

BUDGET 2020

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2020-23

Ministry Business Plan

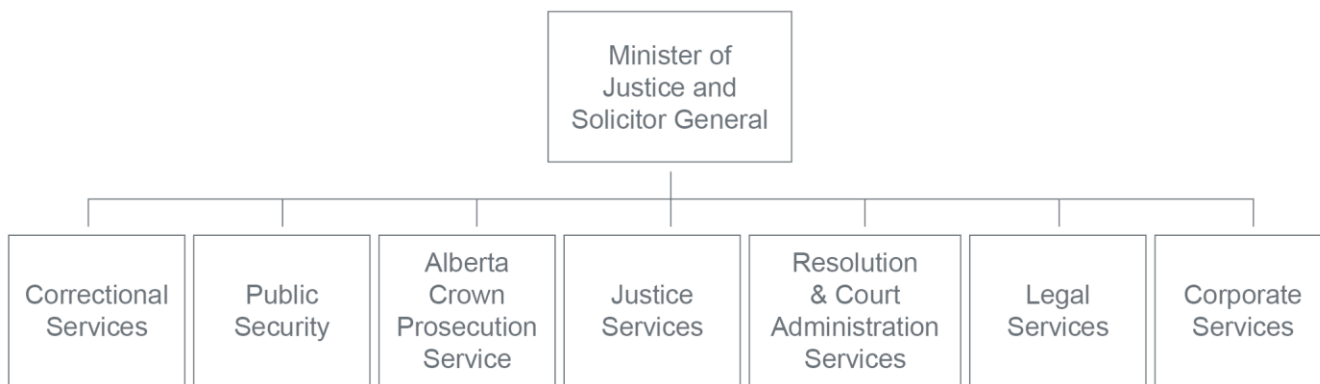
Justice and Solicitor General

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Business Plan 2020-23

Ministry Mandate and Structure

The Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General helps ensure that all Albertans can live in safe and secure communities while having access to a fair and innovative justice system that is administered according to law. Working alongside partners in law enforcement, health, the judiciary, social services and the criminal justice system, as well as other stakeholders, the ministry has a direct or shared responsibility in all elements of the justice system in Alberta.



A more detailed description of Justice and Solicitor General and its programs and initiatives can be found at: www.justicesolgen.alberta.ca.

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

Ministry Outcomes

- Albertans are safe and protected
- Alberta’s justice system is fair and effective
- Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system

Outcome 1

What We Want To Achieve

Albertans are safe and protected

This outcome reflects the ministry's commitment to ensuring all Albertans feel safe, secure, and protected in their communities no matter where they live within the province. Expanding the roles and authorities of provincial enforcement officers in the rural areas will help deter crime by increasing the visible presence that law enforcement agencies have in rural areas and by freeing up the RCMP to handle higher-priority calls.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Improve law enforcement's rural crime response capability by increasing RCMP resources and creating the Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defence Force (the RAPID Force), which will allow provincial peace officers to better respond and assist the RCMP and other police services.
- 1.2 Work with policing partners and community stakeholders to address drivers of crime, including focused work on organized crime, drug trafficking and proceeds of crime.
- 1.3 Collaborate with partners to address the issue of human trafficking, including the introduction of legislation to protect survivors of human trafficking.
- 1.4 Continue to enhance protection of Albertans' property rights, including introducing new legislation.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- To help reduce response times in rural areas, the government is creating the Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defence Force (the RAPID Force) by expanding the roles and authorities of 400 peace officers in the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch and the traffic arm of the Alberta Sheriffs. With a budget of up to \$10 million annually, the changes will allow these officers to respond to a wider range of calls and to assist the RCMP and other police services in emergency situations.
- Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) and their sub-units deal with and investigate issues important to Albertans, such as child pornography, gang violence, drug trafficking, stalking and domestic violence. Funding to ALERT is \$40 million in 2020-21.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Measure: Percentage of probation officers trained in the effective intervention techniques derived from evidence-based principles

In 2018-19, 66% of probation officers were trained in the use of effective intervention techniques derived from evidence-based principles.

TARGETS

2020-21:	100%
2021-22:	100%
2022-23:	100%

1.b Performance Indicator: Violent and property crime rates per 100,000 population

In 2017, Alberta's urban violent crime rate was 1,158, as compared to Alberta's rural violent crime rate of 1,870. In the same year, Alberta's urban property crime rate was 5,147, as compared to Alberta's rural rate of 6,858. (Note: Urban includes Census Metropolitan Areas and adjacent municipalities; all other locations are included in rural).

