

Seniors and Housing

Accountability Statement

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration our government's policy decisions as of March 7, 2018.

original signed by

Lori Sigurdson, Minister

Ministry Overview

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 www.seniors-housing.gov.ab.ca.

Strategic Context

The outcomes and key strategies identified in this business plan are aligned with the strategic direction of the Government of Alberta.

Following a period of economic downturn resulting from low world oil prices, Alberta's economy is now in a state of recovery. Overall employment levels have improved and investment in the oil and gas sector is resuming. However, the effects of lower world oil prices are still being felt in the form of reduced corporate profits, household incomes and provincial government revenue. This period of economic recovery is expected to continue into 2018.

As of July 2017, Alberta's population was estimated to be 4.3 million people. In the last year, the population grew 1.2 per cent with an annual projected growth rate of 1.4 per cent in the coming years. Nearly half of this growth will be driven by international migration. Alberta's Indigenous population is also growing, with a majority of individuals living off-reserve in urban settings. Alberta is a youthful province, with approximately 70 per cent of the population being working age. As of January 2018, there were about 570,000 Albertans age 65 years and older, comprising approximately 13 per cent of the population. The population of seniors is expected to almost double to one million by 2035. Furthermore, the proportion of seniors age 80 and older is expected to significantly increase.

The ministry will continue to develop and implement a variety of programs and initiatives that help seniors to age in the communities where they most want to be. The ministry will focus on providing financial and social supports, including elder abuse prevention initiatives, which assist seniors to remain safe, healthy and independent. The ministry will also promote age-friendly initiatives that support communities to develop approaches that are inclusive and welcoming.

Older Albertans may also deal with subtle prejudices, such as disrespectful attitudes, or substantial impacts, such as discrimination, in various facets of their lives. In 2012, the Revera Report on Ageism found over half of respondents believe ageism is the most tolerated form of social prejudice in Canadian society. The ministry will support activities that recognize the contributions seniors make to our province and help to create an inclusive Alberta by addressing ageism.

Advancing gender equality is a priority for the Government of Alberta. Gender equality is intrinsically linked to social and economic growth and is vital to the realization of human rights for all. Across government, this commitment has been operationalized through the adoption of Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) and establishment of Centres of Responsibility in each ministry, including Seniors and Housing, to assess the gender and diversity implications of engagement processes, policies, programs and initiatives.

The ministry will also continue to focus on supporting Albertans' needs by increasing access to safe, appropriate and affordable housing through the implementation of the Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy. The ministry will build upon investments in new affordable housing supply and the maintenance and renewal of existing government-owned and supported housing units with enhanced programs aimed at integrating sustainable housing with other supports. The ministry will continue to work with diverse communities, including Indigenous peoples and newcomers, to further initiatives that support investments in affordable housing options.

Affordable housing solutions require the participation of government and community partners. Seniors and Housing will work with stakeholders and other orders of government towards the shared goals of a sustainable, affordable and environmentally-responsible housing system for the province and the integration of supports and services. Local organizations and community leaders throughout the province will continue to be essential partners in the delivery and sustainability of our government's affordable housing programs. The ministry will focus on maintaining and improving these relationships with partner organizations who understand that these houses, apartments and lodges are more than bricks and mortar; they are homes for thousands of Albertans who are contributing to communities across the province.

In a society characterized by fast-paced technological advancements, the ministry will leverage emerging technologies and innovations to develop and implement sustainable, evidence-based solutions to meet the needs of seniors, as well as Albertans in need of affordable housing.

Outcomes, Key Strategies and Performance Measures

Outcome One: Seniors have access to programs, services and supports that help them live safely and independently in their chosen communities

Key Strategies:

- 1.1 Provide individual and community-based programs and services that support seniors to fully participate in their chosen communities.
- 1.2 Explore approaches to effectively respond to current and future needs of the diverse population of seniors, such as Indigenous, newcomer, or LGBTQ seniors, who reside in the province.
- 1.3 Develop and implement initiatives to address ageism and recognize seniors' vital contributions to the province.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2017-18	Target 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
1.a Percentage of Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair Program (SHARP) loan recipients who report the program will help them to remain in their homes longer (biennial survey)	91%	90% +	n/a ¹	90% +

Note:

¹ Data for this measure is collected every other year after the first two years. As such, there is no new data for 2019-20 and no target set for that year.

Linking Performance Measures to Outcomes:

1.a SHARP provides low-interest home equity loans that help Alberta seniors fund repairs and adaptations to their homes. This measure speaks to the impact of SHARP to help seniors to afford to repair and adapt their home to live safely and independently in their chosen communities.

Performance Indicators	Actual (Year)	Actual (Year)	Actual (Year)	Actual (Year)
1.a Increase in the awareness of elder abuse indicators and available resources for clients.				
• Post-training, the percentage of community service providers who reported increased awareness of how to identify, prevent and report elder abuse	94% (2013-14)	85% (2014-15)	84% (2015-16)	86% (2016-17)
• Post-training, the percentage of community service providers who reported increased ability to respond to elder abuse	96% (2013-14)	89% (2014-15)	87% (2015-16)	90% (2016-17)
1.b Seniors' Income Relative to Population ¹				
• Seniors' median income as a proportion of population median income				
» Alberta			68.4%	72.3%
» Canada			79.0% (2014)	79.6% (2015)
1.c Seniors' Life Satisfaction ²				
• Percentage of Alberta seniors reporting life satisfaction (satisfied or very satisfied)				
» Alberta			89.2%	90.6%
» Canada			89.3% (2013-14)	89.8% (2015-16)
1.d Seniors' Volunteer Rate ³				
• Percentage of seniors who volunteer in their communities, 65–74 years				
» Alberta				42.9%
» Canada				38.2% (2013-14)
• Percentage of seniors who volunteer in their communities, 75 years and older				
» Alberta				31.1%
» Canada				27.3% (2013-14)

Notes:

¹ Source: Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 111-0035 Seniors' characteristics, by family type, age of oldest individual, and source of income, annual. Updated annually.

