

annual report

ALBERTA COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006



Note to Readers:

Copies of the annual report are available on the website or by contacting:

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Preface

Public Accounts, 2005-06

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Government Accountability Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 24 ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta released June 2006 contains the Minister of Finance's accountability statement, the consolidated financial statements of the province and a comparison of the actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's business plan, including the Measuring Up report.

This annual report of the Ministry of Community Development contains the Minister's accountability statement, the audited consolidated financial statements of the Ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the Ministry business plan. This Ministry annual report also includes:

- **the financial statements of entities making up the Ministry including the Department of Community Development, regulated funds and provincial agencies for which the Minister is responsible; and**
- **other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Government Accountability Act*, either as separate reports or as a part of the financial statements, to the extent that the Ministry has anything to report.**

Minister's Accountability Statement

The Ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2006, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at September 6, 2006 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

Original signed by Denis Ducharme
Minister of Community Development
September 6, 2006

Message from the Minister



One hundred years ago on September 1, 1905 Alberta entered the Canadian Confederation. And in only a century, Alberta has grown into a diverse and welcoming home for more than three million people with promising futures ahead of them.

Many of the Ministry's accomplishments in 2005-06 are connected to Alberta's centennial. Our goal was to capture the success of our first century while creating a legacy that all Albertans can enjoy well into our second.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II stole the hearts of Albertans once again as she visited our province for the sixth time. During her centennial visit, she granted royal status to the Royal Alberta Museum. Along with a new name, a multi-year provincial centennial commitment of \$150 million was made to expand and renew the Museum.

We also renewed the Government of Alberta's gift to the people for the province's 50th anniversary. The Jubilee Auditoria in Edmonton and Calgary re-opened after a 14-month and \$72 million makeover. The new Jubes were focal points during the September 1 gala events.

The Ministry continued to provide grants to centennial community projects throughout Alberta. In addition to the \$116.7 million previously awarded, \$59 million was awarded to support the development of the Calgary Zoo's Project Discovery, the expansion of the Art Gallery of Alberta, and the construction of a historical square and grand entrance at Calgary Heritage Park.

Enjoying and learning about Alberta's natural heritage will continue to be a priority in our second century. In 2005-06, \$8.1 million was spent on the construction of visitor centres in Writing-on-Stone, Dinosaur and Cypress Hills provincial parks, and the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park.

While we invested considerably in legacy projects, Alberta would not be the success it is without people committed to strengthening our communities. Approximately 8,000 Albertans received the Alberta Centennial Medal as a special honour for their contributions in enriching our quality of life.

The Ministry also planned a celebration worthy of a 100th birthday. On September 1, 2005 more than 250,000 individuals participated in AlbertaSpirit, a provincial celebration that was held at 12 locations in 10 communities and featured home grown musicians, artists and personalities. The event included a live television broadcast linking the 10 communities and culminated with incredible displays of fireworks.

This is only a short list of the many centennial events and programs involving the Ministry that took place in 2005-06. Many others are detailed within this annual report. I am proud Alberta Community Development was able to play an important role in making our centennial such a tremendous success.

Original signed by Denis Ducharme
Minister

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Community Development includes the Department of Community Development and the agencies, boards, commissions, foundations and funds listed in the Ministry entities chart on page three.

The executives of the individual entities within the Ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the Ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and business plans, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the consolidated financial statements and performance results for the Ministry rests with the Minister of Community Development. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the Ministry's annual report, including consolidated financial statements and performance results. The consolidated financial statements and the performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with the government's stated accounting policies.