HISTORICAL RESULTS

	2014	2015	2016	2017
• Alberta Violent Crime Rate	1,266	1,316	1,282	1,311
○ Rural	2,062	2,114	2,092	1,870
○ Urban	1,077	1,125	1,088	1,158
• Alberta Property Crime Rate	4,376	5,247	5,335	5,530
○ Rural	5,701	6,680	6,473	6,858
○ Urban	4,037	4,867	5,011	5,147

Note: Overall Alberta violent and property crime rates are calculated as of July 2019. Rural and urban crime rates are calculated as of May 2019.

1.c Performance Indicator: Violent and non-violent Crime Severity Index (CSI)

In 2018, Alberta's violent CSI was 97, while the Canadian CSI was 82. In the same year, Alberta's non-violent CSI was 117, while the Canadian CSI was 72.

HISTORICAL RESULTS

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
• Violent Crime Severity Index					
○ Alberta	87	99	93	99	97
○ Canada	71	75	77	81	82
• Non-violent Crime Severity Index					
○ Alberta	88	106	110	117	117
○ Canada	65	68	70	71	72

1.d Performance Indicator: Number of provincially funded police officer positions

In 2018-19, Alberta had 1,921 provincially funded police officer positions, which includes regular Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) members and civilian members, Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) to tackle organized crime, the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (ITRAC) to assist with domestic violence cases, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) for investigating police-involved shootings, the Integrated Community Safety unit for managing priority prolific offenders, and self-administered First Nations police services.

HISTORICAL RESULTS

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Number of provincially funded police officer positions in Alberta	1,914	1,869	1,851	1,914	1,921

Outcome 2

What We Want To Achieve

Alberta's justice system is fair and effective

This outcome reflects the ministry's commitment to ensure the justice system is fairer, provides timely outcomes, and is more responsive and effective. The ministry is committed to ensuring resources are used appropriately to enable justice system sustainability. Additionally, this outcome includes legislative changes and democratic reforms to strengthen government accountability.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Enhance criminal justice system reporting to indicate how the system is functioning.
- 2.2 Streamline processes and reduce red tape to increase sustainability and ensure effective use of resources.
- 2.3 Introduce democratic reforms to strengthen government.
- 2.4 Hire additional Crown prosecutors to ensure criminal matters are dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- The ministry continues to address backlogs in the justice system. The hiring of 50 new Crown prosecutors and support staff continues and once complete will be an investment of approximately \$10 million annually.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: Provincial Court of Alberta lead time to trial for serious and violent matters (weeks)

In 2018-19, Provincial Court of Alberta lead time to trial for serious and violent matters was 22.1 weeks.

TARGETS

2020-21:	21 weeks
2021-22:	20 weeks
2022-23:	20 weeks

2.b Performance Indicator: Number of *Jordan* applications granted

Between October 25, 2016 and December 31, 2019, there have been 24 *Jordan* applications granted, 2 of which are being appealed by the Crown.

HISTORICAL RESULTS

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Number of <i>Jordan</i> applications granted by Alberta courts	6 (Oct 2016- Mar 2017)	6	9	3 (Apr-Dec 2019)

2.c Performance Indicator: Number of trial Crown prosecutors

As at December 31, 2019, there were 305 trial Crown prosecutors in the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service.

2.d Performance Indicator: Indigenous over-representation

In 2018-19, 41.9% of adults in custody in Alberta correctional centres self identified as Indigenous. In comparison, in 2016 (the most current census data available), 6.5% of Alberta's total population identified as Indigenous.

Outcome 3

What We Want To Achieve

Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system

This outcome reflects the ministry's commitment to provide high quality, accessible, innovative, citizen-focused services to Albertans in their interactions with the justice system. This includes enhancing the use of technology to deliver services and increase access to justice for Albertans. It is envisioned justice and court programs that are currently delivered in traditional channels will be digitized to improve services for Albertans and reduce red tape through efficiencies and modern service delivery platforms.

