

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
SUMMER VILLAGE OF BIRCHCLIFF
MARCH 21, 2024 @ 9:00 A.M.**

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. AGENDA - additions/deletions
 - adoption

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2024

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1) Development Update
- 2) CAO Report

E. REQUESTS FOR DECISION

1) Finance

- a) 2024 Capital Budget

2) Council & Legislation

- a) Working Well Workshop

3) Public Works

- a) 10-Year Road Plan

4) Planning & Development

- a) Encroachment Policy

F. COUNCIL REPORT

1) Council Reports

- a) Roger Dufresne
- b) Ann Zacharias

- c) Frank Tirpak

2) Committee Reports

- a) Julie Maplethorpe, Summer Village of Jarvis Bay
 - Town of Sylvan Lake Library Board
 - Parkland Regional Library Board

3) Correspondence

- a) Alberta Municipalities

4) Upcoming Meetings

- a) Next Council Meeting – April 25, 2024

G. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of the Summer Village of Birchcliff, Province of Alberta, held February 22, 2024, in the Summer Villages on Sylvan Lake Administration Office at Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

AGENDA

BCC-24-012 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Zacharias that the agenda be adopted as amended:

E.6. Johnston Letter
E.7. Slawinsky Email

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

BCC-24-013 MOVED by Councillor Tirpak that the minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on January 18, 2024, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

BCC-24-014 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Zacharias that the minutes of the Municipal Planning Commission meeting held on February 15, 2024, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

DELEGATION

Phil Dirks from the Metrix Group joined Council to present the 2023 audited financial statements and review the audit findings report.

Phil Dirks left the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

BCC-24-015 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Zacharias that Council accept the audited financial statements as presented and authorize the Mayor to sign the financial return.

CARRIED

Jason & Alissa McDonald joined Council to provide the benefits of multi-generational living and ask Council to consider making amendments to the Land Use Bylaw to allow this.

BCC-24-016 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Zacharias that Council accept the benefits of multi-generational living delegation as information.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1) Accounts Payable
- 2) Quarterly Financial Report
- 3) Public Works
- 4) Development Update
- 5) CAO Report
- 6) Johnston Letter
- 7) Slawinsky Email

BCC-24-017 MOVED by Councillor Tirpak that Council accept the information items as presented.

CARRIED

Council break at 10:33 a.m.

Council reconvened at 10:43 a.m.

TABLED ITEMS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Bylaw #249-23 Use of Reserves, Parks & Pathways Bylaw #249-23
BBC-24-018 MOVED by Mayor Dufresne that Council give 3rd and final reading to the Use of Reserves, Parks & Pathways Bylaw as amended below; and further, Council move forward with the Access Agreements.

Amendments to Bylaw:

Add:

- 6(a)(i)B *that the owner must pay all applicable fees imposed by the Summer Village: and*
- 6(b)(i)B *that the owner must pay all applicable fees imposed by the Summer Village.*
- 8. Except where permitted by this Bylaw, *or a previously approved development permit*, all encroachments on Environmental Reserve are prohibited, regardless of whether or not such encroachment predates this Bylaw coming into force.
- 10. All authorizations and agreements required under this Bylaw with respect to encroachments on Environmental Reserve shall be approved by Council, or its delegate, *upon payment of applicable fees, if any.*

Amend:

- 15(d) Snow vehicles and all-terrain vehicles used for winter recreational purposes as per Bylaw 245-23 - *Traffic Bylaw.*

Fees Schedule, Section 5 (a) Light a Fire, Penalty \$1,000 to \$2,500
CARRIED

BCC-24-019 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Zacharias that Council adopt the Encroachment Policy as presented.

CARRIED

Bylaw #246-23 Road Closure Bylaw
BCC-24-020 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Zacharias that Council give second reading to the Road Closure Bylaw #246-23.

CARRIED

BCC-24-021 MOVED by Mayor Dufresne that Council give third and final reading to the Road Closure Bylaw #246-23.
CARRIED

REQUEST FOR DECISION

COUNCIL & LEGISLATION

BCC-24-022 Ambulatory Care
MOVED by Councillor Tirpak that Council support the forming of the Sylvan Lake and Area Health Foundation.
CARRIED

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

BCC-24-023 Open Space Master Plan Amendments
MOVED by Councillor Tirpak that Council approve the Open Space Master Plan with amendments.
CARRIED

COUNCIL REPORTS

- Deputy Mayor Zacharias
- Climate Plan
- Mayor Dufresne
- Climate Plan
 - Joint Services Committee
- Councillor Tirpak
- No reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Julie Maplethorpe, Summer Village of Jarvis Bay
- Town of Sylvan Lake Library Board
 - Parkland Regional Library Board
- Joint Services Committee Meeting Minutes
- August 17, 2023
 - October 13, 2023
 - October 18, 2023

CORRESPONDENCE

- Alberta Lakes Management Society (ALMS)
- Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA) LGFF Briefing

BCC-24-024 MOVED by Deputy Mayor Zacharias that Council accept the Council and Committee items as information.
CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

BCC-24-025 MOVED by Mayor Dufresne that the next meeting of Council be held
March 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

BCC-24-026 MOVED by Mayor Dufresne that being the agenda matters have been
concluded, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.
CARRIED

ROGER DUFRESNE, MAYOR

TANNER EVANS, CAO

Summer Village of Birchcliff

March 21, 2024

Planning and Development

Information Item

Agenda Item: *Development Update*

Background:

Development Permit Update:

Currently there are 80 development permits issued in the Summer Villages (21 in Birchcliff, 5 in Half Moon Bay, 19 in Jarvis Bay, 15 in Norglenwold, and 20 in Sunbreaker Cove).

Current Developments:

1. 145 Birchcliff Road	Demo & Dwelling	Issued in 2018
2. 14 Sunnyside Cabin	Demo & Dwelling	Issued in 2021
3. 83 Birchcliff Road	Dwelling	Issued in 2021
4. 94 Birchcliff Lane	Dwelling	Issued in 2021
5. 59 Birchcliff Road	Driveway	Issued in 2021
6. 83 Birchcliff Road	Lakeside Stairs	Issued in 2021
7. 363 Birchcliff Road	Dwelling	Issued in 2021
8. 71 Birchcliff Road	Dwelling	Issued in 2021
9. 187 Birchcliff Road	Demolition & Dwelling	Issued in 2022
10. 163 Birchcliff Road	Dwelling Addition	Issued in 2022
11. 409 Birchcliff Road	Lakeside Stairs	Issued in 2022
12. 280 Birchcliff Road	Dwelling	Issued in 2022
13. 159 Birchcliff Road	Dwelling	Issued in 2022
14. 202 Birchcliff Road	Dwelling Addition	Issued in 2023
15. 71 Birchcliff Road	Escarpment Ret. Walls	Issued in 2023
16. 83 Birchcliff Road	Demolition	Issued in 2023
17. 101 Birchcliff Road	Lakeside Stabilization	Issued in 2023
18. 381 Birchcliff Road	Manufactured Dwelling	Issued in 2023
19. 173 Birchcliff Road	Dwelling	Issued in 2023
20. 317 Birchcliff Road	Two Sheds	Issued in 2023
21. 529 Birch Close	Shed	Issued in 2024 (NEW)

Open Administrative Files:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>145 Birchcliff Road</u> | <u>Open since 2021</u> |
| DP Condition infraction | |
| No mow zone required. | |
| May 31, 2024 deadline. | |

2. 375 Birchcliff Road Open since 2021
 LUB infraction.
 Sea Can to be removed.
 April 4, 2024 deadline to remove.
3. 71 Birchcliff Road Open since 2022
 DP Conditions infraction
 Escarpment development.
4. 14 Sunnyside Cabin Open since 2023
 DP Conditions infraction.
 Accessory building to be removed & landscaping.
 April 8, 2024 deadline for AB.
5. 79 Birchcliff Road Open since 2023
 Development permit req.
 Parking alterations.
 April 1, 2024 deadline to respond.

Permit Summary:

2024 Jan. – to date:

1 development permit. Estimated project cost \$7,800.00.

2023 Jan.- Dec.:

6 development permits. Estimated project cost \$1,247,000.00.

2022 Jan.-Dec.:

13 development permits. Estimated project cost \$4,069,000.00.

2021 Jan.-Dec.:

21 development permits. Estimated project cost \$4,926,500.00.

Administrative Recommendations:

Council to accept as information.

Authorities:

Land Use Bylaw #170/13.

Summer Village of Birchcliff

March 21, 2024

Information

Agenda Item: *CAO Report*

Background:

- CAO attended the Alberta Munis spring municipal leaders caucus and attend sessions on preparing for drought, fostering respect in polarized communities, properly crafting resolutions, and engagement sessions with different ministers.
- Attended the LREMP Advisory meeting on March 6th. Joined the subcommittee working on pursuing a ministerial order for LREMP.
- Attended ICS 300 training February 26-28. This satisfies the requirement that the Director of Emergency Management obtain at least level 300 training.
- Met with Alberta Environment and Parks to discuss Birchcliff's provincial requirements for the community pier program. It will most likely be a DLO application, but we should hear back soon.
- Met with Alberta Emergency Management Association on February 20th to complete Birchcliff's community emergency management program (CEMP). This satisfies the requirement to complete a CEMP annually.

Options for Consideration:

Council to discuss and accept as information.

Administrative Recommendations:

Council accept as information.

Authorities:

MGA 207 (c) "advises and informs the council on the operation and affairs of the municipality".

Summer Village of Birchcliff

March 21, 2024

Finance

Request for Decision

Agenda Item: *Capital Budget*

Background:

Administration is providing a proposed capital project budget items for 2024 attached.

Options for Consideration:

That Council review and discuss the Capital Budget provided and to provide any necessary input and projects into the 2024 Capital Budget.

Administrative Recommendations:

- 1) That Council discuss and adopt the 2024 Capital Budget.

Authorities:

Section 242(1) of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c M-26, provides that Council must adopt an operating budget for each calendar year.

Expenses Anticipated	Capital Projects	Total Anticipated	Total 2024 Budget
	Strategic Tree Removal	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
	Roads	\$ 448,000.00	\$ 448,000.00
	Community Docks DLO	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
	Shoreline Stabilization	TBD	TBD
	Land Use Bylaw rewrite	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 34,000.00
Total Expenses			\$ 522,000.00
Funding Anticipated			0
	Roads reserve	\$ 448,000.00	
	Environmental reserve	\$ 74,000.00	
	MSI 2024	\$ 51,226.00	
	CCBF	\$ 20,000.00	
Total Grants			\$ 593,226.00
Amount Required from Taxation			-\$ 71,226.00

Summer Village of Birchcliff

March 21, 2024

Council & Legislation

Request for Decision

Agenda Item: *Working Well Workshop*

Background:

Administration has received information on the Provincial Working Well Program which provides important water well management information to private water well owners across the province to ensure safe and secure groundwater supplies for water well users. They provide the following:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Awareness: | To help water well owners recognize that management of private wells is their responsibility, and to understand the potential impacts of human activities on groundwater. |
| Knowledge: | To help well owners gain a basic understanding of groundwater science, how a water well works, and how a well should be managed. |
| Practice Change: | To help well owners acquire the knowledge and skills to adopt recommended water well management practices. |

The number of workshops is limited and will be scheduled on a first come first served basis. Administration has hosted these workshops in the past for residents in all 5 Summer Villages and thought Council may be interested and hosting another one either individually or with the other Summer Villages.

Options for Consideration:

- 1) Council discuss and provide direction to Administration.
- 2) Council accept as information.

Administrative Recommendations:

- 1) Council discuss and provide direction to Administration.

Authorities:

MGA Section 3 Municipal Purposes

The purposes of a municipality are (b) to provide service, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality.

Summer Village of Birchcliff**March 21, 2024****Public Works****Request for Decision****Agenda Item:** *Approval to adopt the 2024-2033 10-Year Roads Capital Plan***Background:**

The following will provide Council with an update on Public Works activities and initiatives:

Capital Road Planning

- 2024-2033 10 Year Road Capital Plan: In the previous meeting, Council requested a hybrid model of PQI=50 (main road) and PQI=47 for side roads. The cost to achieve this is summarized below.

1. Achieve PQI of 50 & 47 = Total ten-year costs \$1,411,365

2024 Project Costs Summary	Level of Service
\$447,647	Achieve PQI 50 (main road) Maintain PQI 47 (side roads)

2024-2033 Capital Plan Considerations:

- **Achieve PQI 50 & 47** - Spend an average of \$141,128.90 per year over ten years to achieve PQI of 50 & 47. This option recommends 9/12 projects (75%) of projects to complete mill & overlay rehab over ten-year time frame. Capital work in 2024 recommended.

Attachments:

2024 - 2033 Roads Capital Plan

Administrative Recommendations:

That Council adopt the 2024-2033 Roads Capital Improvement plan as presented.

Authorities:

MGA 207(c)“advises and informs the council on the operation and affairs of the municipality”.

