



Strengthening health care

Alberta has the best front-line health-care workers in the world and Budget 2023 provides the right supports to ensure Albertans get the care they need when and where they need it.

Advancing our Health Care Action Plan

Budget 2023 increases health operating expense by \$965 million from the 2022–23 forecast, or 4.1 per cent, to a total of \$24.5 billion. New funding will go to priority areas to directly improve services important to Albertans by:

- Decreasing emergency room wait times
- Improving ambulance response times
- Reducing wait times for surgeries
- Empowering front-line workers to deliver health care

Investing in facilities and emergency medical services

We are investing more money than ever in emergency medical services to improve ambulance response times.

\$196 million in operating expense over three years will strengthen Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by hiring more staff and implementing recommendations made by the Alberta EMS Provincial Advisory Committee.

\$15 million over three years for new EMS vehicles and to replace or upgrade related equipment.

We continue to expand and modernize hospitals and other facilities to protect quality health care, grow system capacity and support the best front-line health-care workers in the world. Budget 2023 provides \$4.2 billion over three years for health-care-related infrastructure, including:

- \$105 million over three years for the Rural Health Facilities Revitalization Program, with \$75 million in additional funding to support new capital projects in rural Alberta
- \$105 million over three years for Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) upgrades, including \$96 million in new funding which will provide needed MDR upgrades in Calgary, Edmonton, Ft. McMurray, St. Albert and Westlock
- \$310 million over three years in capital funding will modernize continuing care facilities, provide culturally appropriate care for Indigenous peoples, and add new spaces in priority communities having greatest need
- \$120 million in 2024–25 will support new continuing care projects in Calgary and Edmonton



Growing the number of health-care workers

Budget 2023 allocates \$158 million in 2023–24 towards workforce planning to increase the number of health care professionals in Alberta, which includes:

- Expanding physician training
- Recruiting more internationally educated physicians and nurses

Under the agreement with the Alberta Medical Association, more than \$250 million over four years (beginning in 2022–23) is targeted to recruitment and retention programs and specific funding for programs to support physicians, particularly family doctors in rural areas.

Adding capacity and reducing wait times

Budget 2023 makes important investments to reduce wait times and boost access to surgeries. \$237 million over three years for the Alberta Surgical Initiative Capital Program, including \$120 million in new funding to support additional projects in AHS-owned facilities, will increase surgical capacity and help reduce wait times.

Our goal is to have almost 350,000 surgeries done every year—which will lead to more surgeries happening within the clinical wait times and in more communities.

Improving primary health care

Through the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) initiative, we are investing \$243 million over three years to improve primary health care in Alberta. Areas of improvements and recommendations will be provided to the Minister of Health by the three advisory panels in spring 2023.