

Red Tape Reduction annual report 2021-2022



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“Thanks to the thousands of ideas we have received from Albertans, and Alberta business and industry, we have now reduced over 27 per cent of government red tape. We have also eliminated more than one-third of the requirements inherited at the beginning of our term.

The success of the past three years has demonstrated that Alberta is a national leader in red tape reduction, as we continue to make life easier for our citizens and job creators.”

Honourable Dale Nally

Message from the Minister



I am pleased to present the 2021-22 Red Tape Reduction Annual Report, which details our government's success in reducing regulatory burden over the last year and how we are making life better for everyday Albertans and job creators.

Alberta's government continues to work hard to eliminate the red tape that gets in the way of businesses and costs Albertans time and money. As of January 1, 2023, we have eliminated more than one-third of the regulatory requirements inherited at the beginning of our term while implementing more than 575 initiatives to eliminate or reduce red tape. Our success has been acknowledged for the last several years by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), which continues to recognize Alberta as one of the country's top performers.

Government has taken a close look at what we regulate with a focus on transforming and modernizing how we regulate. We are shifting the culture across government to only develop new regulations when it is necessary and putting the focus on responsible regulations. For every regulatory requirement added in the last three years, four have been eliminated.

This new way of regulating is helping to drive economic growth and investment in Alberta in both traditional and emerging sectors, while enabling faster, more-streamlined approval processes, better delivery of government services and supports, and increased labour mobility. By focusing on outcomes, government has gotten out of the way of job creators to allow them to continue to grow their businesses while improving how government provides its services.

Simply put: modernizing regulations reduces costs for Albertans and makes Alberta a great place to live, invest, and do business. Since 2019, we have saved Albertans and businesses at least \$2.1 billion.

I am proud of the progress we have made to date, and look forward to the future opportunities that the important work of reducing red tape continues to open up.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long tail, positioned above the printed name and title.

Honourable Dale Nally

Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Executive Summary

Red tape is the unnecessary regulatory compliance burden that gets in the way of Albertans and Alberta businesses. Complex program requirements, overly prescriptive regulations, or rules that do not seem to serve a purpose are all instances of red tape. In 2019, government promised to make life easier for Albertans and drive the province's economy forward through the commitment to reduce red tape by one third by 2023.

In the past several years, government has undertaken thorough reviews of its legislation, regulations, policies and forms that have reduced red tape by more than 27 per cent. From July 2021 to June 2022, government amended 23 pieces of legislation through two red tape reduction bills, ranging from promoting economic growth by allowing municipalities to create entertainment districts, to ensuring contractors and subcontractors are paid on time.

Red tape reduction efforts have also been guided by the principle of regulating only when necessary. This means that while rules must be maintained to safeguard the health and safety of citizens and protect the environment, the rules need to be designed in a way that results in better outcomes.

Government has relied on recommendations from Albertans, businesses and industry on ways to cut red tape. This includes recommendations received through the red tape

reduction website alberta.ca/cut-red-tape.aspx (cutredtape@gov.ab.ca) and the nine Red Tape Reduction Industry Panels that represent the province's key economic sectors. As of January 1, 2023, government has implemented more than 575 red tape reduction initiatives thanks to this input, with over 100 more planned for 2023.

While significant success has been achieved, more work needs to be done. Government continues to engage with innovators and entrepreneurs in emerging and growing industries—such as logistics, aviation and aerospace, emerging technology, and pharmaceuticals.

This collaboration will identify more areas of regulatory burden that can be eliminated and in turn help diversify the province's economy and drive investment to Alberta.

This report highlights not only the key red tape reduction successes of the third reporting year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022), but also the enduring, transformational impact and financial savings for Albertans resulting from this work since 2019, which sets the path for continued prosperity in Alberta.



Red Tape Reduction from 2019-22

Red tape can cause frustration, delays and complications in everyday life, while hindering entrepreneurship and reducing the province's competitive advantage. The red tape reduction (RTR) success stories highlighted in this report, whether as standalone projects or components of larger government strategies, not only supported Alberta's economic recovery, but have also focused on strengthening Alberta's workforce; growing Alberta's resources industries; building for the future; helping everyday Albertans, and diversifying our province's economy.



Driving Economic Growth

Red tape reduction continues to drive economic growth by supporting business development and economic diversification. Combined with other government achievements such as implementing the Job Creation Tax Cut, which reduced Alberta's corporate tax rate from 12 to eight per cent, the RTR successes highlighted below have helped to secure Alberta's position as a preferred destination for investment and economic development.

Supporting Business Growth and Investment

By reducing red tape, government is supporting businesses to attract and retain investment and skilled labour. This work includes simplifying forms for permits or grants, reducing wait times for regulatory and funding approvals, and supporting post-secondary institutions in creating a skilled workforce for the future.

Enhancing Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

As of December 1, 2021, amendments to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* have removed regulatory barriers and simplified language to make OHS laws easier to understand and follow. These changes included introducing flexible requirements for health and safety committees and representatives, allowing employers to tailor their workplace committees to the specific needs of the jobsite.

An online OHS tool was launched in July 2022 to make the Act, Regulation and Code available as a searchable document that allows workplace health and safety professionals to more easily identify and apply workplace rules and training.

Focusing on the Future—Streamlined Post-Secondary Approval Process

The Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs strategy (2030 Strategy) sets the direction for Alberta's higher education system to develop a highly skilled and competitive workforce, strengthen innovation and commercialization of research, and forge stronger relationships between employers and post-secondary institutions.

Released in April 2021, the 2030 Strategy included a commitment to streamline the program approval process for post-secondary institutions giving them more flexibility to develop new and innovative programs that respond to student and labour market needs.

The new process eliminates unnecessary application requirements, enables post-secondary institutions to undertake independent reviews and improves turnaround time for program approvals. In total, government has reduced the information required for a review by 70 per cent and shortened approval times to 20 working days for new certificate or diploma programs and 40 working days for new degree programs. Post-secondary institutions can now focus more time and effort on delivering career-ready graduates who have the skills they need to meet labour market

demands, rather than working on submissions and waiting on program approvals.

Supporting Alberta's Trades

To ensure Alberta has the skilled workforce it needs—now and into the future—government passed the new *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act* (STAEA). This Act will help address labour shortages in skilled trades professions by making the apprenticeship system more flexible and responsive.

Albertans can now register and begin taking classroom instruction prior to finding sponsorship and employment. This reduces barriers to entry for Albertans who struggle to find sponsorship or employment in a trade without experience or industry connections. In addition, sponsors no longer need to be the direct employer of an apprentice, which allows for participation from a broader range of stakeholders.