As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I establish and maintain the Ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The Ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control, which give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

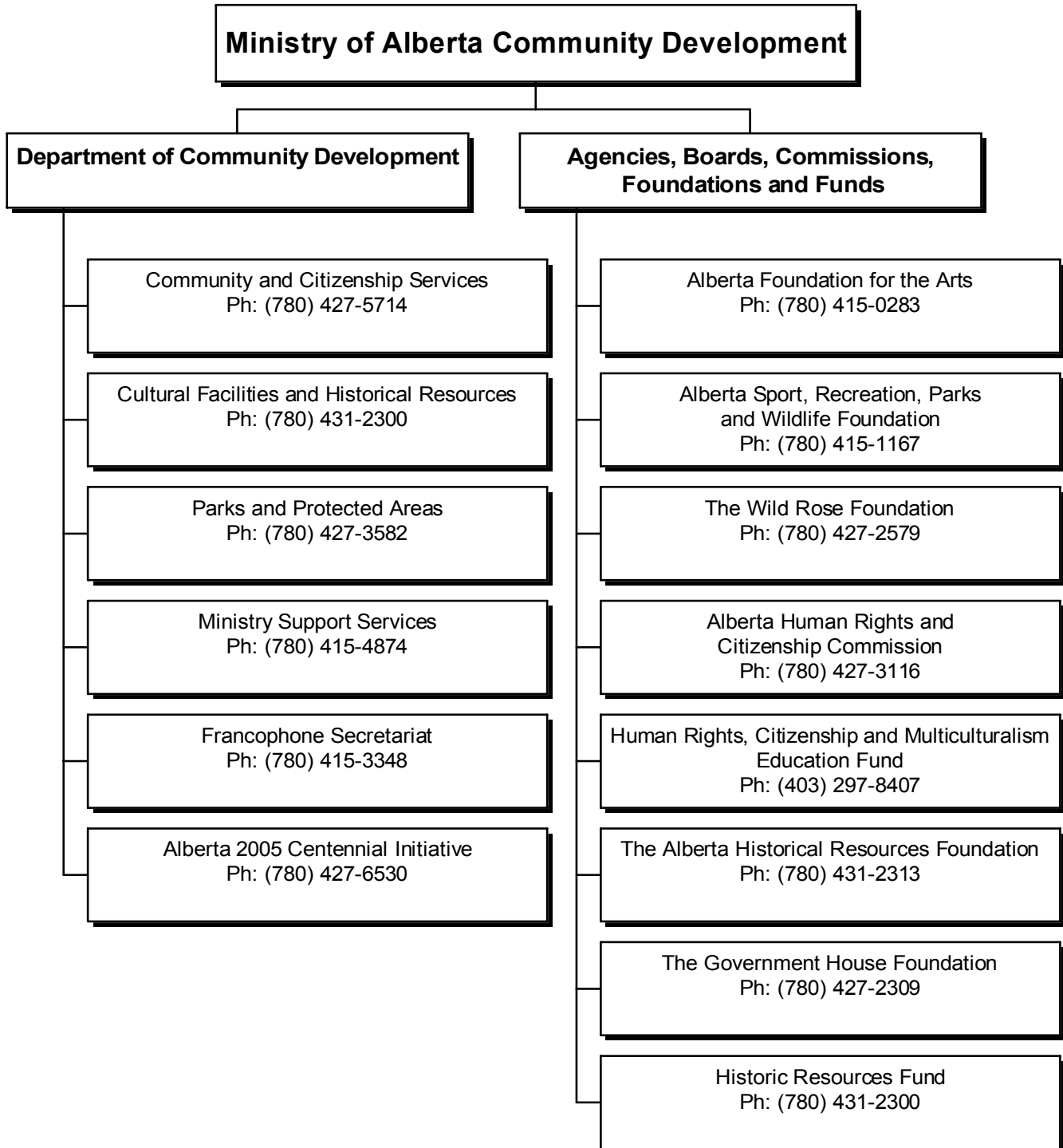
- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under Ministry administration;
- provide Executive Council, Treasury Board, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Community Development any information needed to fulfill their responsibilities; and
- facilitate preparation of Ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Government Accountability Act*.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the Ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executive of the individual entities within the Ministry.

