

BUDGET 2020

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2020-23

Ministry Business Plan Seniors and Housing

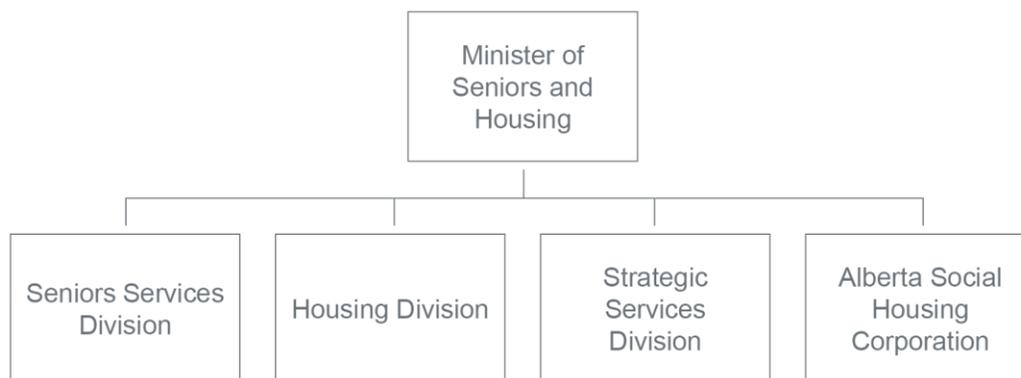
Seniors and Housing

Business Plan 2020-23

Ministry Mandate and Structure

The ministry consists of the Department of Seniors and Housing and the Alberta Social Housing Corporation.

The ministry promotes the well-being and quality of life of Alberta seniors and those in need of affordable housing. It develops and delivers programs and services that assist seniors and promote safety and well-being for Alberta’s aging population. The ministry fosters the development of affordable housing and supports access to housing options for Albertans most in need. To achieve these outcomes, the ministry works with seniors, Albertans who require housing supports, and others in the network of support: families and caregivers, communities, senior-serving organizations, housing management bodies, housing providers, and other government partners.



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 is committed to the ongoing review of programs and services to ensure that the best possible outcomes are being achieved for Albertans. As part of this ongoing review, the ministry is committed to reducing red tape to make life easier for hardworking Albertans and businesses. This includes reducing regulatory burden and necessary processes to encourage economic growth and job creation; and make Alberta one of the freest and fastest moving economies in the world. The ministry is committed to working toward achieving the one-third reduction in the number of regulatory requirements in its statutes, regulations, policies and forms by 2023.

Ministry Outcomes

- Make life better for Alberta seniors and their caregivers
- Make housing affordable and accessible for Albertans

Outcome 1

What We Want To Achieve

Make life better for Alberta seniors and their caregivers

The ministry prioritizes the well-being of seniors and the ability to age in their chosen communities. Alberta's 630,000 seniors are supported by the ministry through the delivery of high-quality programs and supports. Seniors' benefits help provide financial stability for seniors with low income to meet basic needs. 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. Policies and programs will continue to be developed in response to 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.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Provide individual and community-based programs and services that support seniors to participate in their communities, and for their communities to support seniors' independence.
- 1.2 Identify opportunities for red tape reduction and cost effectiveness across seniors programs and within seniors financial assistance programs.
- 1.3 Explore approaches that support the needs of diverse populations of seniors who reside and contribute to the province, and implement initiatives to address retirement planning, ageism, elder abuse, social inclusion, transportation, caregiver supports, and aging in communities.
- 1.4 Explore innovative approaches to partner with civil society organizations to improve cross-sector collaboration in the planning and delivery of programs and services, including programs focused on prevention and healthy aging.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Alberta Seniors Benefit (ASB) provides financial support to more than 167,000 eligible seniors to assist with monthly living expenses. This benefit, costing \$321.5million in 2020-21, is intended to supplement the Government of Canada's Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement programs.
- The Supplementary Accommodation Benefit (SAB), costing \$94.8 million in 2020-21, ensures seniors with low income residing in long-term care or designated supportive living have \$322 disposable income each month after paying care facility accommodation charges.
- Special Needs Assistance for Seniors (SNA), costing \$18 million in 2020-21, provides more than 34,000 seniors with lower income with financial assistance for a range of health and personal supports.
- In 2020-21, \$11.5 million (loans) and \$1.3 million (grants) is allocated to the Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair Program (SHARP) to help eligible seniors finance home repairs and adaptations through a low-interest home equity loan. A grant component to assist with basic and essential home repairs is available to seniors with low income who are not eligible for a loan.
- In 2020-21, \$8.2 million (loans) is allocated for the Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program (SPTDP), which allows seniors to defer all or part of their property taxes through a low-interest home equity loan. The program frees up money for other expenses and helps seniors maintain independence in their homes and communities.
- In 2020-21, \$0.9 million is allocated for strategic community-based investments to address the needs of a growing seniors population by funding research, innovation projects, and other initiatives that focus on priority issues such as 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. (*Median income is the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount.*)