The STAEA establishes a new Alberta Board of Skilled Trades, which is dedicated to supporting and enhancing apprenticeship programs in the province by consulting with industry and providing recommendations to government.

Additional changes under the Act separate apprenticeship education from skilled trades in legislation, enabling the expansion of the apprenticeship model to professions beyond designated trades. This opens the door for future use of the apprenticeship education model by industries that do not see themselves as a trade, but want to take advantage of the apprenticeship learning model. This change will help address labour market needs for high-demand sectors such as agricultural technology, graphic design, cybersecurity and more, as apprenticeship learning provides employers with an immediate workforce and learners with opportunities to develop real-world skills through paid employment.

Education credentials are now awarded to apprentices who complete an apprenticeship education program as a formal acknowledgement that a person has completed a post-secondary program of study. Education credentials can help employers (even those outside of the trades) understand the level of education someone has received. They can also help open doors to further education, as post-secondary institutions may award credit toward to other relevant post-secondary programs based on the education credential.

Ultimately, the STAEA is positioning the trades for future growth, and will make it easier for Albertans to gain employable skills in a wider variety of sectors. Engagement with industry is ongoing to continue to enhance Alberta's apprenticeship system.

New Business Opportunities through Entertainment Districts and Online Cannabis Sales

Government continues to make the province's liquor and cannabis laws more flexible and responsive to industry and consumers through amendments to the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*, which were part of the *Red Tape Implementation Act, 2021 (No.2)* proclaimed in March 2022.

These changes permit Alberta's municipalities to establish entertainment districts through bylaws, allowing liquor to be consumed openly outside of a licensed establishment. Entertainment districts give Albertans and visitors to the province more options to socialize and enjoy themselves in a responsible manner, while promoting tourism and supporting small local businesses.

Additionally, licensed retail cannabis stores can now provide online cannabis sales and delivery options for their customers, creating new revenue opportunities, spurring private sector investment and job creation, increasing consumer choice, and ultimately strengthening the legal market. To date, over 270 licensees are benefiting from these new revenue opportunities. With this amendment, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis has also withdrawn from online cannabis sales.

Prompt Payment for the Construction Industry

Alberta's construction industry is a multi-billion dollar sector of the province's economy that provides thousands of jobs for Albertans. New rules under the *Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act* (formerly the *Builders' Lien Act*) introduce timelines and rules for payments and liens in all construction industry sectors, ensuring contractors and subcontractors are paid on time.

Further improvements, like extending lien registration timelines and better aligning payment rules with those of other provinces, make it easier for builders to determine which rules apply to their projects, reducing time spent on contract negotiations. Additional changes also allow dispute resolution to occur through an adjudication body, meaning more businesses will be able to avoid the courts and the associated time and costs.

These changes allow the construction industry to operate with more certainty, which promotes further investment through increased investor confidence and reduced risk.

Banking on a Better Financial System

Changes to the *Loan and Trust Corporations Act* were made to shorten timelines to process applications to incorporate loan and trust companies, allowing these types of businesses to become operational in Alberta more quickly.

In doing so, government continues to encourage diversification and make Alberta the most attractive destination to invest and do business.

Diversifying Alberta's Economy

A diverse economy ensures the province's continued economic growth and success. Reducing red tape to support the development of a diverse economy better positions Alberta to attract new investment, economic development and skilled labour.

Taking Advantage of Geothermal Resources

With a natural geographical advantage, extensive oil and gas expertise, and leadership in drilling technology, Alberta is well-positioned to attract investment in the emerging global geothermal energy industry.

Recognizing this potential, government implemented the *Geothermal Resource Development Act* (GRDA) in December 2021 to create regulations for the development of geothermal projects in Alberta.

The GRDA establishes the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) as the sole regulator for deep geothermal energy developments to ensure the safe, efficient and responsible development of the resource.

The GRDA regulatory framework clarifies ownership of a geothermal resource and a licensing regime for developments in the province. Further, the GRDA provides direction on the amount of environmental monitoring information that must be submitted by industry by outlining clear processes for how a geothermal resource lease is granted in Alberta.

This regulatory clarity means that industry can focus their time, money and efforts on geothermal development, instead of navigating legal issues and undefined processes.

Investing in Alberta's Mineral Future

Alberta has an abundant supply of minerals such as lithium, rare earth elements, and vanadium—several of which are essential for producing renewable technologies such as batteries for electric vehicles. Currently, the North American market relies mainly on imports for these minerals, but Alberta has the potential to diversify the supply chain that is currently dominated by international players, such as China and Australia.

On November 4, 2021, government released *Renewing Alberta's Mineral Future: A strategy to re-energize Alberta's minerals sector* to help industry capitalize on Alberta's potential in this sector. The strategy outlines a path to unlock Alberta's untapped mineral resources through responsible and efficient exploration and development of minerals and mineral products.

As part of this strategy, government made changes to the *Mineral Resource Development Act* to give the AER sole regulatory authority over mineral exploration and production in the province.

Giving the AER authority over minerals and energy resources allows for a “one-window” approach that creates a more certain and regulatory environment for investors and reduces compliance burden for industry, as they no longer need to submit multiple, duplicative applications to different regulatory authorities.

Reaching New Heights of Innovation

There is a growing global demand for helium in the manufacturing of products like semiconductors, fibre-optic cables, MRI machines and LCD screens. As helium can be captured as a by-product of natural gas production, Alberta has the potential to be a primary investment destination for helium extraction.

To support and promote exploration and drilling, government implemented a helium royalty rate of 4.25 per cent, providing greater regulatory certainty for industry. Companies had often expressed interest in investing in Alberta's helium potential, but the lack of a royalty rate—as found in other comparable jurisdictions such as Saskatchewan—was a barrier to investment.

Since 2020, approximately \$6.9 million in helium has been extracted through nine projects in the province, generating an estimated \$297,275 in helium royalties for government to date. While total figures for helium production are not yet available

for 2022, an additional seven wells are projected to start drilling by end of year, and by 2025, it is expected the province will have 19 wells in production.

Financial Innovation through a Regulatory Sandbox

Many financial technology companies (fintech) want to test new, innovative products, but they often lack the regulatory environment to pilot and refine their products.

In July 2022, government passed the *Financial Innovation Act*, which establishes a “regulatory sandbox” for Alberta financial services and fintech companies to have a safe space where innovative products and services can be tested without immediately meeting all existing regulatory requirements. By allowing companies time-limited exemptions from these requirements, fintech companies will be able to create new jobs and explore innovative financial solutions without facing legal and regulatory uncertainty.