² Source: 2009-10 to 2013-14: Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 105-0502 – Health indicator profile, two-year period estimates, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (2013 boundaries) and peer groups, occasional. 2016-15: Statistics Canada CANSIM table 105-0509. Canadian health characteristics, two-year period estimates, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces and territories and health regions. Updated every two years.

³ Data for Seniors' Volunteer Rate is updated by Statistics Canada every five years. The next data collection cycle is scheduled for 2018.

Outcome Two: Albertans have access to appropriate housing and integrated housing supports

Key Strategies:

- 2.1 Continue to work with housing providers, other orders of government and stakeholders to advance the actions of the Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy.
- 2.2 Continue to invest in a sustainable housing system through regeneration, renewal and building a new supply of affordable housing options through collaboration with other levels of government and housing providers.
- 2.3 Implement an affordable housing program to provide affordable housing options for off-reserve Indigenous populations in the province.
- 2.4 Work with the federal government to establish agreements that outline how federal funding will support improved affordability for Albertans, protect and regenerate Alberta's affordable housing portfolio.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2015-16	Target 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
2.a Housing Facilities – Physical Condition:				
• Percentage in good condition	33%	34%	35%	36%
• Percentage in fair condition	63%	62%	62%	61%
• Percentage in poor condition	4%	4%	3%	3%

Linking Performance Measures to Outcomes:

- 2.a An integral component of providing appropriate housing is providing adequate housing (i.e., housing that is in good or fair condition and not in need of any major repairs such as defective plumbing or electrical systems and structural repairs to walls, floors and ceilings). To ensure that more than 47,000 units in the housing portfolio provide suitable, appropriate shelter for residents, each of these units is evaluated every five years using international facility condition standards. By tracking and reporting the physical condition using the Facility Condition Index in Performance Measure 2.a, Alberta Seniors and Housing can monitor the condition of the housing portfolio and direct resources to maintaining and improving units to ensure the availability of appropriate housing.

Performance Indicator	Actual 2001	Actual 2006	Actual 2011	Actual 2016
2.a Percentage of Alberta rental households in core housing need ¹ :				
• All rental households	23.1%	22.8%	23.2%	n/a ²
• Senior-led households	33.5%	37.4%	41.9%	n/a
• Lone parent families	42.4%	39.6%	41.2%	n/a
• Aboriginal ³ households	31.1%	28.1%	31.5%	n/a

Notes:

- ¹ A Canadian household is deemed in core housing need if its shelter does not meet the acceptable standards for adequacy, affordability, or suitability; and the household would have to pay more than 30 per cent of its before-tax income for housing that meets acceptable standards. This indicator was developed by the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC). It is updated every five years with data from the Census and the National Household Survey.
- ² Data has not yet been released on CMHC website for 2016. Anticipated release date is Spring 2018.
- ³ In this instance, the term Aboriginal, rather than Indigenous is used, as this is how survey respondents self-identified in the National Household Survey responses in 2001, 2006, and 2011.

Risks to Achieving Outcomes

Reduced provincial government revenue may limit resources available to support programming and initiatives, including the ability to develop new housing stock and renew existing structures.

Natural disasters, such as fires and floods, may affect the ministry's ability to focus on planned initiatives as resources are diverted to emergency management and recovery response.

Changes to funding levels or eligibility requirements for housing or support programs provided by other orders of government could result in pressure for the ministry to adjust current and future commitments.

Any changes to supports provided by other levels of government could potentially affect the incomes of Alberta's seniors and impact ministry financial benefit programs. Should the impact be significant enough, it could create an un-resourced demand for ministry benefits and supports over the course of the three-year business cycle. As well, an increasingly diverse and aging population may increase demand for affordable housing and other support programs beyond the available supply.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable			2018-19 Estimate	2019-20 Target	2020-21 Target
	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Other Transfers from Government of Canada	133,777	114,703	115,203	112,164	99,484	86,113
Investment Income	2,665	2,894	2,894	3,492	3,882	4,060
Other Revenue	70,604	18,733	20,933	10,627	10,642	10,654
Ministry Total	207,046	136,330	139,030	126,283	114,008	100,827
Consolidated Total	207,046	136,330	139,030	126,283	114,008	100,827
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	8,186	8,345	8,345	8,137	8,130	8,119
Seniors Services	32,903	35,015	34,615	34,583	34,583	34,583
Alberta Seniors Benefit	356,820	364,733	364,733	374,101	380,501	386,401
Housing	10,753	12,273	12,553	12,073	12,073	11,873
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	326,791	266,942	312,526	261,302	273,422	270,238
Ministry Total	735,453	687,308	732,772	690,196	708,709	711,214
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(6,981)	-	(13,584)	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	728,472	687,308	719,188	690,196	708,709	711,214
Net Operating Result	(521,426)	(550,978)	(580,158)	(563,913)	(594,701)	(610,387)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	141,059	257,973	172,673	235,140	173,376	70,301
Ministry Total	141,059	257,973	172,673	235,140	173,376	70,301
Consolidated Total	141,059	257,973	172,673	235,140	173,376	70,301