BIRCHCLIFF - 10 Year Road Capital Plan
Costs to achieve PQI - 50 (Main Road) & PQI = 47 (side roads)

Project Title / ROAD ID	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	EXISTING PQI	RECOMMENDED TREATMENT
Birchcliff Road - 1.897 km road ID # 191692	\$447,647										45	mill & overlay
Nunnemaker Close - 0.150 km road ID # 191688		\$32,037									47	mill & overlay
Birch Close - 0.366 km road ID # 191680			\$79,759								49	mill & overlay
Birch Close - 0.366 km road ID # 191680						\$350					49	crack filling
Westview Close - 0.11 km road ID # 191686						\$16,037					54	mill & overlay
Nunnemaker Close - 0.150 km road ID # 191688						\$200					47	crack filling
Woodland Road - 0.054 km road ID # 191657							\$7,972				57	mill & overlay
Spruce Cliff CL - 0.117 km road ID # 191673							\$24,270				60	mill & overlay
Birchcliff Road - 1.897 km road ID # 191692							\$2,000				45	crack filling
Birchcliff Road - 1.422 km road ID # 191722							\$336,004				49	mill & overlay
Birchcliff Road - 0.210 km road ID # 191807							\$49,544				48	mill & overlay
Birch Way - 1.725 km road ID # 191655								\$415,545			52	mill & overlay
TOTAL COSTS	\$447,647	\$32,037	\$79,759	\$0	\$0	\$16,587	\$419,790	\$415,545	\$0	\$0		
TOTAL TEN YEAR COSTS (2024-2033)	\$1,411,365											

BIRCHCLIFF Road Map overview with Road ID (10 Year Plan Project locations)



Summer Village of Birchcliff

March 21, 2024

Planning and Development

Request for Decision

Agenda Item: *Encroachment Policy Amendments*

Background:

At the last Council meeting, administration was directed to provide amendments to the Encroachment Policy. Administration provided amendments that have previously been made in other Summer Villages to keep the policies consistent but ensuring the policy is specific to Birchcliff.

The current fee formula can be difficult under some circumstances with stairs or older encroachments where we do not have the proper measurements of the encroachment. Administration also feels that this current formula has residents who have a larger lot paying more for the exact same encroachment than a resident with a smaller lot.

Other Municipal Examples:

- Summer Village of Norglenwold requires an annual fee of \$250.00 for minor encroachments, and \$1,000.00 yearly for major encroachments.
- Lacombe County charges a non-refundable fee of \$2,000.00 for a 10-year encroachment agreement, then charged again once expired. (This would be \$200.00 per year).
- Red Deer County has license to occupy agreements which sometimes comes with a fee (roughly \$25.00 year) but moving towards leases and trying to phase out licenses of occupancy.
- The Town of Blackfalds does not allow encroachments, if discovered the encroachment is required to be removed.
- The Town of Sylvan Lake charges a preparation fee for encroachment agreements of \$350.00. No yearly fee.

Options for Consideration:

1. Council to accept as information and continue with current policy.
2. Council to approve and/or provide additional amendments and administration to update the policy.

Administrative Recommendations:

Council to approve the amendments and administration to update the policy.

Authorities:

Birchcliff Encroachment Policy – BCC-24-019



Policy Title Encroachment Policy	Date: February 22, 2024	Resolution No. BCC-24-019
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Purpose:

The Summer Village of Birchcliff has the responsibility to manage ~~Municipal Reserve, Environmental Reserve, Recreational Leases, Licenses of Occupation and the Shoreline within the boundaries of the municipality.~~ encroachments on Municipal land within the boundaries of the municipality. The Summer Village of Birchcliff asserts its right of ownership to all lands owned, leased and managed by the municipality.

Statement:

~~The Summer Village of Birchcliff asserts its right of ownership to all lands owned, leased and managed by the municipality.~~ It is the policy of the Summer Village to work proactively with property owners to remove, regulate and manage **encroachments** on all lands managed by the municipality. ~~for all lands owned, leased and managed by the municipality.~~

Definitions:

“building(s)” includes anything constructed or placed on, in, over or under land but does not include a highway or road or a bridge forming part of a highway or road.

“development” means:

- (a) An excavation or stockpile and the creation of either of them; or
- (b) A **building** or an addition to, or replacement or repair of a **building** and the construction or placing in, on, over or under land of any of them; or
- (c) A change of use of land or a **building** or an act done in relation to land or a **building** that results in or is likely to result in a change in the use of the land or **building**; or
- (d) A change in the intensity of use of land or a **building** or an act done in relation to land or a **building** that results in or is likely to result in a change in the intensity of use of the land or **building**.

“encroachment(s)” means a **building**, ~~or~~ **development**, or any other object that illegally extends onto an adjacent property or is located entirely on municipal property.

General:

1. The Summer Village **can** require~~s~~ the removal of all **encroachments** from lands owned, leased or managed by the municipality. The owners of the **encroachment** shall be required to remove the **encroachment** and restore the site to its original / natural state to the satisfaction of the municipality, and or
- ~~2. The Summer Village may permit **encroachments** onto property owned, leased or managed by the municipality if the **encroachment** is established and recognized in accordance with the provisions of this policy as of the date of the approval of the Policy.~~
2. Stairs, retaining walls, and other types of development encroaching onto Municipal property may be permitted by the Council provided the owner of the encroachment:
 - a. Enters into an Agreement with the municipality outlining the terms by which both parties shall manage the encroachment.
 - b. Agrees that the existence of the encroachment in no way affects the Municipality’s ownership of or authority over the lands.
 - c. Agrees to remove the encroachment at the encroaching party’s expense at any time such removal is required by the municipality.
 - d. Agrees that upon the removal of the encroachment, the site will be restored to a condition acceptable to the municipality.
 - e. Provides, at the request of the municipality, a survey plan illustrating the extent of the encroachment prepared by a land surveyor registered to practice in the province of Alberta to the satisfaction of the municipality prior to the execution of the agreement.
 - f. Pays all costs incurred by the municipality to facilitate the execution of the agreement.
 - g. Pays the annual encroachment fee of \$250.00 at time of agreement and reassessed every five years.
 - h. For stairs, provide an inspection report from Superior Safety Codes to ensure stairs are safe and up to code, every five years.
- ~~3. Permitted **encroachments** identified by a letter of consent or a license agreement from the Summer Village of Birchcliff shall have a fee review every 5th year.~~
4. The Summer Village does not permit any type of encroachment on environmental reserve land unless specifically for the purposes and within the restrictions outlined in Birchcliff’s Use of Reserves, Parks, and Pathways Bylaw.

Encroachment on Environmental Reserve Lands

1. ~~The Summer Village does not permit any type of **encroachment** on environmental reserve land unless specifically for the purposes and within the restrictions outlined in Birchcliff's Use of Reserves, Parks, and Pathways Bylaw.~~

Encroachments on Municipal Reserve Lands, Municipal Leased Properties and or Municipal Managed Properties

1. ~~Existing **Encroachments** deemed by Council to be minor may be permitted provided a consent letter is issued by the Municipality. The consent letter shall include provisions reserving the Municipality's right to require the removal of the **encroachment** at any time at the expense of the owner of the **encroachment** and any other conditions deemed necessary by the municipality. Minor **encroachments** include the storing of piers and boat lifts.~~
2. ~~Stairs, retaining walls, fire pits and other types of **development** encroaching onto Municipal property, excepting environmental reserves, may be permitted by the Council provided the owner of the **encroachment**:~~
 - a. ~~Enters into an Agreement with the municipality outlining the terms by which both parties shall manage the **encroachment**.~~
 - b. ~~Agrees that the existence of the **encroachment** in no way affect the Municipality's ownership of or authority over the lands.~~
 - c. ~~Agrees to remove the **encroachment** at the encroaching party's expense at any time such removal is required by the municipality.~~
 - d. ~~Agrees that upon the removal of the **encroachment**, the site will be restored to a condition acceptable to the municipality.~~
 - e. ~~Provides, at the request of the municipality, a survey plan illustrating the extent of the **encroachment** prepared by a land surveyor registered to practice in the province of Alberta to the satisfaction of the municipality prior to the execution of the agreement.~~
 - f. ~~Pays all costs incurred by the municipality to facilitate the execution of the agreement.~~
 - g. ~~Pays the annual **encroachment** fee assessed at time of agreement and reassessed every five years. Fee is calculated on actual square foot assessment of adjacent property (i.e. 1200 sq. ft. lot assessed at 16,000 land value — **encroachment** is 10 sq. ft. $(16,000 / 1200 = 13.33$ assess value per square foot) $(10 \times 13.33 = 133.30$ **encroachment** value) times the mill rate for the current year.~~

Summer Village of Birchcliff

March 21, 2024

Council Reports

Information Item

Council Reports:

Roger Dufresne
Ann Zacharias
Frank Tirpak

Committee Reports:

Julie Maplethorpe, Summer Village of Jarvis Bay

- Town of Sylvan Lake Library Board
- Parkland Regional Library Board

Correspondence:

- Alberta Municipalities

Upcoming Meetings:

Next Council Meeting: April 25, 2024



Sylvan Lake Municipal Library



The library had **3,100**
open hours in 2023!



1,762 people have a card
at our library



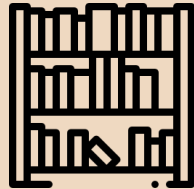
45,044 people walked
through our doors last year



In addition to **39,774**
website visits



The library added **2,471**
new items last year



Bringing the total
collection to **22,891**



There were **4,728**
downloads of e-Content



Contributing to a total of
84,556 checkouts!



We lent our items to
libraries outside of our
system **15,410** times



Our service is delivered
by **10** dedicated staff



And **19** amazing
volunteers



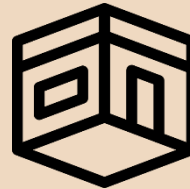
The library has **10** public
computers



And brought in **27,117**
items upon patron
request



We answered **4,316**
reference questions



And our meeting spaces
were booked **156** times



5 mobile devices
available for loan



We offered **803** in-
person programs



55 virtual
programs



And digital
literacy programs



16,396 people
attended in total



And our Wi-Fi had
84,651 connections!

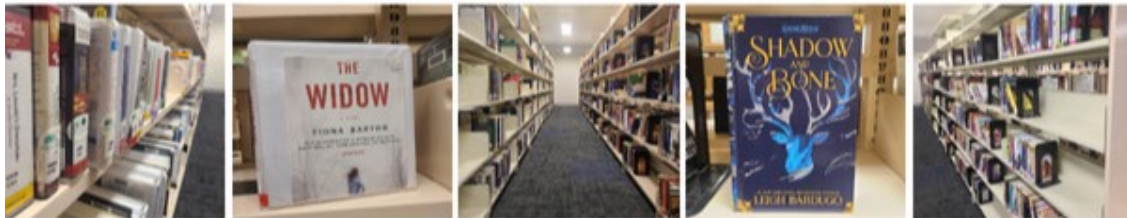
Parkland Update

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Get the latest Parkland updates, library news, training, events, and more!

Stay up to date by visiting our [support site](#).

PRLS Audiobook and Large Print Collections



Parkland houses and manages Large Print and Audiobook collections intended for rotation among member libraries. Bins contain roughly 25 items and can be requested by libraries at regular intervals. Visit the [Rotating Collections Request Form](#) on the Support Site to learn more and submit requests!

Graphic Novels Collection Development 101 Recording Available

Earlier this month, Consultant Librarian Jessica Dinan delivered a training session on graphic novel collection development. This training session is [available as a recording](#) on the [PRLS Staff Training Academy](#).

LIBRARY NEWS

Find out about important deadlines and see what's happening at other Parkland Libraries!

Best Selling Alberta-published Books of 2023

[Read Alberta](#) has compiled a list of the best-selling Alberta-published books of 2023. The [Alberta Bestsellers 2023 Year in Review](#) list includes the ten top-selling titles, brought to you by seven Alberta publishers.

Public Library Safety & Security Toolkit

Created from lessons learned by CULC/CBUC members, this [Safety and Security Toolkit](#) offers proven strategies to help public libraries more effectively manage and respond to safety and security incidents.

TRAINING & EVENTS

Dates and registration information for upcoming library training and events.

Upcoming Webinars

- **PLC Meeting:** March 4, 10am - Hybrid, Registration required
- **Policy Writing Training:** March 4, 1pm - PRLS, Registration required

If you would like to RSVP or find out more information about these training opportunities, please contact libraryservices@prlab.ca. To watch past training sessions, visit the [Staff Training Academy](#).

Grant Proposal Writing Workshop

February 23

2pm

[This online event](#) will provide individuals with the skills needed to secure grants for their projects. Whether you're a non-profit leader or a social entrepreneur, this workshop is designed to demystify the grant writing process and equip you with practical tips and strategies. You will be guided through the essentials, from identifying potential funders to crafting compelling proposals. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to fund your

Alberta Community Development Learning Opportunities

February is a fabulous time to pursue new learning opportunities to help you positively impact your non-profit organization. The Government of Alberta's Community Development Unit has a variety of live webinars, online self-directed courses, learning resources, and potential funding opportunities to support you in 2024! Check out the [various learning opportunities](#) coming up, ranging from grant writing workshops to board governance training to board leadership events and so much more.

Libby for Every Reader eLearning Module

[This module](#) covers ways that Libby supports users with various accessibility modes. As well, check out the [Library Staff Training section](#) of the OverDrive Resource Centre. You can find upcoming and on-demand webinars, short how-to videos, self-paced modules, training kits, and more!

Parkland Update

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Get the latest Parkland updates, library news, training, events, and more!

Stay up to date by visiting our [support site](#).

Farewell to Emma!



Parkland's Outreach and Community Engagement Coordinator, Emma McPherson will be leaving on March 8 to start her maternity leave. While she is gone, please send any inquiries to libraryservices@prl.ab.ca.

Thank you Emma for all your hard work!

Regional Board Training

Sedgewick Library will be hosting Parkland Regional Library System for a regional Board Training on Tuesday, March 26th from 5:30–7:30 pm and we would like to invite any Library Board members and Library Managers from Parkland member libraries to attend. In this training, you will learn about the purpose of library boards, your roles and responsibilities as a Board member, legal requirements for Boards, and best practices. Attendees will also receive a PRLS Board Package with additional resources and there will be an opportunity to ask Parkland's Director, Ron Sheppard, and Deputy Director, Andrea Newland, questions.

If you and/or your Board members plan to attend please RSVP to libraryservices@prl.ab.ca with the name, role, and member library of all those attending by **March 19th**.

LIBRARY NEWS

Find out about important deadlines and see what's happening at other Parkland Libraries!