Alberta is the first province in Canada to establish a regulatory sandbox for the fintech sector, providing a strong incentive for new and existing companies to operate their businesses in Alberta. As a result, Albertans will benefit from additional opportunities for jobs and a greater choice of products and services, which could ultimately lead to more competition and lower costs for consumers.

Mandatory Entry Level Training for Drivers

To address ongoing driver shortages without compromising Alberta's road safety, government has implemented an initiative that reduces burden on individuals employed or looking for employment in the transportation industry.

Government developed a program to recognize previous experience by drivers operating commercial trucks to make commercial driving training through the Mandatory Entry level Training Program (MELT) faster and more affordable to obtain without sacrificing safety. The Experience and Equivalency Class 1 MELT Program was established in November 2020 to give Class 3 drivers with a minimum of two years of experience operating commercial trucks the opportunity to take a 40-hour training program that costs up to \$4,000 instead of the 113-hour Class 1 MELT Program that costs up to \$10,000.

In December 2021, the Experience and Equivalency Program was expanded to consider eligibility for drivers who already hold a valid Class 1 or 2 commercial driving licence, on top of

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the Class 3 drivers licence. Over 400 Albertans were approved to take the Experience and Equivalency Program between 2020 and 2022, representing approximately \$2 million in savings for Albertans employed in the transportation industry.

Focusing on Film and Television Tax Credit

Alberta is gaining prominence as a major film and television production centre in Canada. To support this industry, government offers the Film and Television Tax Credit (FTTC), where credit amounts are paid out to corporations based on their eligible Alberta production and labour costs. This includes the costs of producing films, television series and other eligible screen-based productions in the province.

In March 2021, government removed a \$10 million-per-project cap for the film and television tax credit program and improved the application and reporting requirements for the program.

Since the program's launch in January 2020, more than 60 medium and large-scale productions have applied for the tax credit. Those productions are expected to attract more than \$557 million in investment to the province and generate more than 11,500 direct and indirect jobs in urban and rural communities.

Investing in Alberta Tourism

Alberta's visitor economy provides a significant financial contribution to the province, and the Alberta government is developing a tourism strategy to grow the visitor economy.

To help reach this goal, government expanded Travel Alberta's mandate by amending the *Travel Alberta Act* as part of the *Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2021*.

Through these amendments, Travel Alberta has assumed primary responsibility for tourism development, which expanded its existing responsibilities for marketing and promotion.

The consolidation of these functions under Travel Alberta means that tourism operators, communities and entrepreneurs, who previously had to navigate multiple government bodies and agencies, will now be able to receive support from one agency in all aspects of tourism development—from the creation of new tourism experiences, products and destinations to marketing and promotion.





Improving Service Delivery

The Government of Alberta remains committed to providing efficient and effective public supports to all Albertans. Important changes continue to be made to streamline application processes for grants and essential social supports, and help Albertans better navigate the services and supports available to them.

Access to Services

Albertans deserve to have government programs and services that are easy to find and easy to understand. By establishing funding certainty through multi-year grant agreements, improving online information and reducing the administrative burden of accessing services, government is working to create a better experience for Albertans.

Centralizing Information in the Women's Hub

The Women's Hub, launched on June 17, 2022, is an online directory that provides a one-stop location to search for opportunities and government supports to help women succeed at work, at home, and in the community.

The Women's Hub is a centralized database of more than 180 programs, services and resources that can help the user find the best supports to meet their needs. Programs captured in the database include services and benefits related to children and families, career and finances, survivors of violence, community participation, and health services.

The Women's Hub database currently contains information on 183 different resources, and the site continues to be updated as new resources are available.

Improving Accessibility for the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Program

A number of improvements have been made to the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program for Albertans.

AISH now has a simpler online application process that requires only the necessary information be provided to determine program eligibility. The new application process has reduced application-processing time to allow eligible applicants to receive their benefits more quickly and easily.

Government has also ensured that AISH recipients can receive Seniors Benefits when they turn 65 by eliminating the requirement to submit a separate application. As government already has the required information from the recipient's AISH file, automating the transfer to Seniors Benefits removes an unnecessary administrative process and ensures AISH recipients maintain uninterrupted financial assistance.

Improving Transactions through the Residential Tenancies Act

Through amendments made to the *Residential Tenancies Act* as part of the *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022*, government has modernized legislation to provide property owners with the ability to return damage deposits and other documentation electronically to tenants, using modern methods such as e-transfer, when agreed to in writing by both the property owner and tenant.

Previously, the options for returning security deposits to tenants were limited to in-person delivery or mail, which cost time and money for rental companies and smaller private property owners.

Modernizing Continuing Care Delivery

Through the *Continuing Care Act*, government is consolidating multiple pieces of legislation into one act, which establishes clear and consistent authority and oversight for the delivery of continuing care services and settings.

This change, which is expected to be implemented in 2023, will better support Albertans moving between types of care and settings, such as home and community care, supportive living accommodations, or continuing care homes, as the services will now be legislatively aligned.

With this new Act, Alberta will be the only jurisdiction in Canada with one integrated piece of legislation for its continuing care system.

Simplifying Funding Applications and Reporting

Grant funding has the ability to support transformational projects that improve Albertans' wellbeing by enabling the delivery of community-focused programming, or providing additional financial assistance for local capital projects. By eliminating the administrative barriers to applying for and reporting on funding, government is making it easier for Albertans to access available grants to support their worthwhile projects or causes.

Family and Community Support Services Reform

The Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) program is a funding partnership between the provincial government, participating municipalities and Metis Settlements. Local FCSS programs are intended to help individuals adopt healthy lifestyles, improve their quality of life and build the skills and abilities needed to prevent and/or deal with adversity.

Across Alberta, FCSS grants support summer day camps, community volunteer appreciation events, home support programs, and welcoming programs to assist newcomers.

Government streamlined the delivery of FCSS funding by transitioning 205 grants for municipalities and Metis Settlements from single-year funding agreements to three-year agreements.

This change reduces application and reporting frequency by two-thirds, allowing service providers to spend less time on annual grant applications and reporting and spend more time and resources assisting clients.

Reporting requirements have also been simplified by combining financial and outcome reporting into one document. These common sense efficiencies will save an estimated five to 22 days' worth of time per year for communities that administer FCSS programs.

Updating the Post-Secondary Mental Health Grant

The Post-Secondary Mental Health Grant provides funding to post-secondary institutions to expand mental health services for students. Recognizing the importance of this service, government has streamlined grant application processes to make it easier for post-secondary institutions to access this funding.

This includes reducing the number of internal approvals required in government's application review process, and shifting from a one-year to a three-year grant, beginning with the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This means post-secondary institutions are required to spend less time completing application and reporting paperwork.

Introducing Crowdfunding Alberta

Launched by government in November 2021, Crowdfunding Alberta (crowdfunding.alberta.ca) offers another avenue to how non-profits can raise the funds they require.

Crowdfunding Alberta enables organizations to raise more money faster by receiving small contributions from a larger number of donors. This online tool allows donors to research more than 26,200 organizations to determine which non-profit organizations they would like to support.

By emulating methods made popular through social media, Crowdfunding Alberta creates a fundraising experience low in red tape and high in flexibility and connectivity.

Support for Alberta Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Service Networks

In 2021, the Government of Alberta changed grants for all of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Service Networks from single-year to three-year agreements, creating a more stable and consistent source of funding for the province's 12 community-based Service Networks.

These grants support essential Service Network programs including education and training about FASD, outreach support and mentorship, and employment and housing supports.

Changing to multi-year agreements allows Service Networks to focus on delivering important programs and services without interruption rather than producing yearly business plans and completing annual paperwork. This reduced reporting frequency saves days' worth of time for every Service Network each year.



Adopting Digital Solutions

Alberta continues to embrace digital solutions to speed up environmental regulatory approvals, increase the transparency of consultation with Indigenous communities and improve access to health records.

Government remains committed to increasing convenience and speeding up processing times by moving more programs and services online, while continuing to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of information. Government has implemented new systems and improved processes to reduce the administrative tasks for public service staff so they can spend more time on front line support for Albertans.

Streamlining Environmental Application Decisions for Industry

On June 21, 2021, Environment and Parks introduced the Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS). DRAS replaces paper-based applications and multiple independent application systems with one consolidated system for environmental regulatory and permit applications and monitoring, typically associated with industrial projects.

DRAS greatly improves the process by providing clear, specific instructions for completing applications, allowing simpler applications to move through more quickly. DRAS also allows users to track their applications and address errors or missing information directly in the system, allowing these gaps in an application to be addressed without requiring the applicant to go back to the beginning of the process.

Two of seven DRAS modules have been released. Release 1 was completed in June 2021, and allowed for the online submission of applications, amendments, and codes of practice notices pertaining to the *Water Act*. From this module alone, a 50 per cent reduction in application decision backlogs was reported.

Release 2 brought applications for temporary diversion licences online (used for emergency water supply, for example), as well as surface water and groundwater licence applications, amendments, amalgamations, transfers, and renewals.

Additional DRAS modules will be released through 2024 to improve industry's environmental application process and reduce cost and time for applicants and government.

BERNIE - Services through a Single Electronic Portal

In the past, government used more than 80 different contact centres to deliver services to Albertans. To help standardize service delivery, government has adopted the BERNIE portal—a centralized, self-service website with multiple service capabilities.

BERNIE is already providing Albertans with a number of self-service service options, such as the ability to purchase a daily or yearly Kananaskis conservation pass online. BERNIE also offers an online tool for victims, or potential victims, of domestic violence in Alberta to apply under Clare's Law to find out information about a partner's history and risk of violence. The Alberta Emergency Management Agency,

Citizens Service Call Centres (which provide information on government services), and SafeRoads Alberta (the online system that allows Albertans to pay traffic fines electronically) are also using the BERNIE platform.

As additional services continue to be added throughout 2023, switching to BERNIE will mean quicker, more efficient and reliable services for Albertans, at a lower cost.

Simplifying Tax Submissions

In September 2021, government made it easier to access corporate income tax information by introducing service enhancements for the Tax and Revenue Administration Client Self-Service (TRACS) system. TRACS is a secure website that allows individuals and their designated representatives, such as accounting firms, to electronically access information administered by the Tax and Revenue Association.

New updates to TRACS allow individuals and businesses the option to designate their accounting firm with permissions to access TRACS on their behalf to obtain account information related to corporate income tax. Previously, accounting firms acting on behalf of clients were required to obtain account information from government by phone or email—a time-consuming process.

TRACS builds on Alberta's previous introduction of electronic filing (Netfile) for corporate income tax returns, which provides the user with immediate receipt confirmation of filing, faster processing, and the convenience of filing from anywhere.

Digital Solutions to Support Consultation

Land developers and industry undertake consultation to ensure that development on Crown lands does not adversely affect Indigenous communities' Treaty rights and traditional land use. In 2021, government introduced the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) Digital Service, an online tool that allows all participants involved in the consultation process (industry, ACO staff, and First Nations and Métis representatives) to easily view and manage the submission standards, and requirements of the consultation process in one centralized system.

This digital service is creating a more efficient consultation process, as it reduces the amount of time required to submit an application by approximately 80 per cent.

The tool provides updates in as little as five minutes, rather than 24 hours under the previous system. The ACO Digital

ADOPTING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

Service has reduced the number of applications with missing information from 50 per cent to just under 20 per cent, reducing government's administrative cost to fix application errors by an estimated \$1 million.

With less time spent on process, the ACO Digital System allows industry applicants and Indigenous communities to focus on consultation.

Modernizing the Human Rights Commission

Important changes to the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, made through the *Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2021 (No. 2)*, have modernized the Alberta Human Rights Commission's processes to address complaints more quickly, reduce the case backlog and make tribunal hearings more accessible.

Documents can now be filed and sent out to parties electronically, streamlining requests for information and enabling the commission to use less formal methods of resolving complaints. The focus is on the conciliation services, in which staff assist the parties in reaching resolution. The changes also permit a Deputy Director of the Commission to act on behalf of the Director to ensure continuation of services.

Altogether, the changes allow human rights complaints to be completed more quickly, while reducing process delays and case backlogs.

Accessing Government Services Using a Verified Account

To improve convenience and accessibility, government introduced verified accounts to allow Albertans to access more services digitally. The verified account is a free account that lets Albertans verify their identity online without paper documents or in-person visits to government offices, while protecting their information and privacy. Once they have created a verified account, Albertans can access a growing range of services through one convenient online portal, saving valuable time and effort

In 2021, government began to expand the number of registry services available online. Through MyAlberta eServices (eservices.alberta.ca) Albertans can now use their verified account to renew their driver's licence, or order specialty licence plates, abstracts, in-transit permits and duplicate vehicle registration certificates online. This option is especially important for Albertans who live in rural communities and may not have a registry office nearby.

Prior to these changes, many personal services—such as fine payments, birth certificates, camping reservations and hunting licences—as well as business services, including notary public renewals, and commercial carrier permit applications—could only be accessed through in-person visits to government offices, or through applications found across government web pages.