	Actual Alberta 2016	Actual Canada 2016	Actual Alberta 2017	Actual Canada 2017
Seniors' Income Relative to Population				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors' median income as a proportion of population median income 	74.4%	78.9%	75.3%	78.5%

1.b Performance Indicator: Sense of Belonging

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.

	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	Actual 2018
Seniors' Sense of Belonging			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of Alberta seniors reporting sense of belonging to local community (somewhat strong or very strong) 	77%	77%	74%

1.c Performance Measure: Alberta Seniors Benefit

In 2018-19, 77% of Alberta Seniors Benefit (ASB) recipients reported the ASB assisted them in meeting their basic needs.

TARGETS

2020-21:	80%
2021-22:	N/A
2022-23:	80%

1.d Performance Measure: Special Needs Assistance

In 2018-19, 91% of Special Needs Assistance (SNA) recipients reported the SNA assisted them in meeting their individualized needs.

TARGETS

2020-21:	N/A
2021-22:	90%
2022-23:	N/A

1.e Performance Measure: Seniors Loan Programs

In 2018-19, 91% and 89% of Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair Program (SHARP) and Seniors Property Tax Deferral (SPTD) loan recipients, respectively, reported the program helped them remain in their home longer.

TARGETS

	SHARP	SPTD
2020-21:	90%	N/A
2021-22:	N/A	90%
2022-23:	90%	N/A

Outcome 2

What We Want To Achieve

Make housing affordable and accessible for Albertans

The ministry is working with housing providers to build, renew, and maintain affordable housing for the approximately 60,900 affordable housing units that serve over 110,000 Albertans, including seniors in need of specialized housing. The ministry is also working to expand the use of mixed-income housing and explore the use of public-private partnerships (P3s). The provision of affordable housing initiatives could not be possible without the ministry's partnerships with numerous civil society organizations, housing management bodies, and other orders of government. The ministry will also continue to identify opportunities to reduce administrative red tape, such as reviewing the income verification process, so that applying for affordable housing is easier for applicants and more efficient for housing providers.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Develop approaches that explore partnerships between the orders of government, housing providers, and private sector to deliver affordable and mixed-income housing.
- 2.2 Review with housing providers the best use of properties owned by the Alberta Social Housing Corporation for redevelopment, maintenance, and disposition.
- 2.3 Utilize federal funding under the National Housing Strategy to support housing affordability for Albertans.
- 2.4 Identify opportunities for red tape reduction that will increase efficiencies and reduce administrative burdens for applicants, tenants and housing providers.
- 2.5 Through the Military Liaison, build relationships with military institutions and stakeholders, and help improve the experience of active military members, their families, and veterans in Alberta, including developing web-based resources and providing housing supports for veterans in need.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2020-21, \$51.3 million is allocated to Family Community Housing, which provides 10,800 subsidized rental-housing units for families and seniors with low income, and individuals who cannot afford other housing options due to circumstance.
- In 2020-21, \$49.3 million is allocated for Seniors Community Housing. The Seniors Lodge program provides 10,400 units with meals, services, and recreational opportunities for independent seniors. The Seniors Self-Contained Housing program provides 14,300 apartment-style units for seniors who are able to live independently with or without assistance from community-based services.

