

BUDGET 2023

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2023-26

Ministry Business Plan Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism

Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism

Business Plan 2023-26

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The Ministry of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism is responsible for promoting international trade, facilitating investment attraction and attracting new immigrants and skilled workers to diversify, strengthen and grow Alberta's economy and support an inclusive, multicultural society.

The ministry delivers policies, strategies, and programs to promote and increase foreign investment and trade, support and strengthen business's ability to access new markets for their goods and services and attract investment to help them grow and create jobs. The ministry also aids in addressing Alberta's labour market shortages in key sectors of the economy through immigration. Through increasing international trade and attracting investment to the province, Alberta's trade and investment interests are advanced to support a strong and prosperous Alberta.

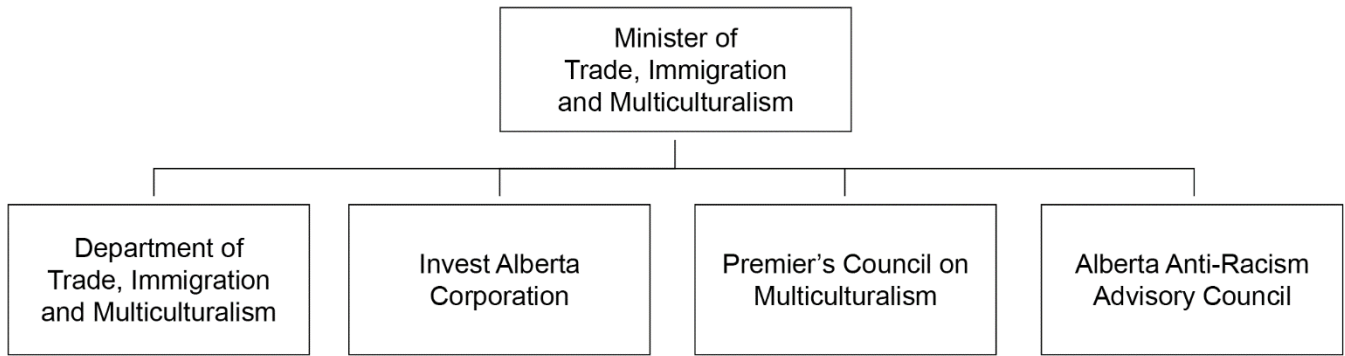
The ministry also works collaboratively with other government ministries, partners and businesses to ensure that Alberta's immigration programming fosters welcoming and inclusive communities. It advances multiculturalism initiatives and provides access to language training and settlement services that allow new Albertans to fully utilize their education, skills, and experience.

The ministry consists of the Department of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism, the Invest Alberta Corporation and the Alberta Anti-Racism Advisory Council. Under the direction of the Minister, the ministry has also established a Premier's Council on Multiculturalism. The agency and councils play a vital role in supporting the department to deliver on its outcomes, objectives, and initiatives, including the various strategies identified in this plan.

The Invest Alberta Corporation promotes, identifies and pursues investment in Alberta, with a focus on high-value and high-impact investment. The Invest Alberta Corporation was established to deliver and facilitate seamless and responsive investment attraction services that are targeted and customized for investors to make the investment decision-making process as informed as possible, and to support the Government of Alberta in performing trade promotion and advocacy activities.

The newly formed Premier's Council on Multiculturalism will help support multicultural communities to foster their heritage, promote equity and respect for cultural values, and will support and inspire all Albertans to appreciate cultural diversity and cultivate social cohesion.

The Alberta Anti-Racism Advisory Council provides advice on efforts to combat racism and promote more inclusive and accepting communities across Alberta. As part of its mandate, the Council provides advice to government on ways to: remove systemic barriers to accessing government programs and services; remove language barriers in accessing information; educate and inform Albertans to encourage acceptance and prevent future racism; connect with law enforcement agencies and communities to raise awareness and assist local collaboration across Alberta; and identify strategies and actions to combat racism.



A more detailed description of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism and its programs and initiatives can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/trade-immigration-and-multiculturalism.aspx>.

The Ministry of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism remains committed to regulatory approaches and program delivery that reduce unnecessary government oversight and emphasize outcomes, in order to improve access to government services, attract investment, support innovation and competitiveness, and grow Alberta businesses.