It is estimated these changes will save government \$2.7 million per year and more than 110,000 hours in administrative time.

A Digital Portal Supporting Albertans' Health

Through the creation of a digital portal, MyHealth Records, Albertans now have a single, secure place to quickly and easily access important health information related to their immunizations, dispensed medications and lab test results. MyHealth Records saves Albertans time, administrative burden and out-of-pocket expenses by eliminating the effort and cost associated with having to request paper copies of those records from health care providers.

This portal has been expanded to include virtual care services through secure online messaging between patients and providers, allowing Albertans to connect with their health care providers more easily. This service is especially helpful for those in rural areas, or to address relatively minor or routine needs such as prescription renewals.

A New Way of Using and Sharing Health Information to Improve Patient Care

Connect Care provides Alberta Health Services (AHS) health-care providers a central access point to more complete patient information related to AHS services. It provides resources, including medication alerts, evidence-based order sets, test and treatment suggestions and care paths, and best practice advisories, which result in fewer repeated tests and consistent information across the province wherever care is being provided.

Connect Care also facilitates direct communication between patients and providers through a patient portal, MyAHS Connect, which helps patients better manage their health with online access to their health information, including reports and test results. It also allows for online interaction with their care team, an ability to review and manage appointments and after visit care summaries, and less repeating of their health histories or need to remember complex histories or medication lists.

This system also significantly reduces the number of forms AHS uses and will help eliminate duplication of data entry. Connect Care facilitates reductions in AHS forms by providing patient care providers with access to Clinical Decision Support tools that support evidence-based practice within the system.

Each Connect Care launch enables more efficient data sharing, as data is collected once and then leveraged by multiple care delivery areas. So far, AHS has achieved a 28 per cent reduction of its regulatory and administrative requirements in forms and policies and will continue to see reductions with the ongoing rollout of Connect Care across the organization, continuing through 2024.

Expanding the Use of Digital Signatures

Government programs are moving from hard copy, mailed applications to convenient online applications. In April 2022, government launched an internal initiative to accept the use of digital signatures more widely across government ministries.

Through the use of digital signatures, program and service applications can be completed fully online. This saves both time and resources for those submitting government documents, such as grant applications. It is estimated that the transition to digital signatures will create annual savings of \$75,000 for government and an estimated 2,400 hours saved in administration.

Online Child Care Subsidy Application

Government recently launched a user-friendly online child care subsidy application that can be accessed on any computer, tablet or smartphone. The application eliminates previously required paper submissions, while also reducing follow-up emails and phone calls from staff to fix application errors, through improved question prompts. Instead, staff are able to focus on supporting children and families, and spend less time processing paperwork.

In 2018, the department received more than 95,000 paper submissions and documents, and fielded an estimated 87,000 calls from parents needing support and assistance with the old application system or with their paper application. It is estimated that by replacing paper forms and phone calls with an up-to-date, easy-to-use online system, Alberta taxpayers will save approximately \$1.1 million per year—all while reducing red tape for families.

Digital Reporting of Animal Health

Government has made it easier for Albertan veterinary clinics and livestock owners to report animal diseases that could pose a danger to human and animal health.

Through amendments to the *Animal Health Act*, included in the *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022*, Alberta veterinary clinics and livestock owners are now able to use more efficient, digital reporting methods, like email or text, to submit reports.

Government has made reporting requirements even easier to comply with by combining the Alberta Notifiable Diseases Reporting Form and the Reportable Diseases Reporting Form into a single form. This change will save veterinary clinics and livestock owners time and money each year by eliminating duplication in their reporting obligations.



Improving How We Regulate

While a certain amount of regulation is necessary to protect the health and welfare of Albertans, excessive and overly-prescriptive regulation can make complying with government requirements a frustrating experience. Government is determined to ensure that red tape does not creep back into legislation, regulations, policies, and forms. This work includes streamlining new regulatory requirements, taking an outcome-based approach to new regulation and including only the protections that are necessary.

Streamlining Permits and Approvals

By making applications for regulatory permits simpler and the language of regulations easier to understand, government is ensuring businesses can spend less time doing what is required of them.

Effective Development through Designated Industrial Zones (DIZ)

DIZs are provincially-approved areas of clustered industrial development that are subject to common environmental objectives, including air quality. Applying zone-wide regulations in these areas will save time and efforts for industry on regulatory applications and speed up approvals by aligning municipal planning and permitting requirements across the DIZ location.

The first DIZ pilot was set up in the Industrial Heartland northeast of Edmonton on October 1, 2022. This pilot will test the efficiency and effectiveness of operational requirements and environmental conditions that apply to facilities operating in the zone. Once the pilot concludes in September 2024, the approach will be reviewed to determine how it can be applied to support the development of other DIZs across Alberta.

The pilot project is expected to attract investment and support local economic development by providing greater certainty for industry on expected regulatory requirements, while increasing standards for air pollution.

Protecting our Heritage

Based on recommendations from industry, government has developed an innovative, outcome-based approach for companies to secure approvals for their operations, as outlined in the *Historical Resources Act*.

To ensure the protection of historically precious sites, major industrial projects, which have primarily been forestry and oil and gas-related, are required to complete a Historic Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA).

A new policy framework for regulating HRIAs will provide clear, consistent guidance on how companies are expected to operate within areas that have high potential of being a historical resource site. These changes will provide regulatory consistency, and as a result, companies will be able to implement internal policies to address potential historic resource concerns, leading to lower costs for industry and higher investment confidence.

This new regulatory framework is expected to be completed and ready for implementation by 2023.

Enabling Inter-municipal Business Licences

The latest updates made to the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) —as part of the *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022*— support local economic development and small business growth by allowing municipalities to establish inter-municipal business licences.

These licences allow businesses to operate across multiple municipalities without having to purchase a licence in each municipality. This change will enable mobile businesses (for example, food trucks or photographers) to operate more easily across municipal boundaries, eliminating the time and cost of obtaining multiple licences.

This change is part of government's commitment to a comprehensive review of the MGA to reduce regulatory duplication and support Alberta's municipalities in shaping their communities.

Supporting Motor Vehicle Accident Claims

Amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act* through the *Red Tape Statutes Amendment Act, 2022* allow the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC) program to protect Albertans injured by uninsured or unknown drivers (such as hit-and-runs or collisions with uninsured vehicles) by ensuring that victims are able to sue for damages and receive compensation for personal injuries directly from government.