- Rental Assistance provides approximately 10,000 private landlord and direct to tenant rent supplements to help households find affordable rental accommodation in eligible rental projects. Funding of \$56.8 million will be provided in 2020-21.
- Specialized Housing provides 1,800 units for individuals who have special housing needs, such as seniors, people with physical disabilities, and victims of violence. In 2020-21, \$15.5 million will be allocated.
- The Government of Alberta will support the affordable housing portfolio through Capital Maintenance and Renewal initiatives (\$52.3 million in 2020-21) and capital development (\$163.4 million in 2020-21) through partnerships between the orders of government, community operators, and the private sector to ensure a stable supply of affordable and mixed-income housing across the province.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Housing Facilities – Physical Condition

An integral component of providing affordable housing is providing adequate shelter for residents. Alberta Infrastructure leads the evaluation using the same methodology for consistency across all organizations supported by the Government of Alberta. Alberta Infrastructure evaluates the facilities every five years using an international standard, the Facility Condition Index. The ministry monitors the physical condition of the housing portfolio and directs resources for its maintenance.

In 2018-19, 23% of housing facilities were in ‘good’ condition, 71% in ‘fair’ condition and 6% in ‘poor’ condition.

TARGETS

	Percentage in good condition	Percentage in fair condition	Percentage in poor condition
2020-21:	24%	71%	5%
2021-22:	24%	71%	5%
2022-23:	25%	71%	4%

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

The provision and maintenance of affordable housing are priorities for the ministry. This measure helps to report on the ability of the ministry to build and regenerate units for Albertans in need of affordable housing.

In 2018-19, 790 new and regenerated units were completed.

TARGETS

2020-21:	700 units
2021-22:	1000 units
2022-23:	300 units

2.c Performance Indicator: Core housing need

Core housing need data for 2016 was obtained directly from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

	2001	2006	2011	2016
Alberta households in core housing need	10.5%	10.1%	10.7%	11.4%
Rental households in core housing need	23.1%	22.8%	23.2%	24.7%
Senior-led rental households in core housing need	33.5%	37.4%	41.9%	45.3%
Lone-parent family rental households in core housing need	42.4%	39.6%	41.2%	42.3%
Aboriginal rental households in core housing need	31.1%	28.1%	31.5%	30.3%

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2020-21 Estimate	2021-22 Target	2022-23 Target
	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Other Transfers from Government of Canada	91,078	110,230	110,230	103,790	94,386	87,050
Investment Income	9,414	9,156	7,590	6,337	5,560	5,163
Other Revenue	22,503	11,744	11,744	11,264	10,764	10,264
Internal Government Transfers	8,066	4,700	4,700	4,500	1,200	-
Ministry Total	131,061	135,830	134,264	125,891	111,910	102,477
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(8,066)	(4,700)	(4,700)	(4,500)	(1,200)	-
Consolidated Total	122,995	131,130	129,564	121,391	110,710	102,477
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	5,600	5,319	5,319	5,150	4,983	4,983
Seniors Services	33,381	34,696	33,396	26,450	26,605	27,296
Alberta Seniors Benefit	389,908	403,422	403,422	421,648	430,069	430,645
Housing	12,183	11,573	11,573	11,073	10,407	10,407
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	289,391	253,695	238,840	263,650	232,720	227,347
Ministry Total	730,463	708,705	692,550	727,971	704,784	700,678
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(85)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	730,378	708,705	692,550	727,971	704,784	700,678
Net Operating Result	(607,383)	(577,575)	(562,986)	(606,580)	(594,074)	(598,201)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	-	25	25	25	25	25
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	114,421	126,111	133,706	168,381	92,882	51,627
Ministry Total	114,421	126,136	133,731	168,406	92,907	51,652
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(1,490)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	112,931	126,136	133,731	168,406	92,907	51,652