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Conduct a review of the current model of victim service delivery.
- 3.2 Develop a sustainable and modernized way to deliver justice services and improve Albertans' access to these services, including the implementation of technology enhancements.
- 3.3 Work with the courts and other stakeholders to create and enhance specialized courts where feasible and appropriate.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Justice Digital will deliver new or enhanced online services to improve Albertans' access to justice. Priority initiatives will provide Albertans with improvements in service options and an increased ability to manage their interactions with the justice system. This will enhance the efficiency of courtroom operations through modernization, and introduce online services and platforms, better meeting the needs of citizens, court users, and the judiciary. Justice Digital is an investment of \$5 million in 2020-21.
- The ministry will expand Drug Treatment Court capacity in Edmonton and Calgary to increase access to drug treatment services for Albertans who are involved in criminally addictive behaviour. Additionally, the ministry will engage with medium-sized communities to identify new sites for Drug Treatment Court services. The Drug Treatment Court expansion will be an investment of up to \$5 million annually starting in 2020-21.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's Family Mediation Program (voluntary service to support families to reach a mutual agreement that focuses on the child and avoids going to court) resolution rate

In 2018-19, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's Family Mediation Program had an 87% resolution rate.

TARGETS

2020-21:	90%
2021-22:	91%
2022-23:	91%

3.b Performance Measure: The Provincial Court Civil Mediation Program (service to support individuals to negotiate a resolution to their dispute instead of going to trial) resolution rate

The Provincial Court Civil Mediation Program resolution rate was 46% in 2018-19.

TARGETS

2020-21:	53%
2021-22:	53%
2022-23:	53%

3.c Performance Measure: Proportion of fine payments made online rather than in-person at a registry office or courthouse.

In 2018-19, 34% of fine payments were made online. Albertans from across the province were able to pay their fines at their own convenience, any time of day and from any device, rather than having to visit a registry office or courthouse during set business hours.

TARGETS

2020-21:	40%
2021-22:	42%
2022-23:	44%

3.d Performance Indicator: Number of individuals admitted to Drug Treatment Court

Between 2016-17 and 2018-19, 120 individuals were admitted into Drug Treatment Court in Alberta.

HISTORICAL RESULTS

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of individuals admitted into Drug Treatment Court in Alberta	28	43	49

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2020-21 Estimate	2021-22 Target	2022-23 Target
	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Transfers of Assets or Liabilities from Related Parties	1	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Government of Canada	38,686	46,158	48,215	50,434	51,827	53,718
Investment Income	3,126	1,043	1,543	1,385	1,355	1,325
Motor Vehicle Accident Claim Fees	23,206	24,300	24,300	24,600	24,600	24,600
Other Premiums, Fees and Licences	32,441	32,595	32,595	33,300	33,640	33,760
Fines and Penalties	199,890	220,950	220,950	267,350	267,350	265,350
Maintenance Enforcement	16,355	16,270	16,270	16,377	16,482	16,593
Other Revenue	28,249	28,071	28,438	50,481	59,519	71,809
Ministry Total	341,954	369,387	372,311	443,927	454,773	467,155
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(9)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	341,945	369,387	372,311	443,927	454,773	467,155
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	24,949	25,189	25,189	25,188	25,188	25,188
Resolution and Court Administration Services	200,585	196,866	196,866	196,945	167,226	161,726
Legal Services	55,866	54,268	54,268	48,788	41,288	38,163
Alberta Crown Prosecution Service	103,605	104,896	104,896	101,581	101,221	103,938
Justice Services	176,072	169,897	162,654	164,092	161,279	161,242
Public Security	523,163	532,935	535,359	526,550	531,692	553,475
Correctional Services	289,756	289,011	289,011	287,361	265,479	265,479
Alberta Human Rights	8,079	7,103	7,103	7,027	7,027	7,027
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	31,253	30,838	30,838	30,813	30,813	30,813
Victims of Crime Fund	42,972	43,394	43,894	60,858	69,887	69,887
Ministry Total	1,456,300	1,454,397	1,450,078	1,449,203	1,401,100	1,416,938
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(1,723)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	1,454,577	1,454,397	1,450,078	1,449,203	1,401,100	1,416,938
Net Operating Result	(1,112,632)	(1,085,010)	(1,077,767)	(1,005,276)	(946,327)	(949,783)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	513	665	665	20	20	20
Resolution and Court Administration Services	1,012	5,630	5,630	6,630	9,330	12,330
Legal Services	92	-	-	-	-	-
Alberta Crown Prosecution Service	1,557	380	380	380	380	380
Justice Services	1,915	540	540	449	149	149
Public Security	1,668	1,695	1,695	1,695	695	695
Correctional Services	1,627	288	288	288	288	288
Victims of Crime Fund	-	15	15	15	15	15
Consolidated Total	8,384	9,213	9,213	9,477	10,877	13,877