Changes to the Act now enable the Administrator of the MVAC program to delegate powers and duties to ministry staff, resulting in a more efficient process for reviewing and approving claims.

Prior to this change, the Administrator was solely responsible for reviewing and approving even minor administrative tasks, such as approving very small compensation amounts, resulting in significant, unnecessary burden on the administrator and delays in decisions.

Speeding up Development with Highway Vicinity Management Agreements

To reduce the number of permit applications required for new roadside developments, government recently piloted Highway Vicinity Management Agreements (HVMAs). HVMAs are one-time agreements that allow landowners and developers to be exempt from obtaining provincial highway permits and approvals for activities that occur on or near provincial highways, such as road access, special events, sign installations, utility development amongst others.

HVMAs will eliminate the need for provincial approvals on top of municipal development approvals for developers and builders, resulting in timelier approvals for projects.

This is great news for landowners, developers, consultants and municipalities, who will now benefit from reduced approval times, an accelerated development process, and reduced regulatory burdens for projects located near provincial highways.

The HVMA pilot recently wrapped up, and feedback from the pilot municipalities will be used to deliver a final version of HVMAs in 2023. Once implemented province-wide, interested municipalities will be able to conveniently apply through a web-based system.

Outcome-Based Approaches

By taking a regulatory approach that focuses on the outcome rather than the process, government is removing needless obstacles to industry and businesses. This approach creates greater innovation, reduced costs for businesses, all while maintaining world-class conservation standards and environmental protections.

Modernizing Alberta Energy Regulator Directives

Based on input from environmental groups, Indigenous communities and industry, AER has embraced outcome-based environmental regulations.

AER Directive 50, which sets out requirements for the treatment and disposal of drilling waste was revised to ensure that methods used to manage drilling waste are protective of the environment, sites used to manage drilling waste can be restored to equivalent land capability, and drilling waste management practices meet AER requirements and environmental outcomes.

The revisions to the Directive will yield operational savings for industry operators without compromising the intent and regulatory objectives. The revisions clarify requirements, improve application efficiency, and enable operators to reduce environmental impact by reducing footprint.

In March 2022, the AER released a revised edition of Directive 058, which supports improved sustainable economic development and water conservation in petroleum and geothermal resource development. The changes allow for the reuse of water previously used in the fracking process—which becomes contaminated and classified as oilfield waste—to be stored and reused for further hydraulic fracturing.

What's at Stake with the Surveys Act

Updates to the *Surveys Act*, as part of the *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022*, are providing greater flexibility to surveyors and their clients.

As of June 30, 2022, modern surveying methods, such as mapping coordinates instead of physical posts, are reducing the costs associated with conducting surveys, as companies no longer need to purchase and place physical survey posts. This results in not only time and costs savings for surveyors but also for municipalities and private landowners who hire survey companies for their projects.

The use of modern surveying technology such as mapping coordinates leads to more permanent survey boundaries, as the coordinates cannot be disturbed or changed by events like weather, unlike physical posts.

Surveyors now have up to one year to register a survey plan with the Land Titles Office (LTO), giving them greater flexibility to complete their work in a manner that is best for them and their clients. This flexibility helps reduce the time spent by industry on compliance, and by government on extension requests.

Industry told government that previous timelines were often too constraining for surveyors and clients, resulting in the need for frequent extension requests to be filed with the LTO. These changes are estimated to reduce the number of annual extension requests to the department by 90 per cent.

Modernization of the Pharmacy Regulatory Framework

The *Pharmacy and Drug Act* (PDA) and the Pharmacy and Drug Regulation (PDR) regulate the practice of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy operations, including licensing requirements for pharmacies in Alberta. Changes to the PDA, included in the *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022*, and the PDR, now enable the Alberta College of Pharmacy (ACP) to create and enforce standards of practice for multiple aspects of licensed pharmacies' operations—for example, records handling and drug storage.

As creating standards of practice requires less time and administration than the previous requirement for government regulation, the ACP is now more nimble when providing oversight of pharmacy operations. The ACP can use its industry expertise to respond to the changing needs of pharmacy operations and the health care environment, including responding to major events such as natural disasters or drug shortages, enabling better services for all Albertans.

On Track with the *Railway (Alberta) Act*

Applying the goal of regulating with the lightest-touch, government has implemented changes to the *Railway (Alberta) Act*, which were included in the *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022*.

These changes enable heritage railway operators to apply to operate under a set of regulatory rules that are tailored to the needs and circumstances of their own operations, rather than being required to comply with the standardized and prescriptive operating rules that are designed for industrial railways.

While a standardized regulatory approach is generally warranted to ensure the effective operation and safety of *industrial* railways, government identified this approach as overly burdensome and unnecessary for *historic* railways.

Heritage railways typically operate within a historic park or site to provide recreational rides to individuals and have less complex equipment and operations, resulting in a lower need for rigorous industrial safety requirements. These amendments were effective on November 1, 2022.

Protecting the Environment

Alberta is home to beautiful national parks, forests, rivers and lakes, all of which are considered a priority when modernizing regulatory processes that may affect these natural resources.

Enhancing Responsible Crown Land Development

Crown land covers approximately 60 per cent of the province and is used for conservation, recreation and economic development. Alberta's Crown land is governed and managed according to the *Provincial Parks Act* and the *Public Lands Act*.

Changes made to these two Acts in May 2022 through the *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022* allow government to move away from a "one-size-fits-all" approach to regulating public activities on Crown land in favour of an outcome-based approach.

This approach allows government to tailor public use to specific regions, so that busy parks can have different requirements than remote areas with limited public use. These "place-based" guidelines allow Albertans to enjoy all provincial landscapes without unnecessarily onerous requirements, while still retaining responsible land use and environmental protections.

Cleaning Up Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells

While Alberta continues its history of a strong track record of responsible energy development, the inventory of orphaned and inactive wells has grown in recent years due to low commodity prices and the resulting economic downturn. Industry advised that an accelerated, outcome-focused approach was needed to clean up and close inactive wells.

In response, the Alberta government is improving its liability management framework (LMF) to expedite reclamation efforts and have industry better manage clean-up of oil and gas wells at every step of the process—from exploration through to reclamation and post-closure.

Under the LMF, the Alberta government sets the policy direction and provides oversight, while the AER is responsible for its administration—including monitoring progress, working with industry, and enforcement.

This policy is reflected in AER's Directive 088: Licensee Life-Cycle Management, released in December 2021, which allows the AER to assess a licensee's capabilities and performance across the energy development life cycle.

This policy will help the AER identify potential areas of concern earlier on, including instances where wells may be left abandoned, prior to issuing a licence.

The AER also introduced the Inventory Reduction Program, which increases the amount of oil and gas well closure work occurring in Alberta, reduces liability associated with orphan wells, and increases the amount of land being returned to original or alternative uses by setting industry-wide minimums for the amount of money companies must spend on work to close wells.

With clearer regulation, and a better ability to identify at-risk licensees, the LMF aims to shrink the inventory of inactive and orphaned wells across the province, accelerating the restoration of land.

The Future of Red Tape Reduction



The last three years of reducing red tape have successfully addressed a number of areas of overregulation, which often placed duplicative and unnecessary requirements on industry, Albertans and Alberta businesses. While government has reduced over 27 per cent of its red tape as of January 1, 2023, more work is planned. By March 2023, more than 100 more red tape reduction initiatives will be completed, or nearing completion. With even more initiatives planned beyond 2023, our government will continue to ensure that regulatory requirements do not creep back in and erode the success achieved.

The Government of Alberta has not only followed through on the commitment to reduce red tape, but is also focused on modernizing *how* to regulate and interact with Albertans.

The next phase of RTR will continue to build on the culture shift that is occurring across government, as ministries recognize the transformative scope of what government can achieve. This work will require ministries to apply an RTR lens to the development of policy and regulation, and embed RTR principles in government decision-making and day-to-day operations.

Government will continue to engage industry and Albertans to generate fresh ideas for how regulatory barriers can continue to be removed, and carry on with the tremendous transformation of the regulatory environment in Alberta over the past three years.

Following Through on Our Commitments

Government's work to reduce red tape has been supported by a number of key commitments, to both formalize the dedication to this important work and demonstrate a level of transparency in its success, which have been achieved as follows:

Commitment: Cut red tape by one-third to reduce costs for businesses and Albertans.

Achievement: Government has eliminated 27 per cent of its regulatory requirements since the beginning of its mandate, and completed over 575 initiatives that have saved Albertans an estimated \$2.1 billion.

Commitment: Create a Red Tape website where businesses, organizations, and the public can provide input on how red tape can be reduced in government programs and regulations.

Achievement: The government's public-facing website (www.alberta.ca/cut-red-tape.aspx) allows Albertans, businesses and organizations to provide recommendations to improve programs and processes directly to government.

Commitment: Appoint a Minister for Red Tape Reduction to lead the (Red Tape Reduction) Action Plan and meet the one-third reduction target.

Achievement: Over the course of the mandate, two Associate Ministers of Red Tape Reduction have been appointed to lead red tape reduction across government. In October 2022, the Ministry of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction was established. Through this continued leadership, government has eliminated over 27 per cent of its regulatory requirements.

Commitment: Pass a *Red Tape Reduction Act* to measure, report, and reduce regulatory burden for businesses and Albertans.

Achievement: The *Red Tape Reduction Act* was passed by Alberta's Legislative Assembly and received Royal Assent on June 28, 2019. The Act sets out the legislative framework and foundational principles to support government's RTR mandate, establishing a commitment to no net increase in regulatory or administrative burden, and requiring the Minister to publicly report on government's RTR progress.

Commitment: Enact further legislative changes and amendments to achieve government's red tape reduction targets, and reduce costs and regulatory burden for businesses, while making it easier for Albertans to access government programs and services.

Achievement: As of January 1, 2023, government has passed six Red Tape Reduction bills, including two in 2021-22, that have amended 59 pieces of legislation across 19 government ministries, resulting in hundreds of important changes. These have enabled economic growth and job creation for Alberta businesses, and improved government service delivery to better meet the needs of Albertans.¹

Commitment: Cut red tape within government to allow the public sector to focus on serving Albertans.

Achievement: Ministries across the Government of Alberta have taken a number of steps to reduce administrative burden that has resulted in better service and program delivery. This included allowing the use of digital signatures on government forms to allow for online submission of data, streamlining applications to remove requests for redundant data, and shifting from single-year to multi-year grant applications to reduce reporting frequency and save administrative burden for both Albertans and government.

Commitment: Adopt an outcome-based regulatory approach.

Achievement: Government has taken a close look at *what* it regulates, which, in turn, has helped transform *how* it regulates. Where regulation is necessary, government has implemented regulations in a common sense way that is less focused on prescribing every step.

Commitment: Fight for an end to interprovincial barriers to free trade.

Achievement: Alberta has the lowest number of trade exceptions (six) under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and in 2021-22 was scored the highest in Overall Inter-Provincial/Territorial Cooperation by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.²

¹ For a complete list and description of the Red Tape Reduction Implementation Bills from across the mandate, and their corresponding Red Tape Reduction amendments, please visit the [Government of Alberta – Implementing red tape reduction](http://www.alberta.ca/government-of-alberta-implementing-red-tape-reduction) website.

² For a complete breakdown of the CFIB's grading for internal trade, please visit the [CFIB website](http://www.cfib.ca).

Top 10 Cost Saving Initiatives

Since 2019, the work of red tape reduction has resulted in \$2.1 billion in direct cost savings for Alberta's job creators, individual Albertans and government. The following reflects the 10 most impactful initiatives that have demonstrated significant cost savings since 2019.

Initiative Name	Initiative Description	Cost Savings
Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Directive 020: Commingled Abandonment	Amendments to Directive 020 enabled commingled abandonment which allowed lower-risk oil and gas wells that have been developed together to be abandoned together if there is no risk to the public or environment. Previously, operators needed approval from the AER for each well licence. This change saved industry time and money that would have otherwise been spent on planning and material costs required to abandon wells while protecting the environment.	\$584 Million / one time
AER Directive 017: Measurement Requirements for Oil and Gas Operations	Revisions to Directive 017 removed certain well testing requirements in enhanced thermal operations. Removal of this prescriptive requirement will provide flexibility for in situ operators to potentially increase the number of wells on a pad, which could reduce overall footprint and decrease capital costs for pad development. This change will benefit the oil sands sector and improve well test data quality.	\$390 Million / one time
AER Directive 081: Water Disposal Limits and Reporting for In Situ Oil Sands Schemes	Updates to Directive 081 removed unnecessary or redundant requirements to expand the ability for oil sands companies to use recycled water (water produced as a by-product during the extraction of oil and natural gas) and alternative sources to fresh water sources for their operations. These changes enabled oil sands operators to use water resources appropriately while ensuring Alberta's freshwater resources remain adequately protected.	\$273 million / one time \$3.9 million / year
AER Survey and Mapping Standards Phase 1 and 2	Changes have been made to the Oil and Gas Conservation Rules that affect survey and mapping requirements for the oil and gas industry. Phase 1 removed the requirement for unnecessary surveys before pipeline construction and repealed provisions to exempt applicants from surveying the corner elevations of the well surface lease. Phase 2 allowed companies to submit existing sketches, such as technical drawings of planned activities, as part of their renewal applications for long-term leases of Crown/public lands instead of completing expensive surveys done by a professional land surveyor. Both phases have helped to reduce the cost of lease renewals for the energy industry.	\$253 million / one time \$9.2 million / year
Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)—Waivers and Variances	AESO allowed companies to request a one-time waiver, or variance, to an applicable requirement in Independent System Operator rules that do not have alternate options to fulfilling the stated requirements. The AESO has also reduced the amount of data required from individuals or organizations applying to implement, commission, and maintain new energy facilities in the power pool. These changes have helped industrial and smaller-scale operators avoid losing revenue from delays in rule compliance.	\$118 million / one time
Comprehensive Annual Care Plan (CACP)	Changes to the Schedule of Medical Benefits removed the billing for CACP, which is a collaborative document between patients and physicians that includes patient medical history, and clearly defined goals for patients with complex needs. Changes will eliminate the need for Albertans to pay a costly physician billing fee that had little impact on health care use and outcomes for individual patients.	\$111 million to date \$44 million / year
Pressure Vessel Variance (Oil and Gas Equipment Variance)	A change to the Gas Code Regulation gave oil and gas companies the option to use professional engineers using industry standards to verify the safety of some of their non-pressurized equipment. Previously, oil and gas companies were required by regulation to upgrade or alter existing equipment or engage a third-party inspection agency. Amendments will save Alberta's oil and gas industry from incurring external verification costs while adhering to safety requirements.	\$20 million / one time \$2.5 million / year
Elimination of the Child Care Accreditation System	Government removed a duplicative childcare accreditation system running parallel to childcare licensing as more than 95 per cent of licensed childcare centres in Alberta are already accredited. This measure will eliminate the administrative and paperwork burden for licensed childcare centres and day homes and require annual reviews required by an accrediting body every three years. These changes will allow childcare operators to spend more time meeting the needs of children in care.	\$12 million / one time \$3.8 million / year
AER Directive 50: Drilling Waste Management	The AER's new edition of Directive 050 includes changes that will yield operational cost savings without compromising the intent and regulatory objectives of the Directive. The revisions clarify requirements, improve application efficiency, and enable operators to reduce environmental impact by reducing footprint. It is anticipated that savings for industry of approximately \$10.7 million per year may be realized due to these changes. This estimate includes \$5.8 million per year of savings for reusing drilling waste storage systems beyond 5 years, and \$2.7 million per year for removing Atterberg limits in sump construction to align with other jurisdictions.	\$10.7 million / year
AER Directive 87: Well Integrity Insurance	Changes to Directive 087 eliminated prescriptive requirements for reporting and repairing wells, changed costly testing requirements to better address industry needs, and extended the number of attempts to repair equipment before seeking AER approval. These changes will reduce unnecessary AER oversight while allowing operators to save valuable resources and time by testing wells less frequently.	\$5 million / year

Measuring our Performance

Performance Measure: One-Third Reduction of Regulatory Requirements

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Target	5%	12%	20%	33%
Result	5%	15.7%	25.3%	-

In February 2020, the Government of Alberta completed a count of all regulatory requirements in its statutes, regulations, policies and forms (as of May 1, 2019) in order to establish a baseline against which to measure its progress in reducing red tape. Government also set cumulative fiscal-year targets of a five per cent reduction in 2019-20, 12 per cent reduction in 2020-21, and 20 per cent reduction in 2021-22, supporting the final reduction target of 33 per cent. Government has continuously met or exceeded each fiscal target. At the end of fiscal 2021-22, government reported a total reduction of 161,073 regulatory requirements from the May 1, 2019 baseline – making it one of the most comprehensive regulatory burden reduction efforts in Canada.

At the time of publication, government has achieved over 27 per cent reduction, and remains committed to achieving its target of a one-third reduction.

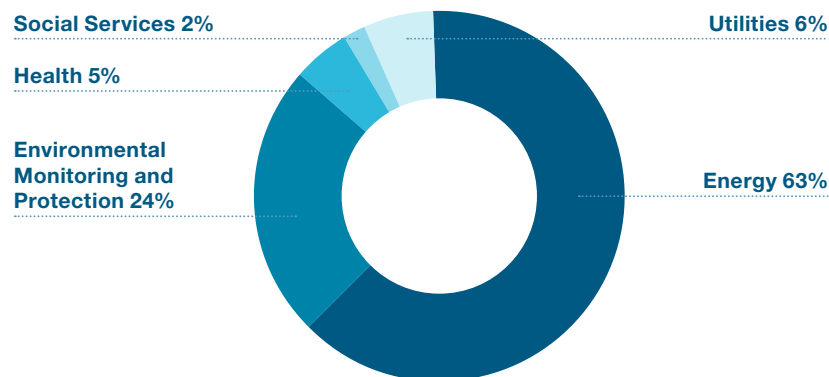
Performance Indicator: Direct Cost Savings

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Cumulative Total
Dollars Saved	\$476 million	\$722 million	\$900 million	\$2.1 billion

The high cost of complying with government regulation is a major form of red tape. Reducing this burden allows job creators to direct more money to investment and job creation, and allows Albertans to spend more time on activities they enjoy.

During summer 2022, PricewaterhouseCoopers assessed the cost savings created by the government’s most high-impact and measurable RTR initiatives that saved money and time for Albertan businesses, individuals, and non-profits. This report assessed cost savings generated by 40 initiatives since 2019 with an estimated savings amount of \$1.4 billion. Combined with previously compiled data, a total estimated cost savings attributed to RTR amounts to \$2.1 billion, which is broken down by theme.

As demonstrated in the chart below, reducing red tape creates cost savings in many aspects of Albertans’ lives: from improving access to health services through the removal of certain physician billing fees, to improving environmental monitoring that ensures our air and water is clean. Reducing red tape has also made it easier for job creators to deliver the utilities and energy Albertans need and for Albertans to pursue the skills and education needed for today’s labour market.



Performance Indicator: Canadian Federation of Independent Business

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Alberta Grade	F	F	F	B-	A	A-

Alberta’s success in reducing red tape has been recognized by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), a leading national advocate of regulatory reform that publishes an annual report card grading Canadian jurisdictions on their RTR performance. Alberta has been recognized as a top RTR performer for two years in a row, receiving an “A-” in 2022, preceded by an “A” in 2021.