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

- [EBSCO Solar Power Grants](#) Deadline: April 22
- [TELUS Indigenous Communities Fund](#) Deadline: April 29
- [Community Initiatives Program](#) Deadline: May 15

TD Summer Reading Club StoryWalk is Back for 2024!

The [StoryWalk book for 2024](#) is *The Darkest Dark* by Chris Hadfield and Kate Fillion. StoryWalk is free and available to libraries that submitted their statistics and evaluation for the 2023 program to Maru/Blue and registered for the 2024 TD Summer Reading Club. If you want to register your library to receive a StoryWalk kit, please send the Letter of Agreement (downloadable from the TD SRC staff website) to Ashley-Ann Brooks at clubtd@tdclub@bac-lac.gc.ca by **March 15th**. There are only 800 kits available across Canada, so send your Letter of Agreement to Ashley-Ann Brooks immediately. Good luck!

What Inspiring Things are Libraries Doing?

The [Canadian Urban Libraries Council](#) (CULC) is looking for inspiring examples of innovative projects that you've undertaken at your library. Whether it's a new digital tool, a community outreach program, or a unique way of engaging patrons, CULC wants to hear about it, collect, and share it! Projects can be submitted via the [CULC Innovation Input Form](#). Share your initiatives and learn from others across the country. It's a great way to be part of strengthening Canadian libraries. If you have any questions, please email futures@culc.ca.

6-Step Plan for Growing Your Library User Base

Are you looking to increase the number of library users at your library? Take a look at this recent [blog post](#) from [Super Library Marketing](#) for practical tips on reaching new audiences. Reach out to PRLS Marketing Specialist, Hailey at hhalberg@prl.ab.ca if you'd like help creating a plan or campaign!

TRAINING & EVENTS

Dates and registration information for upcoming library training and events.

Upcoming Webinars

- **Support Site Virtual Tour:** March 21, 11am - virtual, details to come
- **Regional Board Training:** March 26, 10am - Sedgewick Library, Registration required

If you would like to RSVP or find out more information about these training opportunities, please contact libraryservices@prl.ab.ca. To watch past training sessions, visit the [Staff Training Academy](#).

Intro to Governance Webinar

March 14

11am

What are the basics of good governance? No matter the size or scope of your organization, taking the time to ensure the board is engaged and aligned is critical. [Register today!](#)

Building Consensus Webinar

April 3

1:30pm

In a world where diverse perspectives converge, the ability to make a decision with different voices is a critical skill. Building Consensus is your key to creating synergy, enhancing teamwork, and achieving remarkable results. [This interactive webinar](#) will allow you to gain a deep understanding of what consensus means and how you can navigate the best approach for making group decisions.

Grant Writing 101 Webinar

April 10

1:30pm

Competition is steep for limited grant dollars and a well-written grant is only part of the success formula. [This 2-hour webinar](#) covers core proposal and grant writing skills, how to avoid common pitfalls, understanding what funders look for, and tips on how to maintain good relationships with your funders.



PRLS Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024

The regular meeting of the Parkland Regional Library System Board was called to order at 9:29 a.m. on Thursday February 22, 2024 in the Small Board Room, Lacombe.

Present: Barb Gilliat, Gord Lawlor, Ray Reckseidler

Present via Zoom: Alison Barker-Jevne, Jul Bissell, Doug Booker, Jaime Coston, Edna Coulter, Teresa Cunningham, Todd Dalke, Cal David, Dana Depalme, Jeff Eckstrand, Sarah Fahey, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Barbara Gibson, Kathy Hall, Pam Hansen, Stephen Levy, Bryce Liddle, Julie Maplethorpe, Ricci Matthews, Joy-Anne Murphy, Jackie Northey, Jacquie Palm-Fraser, Jas Payne, Leonard Phillips, Diane Roth, Deb Smith, Les Stulberg, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Bill Windsor, Janice Wing

With Regrets: Twyla Hale, Marc Mousseau, Bill Rock

Absent: Deb Coombes, Doug Francoeur, Michael Hildebrandt, Cody Hillmer, Dana Kreil, Darryl Motley, Jordon Northcott, Shawn Peach, Sandy Shipton, Harvey Walsh, Patricia Young

Visitors: Margaret Law

Staff: Hailey Halberg, Kara Hamilton, Andrea Newland, Ron Sheppard, Tim Spark, Donna Williams

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:29 a.m. by Barb Gilliat.

As part of PRLS' legislative compliance procedures, board members who send regrets are excused at the beginning of each meeting.

Motion by Stephen Levy to excuse Twyla Hale, Marc Mousseau, and Bill Rock from attendance at the board meeting on February 22, 2024 and remain a member of the Parkland Board in good standing.

CARRIED
PRLS 01/2024

1.1 Agenda

1.1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

Gilliat asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.



Motion by Ray Reckseidler to accept the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

PRLS 02/2024

1.2. **Approval of Minutes**

Gilliat asked if there were any amendments to the November 16, 2023 minutes. There was a correction to the minutes on the bottom of page 8 of the package. It referred to the 2021 budget, it should read the 2024 budget.

Motion by Jackie Northey to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting as amended.

CARRIED

PRLS 03/2024

1.3. **Business arising from the minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting**

Gilliat asked if there was any business arising from the minutes. There was none.

2. **Business Arising from the Consent Agenda**

Gilliat asked if there was any business arising from the consent agenda.

Motion by Len Phillips to approve the consent agenda as presented.

CARRIED

PRLS 04/2024

3. **Board Orientation by Dr. Margaret Law**

Gilliat turned the meeting over to Law.

Ricci Matthews entered the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Law spoke of the importance of the board member's role to the organization, and the importance of acting in the best interest of Parkland when acting as a Parkland board member. She also reviewed the Libraries Act and Regulations, and what they say about the roles and responsibilities of board members. She used a PowerPoint which will be emailed to board members after the meeting.

4.1 **Request to Amend the Parkland Master Agreement – Population Invoicing**

Diane Roth left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Sheppard introduced the issue. Since 2021, board members have debated which population figures should be used by Parkland for invoicing municipalities. For this to happen, it would require a change of clause 8.3 of Parkland's membership agreement. According to clause 17, to change the agreement, it would require that the amendment be passed by the board after



which it be submitted to the member municipalities for approval. Unanimous consent would be necessary for the change to become effective immediately. Otherwise, the amendment would be deemed approved with 13 months' notice if 2/3 of the municipalities representing 2/3 of the population agreed to the amendment.

Jas Payne entered the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Included in the package was:

- Documents supporting the amendment to the agreement
- Documents supporting leaving the amendment as is
- The legal opinion from May 12, 2022 demonstrating that Parkland's current use of the Population Estimates produced by Alberta Treasury Board and Finance for invoicing municipalities is in compliance to the current wording of the membership agreement.
- A copy of the *Parkland Regional Library Agreement*

It was also brought to the board's attention that the population figures published by Municipal Affairs have been updated very recently, and will continue to be updated annually.

After much discussion, the issue was called to a vote. A zoom poll was initiated and the motion was defeated 14/21.

Motion by Carlene Wetthuhn to amend Clause 8.3 of the PRLS master agreement to "The population of a municipality that is a Party to the Agreement shall be the same population as used for the calculation of the most recent library grants issued by the Public Library Services Branch."

DEFEATED 14/21

PRLS 05/2024

There was some discussion about conducting a major revision of the membership agreement. Staff were instructed to gather information on the cost of revising the agreement, what the process might entail, and what within the agreement might warrant changing. This information is to be brought back to the Executive Committee and provided to the board in May or at a later date.

4.2. 2023 in Review – Approval of the 2023 Annual Report

Les Stulberg left the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Each year Parkland is required to submit an annual report to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) at Municipal Affairs that has been approved by the Parkland board. Sheppard reviewed the Parkland Annual Report.

Motion by Edna Coulter to approve the Parkland Regional Library System's 2024 Public Library Survey and 2023 Annual Report as presented.

CARRIED



PRLS 06/2024

4.3. Approval of the 2023 Outlet Annual Reports

Newland reviewed the Annual reports to the PLSB from Parkland's four outlet libraries, Brownfield Community Library, Nordegg Public Library, Spruce View Community Library and

Water Valley Public Library, for which Parkland is the governing board. Under the Alberta's Libraries Act, the PRLS Board must approve the annual reports for these service points.

Parkland's outlet libraries continue to strive for customer service excellence and provide unique services to the members of their communities.

Motion by Len Phillips to approve the annual reports and plan of service for Brownfield Community Library, Nordegg Public Library, Spruce View Community Library, and Water Valley Public Library as presented.

CARRIED
PRLS 07/2024

4.4. Marketing and Advocacy Committee Report

Lawlor spoke to the Advocacy Committee report, and the importance of advocating for public libraries. Among the items reported on Parkland's Advocacy Committee has set draft goals for 2024. Those goals are:

1. To continue to advocate for a cost-of-living adjustment to provincial operating grants and/or another infusion for increased library funding
2. To continue demonstrating leadership in the formulation of unified advocacy efforts by the seven library systems
3. To continue to focus on advocacy to the system board
4. To continue to help libraries and library boards advocate for themselves at the local level

Other major items deemed to be advocacy priorities include increasing funding for SuperNet bandwidth from the provincial government and helping libraires advocate effectively with their local municipal councils since many libraries are still struggling with insufficient funding.

Motion by Gord Lawlor to receive the Marketing and Advocacy Committee Report for information.

CARRIED
PRLS 08/2024

4.5.1. Director's Report

4.5.2. Library Services Report

4.5.3. I.T. Report

4.5.4. Finance & Operations Report



Gilliat asked if there were any questions regarding the Director's Report, Library Services Report, I.T. Report, or the Finance & Operations Report. There were none.

Motion by Sarah Fahey to receive the Director's Report, Library Services Report, I.T. Report, and Finance & Operations Report for information.

CARRIED
PRLS 09/2024

4.6. **Parkland Community Update**

Stettler Public Library has a new laser engraver and 3D printer. They will be participating in the Stettler trade show on April 12-14 with the 3D printer making items for children. Also, the Rotary Club of Stettler funded a unit that provides an immersive experience in the library.

Camrose Public Library is holding an event regarding intellectual freedom on February 22, 2024.

The Innisfail Public Library has recently updated their Plan of Service. They will be celebrating their 120th anniversary on April 13th from 11:00 – 2:00.

The Penhold Library distributed two pamphlets explaining how to get started with eResources and their year in review. They spent their TD Summer Reading prize on a baby grand piano and are working on ways to integrate music into their programming.

Carstairs Public Library received a grant that allowed them to purchase two pickup lockers for patrons to pick up library materials outside of library hours.

Todd Brand is giving a free seminar on Parliamentary Procedure in Strathmore on March 9th.

5. **Adjournment**

Motion by Gord Lawlor to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

CARRIED
PRLS 10/2024

Chair



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

Board Orientation by Dr. Margaret Law

Law spoke of the importance of the board member's role to the organization, and the importance of acting in the best interest of Parkland when acting as a Parkland board member.

Population Figures and the Parkland Master Agreement

Board members Carlene Wetthuhn and Deb Smith presented both sides on the topic of changing Article 8.3 regarding population estimates and which figures are to be used for Parkland's invoicing to member municipalities. A motion was put forward to amend the agreement. The motion was defeated.

Parkland Annual Report

Each year Parkland is required to submit an annual report to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) at Municipal Affairs.

An annual report infographic with highlights from 2023 will be prepared and distributed to member municipalities in the coming weeks.

Outlet Annual Reports

The Parkland Board is the governing board for four library service points. They are:

Brownfield Community Library – County of Paintearth

Nordeg Public Library – Clearwater County

Spruce View Community Library – Red Deer County

Water Valley Public Library – Mountain View County

Highlights from their annual reports are included below:

Brownfield Community Library Accomplishments

Our library accomplished a lot in 2023 in terms of programming in particular. We applied for and received a couple of grants, so we have been trying to do 1-2 programming events a month. In 2024, we plan to make our library wheelchair accessible and be able to enter our library from our back door so patrons will no longer have to enter through the school.

Nordeg Public Library Accomplishments

2023 was our BIG year! It marked the move with the help of many volunteers to the new premises in the County's Discovery Centre. Our library volunteers were engaged in weeding, packing, moving, unpacking and finally re-shelving of the materials. The move involved an approximate total of 350+ volunteer hours. There was a ribbon cutting event with cupcakes and prizes. We are very proud of our new, light, bright, library. We have five days a week accessibility with old and new volunteers and a wonderful large storage and office area to help us organize and plan our ongoing active life in the community. We are so grateful for all the assistance and direction we received from Parkland as we begin this new chapter.

Spruce View Community Library Accomplishments

We have partnered with Red Deer County and Spruce View School to bring *Tech Time* for seniors once a month in the library and last year with seniors and school kids helping. 72 people attended. Our literacy program continued last year on every Tuesday and also ran through the summer and had 472 attendees. We continue with *Lego* and it is still the most popular program we have, averaging about 35 kids every second Wednesday. Quilting still continues once a month with about 8 ladies coming each time. We held three fundraisers last year; they were all very well supported by our community.

Water Valley Public Library Accomplishments

This year at the Water Valley library we have seen an increase in the number of dedicated volunteers that are helping to keep the library running. With this increase in volunteers, we have seen an increase in volunteer hours as well. We are really excited to have so many people invested in the Water Valley library. There has also been an increase in the number of items that are circulating through the library. It is great to see that the community is really supporting and using the library to its fullest.

Marketing and Advocacy Committee Report

Parkland's Advocacy Committee has set its goals for 2024. Those goals are:

1. To continue to advocate for a cost-of-living adjustment to provincial operating grants and/or another infusion for increased library funding
2. To continue demonstrating leadership in the formulation of unified advocacy efforts by the seven library systems
3. To continue to focus on advocacy to the system board
4. To continue to help libraries and library boards advocate for themselves at the local level

Parkland's Advocacy Committee has organized a campaign for 2024 to help communicate the value of libraries in member library communities. Personal stories will be gathered throughout the region for further advocacy efforts.

Visit prl.ab.ca/about-us/advocacy to share how your local library has impacted you!

Parkland's 65th Anniversary – Save The Date

Parkland's 65th Anniversary plans are in the works. On May 6-9th Parkland invites libraries to celebrate this milestone.

On May 10th, there will be an open house and light refreshments at Parkland HQ – invitations will be sent to library staff and board members closer to the event. Staff will be putting away a time capsule to be opened at the 100th anniversary – libraries are encouraged to bring something interesting that embodies what the future of libraries will look like.

Committee News from Trustees

Stettler Public Library has a new laser engraver and 3D printer and are in the trade show on April 12-14 with the 3D printer making items for children. The Rotary Club of Stettler funded a unit that provides an immersive experience in the library.

Camrose Public Library is holding an event regarding intellectual freedom on February 22, 2024.

The Innisfail Public Library has recently updated their plan of service. They will also be celebrating their 120th anniversary on April 13th from 11:00 – 2:00.

The Penhold Library distributed two pamphlets explaining how to get started with eResources and their year in review. They spent their TD Summer Reading prize on a baby grand piano and are working on ways to integrate music into their programming.

Carstairs Public Library received a grant that allowed them to purchase two pickup lockers for patrons to pick up library materials outside of library hours.

Todd Brand is giving a free seminar on Parliamentary Procedure in Strathmore on March 9th.

Board Members Present

Barb Gilliat (Board Chair), Gord Lawlor, Ray Reckseidler, **(Zoom)** Alison Barker-Jevne, Jul Bissell, Doug Booker, Jaime Coston, Edna Coulter, Teresa Cunningham, Todd Dalke, Cal David, Dana Depalme, Jeff Eckstrand, Sarah Fahey, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Barbara Gibson, Kathy Hall, Pam Hansen, Stephen Levy, Bryce Liddle, Julie Maplethorpe, Ricci Matthews, Joy-Anne Murphy, Jackie Northey, Jacquie Palm-Fraser, Jas Payne, Leonard Phillips, Diane Roth, Deb Smith, Les Stulberg, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Bill Windsor, Janice Wing,

Regrets

Twyla Hale, Marc Mousseau, Bill Rock

Absent

Deb Coombes, Doug Francoeur, Michael Hildebrandt, Cody Hillmer, Dana Kreil, Darryl Motley, Jordon Northcott, Shawn Peach, Sandy Shipton, Harvey Walsh, Patricia Young

Guest

Margaret Law

Next Meeting: May 16, 2024 (Zoom)

For more information, or if you want a copy of the draft minutes from this board meeting, please contact PRLS.

From: Tyler Gandam <president@abmunis.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 4:45 PM
To: Information <information@sylvansummervillages.ca>
Subject: ABmunis' Preliminary Report on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Dear Mayors, Councillors, and CAOs:

Yesterday, the Government of Alberta released its budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Our ABmunis team dived into the numbers to learn how municipalities will be supported and we are now pleased to share our [Preliminary Report on Alberta's 2024 Budget](#).

If you missed this afternoon's webinar where we went over the numbers, the link to the video recording will be shared in our March 6 issue of The Weekly newsletter. If you aren't subscribed to the newsletter, go to abmunis.ca/news and click "subscribe to a newsletter" at the bottom of the page.

Thank you,
Tyler Gandam | President

E: president@abmunis.ca
300-8616 51 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6
Toll Free: 310-MUNI | 877-421-
6644 | www.abmunis.ca



Preliminary Analysis of Alberta's 2024 Budget



March 1, 2024

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Introduction

Alberta Municipalities is pleased to provide our members with this preliminary analysis of the 2024-25 Alberta Budget. The budget is focused on the impacts that a growing population will have on Alberta. As the order of government closest to the people, municipalities must be prepared to offer adequate services for their new residents, while also addressing significant infrastructure deficits. Our analysis examines how the provincial government is meeting the needs of communities, and areas that could be improved. It is our hope that this will lead to ongoing conversations between municipal councils and the Alberta Government on the various challenges facing communities.

What you will find in this document

This document includes ABmunis' preliminary analysis of Alberta's 2024-25 budget as it relates to:

- municipal priorities,
- details of provincial funding for municipal governments,
- potential impacts on provincial education property taxes and municipal property taxes,
- decisions that may impact the financial future of Alberta's municipal governments,
- a summary of the province's fiscal outlook, and
- highlights of individual ministry business plans that most impact Albertans at the local level.

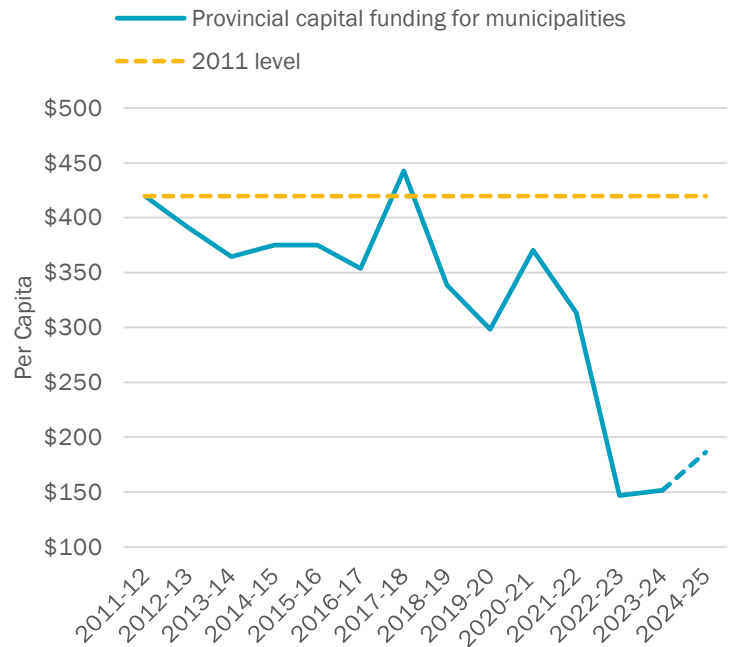
Priorities for Alberta's Municipal Governments

Infrastructure Funding

The 2024 fiscal year marks the launch of the new Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Capital funding program, which replaces the long-standing Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) as the primary funding program for municipal infrastructure. While the starting funding amount of LGFF Capital is higher than last year's MSI Capital funding, the Government of Alberta has ignored [ABmunis call for LGFF Capital to start at \\$1.75 billion](#). Instead, it will start at \$722 million, which continues the trend where provincial investments in community infrastructure is well below historical levels.

Provincial funding for community infrastructure has not kept pace with Alberta's population growth, nor changes in inflation. In 2011, the Government of Alberta was investing \$420 per Albertan into municipal infrastructure programs but that has trended downwards over the years and will only be \$186 per capita in 2024.¹

Total Provincial Per Capita Funding for Municipal Infrastructure
(excluding federal funding)



The Government of Alberta consistently promotes how MSI Capital averaged \$722 million per year over the last three years and that LGFF Capital continues at the same amount this year. The problem is inflation cuts into every municipal government's purchasing power for construction costs. If LGFF Capital had been adjusted to account for Alberta's inflation over the last three years, then the starting amount of LGFF Capital should have been almost \$100 million more at \$819 million.²

The reality is that Alberta's community infrastructure will continue to deteriorate, and new infrastructure will be needed. With the province's choice to underfund LGFF Capital, the province is passing the tax burden onto property owners through significant property tax increases. The other option is that Albertans will be forced to accept a lower standard for their community roads, sidewalks, pathways, parks, recreation facilities, water systems, fire equipment, and other local services.

New Local Growth and Sustainability Grant

Alberta Municipal Affairs is launching a new Local Growth and Sustainability Grant intended to support local infrastructure in high growth communities. According to Budget 2024-25, \$20 million per year will be provided over the next three years. Municipal Affairs indicates it worked hard to make the case for this additional grant to be included in the budget and will be releasing further details later this fall on how the funding will be allocated. It appears the grant may partially align with the intent of ABmunis' [2023 resolution that calls for a dedicated funding program to support the capital investment pressures of growth](#), though the amount is dwarfed by the need.

¹ Figures are based on ABmunis' calculations using the total of capital funding programs delivered by the Government of Alberta that are available to most municipalities, excluding funding from the Government of Canada that flows through the Government of Alberta. Figures are sourced from the Government of Alberta's annual fiscal plans and consist of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative Capital, Basic Municipal Transportation Grant, Water for Life, Municipal Water and Wastewater Partnership, Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program, Local Growth and Sustainability Grant, First Nations Water Tie-In Program, GreenTRIP, Alberta Community Resiliency Program, and the Municipal Stimulus Program. Population is based on Statistics Canada Table 17-10-0005-01 and 2024-25 population is estimated at 4.3% growth over 2023 based on Statistic Canada's quarterly estimated changes from Q4 2022 to Q4 2023.

² ABmunis calculations based on changes in Alberta's consumer price index from 2021 to 2023. Statistics Canada Table 18-10-0005-01.

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Provincial Property Taxes Increase

The Government of Alberta has opted to maintain the same education property tax rates as in 2023-24. Due to strong growth in property values and increased development over the past year, the result is the Government of Alberta will collect an additional \$229 million, a 9.2 per cent increase, in provincial education property taxes in 2024-25. The province indicates that this revenue will help mitigate the cost pressures of rising enrolment in schools, but the tax increase will far surpass the 4.7 per cent year-over-year change in Alberta Education's budgeted expenditures.

The substantial increase in provincial education property taxes will place political pressure on municipal councils to lower any planned increases in municipal property taxes. ABmunis awaits the outcome of Alberta Municipal Affairs' work to determine the feasibility of amendments to the education property tax system to allow municipalities to retain more funding for local priorities.

Grants in Place of Taxes

Budget 2024-25 includes an increase of \$2.1 million to the Grants in Place of Property Taxes (GIPOT) funding to reflect rising assessment values and construction of new government infrastructure. Despite increases in Budget 2023 and Budget 2024, GIPOT's 2024 budget of \$38.1 million is still well below past funding levels of \$60 million before the province cut the program budget in 2019-20. The gap in GIPOT funding points to the need for the province to recognize the essential role that day-to-day municipal services play in supporting provincial buildings.

Community Recreation Centre Infrastructure Program

A new \$10 million per year program will fund small and mid-size recreation infrastructure projects. When more details are known about the program and whether municipalities are eligible, we will share that information with members.

Natural Disaster Preparation

ABmunis appreciates that Budget 2024-25 provides municipalities with additional support to prepare for natural disasters. The measures include investment in wildfire preparedness, water management, and water infrastructure. The province has increased their contingency fund from \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion to address unanticipated costs related to disasters and emergencies.

2024 Drought Preparations

The Government of Alberta began engaging with major water users, including municipalities, in the fall of 2023 to communicate the possibility of a severe drought in 2024. Minister of Environment and Protected Areas Rebecca Schulz has requested that Alberta Municipalities and our members proactively prepare for water shortages.

The Renewed Flood and Drought Mitigation Grant Program has \$125 million over five years to support municipalities prepare for extreme weather. The Strategy to Increase Water Availability is funded by \$19 million over three years. This strategy aims to improve water storage infrastructure, the water license application process, data collection and support water conservation, efficiency and productivity initiatives. These align with ABmunis' goals.

The province's Water Advisory Committee is a new independent committee providing high level feedback to the government. One of the six members is Tanya Thorn, Mayor of Okotoks and ABmunis Board member.

Wildfires

\$151 million over three years has been allocated to improve our wildfire readiness and \$55 million in capital investment for new firefighting equipment and facilities.

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Affordable Housing

ABmunis appreciates that the province is investing nearly \$1 billion in seniors' facilities and housing, as there is an urgent need to develop and upgrade all housing stock, particularly if Alberta continues to welcome high numbers of migrants. While the capital plan includes \$254 million in new funding to build approximately 3,300 new affordable housing units and complete 1,800 units already under development, it is important to note that according to Statistics Canada, nearly 162,000 households in Alberta were in core housing need in 2021. The province currently assists 58,600 households with their housing costs, but this represents only 36 per cent of households in core housing need. While Budget 2024 proposes expanding assistance to an additional 5,650 households over the next three years, this would still leave over 60 per cent of households in core housing need without any support.

Mental Health and Addiction

Budget 2024-25 includes welcome increases for mental health and addiction facilities and programs, with details to come as to exactly how the funding will be rolled out. The budget does reinforce the focus on recovery.

The Ministry's business plan identifies harm reduction services as an area of focus under *Outcome 3: Albertans have access to high-quality, person-centred mental health and addiction programs and services*. However, the budget documents do not specify how much will be spent on harm reduction initiatives this year or in future years. With a record number of opioid poisoning occurring in Alberta in 2023, ABmunis is concerned that a focus on only recovery will result to an even higher number of overdose deaths in 2024.

Emergency Medical Services

As emergency medical services (EMS) remain a key priority for municipalities, ABmunis was pleased to see that Budget 2024-25 will allocate a total of \$730 million to increase EMS system capacity and implement recommendations from the Alberta EMS Provincial Advisory Committee and Alberta EMS Dispatch Review. We also note \$35 million in capital funding over the next three years to purchase new emergency medical services vehicles and ambulances, upgrade the existing fleet, and acquire additional equipment. Last year, the Minister of Health established a new Alberta EMS standing committee that will provide feedback directly to the Minister on EMS performance, opportunities, and challenges. ABmunis is pleased to have representation on this Board and will continue to monitor provincial investments and initiatives to improve response times.

Libraries

The 2024 budget for public library operating funding has increased by 0.5 per cent to \$39.9 million.

Family and Community Support Services

Budget 2024-25 allocates \$105 million through Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) to communities and Metis Settlements to develop and deliver preventative social services programming. The funding is unchanged from last year.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Tax

The Alberta Government announced it will be adding an annual \$200 tax for all EVs registered in Alberta. The intent of this tax is to offset wear and tear to roads caused by electric vehicles as EV drivers are not paying into the taxes collected from fuel sales. As significant owners and operators of roads throughout the province, this revenue should be shared with municipalities to offset their road maintenance costs.

PLANNING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY'S FINANCIAL FUTURE

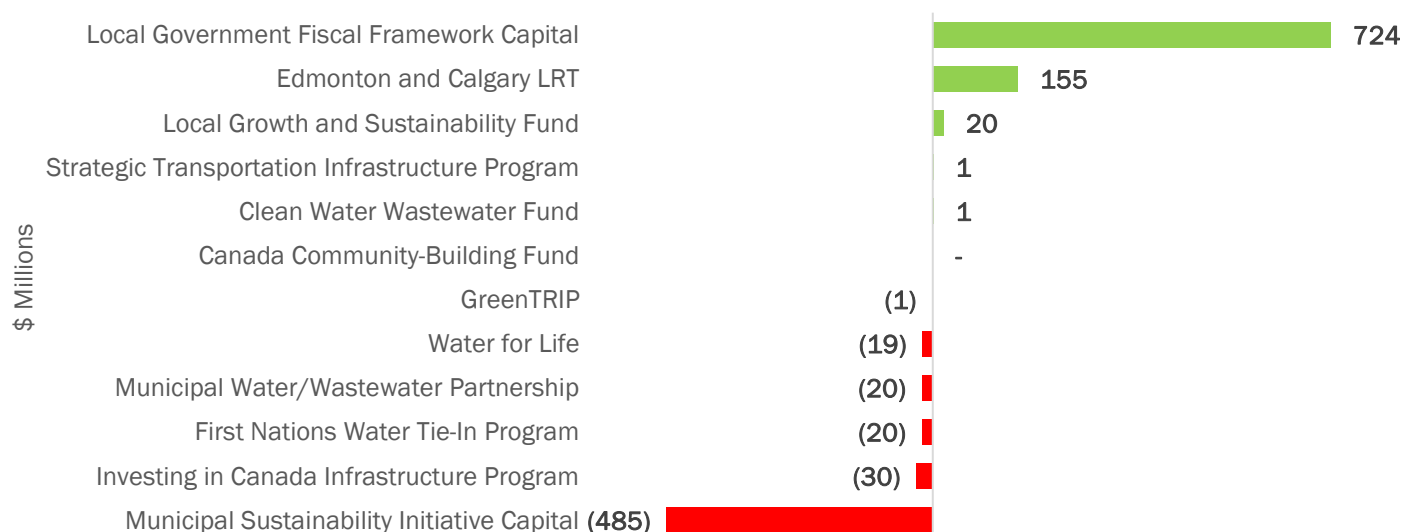
HOW BUDGET 2024 SUPPORTS MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

How Budget 2024-25 Supports Municipalities

Core Capital Funding for Municipal Governments

\$ millions	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast	2024 vs. 2023
Provincial Capital Funding					
Municipal Sustainability Initiative – Capital	485	-	-	-	(485)
Local Government Fiscal Framework - Capital	-	724	820	808	724
Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership	86	66	85	56	(20)
Water for Life	69	50	81	106	(19)
Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program	43	44	33	35	1
Local Growth and Sustainability Grant	-	20	20	20	20
Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP)	1	-	-	-	(1)
First Nations Water Tie-In Program	28	8	15	14	(20)
	712	912	1,054	1,039	200
Year-over-year change (%)		28.1%	15.6%	-1.4%	
Federal Capital Funding Delivered by the Government of Alberta					
Canada Community-Building Fund	266	266	266	266	-
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	103	73	25	8	(30)
Clean Water Wastewater Fund	-	1	-	-	1
Edmonton and Calgary LRT (incl. provincial funds)	694	849	878	1,221	155
	1,064	1,189	1,169	1,495	125
Year-over-year change (%)		11.7%	9.9%	2.0%	
Total Provincial & Federal Capital Funding	1,776	2,101	2,223	2,534	325
		18.3%	5.8%	14.0%	

Year-over-year change in municipal capital funding: Budget 2024 vs. Budget 2023³



³ The Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital program replaces the Municipal Sustainability Initiative Capital program.

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

While it appears that provincial capital funding has significantly increased in 2024-25, the funding level has been relatively flat as part of a four-year plan leading into the implementation of LGFF Capital. In 2021-22, the Government of Alberta opted to front-load a large proportion of the remaining three years of MSI Capital at an average of \$722 million per year. This resulted in abnormally low funding in 2022-23 and 2023-24 leading into this year where the province has maintained that level of funding with LGFF Capital set at the same annual average of \$722 million. The total of \$912 million includes the \$722 million in LGFF Capital plus funding from five other programs.

The provincial portion of capital funding (excluding federal funding) for municipalities is \$52 million higher than was forecasted in Budget 2023. This is primarily due to the introduction of a new \$20 million Local Growth and Sustainability Grant and the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program will be \$19 million higher than the Budget 2023 forecast for 2024-25.

Despite this increase, the province's level of investment is still well below the expectations of Alberta's municipal governments and well below historical funding levels as highlighted in this graph⁴. The lower level of funding is shifting the tax burden for community infrastructure onto property owners through their property taxes. The following provides details about budget changes in each provincial funding program.

Provincial Capital Funding

Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP)

- AMWWP was forecasted to be \$63 million this year but the 2024 budget came in at \$66 million. A portion of the 2024 budget may be a rollover of unspent funding from 2023 as the province planned to spend \$86 million in 2023 but only \$42 million is estimated to be spent in the year.

Water for Life

- Water for Life was forecasted to be \$50 million this year and that promise was met. A portion of the 2024 budget may be a rollover of unspent funding from 2023 as the province planned to spend \$50 million in 2023 but only \$14 million is estimated to be used.

Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP)

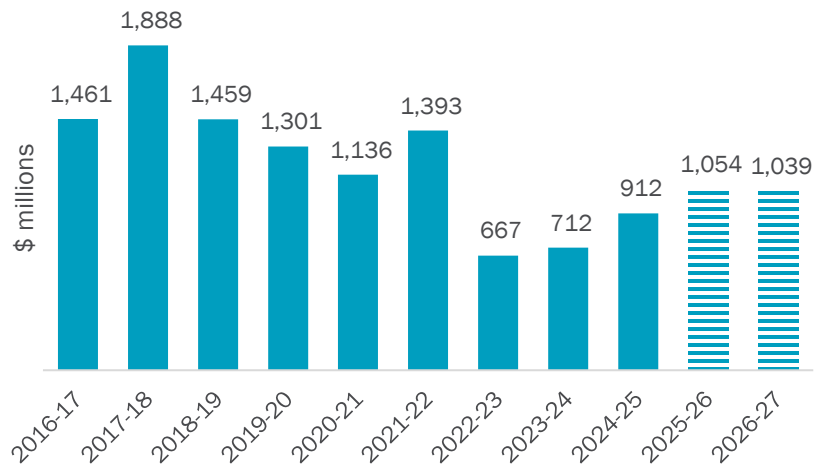
- STIP funding was forecasted to be \$25 million but the 2024 budget is increased to \$44 million. A portion of the 2024 budget may be a rollover of unspent funding from 2023 as the province planned to spend \$43 million in 2023 but only \$32 million is estimated to be spent in the year.

Local Growth and Sustainability Grant

- A new and unexpected program that will fund infrastructure projects that support economic development and unique and emergent needs. Funding will be granted based on a competitive application process. Eligibility and project types will be announced later this year.

Total Provincial Infrastructure Funding for Municipalities

(budgeted amounts excluding federal funding and single community funding programs)



⁴ Figures are based on the Government of Alberta's annual fiscal plan budget amounts for provincial capital funding programs for municipalities excluding programs delivered by the Government of Canada that flow through the Government of Alberta and excluding programs that are specific to only one or two municipalities. The graphed figures represent the budgeted figures for the Municipal Sustainability Initiative, Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital, Local Growth and Sustainability Grant, Water for Life, Municipal Water and Wastewater Partnership, Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program, Alberta Community Resilience Program, GreenTRIP, and the First Nations Water Tie-In Program.

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

GreenTRIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GreenTRIP program closed to applications in 2016. The last remaining funding of that program was expended in 2023-24.
First Nations Water Tie-In Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2023, the province budgeted to spend \$28 million with no further spending in 2024 or 2025. After only \$1 million was spent in 2023-24, the province has changed its plan with \$8 million budgeted in 2024-25, \$15 million in 2025-26 and \$14 million in 2026-27.

Federal Capital Funding Delivered by the Government of Alberta

Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCBF only increases when the Government of Canada's two per cent indexation increases the funding pot by at least a \$100 million increment. The funding increased in 2023, so the funding remains at \$266 million this year. The Alberta Government is currently negotiating a new CCBF agreement with the federal government. ABmunis recently sent a letter to the federal government in conjunction with RMA and the municipal associations from Saskatchewan and Manitoba calling on the federal government to double the fund and increase the indexation from 2% to 3.5%.
Clean Water Wastewater Fund (CWWF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABmunis assumes that the budget of \$1 million represents the remaining project dollars to be spent to close out the program.
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Fund (ICIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta's ICIP funding is fully allocated so the change in budget is driven by the timing of expenditures for the approved projects.
Edmonton and Calgary Light Rail Transit (LRT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Edmonton and Calgary LRT was forecasted to be \$1.176 billion this year but the 2024 budget came in at \$849 million. ABmunis assumes the change is due to the project status and timing of expenditures related to this multi-year funding agreement between Canada and Alberta.

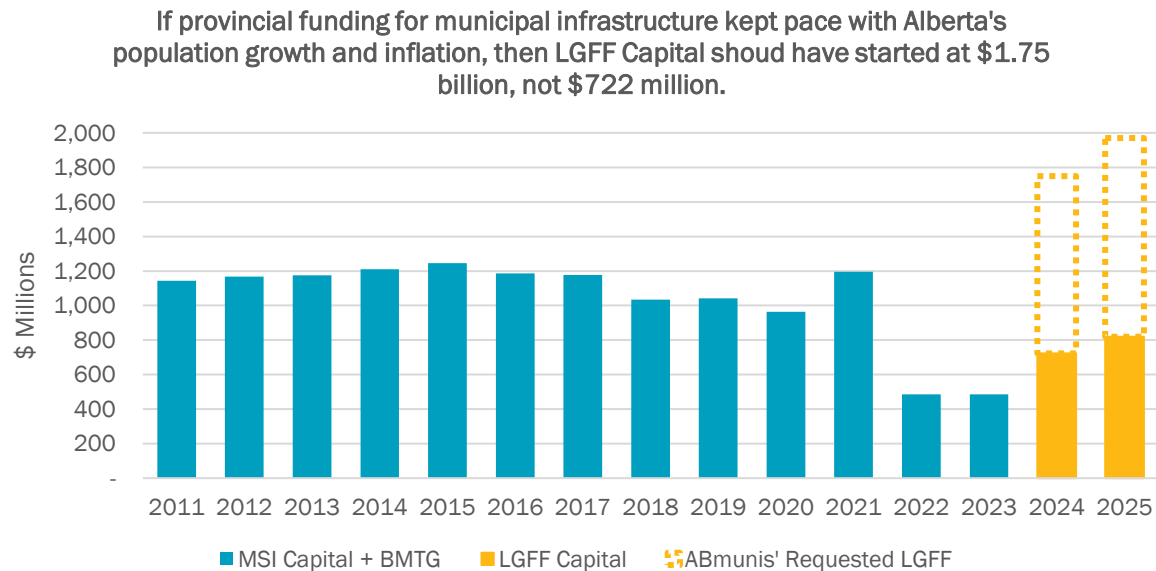
Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital

Since the Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital program was announced in 2019, ABmunis' goal was to seek two changes to the program before it was launched this year. ABmunis was successful in getting the Government of Alberta to remove the 50 per cent cap on the revenue index factor calculation so that the funding pot will grow at the same rate as provincial revenues. This change was announced in 2023 and will help ensure that the funding pot keeps pace with inflation and community needs over the long term.

Our second priority was for the starting amount of LGFF Capital to be increased from the planned \$722 million to \$1.75 billion. The justification for that request was presented in a [2023 resolution](#) that was overwhelmingly approved by our members. Unfortunately, the Government of Alberta has ignored this need in favour of other priorities and has proceeded with its plan to start LGFF Capital at only \$722 million, which is well below the historical average of its predecessor program, the Municipal Sustainability Initiative.

Municipalities have called for...		Delivered by the Government of Alberta
1	The starting amount of LGFF Capital in 2024 to be set at \$1.75 billion.	✗
2	The removal of the 50 per cent cap on the growth of the LGFF funding pot.	✓

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget



To be clear, ABmunis is supportive of the new LGFF Capital program as we played a key role in the design of the program. However, the starting amount of the funding pot has been a major concern for municipalities since the *Local Government Fiscal Framework Act* was first introduced in 2019.

Despite ABmunis' significant disappointment that LGFF Capital was not increased, ABmunis plans to conduct additional research and engage provincial leaders to explore the projected long-term outcomes to Alberta's communities if provincial support for community infrastructure is not increased.

Annual Changes in the Funding Pot

The forecasted increase in 2025-26 is based on LGFF's design where the funding pot will increase or decrease annually based on changes in the Government of Alberta's actual revenues from three years prior. Therefore, the increase in the 2025 LGFF Capital will be calculated based on the change in the Government of Alberta's revenue from 2021-22 to the 2022-23 fiscal year. The 2026 amount for LGFF Capital will be confirmed by this fall once the province closes its books for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Transition Funding

Budget 2024 includes a one-time allocation of \$2.2 million under LGFF Capital that will be split among nine municipalities. This meets a promise made in Budget 2023 where municipalities will receive a one-time top-up if their 2024 LGFF Capital allocation is less than their 2023 MSI Capital allocation due to the change in the allocation formula.

\$ millions	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast
Capital Component							
MSI Capital (incl. BMTG)	963	1,196	485	485	-	-	-
LGFF Capital	-	-	-	-	722	820	808
LGFF Capital transition funding ⁵	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Total	963	1,196	485	485	724	820	808
Year-over-year change		233	(711)	-	239	96	(12)

⁵ In Budget 2023, the Government of Alberta committed to provide one-time transition funding to municipalities that would receive less funding under their 2024 LGFF Capital allocation compared to their 2023 MSI Capital allocation. The result is nine municipalities will receive a portion of a one-time allocation \$2.2 million in transition funding.

Core Operating Funding for Municipal Governments

\$ millions	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	% Change	Note
Alberta Community Partnership	15.4	15.4	15.4	-	
Emergency Management Preparedness Program	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	
Family and Community Support Services	100.0	105.0	105.0	-	1
Fire Services Training Program	-	0.5	0.5	-	
Grants in Place of Taxes	30.0	36.0	38.1	5.8%	2
Local Government Fiscal Framework Operating	-	-	60.0	New	3
Municipal Sustainability Initiative – Operating	30.0	60.0	-	-100.0%	3
Policing Support Grant (formerly MPAG and POG)	89.2	98.8	98.8	-	4
	264.8	300.3	302.4		

Notes on Core Operating Funding for Municipalities

1. In 2023, the province reported Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding at \$115 million, but that included a new \$10 million allocation for Food Banks. The actual amount municipalities received for FCSS programs in 2023 was \$105 million and that amount is unchanged for 2024.
2. The Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) funding increased from \$36 million to \$38.1 million in 2024-25, which is due to rising property values plus new provincial properties. Despite the increase, GIPOT is still well below past funding levels of \$60 million before the budget was cut in 2019-20. ABmunis continues to advocate that the province should cover the full cost of municipal services to provincial properties just like any other property owner.
3. In 2023, the budget for MSI Operating was doubled from \$30 million to \$60 million. In 2024, MSI Operating is replaced by the new Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Operating program at the same \$60 million budget. Each municipality's 2024 LGFF Operating allocation will match their 2023 MSI Operating allocation and Alberta Municipal Affairs plans to develop a new allocation formula for LGFF Operating for implementation in 2025.
4. This funding is for any municipality with a population over 5,000 that provides their own police service and were eligible for the former Municipal Policing Assistance Grant and Police Officer Grant.

Notable Funding to Community Entities

\$ millions	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	% Change
Agricultural Service Boards	8.9	11.9	11.9	-
Agricultural Societies and Exhibition Grants	11.5	11.5	11.5	-
Agricultural Societies Infrastructure Revitalization	-	2.5	2.5	-
Community Facility Enhancement Program	38.5	50.0	50.0	-
Community Recreation Centre Infrastructure Program ⁶	-	-	10.0	New
Library Services – Operating	37.0	39.7	39.9	0.5%
Legal Aid	94.3	134.6	110.0	-18.3%
Regional Economic Development Alliances	0.5	1.1	1.1	-
	190.7	251.3	226.9	

⁶ ABmunis will seek to find out if this new program will be eligible for municipal governments to apply.

Provincial Education Property Tax

Over the last decade, the Government of Alberta has frequently changed its approach to how it determines the amount of provincial education property taxes to be collected from Alberta's property owners.

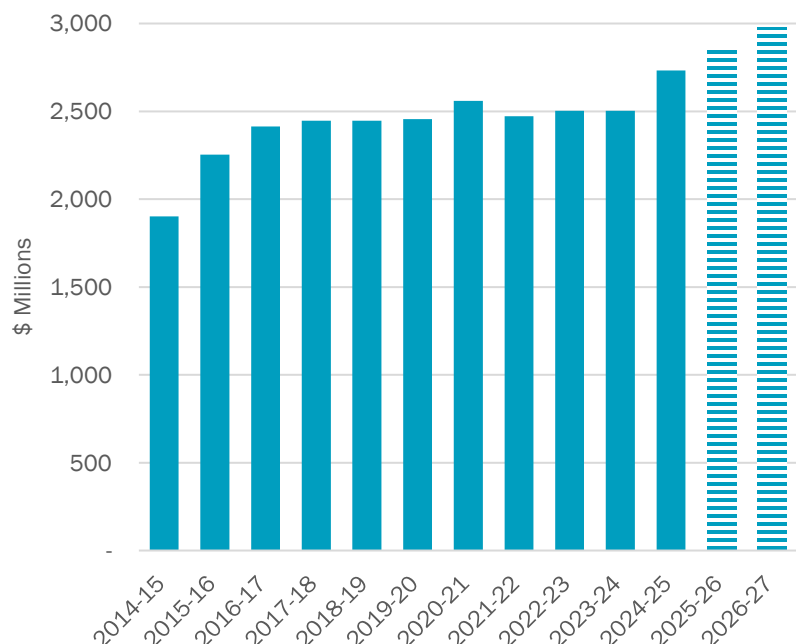
- **2015-16** – Set at 32 per cent of Alberta Education's budgeted operating expense.
- **2016-17** – Set at 32 per cent of Alberta Education's budgeted operating expense.
- **2017-18** – Maintained the 2016-17 mill rates resulting in a 1.3 per cent increase in the tax revenue amount.
- **2018-19** – Frozen at the 2016-17 tax revenue amount.
- **2019-20** – Maintained the 2018-19 mill rates resulting in a 0.5 per cent increase in the tax revenue amount.
- **2020-21** – Planned to link to changes in population plus inflation but abandoned due to the pandemic.
- **2021-22** – Frozen at the 2020-21 tax revenue amount.
- **2022-23** – Linked to percentage change in Alberta Education's budgeted operating expense.
- **2023-24** – Frozen at the 2022-23 tax revenue amount.
- **2024-25** – Maintained the 2023-24 mill rates resulting in a 9.2 per cent increase in the tax revenue amount.

In Budget 2023, the Government of Alberta communicated its plan to link provincial education property taxes to changes in Alberta's population plus inflation beginning in 2024. Recognizing the public's limited understanding of the difference between provincial education property taxes and municipal property taxes and affordability challenges, ABmunis once again suggested to provincial ministers that the provincial education property tax amount should be maintained at \$2.5 billion.

Instead, the province has opted to maintain the provincial education property tax rates from the 2023-24 year and because of the growth in property assessment in Alberta's communities over the last year, the province will collect an additional \$229 million from Albertans through property tax bills. The total amount will increase from \$2.5 billion in 2023-24 to \$2.73 billion in 2024-25, representing a significant 9.2% increase in provincial education property taxes.

Once again, municipal governments will be responsible to collect this tax on behalf of the Government of Alberta and as a result, will wear much of the political blame for this tax increase despite municipal councils having no control over the decision.

Provincial Education Property Tax
(budgeted figures)



\$ millions	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast
Provincial education property tax	2,504	2,504	2,733	2,856	2,979
Year-over-year change (%)	1.0%	0.0%	9.2%	4.5%	4.3%

ABmunis is disappointed that the Government of Alberta will collect an additional \$229 million in provincial property taxes from municipalities while delivering no increase in LGFF Capital funding in return.

GOOD TO KNOW

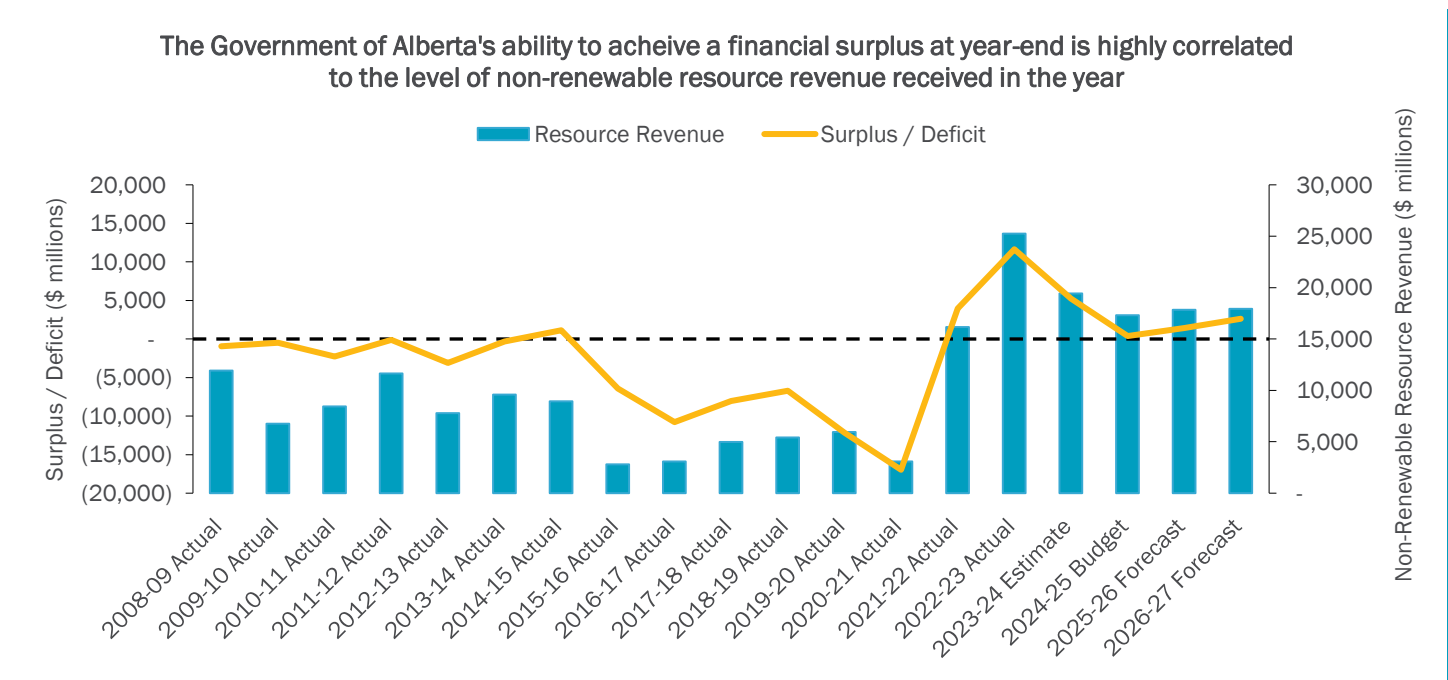
AN OVERVIEW OF ALBERTA'S 2024 FISCAL PLAN

An Overview of the 2024 Fiscal Plan

The Government of Alberta is projecting a \$367 million surplus in 2024-25. This follows three years of multi-billion surpluses including \$11.6 billion in 2022-23 and a forecasted \$5.2 billion surplus in 2023-24. The sizeable surpluses can be attributed to substantial non-renewable resource revenues, driven by geopolitical tensions and unexpectedly high oil and gas commodity prices.

Unlike many Canadian provinces, Alberta earns substantial revenues from its natural resources. While there are diverse revenue streams that typically provide consistent volumes of income, non-renewable resource revenue can contribute anywhere from 10 per cent to upwards of 30 per cent of the Government of Alberta's annual revenues. As Alberta's population continues to grow, so will the demand for infrastructure and government services (both municipal and provincial). Alberta's dependence on resource revenue raises questions regarding Alberta's long-term financial sustainability. Moreover, Albertans will likely face questions in the future regarding the levels of service they expect versus the amount of provincial and property taxes required to sustain them.

The graph below shows the trend of non-renewable resource revenues in comparison to the Government of Alberta's year-end operational surplus or deficit. The trend indicates a direct correlation between the provincial government's financial position and the volume of non-renewable resource revenue earned year-to-year.



Source: Government of Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan, Schedule 26: Historical Fiscal Summary, page 165.

The Plan for Alberta Revenues Needs to Include Municipal Governments

ABmunis provides this context as the Government of Alberta has announced a plan to make significant investments in the Heritage Fund to achieve a vision of building intergenerational wealth. Based on the Government of Alberta's plans to maintain its offer as a low tax province, the success of its plan will depend on the rate of non-renewable resource revenues and cautious choices in public spending.

Municipal councils are highly aware of how provincial choices in spending can impact municipal government budgets based on the hundreds of millions of dollars of costs that the provincial government downloaded onto municipal governments between 2017 and 2022. For this reason, ABmunis will be advocating for the Government of Alberta to engage municipalities in frank discussions about the plan for future revenue generation in Alberta and how that will impact municipal budgets and property taxes.

Statement of Operations

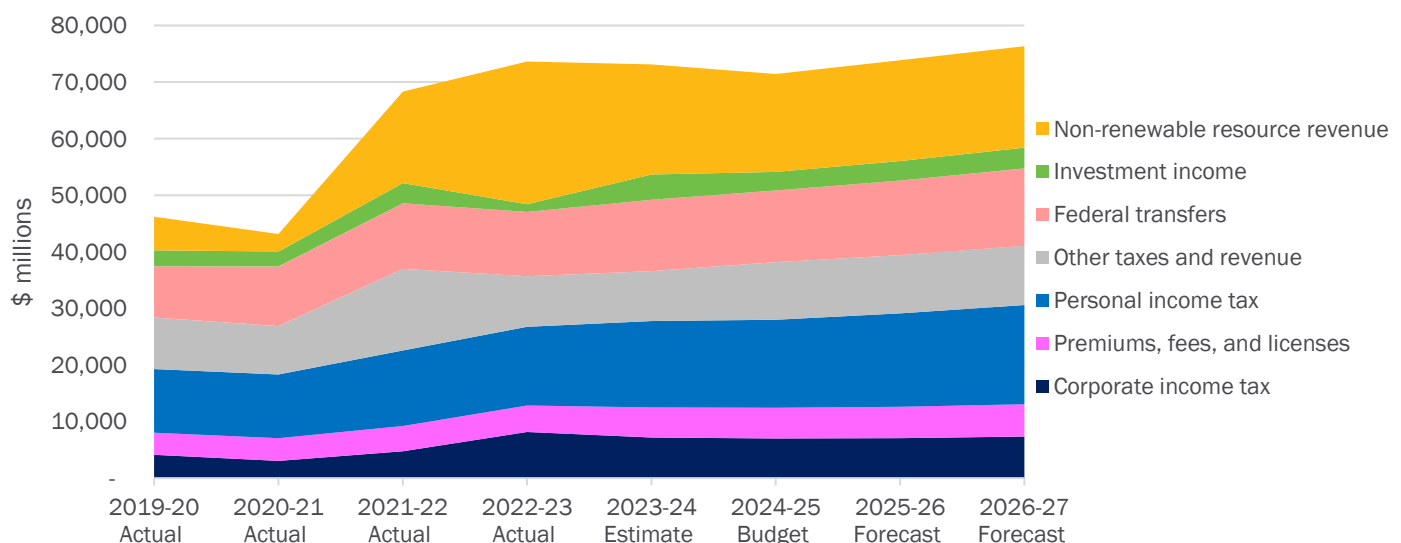
\$ millions	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Estimate	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast
Revenue					
Personal income tax	13,925	15,239	15,604	16,514	17,512
Corporate income tax	8,167	7,204	7,028	7,052	7,320
Other tax revenue	4,432	4,470	6,013	6,329	6,535
Resource revenue	25,242	19,416	17,315	17,839	17,939
Investment income	1,326	4,467	3,267	3,433	3,672
Premiums, fees, and licenses	4,657	5,300	5,384	5,551	5,752
Other own-source revenues	7,008	6,876	6,287	6,172	6,441
Federal transfers	11,363	12,656	12,640	13,161	13,644
Total revenue	76,120	75,628	73,537	76,051	78,816
Expenditures					
Health	25,486	26,676	28,732	29,363	30,250
Basic/Advanced education	15,220	16,005	16,957	17,338	17,538
Social services	7,222	8,236	8,121	8,424	8,591
Other program expenses	13,743	16,699	16,359	16,741	17,001
Total program expense	61,671	67,616	70,169	71,866	73,380
Debt servicing costs	2,829	3,136	3,365	3,121	3,174
Pension provisions	(21)	(358)	(364)	(373)	(378)
Total expense	64,479	70,394	73,170	74,614	76,176
Surplus / (Deficit)	11,641	5,234	367	1,437	2,640

Source: Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan, Schedule 26: Historical Fiscal Summary, page 165.

Revenues

Total revenues are estimated to be \$73.5 billion in 2024-25, a 4.1 per cent increase over the 2023 budget. In 2024-25, 24 per cent of total government revenue is forecast to come from non-renewable resource revenues. After 2024-25, revenue sources will remain either stable or increase nominally, apart from personal income tax revenue, which will increase 6 per cent year-over-year.

Government of Alberta revenues by source



Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

The Government of Alberta is projecting a reduction in nearly all its taxable revenue sources in 2024-25, with the exception of personal income tax, which will increase by 2 per cent. Other tax revenue will increase by 20 per cent, and premiums, fees and licenses by 2 per cent. The increase for other tax revenue is primarily driven by the fuel tax, which was paused for the first three quarters of 2023-24 but is budgeted to be in full effect throughout 2024-25 and onward. The Government of Alberta looks to be progressively shifting its revenue generation focus away from non-renewable resource revenue and towards personal income tax to take advantage of continued population growth while limiting volatility in government revenues. In 2024-25, an estimated 54.5 per cent of all tax revenue is from personal income taxes. Alberta is projected to reach a population of 5 million by 2026, an increase of more than half a million Albertans from 2022.

Expenditures

Total expenditures are estimated to increase by \$4.9 billion, a 7 per cent increase over the 2023-24 budget. The Government of Alberta is projecting to spend more on:

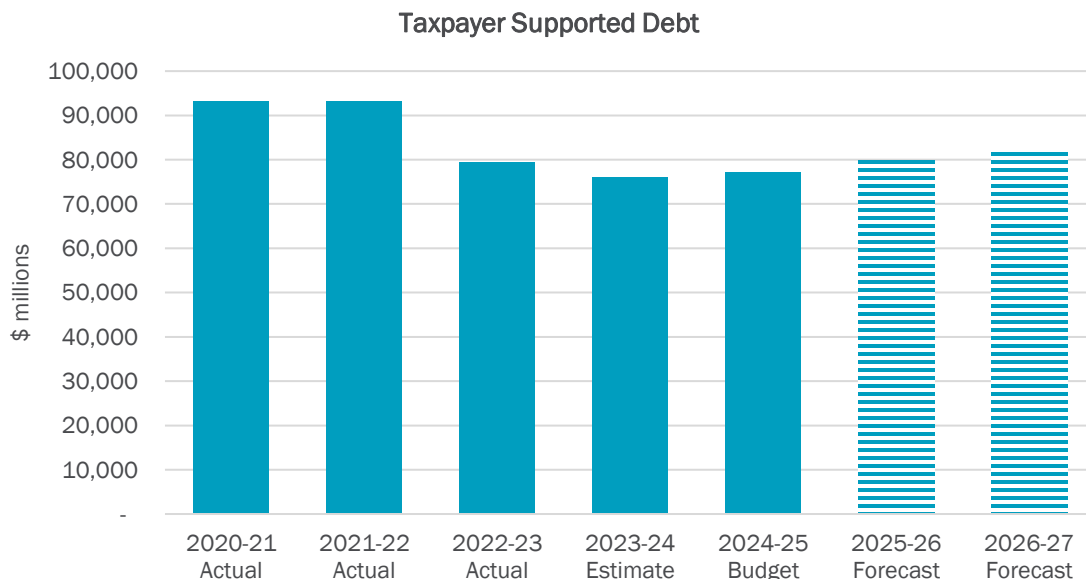
- healthcare (4%),
- K-12 education (4%),
- post-secondary education (3%),
- operating expenses (4%),
- capital grants (46%), and
- debt servicing costs (7%).

Notably, it plans to spend 2 per cent less on social services ministries. The increase in capital grants can be attributed to programs to build affordable housing, the transition to the LGFF Capital program, and reprofiling of capital projects.

Taxpayer Supported Debt and Debt Servicing Costs

Debt servicing costs increased by \$229 million in 2024-25 to \$3.4 billion, which is the result of the high interest rates maintained by the Bank of Canada and pre-borrowing in 2024-25 to prepare for maturing debt.

Total taxpayer supported debt is estimated to be \$76.1 billion at the end of 2023-24, and \$78.4 billion at the end of 2024-25. Debt servicing costs on taxpayer supported debt is budgeted to increase by \$300 million from 2023-24, to \$2.6 billion in 2024-25. As the provincial government is required to be in a surplus cash position to reduce its taxpayer support debt, it is not expected to reduce this debt over the next three years.



Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Contingency for Disasters

It is also worth noting that the budgeted contingency has increased by 33 per cent to \$2 billion. This is due to the \$2.9 billion spent in 2023 on disaster and emergency response for drought, wildfires, and floods and the need to be prepared for the possible disasters this year.

Key Energy and Economic Assumptions

\$ millions	2023-24 Estimate	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast
Crude Oil Prices				
WTI (US\$/bbl)	76.50	74.00	74.00	74.00
Light-Heavy Differential (US\$/bbl)	17.30	16.00	14.90	13.60
WCS @ Hardisty (Cdn\$/bbl)	80.20	76.80	75.60	75.80
Natural Gas Price				
Alberta Reference Price (Cdn\$/GJ)	2.20	2.90	3.70	3.80
Production				
Conventional Crude Oil (000s barrels/day)	500	507	508	505
Raw Bitumen (000s barrels/day)	3,324	3,429	3,539	3,650
Interest Rates				
10-year Canada Bonds (%)	3.50	3.70	3.60	3.40
Exchange Rate (US\$/Cdn\$)				

Source: Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan, Energy and Economic Assumptions, page 10.

Ministry Highlights

Advanced Education

The Ministry's budget will increase by \$500 million from 2023-24 to \$7 billion in 2024-25. This includes \$2.5 billion in direct operating support to Alberta post-secondary institutions. The provincial government expects post-secondary institutions to finance a reasonable share of their operations from non-government sources, including tuition, fees and private support. In 2022-23, own-source revenue of Alberta's post-secondary institutions averaged 53 per cent of operating expenses. By 2026-27 this share is projected to increase to 58 per cent, reducing the share funded by government to 42 per cent.

The 2024 budget also allocates \$62.4 million over three years to create two Rural Health Professional Training Centres and expand physician education, to address critical shortages of medical professionals, particularly in rural areas. The training centres will support local educational and clinical rotations, with the goal of retaining medical professionals in the rural areas where they train.

Affordability and Utilities

The Ministry of Affordability and Utilities is charged with making life more affordable for Albertans. The Ministry delivers the Natural Gas Rebate Program to provide natural gas price stability. The Ministry's budget has decreased from \$139 million in 2023 to \$92 million mostly due to significant reductions in utility rebate grants. Affordability

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

and Utilities is also currently reviewing the regulated rate option and other regulatory issues impacting utilities to increase affordability. This aligns with ABmunis' resolutions on the disparity in transmission and distribution rates.

Agriculture and Irrigation

The agricultural sector faced challenges in 2023. Crop exports declined due to lower yields from the drought. The drought also led to reduced livestock numbers. Increased funding to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation aims to support growth, diversification, and sustainability.

The Ministry has an operating budget of \$870 million for 2024-25, an increase of \$77 million or 9.7 per cent. Investments in irrigation and agri-processing are priorities in the ministry's business plan. Several municipalities are supplied with water via irrigation canals and infrastructure.

The budget includes \$9 million for water management and \$400 million over three years for water management infrastructure, irrigation projects and rehabilitation.

The Capital Plan invests \$147 million in the Water Management Infrastructure Program to repair and upgrade water infrastructure such as water canals, dams, spillways, and reservoirs. The Capital Plan also includes \$5 million for planning studies to assess the feasibility of developing new water reservoirs in Alberta. \$54 million is budgeted for the Agriculture Sector Strategy – Irrigation Projects, \$19 million for the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program, \$9 million for Southern Alberta Irrigation Projects, \$1 million for a water management feasibility study, and \$47 million for water management infrastructure.

The new Alberta Agri-Processing Investment Tax Credit provides a 12 per cent tax credit (up to \$175 million per project) for projects of at least \$10 million to build or expand agri-processing facilities in Alberta.

Arts, Culture and Status of Women

The Ministry's overall budget decreased from \$278.6 million in 2023-24 to \$262.5 million for 2024-25. Non-profit organizations have access to \$75.8 million through community grant programs. \$5.4 million has been made available to the Alberta Made Screen Industries Program to eligible Alberta-made film productions. The Ministry will also develop a 10-year strategic plan to end gender-based violence and support survivors and is allocating \$47 million over the next 3 years towards this objective.

Children and Family Services

The budget for Children and Family Services is expected to decrease from \$1.6 billion in 2023-24 to \$1.5 billion in 2024-25 (6.3 per cent decrease). This decrease results primarily from the transfer of childcare to the Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade as well as the expiry of the 2023 Affordability Payments Program, which allocated a one-time payment of \$600 over six months to seniors, families with children, and Albertans on core supports. Funding for the Alberta Child and Family Benefit will increase from \$324 million in 2023-24 to \$355 million in 2024-25 (9.6% increase) and funding for early child and youth intervention services will increase from \$149 million in 2023-24 to \$153 million in 2024-25 (2.7% increase).

Other Children and Family Services budget highlights include:

- In 2024-25, \$981.3 million will support youth with child intervention involvement, transition to adulthood, mentoring supports, and the Advancing Futures Bursary program.
- In 2024-25, \$66.7 million is allocated to support prevention and early intervention services through the Family Resource Networks.
- In 2024-25, \$84.6 million is allocated to support a continuum of programming through funded community-based organizations that provide family violence and sexual violence supports.
- An additional \$22 million over the next three years to support foster caregivers by indexing foster care rates to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Education

The Ministry of Education's budget for 2024-25 is \$9.3 billion, an increase of \$393 million from the 2023 budget. It is projected to grow to \$9.6 billion by 2026-27.

A significant portion of this budget, \$1.9 billion, is dedicated to the design and construction of new schools and the modernization of existing ones. This investment covers 98 projects at various stages of development across the province. Out of this, \$681 million is earmarked for 43 new priority projects, which are expected to create 35,000 additional spaces for students.

\$842 million has been allocated to Alberta's school boards to recruit over 3,000 teachers and educational staff members within the next three years, highlighting the ministry's commitment to enhancing educational infrastructure and workforce to meet the growing needs of students.

Energy and Minerals

The Ministry of Energy and Minerals is responsible for ensuring Albertans benefit from the province's natural resources. In 2024, expected royalties from crude oil and bitumen are down slightly from \$3.1 billion to \$2.7 billion and \$14.3 billion to \$12.5 billion respectively.

In 2024 the ministry intends to position Alberta as an integral partner in the global energy market, supporting the regulatory environment for products such as hydrogen, lithium, geothermal and small modular reactor technology.

The Alberta Energy Regulator will provide the Orphan Well Association with \$135 million to support the cleanup of sites with no viable owner. This is the same amount in last year's budget.