Ministry business plans should be considered in conjunction with all budget documents - including the Fiscal Plan, Government Strategic Plan, and Estimates - which work together to provide a complete overview of government’s commitment to responsible fiscal management.

2023-26 Business Plan

Outcome 1

Alberta’s trade and investment interests are advanced to support a strong and prosperous Alberta

Increase Alberta’s international trade and attract investment to the province, and ensure that the province’s international trade interests are advanced and protected to enhance Alberta’s economic competitiveness, growth and prosperity.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Enhance Alberta’s trade market access in collaboration with partner ministries, and deliver programs and services to help Alberta businesses diversify into new international markets.
- 1.2 Engage key stakeholders, including businesses and other governments, to promote and support export expansion and investment attraction efforts, and work with partner ministries and Invest Alberta Corporation to deliver programs and path-finding services for prospective investors.
- 1.3 Advance and defend Alberta’s interests with the federal government in the negotiation of international agreements to enhance trade and investment.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- A cumulative total of \$3 million in funding is provided over three fiscal years, from 2023-24 to 2025-26, for the Alberta Export Expansion Program to support Alberta businesses to enter strategic new markets and increase their exports to key international markets, and also support incoming international buyers of Alberta products and services.
- A cumulative total of \$45 million in funding is provided over three fiscal years, from 2023-24 to 2025-26, for the Investment and Growth Fund. This fund elevates Alberta’s competitiveness as investors make decisions about where to locate their businesses and bring impactful investments to Alberta.

Performance Metrics

1.a **Performance Measure: Number of Alberta businesses and associations that receive funding and supports through the Alberta Export Expansion Program (AEEP) (number)** In 2022-23, 120 Alberta businesses, municipalities, Indigenous communities and industry associations were supported through AEEP to access international markets and attract global buyers (based on partial year’s results to January 31, 2023).

| Targets | 2023-24 | 200 | 2024-25 | 200 | 2025-26 | 200 |
|---------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|
|---------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|

1.b **Performance Measure: Cumulative value of capital investment in Alberta committed to by recipients of the Investment and Growth Fund (IGF) program (\$ million)** In 2022-23, as a result of \$5.5 million in support from the IGF, fund recipients committed \$51.8 million in cumulative value of capital investment in the province (based on partial year’s results).

| Targets | 2023-24 | 245.1 | 2024-25 | 337.0 | 2025-26 | 428.9 |
|---------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
|---------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|

1.c **Performance Indicator: Value of Alberta’s non-residential capital investment (\$ million)** Capital investment is a sign of a growing, healthy economy. As companies expand, they purchase property, build facilities, and buy equipment. This contributes to Alberta’s GDP and improves Alberta’s long-term economic performance and investment attraction ecosystem.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| \$ million | 62,301 | 59,441 | 48,641 | 54,095 | 56,677 |

- 1.d **Performance Indicator: Value of Alberta’s exported products (\$ million)** The total value of Alberta exports of domestic goods to international markets is a key indicator of trade and export growth. Increased exports are a signifier of economic growth and prosperity in Alberta.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| \$ million | 117,654.1 | 117,201.7 | 92,001.4 | 138,043.9 | 203,892.8 |

Outcome 2

International talent is attracted and retained to support Alberta’s economy and prosperity

Address Alberta’s labour market needs through attraction, retention and settlement strategies and the recognition of international credentials.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Deliver newcomer programming so international talent can put their skills to work in Alberta, including by ensuring new Albertans have access to language and settlement services.
- 2.2 Deliver the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program, including by working with the federal government to significantly expand the number of immigrants accepted under the program, and develop or promote pathways to support the dynamic needs of Alberta’s economy and labour market.
- 2.3 Work with partner ministries to address Alberta’s labour market gaps for the benefit of Albertans and support recognition of international credentials.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- A cumulative total of \$21 million in funding over three fiscal years, from 2023-24 to 2025-26, for the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program to attract newcomers to support the province’s labour market needs and economic growth by issuing nomination certificates towards permanent residence.
- A cumulative total of \$50.3 million in funding over three fiscal years, from 2023-24 to 2025-26, for settlement and integration initiatives, responses to emerging issues and newcomer needs, and support for recognition of newcomer qualifications from outside of Canada.

