

# Backgrounder

June 29, 2004

#### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

(milions of doll	2003-04					
			_	Change	e from	
			_		3rd	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Quarter	
1 Revenue		21,928	25,887	3,959	549	
2 Expense						
3 Program		20,335	21,480	1,145	(251)	
4 Debt serv	vicing costs	465	271	(194)	(9)	
5 Pension	provisions	121	132	11	12	
6 Total Exp	ense	20,921	21,883	962	(248)	
7 Revenue i	n Excess of Expense	1,007	4,004	2,997	797	
8 Removal o	f pension provisions <sup>a</sup>	121	132	11	12	
9 Net Reven	ue (Fiscal Responsibility Act)	1,128	4,136	3,008	809	
10 Transfer fr	om Capital Account	416	416	-	-	
11 Retained in	ncome/capital cash requirements	(58)	(276)	(218)	(141)	
12 Net transfe	er from (to) Sustainability Fund	(1,276)	(4,276)	(3,000)	(668)	
13 Continger	ncy Allowance	210	-	(210)	-	
14 Sustainab	ility Fund (net transfer)	1,276	4,276	3,000	668	
15 Cash adjus		941	520	(421)	(158)	
	lity Fund prior to reallocation	2,217	4,796	2,579	510	
17 Less:			-			
18 Debt Reti	rement allocation	-	893	893	-	
19 Capital A	ccount allocation		893	893	-	
20 Sustainab	ility Fund Assets at March 31, 2004	2,217	2,500	283	-	
21 Cash Tran	sferred after March 31 to Sustainability Fund <sup>b</sup>	-	510	510	510	

<sup>a</sup> For purposes of the *Fiscal Responsibility Act,* expense does not include the annual change in unfunded pension obligations. These obligations are scheduled to be eliminated under a separate legislated plan.

<sup>b</sup> \$510 million of cash became available for transfer to the Sustainability Fund as a result of the improvement in 2003-04 fourth quarter results. The cash was not transferred to the Sustainability Fund until after March 31, 2004. After the Annual Report was prepared, this \$510 million was reallocated to the Capital Account, bringing the total allocation to the Capital Account to \$1.4 billion.

# **FISCAL YEAR ASSUMPTIONS**

	2003-04							
		1st	2nd	3rd				
		Quarter	Quarter	Quarter				
	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Actual			
Oil Price (WTI US\$/bbl)	23.30	25.00	27.50	30.75	31.35			
Natural Gas Price (Cdn\$/mcf)	4.05	5.00	5.15	5.64	5.75			
Exchange Rate (US¢/Cdn\$)								
Annual Average	65.60	71.90	73.35	74.31	73.99			
At March 31, 2004	66.00	72.00	74.00	77.00	76.31			
Interest Rates:								
3-month Canada Treasury Bills	3.90	3.35	2.90	2.75	2.70			
10-year Canada Bonds	5.80	4.55	4.85	4.75	4.68			

### REVENUE

(millions of dollar)

		200.	3-04 Change	a from			
	Budget	- Actual	Budget	3rd Quarter	Main Reasons for Change from Budget		
Income Taxes					g		
Personal income tax	5,035	4,613	(422)	-	Lower 2002 tax assessments		
Corporate income tax	2,016	1,696	(320)	(100)	Higher refunds/lower cash receipt		
	7,051	6,309	(742)	(100)	-		
Other Taxes							
School property tax	1,165	1,178	13	12	Forecast change		
Tobacco tax	624	671	47	21	Higher volume		
Fuel tax	602	620	18	18	Higher volume		
Freehold mineral rights tax	214	288	74	(2)	Higher oil and natural gas prices		
Insurance taxes	148	206	58	49	Prior year adj./premium rev. growt		
Hotel room tax	58	53	(5)	(3)	Fewer hotel stays		
	2,811	3,016	205	95			
Non-Renewable Resource Revenue							
Natural gas and by-products royalty	3,480	5,450	1,970	95	Higher natural gas prices		
Crude oil royalty	502	981	479	43	Higher oil prices		
Synthetic crude oil and bitumen royalty	103	197	94	10	Higher oil prices		
Coal royalty	11	9	(2)	1	Reclamation costs		
Bonuses and sale of Crown leases	679	967	288	69	Higher bid prices per hectare		
Rentals and fees	144	154	10	(2)	More renewed hectares		
Royalty tax credit	(143)	(82)	61	14	Higher oil and natural gas prices		
	4,776	7,676	2,900	230			
Transfers from Government of Canac	la <sup>a</sup>						
Canada Health and Social Transfer	1,613	1,767	154	-	Lower income tax revenue		
Health transfers	284	276	(8)	(8)	Revised population share number		
Agriculture support programs	169	561	392	(62)	BSE assistance		
Labour market development	120	120	-	-			
Other	200	202	2	5	Miscellaneous changes		
	2,386	2,926	540	(65)			
Net Income from Commercial Operat	ions						
Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission:							
Gaming and lottery revenue	1,093	1,125	32	20	Lower operating costs		
Liquor revenue	546	557	11	6	Higher volume of sales		
Alberta Treasury Branches	152	172	20	31	Reduction in credit loss provisions		
Other	4	28	24	3	AGT recoveries		
	1,795	1,882	87	60			
Premiums, Fees and Licences <sup>∞</sup>							
Health care insurance premiums	913	940	27	17	Higher number of registrants		
Motor vehicle licences	262	266	4	9	Change in revenue recognition		
Crop and hail insurance premiums	164	146	(18)	-	Lower crop insurance coverage		
Timber royalties and fees	63	116	53	64	Higher timber fees		
Land titles	36	41	5	3	Higher transaction volumes		
Other	287	305	18	14	Increased AEUB levies		
	1,725	1,814	89	107			
Investment Income							
Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund	426	1,117	691	153	Strong equity markets		
Alberta Capital Finance Authority	319	323	4	(1)	Increased lending activity		
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation	91	86	(5)	1	Lower lending and fund balance		
Debt Retirement Account	45	49	4	1	Higher fund balance		
Alberta Sustainability Fund	31	42	11	2	Higher fund balance		
Endowment Funds:	<b>_</b> .				<b>O</b>		
Medical Research	31	73	42	14	Strong equity markets		
Science and Engineering Research	11	37	26	10	Strong equity markets		
• •	10	23	13 33	3	Strong equity markets		
Scholarship			.1.1	6	Higher balances in funds		
• •	55	88			0		
Scholarship Other	55 1,019	88 1,838	819	189	<u> </u>		
Scholarship							
Scholarship Other					Higher refunds		
Scholarship Other Other <sup>b</sup>	1,019	1,838	819	189	Higher refunds Traffic fine increases		
Scholarship Other Other <sup>b</sup> Refunds of expense	1,019 87	1,838 102	819 15	189 12	-		
Scholarship Other Other <sup>b</sup> Refunds of expense Fines and penalties	1,019 87 63	1,838 102 69	819 15 6	189 12 1	Traffic fine increases		

 <sup>a</sup> Budget presentation of Transfers from Government of Canada has been restated.
<sup>b</sup> Budget numbers have been restated to reflect a \$9 million reallocation of Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (AEUB) levies from "Others" to "Premiums, Fees and Licences" revenue.

#### **EXPENSE BY MINISTRY**

(millions of dollars)

(minoris of donars)		200	3-04						
	Change from								
				3rd	Main Reasons for				
	<b>Budget</b> <sup>a</sup>	Actual	Budget	Quarter	Change from Budget				
Program									
Legislative Assembly	61	56	(5)	(3)	Savings in various Offices				
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development	32	35	3	(1)	Consultation/Fort McKay settlement				
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	814	1,500	686	(128)	Agriculture assistance				
Children's Services	708	699	(9)	(10)	Dedicated revenue/transfer to capital investmen				
Community Development	647	634	(13)	(7)	Lapses in capital disposals/PDD boards				
Economic Development	55	58	3	-	BSE market recovery strategy				
Energy	185	199	14	1	Well abandonment costs				
Environment	121	122	1	(2)	Western Irrigation District settlement				
Executive Council	18	18	-	-					
Finance	435	437	2	(7)	Alberta Capital Financing Authority lending				
Gaming	150	144	(6)	(2)	NHL Lottery/Electronic Bingo				
Government Services	83	86	3	(2)	Utilities Consumer Advocate/land titles				
Health and Wellness	7,350	7,366	16	(12)	Higher drug costs				
Human Resources and Employment	1,071	1,131	60	(1)	Higher caseloads and costs-per-case				
Infrastructure	1,203	1,429	226	(5)	Natural gas rebates				
Innovation and Science	200	186	(14)	(3)	Lower contract research				
International and Intergovernmental Relations	6	6	-	-					
Justice	263	257	(6)	(8)	Decrease in valuation adjustments				
Learning	4,912	4,981	69	(7)	Basic and post-secondary support				
Municipal Affairs	132	139	7	(4)	Disaster/energy efficiency programs				
Revenue	166	146	(20)	(12)	Lower endowment fund spending				
Seniors	354	402	48	-	Seniors' benefits and housing support				
Solicitor General	278	283	5	-	Organized crime initiative/victims benefits				
Sustainable Resource Development	202	324	122	(7)	Forest fires				
Transportation	889	842	(47)	(31)	Lower amortization costs				
Total Program Expense	20,335	21,480	1,145	(251)					
Debt Servicing Costs	465	271	(194)	(9)	Foreign exchange rate				
Pension Provisions	121	132	11	12					
Total Expense	20,921	21,883	962	(248)					

<sup>a</sup> Budget numbers have been restated to reflect a \$6 million transfer of Rural Utilities from Energy to Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and a transfer from Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to Infrastructure relating to the Swan Hills Waste Treatment Plant.

## **CAPITAL PLAN SUMMARY**

(millions of dollars)

		2003-04					
			Change	e from			
		_		3rd			
	Budget <sup>a</sup>	Actual	Budget	Quarter			
Provincial highway network	457	455	(2)	(13)			
Municipal transportation grants	242	221	(21)	(4)			
Health facilities and equipment	284	283	(1)	9			
School facilities and equipment	136	130	(6)	-			
Post-secondary facilities	135	125	(10)	-			
Water and wastewater management	86	79	(7)	5			
Community facilities	64	64	-	-			
Housing	44	52	8	-			
Other infrastructure programs	87	51	(36)	1			
General government capital	141	199	58	21			
Total Capital Plan	1,676	1,659	(17)	19			
Funded from:							
Current-year revenue	1,053	1,033	(20)	19			
Capital Account <sup>b</sup>	623	623	-	-			
Transfer from Alberta Sustainability Fund <sup>c</sup>	-	3	3	-			
Total Capital Plan	1,676	1,659	(17)	19			
	.,	.,	()	10			

<sup>a</sup> Budget numbers have been restated to include capital grants of \$13 million reported in operating expense in the budget but not reported in the Capital Plan.

<sup>b</sup> Capital Account supports \$416 million of capital grants to local authorities and \$207 million of capital investment in government-owned capital.

<sup>c</sup> Disaster funding from Sustainability Fund related to BSE.

#### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND AMORTIZATION**

(millions of dollars)

	2003-04				2003-04				
	Capital Investment				Capital Amortization				
			Change from				Chang	e from	
				3rd				3rd	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Quarter	Budget	Actual	Budget	Quarter	
Legislative Assembly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	10	12	2	(1)	7	7	-	-	
Children's Services	-	3	3	3	1	1	-	-	
Community Development	2	6	4	4	10	10	-	-	
Economic Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Energy	11	14	3	2	11	13	2	1	
Environment	1	1	-	-	18	17	(1)	(1)	
Executive Council	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Finance	5	2	(3)	(2)	2	3	1	1	
Gaming	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Government Services	4	3	(1)	(1)	5	4	(1)	-	
Health and Wellness	37	37	-	1	22	31	9	9	
Human Resources and Employment	3	3	-	-	4	2	(2)	(1)	
Infrastructure	46	78	32	15	55	44	(11)	(9)	
Innovation and Science	66	34	(32)	-	8	8	-	-	
International and Intergovernmental Relations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Justice	2	3	1	(1)	1	1	-	-	
Learning	7	11	4	-	3	2	(1)	(1)	
Municipal Affairs	2	5	3	3	1	1	-	(1)	
Revenue	5	5	-	(1)	3	3	-	-	
Seniors	-	8	8	8	24	24	-	-	
Solicitor General	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sustainable Resource Development	7	18	11	(2)	9	7	(2)	(2)	
Transportation	407	390	(17)	(17)	244	211	(33)	(33)	
Total Capital Investment/Amortization	615	633	18	11	428	389	(39)	(37)	
Funded from Capital Account	207	207	-	-	-		-	-	

# Capital Grants to Local Authorities and Other Infrastructure Support <sup>a</sup>

		2003-04							
		_	Change	e from					
				3rd					
	Budget <sup>b</sup>	Actual	Budget	Quarter					
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	26	20	(6)	1					
Community Development	3	2	(1)	(1)					
Environment	1	4	3	3					
Gaming	39	38	(1)	(1)					
Health and Wellness	50	50	-	-					
Infrastructure	479	471	(8)	7					
Innovation and Science	11	12	1	1					
Learning	20	20	-	-					
Revenue	10	-	(10)	-					
Seniors	39	46	7	1					
Transportation	383	363	(20)	(3)					
Total Capital Grants	1,061	1,026	(35)	8					
Funded from Capital Account	416	416	-	-					

<sup>a</sup> Included in program expense.

<sup>b</sup> Budget numbers have been restated to include capital grants of \$13 million reported in operating expense in the budget but not reported in the Capital Plan.