Environment and Protected Areas

The Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas' mandate is to conserve our landscape and biodiversity to ensure a sustainable future. The Ministry's budget of \$512 million is an increase over 2023-24's forecasted budget for 2024-25.

ABmunis is actively working to support 2024 drought preparations and the budget reflects this priority. The Renewed Flood and Drought Mitigation Grant Program has \$125 million over five years to support municipalities to prepare for extreme weather. The Ministry has budgeted \$19 million over three years for the Strategy to Increase Water Availability. This strategy aims to improve water storage infrastructure, improve the water license application process, improve data collection and support water conservation, efficiency and productivity initiatives. \$3.5 million is budgeted for Watershed Resiliency and Restoration.

Funding for caribou habitat recovery at \$27 million continues similar to 2023 funding (\$35.9 million) for this priority issue. \$31.7 million over three years for the Designated Industrial Zone Pilot Project to establish a best-in-class regulatory framework. This Industrial Zone, northeast of Edmonton, borders the City of Edmonton and Ft. Saskatchewan, and the Counties of Lamont, Strathcona and Sturgeon.

ABmunis appreciates the ongoing partnership with the Government of Alberta through the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC).

Executive Council

Executive Council's budget will increase by 4 per cent in 2024-25 to \$56 million. Notable objectives include building and maintaining strong relationships with priority international partners, leading the planning of official visits by foreign dignitaries to develop new markets in Alberta and collaborating with jurisdictions to reduce red tape and barriers to internal trade. This includes reviewing Alberta's exceptions under its trade agreements to reduce red tape and working with other governments to reconcile existing regulatory measures that act as a barrier to trade.

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Forestry and Parks

The Ministry of Forestry and Parks manages public lands in Alberta. The Ministry's budget has increased by \$52 million or 17.4 per cent to \$351 million. Most of the increase is directed towards preparing for wildfires.

Health

The province announced a refocusing of Alberta's health care system to improve health outcomes for Albertans and empower health care workers to deliver quality care across the province. The costs associated with this reorganization are not clear from the budget documents; however, the total operating budget for Health will increase from \$27.0 billion in 2023-24 to \$28.4 billion in 2024-25 (5.2% increase). This increase will be partially offset by an additional \$997 million from the federal government in the recently augmented Canada Health Transfer.

The 2024-25 budget allocates \$475 million for primary care, including \$200 million for access to family physicians and \$15 million to support the new compensation model for nurse practitioners. A further \$300 million is allocated for primary care networks. A total of \$730 million will be allocated to emergency medical services (EMS) to increase system capacity and implement the Alberta EMS Provincial Advisory Committee and Alberta EMS Dispatch Review recommendations.

Other Health budget highlights include:

- \$140 million per year over three years under the yet-to-be-signed Aging with Dignity federal-provincial agreement. These funds will be allocated to support caregivers and health workers, as well as expand access to palliative and end of life care at home or in hospice.
- \$1 billion over three years to transform the continuing care system in response to the Facility-Based Continuing Care Review.
- \$126 million over three years for the Rural Physician Expansion Program.
- \$6.6 billion in 2024-25, increasing to \$6.9 billion by 2026-27, for physician compensation and development. This includes \$129 million annually for recruitment and retention of physicians who practice full-time in underserved areas, a \$12 million increase for the existing Rural Remote Northern Program, and \$12 million annually for physician support programs.
- \$129 million annually for recruitment and retention of physicians who practice full-time in underserved areas.
- \$35 million in capital funding over the next three years to purchase new emergency medical services vehicles and ambulances, upgrade the existing fleet and acquire additional equipment.

Immigration and Multiculturalism

\$25.3 million in funding over three fiscal years is devoted to the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program to attract newcomers to support economic growth and the province's labour market needs. \$13.5 million in funding over three fiscal years is provided for grants to ethnocultural communities and organizations to provide supports and services to help address racism and build diverse and inclusive multicultural communities throughout the province.

Overall, funding for newcomer supports and multiculturalism increases to an estimated \$41.8 million in 2024-25 from a forecast of \$32.5 million in 2023-24.

Indigenous Relations

The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is a provincial corporation that enables access to capital funding for Alberta-based Indigenous groups investing in medium to large-scale natural resource, agriculture, transportation, and other related infrastructure. AIOC had an increase in funding from \$8.5 million to \$9.1 million. The total budget for Indigenous Relations in 2024-25 is \$220 million, a decrease of almost \$10 million from 2023-24's fiscal plan.

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Infrastructure

Responsible for provincial infrastructure projects, the Ministry of Infrastructure anticipates delivering nearly \$1.5 billion in capital projects in 2024-25. In addition to constructing government infrastructure, the Ministry is also aiming to optimize the value of infrastructure through efficient operations and disposal of assets no longer required by the province. ABmunis has been advocating for our members to have better coordination with Alberta Infrastructure to realize efficiencies and better coordination on municipal capital projects.

Jobs, Economy and Trade

The newly constituted ministry takes on expanded responsibility in Budget 2024-25 with the addition of the childcare file. Budget 2024-25 provides \$1.1 billion for childcare affordability and access and \$304 million for childcare quality and worker supports. The Government of Alberta has committed to supporting the creation of up to 68,700 additional spaces in childcare programs by 2026.

In Budget 2024-25, \$105 million is allocated for the Film and Television Tax Credit program.

Budget 2024-25 contains \$125,000 in funding for each of the nine Regional Economic Development Associations (REDAs), however the Minister has indicated that the province will transition away from providing operational funding to REDAs by 2027.

The Ministry maintains responsibility for targeted labour attraction and retention strategies, including the 'Alberta is Calling' campaign and a new \$5,000 refundable tax credit attraction bonus to recruit skilled labour to the province.

Justice

Justice's operating expense for 2024-25 is budgeted at \$681 million, an increase of \$15 million or 2.3 per cent from the 2023-24 forecast. Operating expenses for Court and Justice Services is \$282 million, an increase of \$16 million from 2023-24 to help address growth in the volume of court cases and backlogs in the justice system. Similarly, funding for the Alberta Crown Prosecution Services has increased from \$129 million in 2023-24 to \$139 million in 2024-25 (7.8% increase). Other Justice budget highlights include:

- \$12 million in 2024-25 for enhanced online services, digital platforms and video conferencing that will better meet the needs of citizens, court users and the judiciary.
- \$3.3 million in 2024-25 to fund the direct delivery of restorative justice programs and youth justice committees.
- \$4 million in 2024-25 for Alberta's seven drug treatment courts.

Mental Health and Addiction

As part of the health care refocusing, over the next two years, Mental Health and Addiction will establish a service delivery organization that will manage over 500 contracts for providing mental health and addiction programs and services previously managed by Alberta Health Services. A total of \$1.13 billion is allocated to support this service delivery through the new organization.

Mental Health and Addiction's operating expense will increase from \$230 million in 2023-24 to \$306 million in 2024-25 (33% increase). The increase includes \$27 million for expanded mental health and addiction programs, partially funded by revenue from the new federal-provincial agreement that allocates \$287 million over four years for new mental health and addiction facilities, and targeted supports for children and youth, adults, and Indigenous communities.

Other Mental Health and Addiction budget highlights include:

- \$5 million in 2024-25 to establish a centre of recovery excellence to evaluate and research recovery-oriented care and inform the future delivery of mental health and addiction services.
- \$183.3 million in 2024-25 to deliver community-based mental health and addiction programs and services focused

Municipal Affairs

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs 2024-25 budget has been set at \$1.04 billion, marking a \$30 million increase from 2023-24. \$724.2 million has been allocated to LGFF Capital with an additional \$266.2 million earmarked for the federal Canada Community-Building Fund. The budget includes \$20 million for a new Local Growth and Sustainability Grant, aimed at assisting municipalities in handling growth pressures, strengthening local economies, and addressing urgent infrastructure and community resilience needs. \$60 million has been designated for the LGFF Operating program to aid in the delivery of municipal services.

In addition to these allocations, the 2024-25 budget has maintained Alberta Community Partnership grant funding at \$15.4 million, which seeks to foster intermunicipal collaboration and capacity building. Another \$39.9 million has been budgeted for public library operating grants, reinforcing the commitment to community learning and access to information.

The Ministry is also focused on enhancing regulatory frameworks and protections for Alberta residents, including working with the Safety Codes Council. In response to a review of new home buyer protections, there is a push to improve homeowners' ability to navigate the home warranty system. This includes clarifying program terms, streamlining claims resolution, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and elevating the construction quality of new homes.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Public Safety and Emergency Services' operating expense has increased from \$1.23 billion in 2023-24 to \$1.25 billion in 2024-25 (1.8% increase).

Funding through the Police Support Grant, which replaced the former Municipal Policing Assistance and Police Officer Grants in 2023, remains the same as in 2024-25. Any municipality with a population over 5,000 that provides their own police service and was eligible for the previous two grants remains eligible for the Police Support Grant. Municipalities do not need to apply for this funding but do need to report on how the grant funds were spent.

In 2024-25, \$12 million is allocated to the Victims of Crime Assistance Program to facilitate direct and timely supports and services to victims, including emergency expenses and recovery. An additional \$22 million is allocated to external partner organizations to provide supports and services to victims of crime and tragedy, including implementing the new regional model for police-based victim services.

Other Public Safety and Emergency Services budget highlights include:

- \$10 million in 2024-25 to support 100 police officers deployed to high-crime areas in Calgary and Edmonton through the Safe Streets Action Plan.
- \$8.2 million in 2024-25 to combat human trafficking, including the establishment of the Alberta Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons.
- \$3 million in 2024-25 for municipalities and Indigenous communities seeking to explore alternative policing models.
- \$85 million in 2024-25 for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence program, an increase of \$5 million from the 2023-24 budget, to support victims and women at risk of assault.
- The Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) base budget will increase by \$3 million in 2024-25.

Seniors, Community and Social Services

The Ministry's operating expense will increase by 3 per cent to \$151 million in 2024-25. \$2.7 billion, which includes indexing for inflation, is allocated to Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped, Income Support, and seniors' benefits in 2023-24.

Alberta currently provides housing support services to over 58,600 households through affordable housing, rental supplements, and other programs. Operating support for the Seniors Lodge, Social Housing, and Specialized

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Housing and Rental Assistance programs is being increased by \$38 million in 2024-25, and \$61 million over 2024-25 to 2026-27. These increases will support housing providers to address cost pressures and enable the expansion of affordable housing programs to support an additional 550 Alberta households in need.

The capital plan for Seniors, Community and Social Services allocates \$717 million in capital grants over the next three years. This includes \$254 million in new funding to build approximately 3,300 new affordable housing units, as well as to complete 1,800 units already under development.

Other Seniors, Community and Social Services budget highlights include:

- \$5 million in 2024-25 for community organizations that support food security for Albertans in need.
- \$105 million in 2024-25 for Family and Community Support Services to municipalities and Metis Settlements to develop and deliver preventative social services programming.
- \$108.1 million in 2024-25 for homeless shelters to provide safe temporary accommodations and basic needs services, and \$101.5 million to provide safe housing and supports to those experiencing homelessness.
- \$198.4 million in 2024-25 to build, renew and maintain affordable housing in Alberta, including \$62.1 million for the Affordable Housing Partnership Program and \$70.0 million for seniors housing development and renewal.

Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

In Budget 2024-25 \$60.7 million is allocated to maintain and modernize Land Titles services, Motor Vehicles and other registry systems and \$16.6 million is allocated to Senior's Discount for personal registry services and driver's medical exams to support Alberta seniors with affordability.

There is no reference in the ministry business plan to potential changes to the charitable gaming model or distribution of lottery funds.

Technology and Innovation

The Ministry of Technology and Innovation is responsible for implementing the Alberta Broadband Strategy and investing in broadband internet. Announced in 2021, Alberta has committed to invest \$390 million by the end of fiscal year 2026-27. With matching federal funds, the amount invested will total \$780 million for broadband projects in Alberta. The ministry has forecasted that \$98.3 million of this funding will be allocated in 2024-25. ABmunis is hopeful that this funding will see more broadband projects completed in 2024.

Tourism and Sport

Budget 2024-25 provides the department of Tourism and Sport with \$135.7 million in operating funding, including an increase of \$7.6 million to Travel Alberta to support a new Tourism Strategy. The Tourism Strategy will focus on:

- increased air access for visitors;
- recovery of air routes lost in previous years;
- developing new routes;
- developing year-round experiences in areas outside legacy destinations such as Banff/Lake Louise, Canmore, Jasper, Edmonton, Calgary, and;
- establishing niche tourism destinations in rural areas of the province.

The Government of Alberta has created a new \$10 million Community Recreation Centre Infrastructure Program. ABmunis awaits to learn if municipalities will be eligible applicants.

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Transportation and Economic Corridors

The Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors delivers significant grant funding and transportation projects that impact municipalities. In 2024 the ministry will allocate \$708 million for provincial highway projects, new construction and ring roads. Page 115 of the fiscal plan has a breakdown of projects to be funded in 2024. The Municipal Water Wastewater Program will be \$66 million in 2024. A portion of the 2024 budget may be unspent funds from 2023 as the province planned to spend \$86 million in 2023 but only \$42 million is estimated to be spent by the 2023-24 fiscal year end.

Treasury Board and Finance

Treasury Board and Finance is responsible for budget planning, financial management, administering tax and revenue programs and economic analysis for the Government of Alberta. Of particular interest for municipalities is the ministry's role in providing loans to municipalities for capital projects. ABmunis has been advocating for a return to the model where municipalities could access capital loans at the same low rates the Government of Alberta could access in the market. Budget 2024-25 offers no response to our [resolution on loan rates](#) but ABmunis will continue to raise this issue and the opportunity to lower costs for community infrastructure.



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