Performance Metrics

- 2.a **Performance Measure: Number of nomination certificates issued by Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP), based on the allocation and within the parameters permitted by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) (number)** The federal government provides the AAIP with an annual allocation of nomination certificates that can be issued by the province. Meeting the annual allocation is the primary measure of program success. In 2022, the number of nomination certificates issued by AAIP was 6,554, which meets Alberta’s allocation for that year.

| Targets | 2023 | 9,750 | 2024 | 13,000 | 2025 | 13,000 |
|---------|------|-------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | | | | | | |

2.b **Performance Measure: Percentage of International Qualification Assessment Service (IQAS) domestic applicants who are satisfied with the services received (per cent)** This measure demonstrates the ability of IQAS to deliver services that meet client needs for recognition of international education credentials to participate in labour market and continue studies. In 2021-22, 86 per cent of IQAS domestic applicants were satisfied with the services, based on the biennial survey. The survey will be conducted on an annual basis starting in 2023-24.

| Targets | 2023-24 | 85 | 2024-25 | 85 | 2025-26 | 85 |
|---------|---------|----|---------|----|---------|----|
|---------|---------|----|---------|----|---------|----|

2.c **Performance Indicator: Alberta’s percentage share of the total number of permanent residents in Canada (per cent)** Alberta’s share of permanent residents is an indicator of the province’s ability to attract skilled international professionals compared to the rest of Canada. A percentage share that is equal to or greater than Alberta’s population relative to the rest of Canada is an indicator of the province’s success.

| | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Per cent | 13 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 11 |

Outcome 3

Diverse and inclusive multicultural communities are supported and are part of a strong and prosperous Alberta

Build inclusive communities in Alberta through multicultural supports and anti-racism initiatives to help ensure people from diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds want to live and work in Alberta.

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Promote welcoming and diverse communities, including through enhanced funding for ethno-cultural communities and organizations, and with the advice from the Premier’s Council on Multiculturalism.
- 3.2 Assist Ukrainian evacuees fleeing Russia’s invasion of Ukraine through the provision of emergent supports and services to help them settle and integrate into communities across the province.
- 3.3 Advance the province’s anti-racism initiatives with advice from the Alberta Anti-racism Advisory Council.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- A cumulative total of \$9.8 million in funding is provided over three fiscal years, from 2023-24 to 2025-26, for grants to ethno-cultural communities and organizations to provide supports and services to help build diverse and inclusive multicultural communities throughout the province.
- A cumulative total of \$8.325 million in funding is provided over three fiscal years, from 2023-24 to 2025-26, to address the needs of Ukrainian evacuees to settle and integrate into Alberta, including through initiatives to address recommendations from the Premier’s Advisory Task Force on Ukraine.

Performance Metrics

3.a **Performance Indicator: Year-over-year change in the number of complaints of discrimination against race/colour/ancestry/origin/religious beliefs received by the Alberta Human Rights Commission (per cent)** The number of complaints received by the Alberta Human Rights Commission provides insight into discrimination against race/colour/ancestry/origin/religious beliefs in Alberta, and is an indicator of inclusivity and acceptance of diverse ethno-cultural communities across the province.

| | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Per cent | -16 | 9 | -4 | 75 |

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

| | Comparable | | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| | 2022-23 Budget | 2022-23 Forecast | | | |
| REVENUE | | | | | |
| Transfers from Government of Canada | 1,647 | 1,647 | 1,647 | 1,647 | 1,647 |
| Premiums, Fees and Licences | 8,225 | 8,225 | 8,225 | 8,225 | 8,225 |
| Other Revenue | 678 | 678 | 678 | 678 | 678 |
| Consolidated Total | 10,550 | 10,550 | 10,550 | 10,550 | 10,550 |
| EXPENSE | | | | | |
| Ministry Support Services | 7,104 | 7,104 | 7,200 | 7,234 | 7,234 |
| International Trade and Investment | 28,493 | 24,435 | 28,817 | 28,894 | 28,894 |
| Immigration and Multiculturalism | 21,883 | 22,783 | 32,545 | 31,302 | 29,302 |
| Invest Alberta Corporation | 20,000 | 18,242 | 17,372 | 17,391 | 17,385 |
| Consolidated Total | 77,480 | 72,564 | 85,934 | 84,821 | 82,815 |
| Net Operating Result | (66,930) | (62,014) | (75,384) | (74,271) | (72,265) |
| CAPITAL INVESTMENT | | | | | |
| Ministry Support Services | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Consolidated Total | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |