Canada to assist seniors in need. Other initiatives focus on creating innovative community options through civil society partnerships in the priority areas of addressing ageism, elder abuse prevention, transportation, social inclusion, and engagement of diverse populations. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministry will continue to support the needs of seniors and ensure seniors who are most in need receive supports without delay. Policies and programs will continue to be developed in response to emerging challenges and opportunities of an aging population, as the number of Alberta seniors is expected to increase to more than one million by 2035. The ministry will also continue to identify opportunities to reduce regulatory burdens, and make it easier to access and navigate seniors financial assistance programs through innovative digital transformation initiatives. This digital transformation will enable fast and easy access to government services, as well as provide cost efficiencies, while delivering improved outcomes for Albertans.

Seniors and Housing fosters the development of, and access to, affordable housing and supports for Albertans most in need. The ministry is working to implement the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Review Panel, to create a new vision and transform the affordable housing system in Alberta to achieve better outcomes for Albertans, attain greater value for government spending, and address growing demand. The provision of affordable housing initiatives would not be possible without the ministry's partnerships with numerous civil society organizations, housing management bodies, and other orders of government. Seniors and Housing will also continue to identify opportunities to reduce regulatory requirements and administrative burdens, to make applying for affordable housing easier for applicants and create efficiencies for housing providers. The ministry will continue to provide support to housing providers with timely information, direction, and guidance on public health orders so tenants, including seniors living in lodges, are safe and supported during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seniors and Housing provides secretariat support and coordinates cross-ministry efforts to assist Alberta's Liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces to improve the experience of military members, their families, veterans, and reservists in Alberta. This support and coordination assists the Military Liaison to build relationships and partnerships with these groups, military institutions, and military and veteran serving organizations. By liaising with civil society organizations, other jurisdictions and orders of government, the Military Liaison assists with the development and improvement of available services and resources.



A more detailed description of Seniors and Housing and its programs and initiatives can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/ministry-seniors-housing.aspx>

The Ministry of Seniors and Housing continues to review programs to ensure Albertans receive efficient and client-focused services from their government. As part of this ongoing review, the ministry is committed to making life easier for hard-working Albertans and job creators by reducing regulatory requirements by one-third by 2023, and eliminating administrative burden through more efficient processes. This work will improve service delivery for Albertans; foster economic growth, innovation and competitiveness; and create a strong and attractive investment climate.

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.

Business Plan – Core

Outcome 1

Life is made better for Alberta seniors and their caregivers

The ministry prioritizes the well-being of seniors and their ability to age in their chosen communities: seniors’ benefits help provide financial stability for seniors with low income, and other initiatives focus on creating community-based supports. As of December 2020, there were 665,000 seniors in Alberta.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, work with other ministries to support the health, safety and well-being of seniors, their ability to participate in their communities, and for their communities to support seniors’ independence.
- 1.2 Address the prevention of elder abuse by raising awareness, supporting coordinated community responses, promoting system coordination, and creating stronger protective laws and policies.
- 1.3 Identify opportunities for red tape reduction, digital transformation, and program effectiveness.
- 1.4 Support the diverse populations of older adults and seniors through initiatives that address diverse social priorities for seniors, including retirement planning, addressing ageism, promoting social inclusion, enhancing transportation options and caregiver supports, as well as encouraging healthy aging in communities.
- 1.5 Explore innovative approaches to improve cross-sector collaboration in planning and delivering programs and services, including the promotion of healthy aging.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2021-22, seniors financial assistance programs will support more than 170,000 seniors with low income to meet their basic needs, afford essential health and personal supports, and age safely in their homes through the provision of \$464.0 million in grants and \$19.7 million in low-interest home equity loans.
- In 2021-22, \$0.9 million is allocated for community-based investments to address the needs of a growing seniors’ population by funding coordinated actions that focus on priority issues, such as social supports for aging in community, elder abuse prevention, caregivers, age-friendly communities, and transportation.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Indicator: Seniors’ income relative to population

This indicator provides a comparison for seniors’ median income in Alberta and the income of all Albertans, and provides similar comparative analysis for all Canadian seniors and the general population.

	Alberta 2017	Canada 2017	Alberta 2018	Canada 2018
Seniors’ median income as a proportion of population median income	75.3%	78.5%	74.6%	78.6%

1.b Performance Indicator: Seniors’ sense of belonging to local community

The sense of belonging indicator is a proxy for social inclusion and community connectedness, and ties directly to the ministry’s work related to social isolation, age-friendly communities, ageism, and aging in community.

	2017	2018	2019
Percentage of Alberta seniors reporting positive sense of belonging to local community	77%	74%	76%

Outcome 2

Make housing affordable and accessible for Albertans

The ministry is working with civil society organizations, housing management bodies, and other orders of government, and utilizing public-private partnerships to build, renew, and maintain affordable housing for the approximately 58,250 affordable housing units that serve more than 110,000 Albertans.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Implement recommendations of the Affordable Housing Review Panel, including developing a provincial affordable housing strategic plan, to achieve greater sustainability, improve access, and enhance partnerships.
- 2.2 Implement a strategic capital real estate asset management plan, to optimize the affordable housing portfolio.
- 2.3 Utilize federal funding under the *National Housing Strategy* to support housing affordability for Albertans.
- 2.4 Increase efficiencies and reduce regulatory and administrative burdens in the affordable housing system.
- 2.5 Increase awareness of the experiences of military members, their families, veterans, and reservists, and enhance resources and supports through key initiatives, including the Alberta Military Families Resources web portal, Seamless Canada, Support our Troops Licence Plate program, and the Veterans Service Centre and Housing Support Project.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2021-22, \$322.6 million will be allocated to build, renew, maintain, and operate affordable housing in the province through the government-supported Community Housing, Seniors Self-contained Housing, Seniors Lodge, Special Needs Housing and Rent Supplement programs.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Housing Facilities – Physical Condition

This measure assesses the physical condition of the affordable housing portfolio, and where to direct resources for maintenance. In 2018-19, 23 per cent of housing facilities were in ‘good’ condition, 71 per cent in ‘fair’ condition, and 6 per cent in ‘poor’ condition.

Targets	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
% in good condition	24%	24%	24%
% in fair condition	71%	72%	73%
% in poor condition	5%	4%	3%

2.b Performance Measure: Number of new and regenerated affordable housing units

This measure reports on the build and regeneration of affordable housing units for Albertans. In 2019-20, 532 new and regenerated units were completed. Targets reflect currently approved projects and may be adjusted in future years as new projects are approved.

Targets	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	1000 units	300 units	100 units

2.c Performance Indicator: Core housing need

Core housing need is an indicator to identify those in need, or who become in need, of housing assistance.

	2001	2006	2011	2016
Alberta households in core housing need	10.5%	10.1%	10.7%	11.4%

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2021-22 Estimate	2022-23 Target	2023-24 Target
	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Other Transfers from Government of Canada	102,718	103,790	103,790	94,386	87,050	82,295
Investment Income	7,254	6,337	6,337	5,560	5,163	5,163
Other Revenue	14,456	11,264	11,709	10,764	10,264	10,264
Internal Government Transfers	-	4,500	4,500	1,200	-	-
Ministry Total	124,428	125,891	126,336	111,910	102,477	97,722
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	-	(4,500)	(4,500)	(1,200)	-	-
Consolidated Total	124,428	121,391	121,836	110,710	102,477	97,722
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	5,484	5,150	5,150	4,561	4,528	4,528
Seniors Services	31,344	26,450	26,450	25,977	26,623	26,623
Alberta Seniors Benefit	404,802	421,648	414,448	449,910	475,941	478,941
Housing	12,286	11,073	11,073	10,398	10,316	10,316
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	237,770	263,650	298,550	276,815	262,614	238,010
Ministry Total	691,686	727,971	755,671	767,661	780,022	758,418
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(12)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	691,674	727,971	755,671	767,661	780,022	758,418
Net Operating Result	(567,246)	(606,580)	(633,835)	(656,951)	(677,545)	(660,696)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	-	25	25	25	25	25
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	166,158	168,381	160,352	89,899	34,420	18,657
Consolidated Total	166,158	168,406	160,377	89,924	34,445	18,682