Original signed by Fay Orr
Deputy Minister
September 6, 2006

Overview

Ministry Entities



The Ministry consists of the Department, agencies, boards, commissions, foundations and funds. The following description of the Ministry's structure provides an overview of the range of programs and services available to Albertans.

The Department

1. Community and Citizenship Services

The Community and Citizenship Services Division promotes community development activities within a wide range of community interests. The range of operations for the Division includes grant assistance programs, consultation and information services, facilitation and legislative compliance. The Libraries, Community and Voluntary Sector Services Branch supports province-wide public library and information networks and Alberta's voluntary sector, assists Alberta communities and organizations through the provision of facilitation and skill development services, and provides operational support to the Division. The Sport and Recreation Branch encourages active, healthy lifestyles by promoting and supporting participation in sport and recreation. The Arts Branch supports creativity by working with artists, arts organizations and the cultural industries to provide opportunities to experience culture and make informed choices about the arts. The Human Rights and Citizenship Branch ensures the protection of human rights, promotes fairness and access and supports the inclusion of all Albertans.

2. Cultural Facilities and Historical Resources

The Cultural Facilities and Historical Resources Division preserves, protects and presents Alberta's history and cultural heritage. In consultation and/or partnership with cooperating societies, the Division operates 18 provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres, the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the Northern and Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditoria. It maintains a provincial heritage collection including historical and scientific artifacts, restored historical structures, historically significant land, archaeological and palaeontological sites and numerous archival records. The Division also provides advice and funding assistance to community-based preservation and presentation projects. In accordance with the *Alberta Historical Resources Act*, the Division provides protection for significant resources through designation programs and regulation of the development industry. The Division operates five branches: Historic Sites and Cultural Facilities, Heritage Resource Management, Provincial Archives of Alberta, Royal Alberta Museum, and Royal Tyrrell Museum.

3. Parks and Protected Areas

The Parks and Protected Areas Division preserves, protects and presents Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas. The Division is responsible for Alberta's 521 provincial parks and protected areas, which includes: 69 provincial parks, one heritage rangeland, 32 wildland provincial parks, one wilderness park, three wilderness areas, 16 ecological reserves, 149 natural areas and 250 provincial recreation areas. This network protects over 27,500 square kilometres of the province as a legacy for future generations and provides opportunities for outdoor recreation, heritage appreciation and heritage tourism. The Division also maintains the Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre, which is the province's biodiversity database, and coordinates Alberta's involvement in the Canadian Heritage Rivers Program.

4. Ministry Support Services

Ministry Support Services includes the Minister's Office, Deputy Minister's Office, Communications, Human Resources and Program Evaluation. It also includes the Strategic Corporate Services Division encompassing Strategic Financial Services, Planning and Performance Measurement, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, Legislative Services and Information Management and Technology Services. Services are provided to the entire Ministry to optimize efficiency in the Ministry's operations.

5. Francophone Secretariat

In its role as a liaison between the government and Alberta's francophone community, the Francophone Secretariat clarifies and represents the needs of the francophone community within government and supports francophone organizations, communities and individuals in the development of their capacity to participate in, and contribute to, government sponsored initiatives promoting French language and culture. The Minister and Secretariat also participate in the negotiation of federal/provincial agreements relating to French language and culture, and represent the province and the francophone community at federal/provincial/territorial meetings.

6. Alberta 2005 Centennial Initiative

The Alberta 2005 Centennial Initiative was responsible for providing funding to support the development of Government of Alberta and community centennial legacy projects such as the renewal of the Jubilee Auditoria and the construction of cultural and recreational facilities. It was also responsible for planning Alberta's 100th anniversary celebrations. The Initiative worked to encourage and support communities as they planned special events and created other unique tributes to recognize our province's past, present and future. The Initiative was also responsible for planning key provincial celebrations, including a royal visit, and festivities to mark the province's September 1, 2005 birthday.

Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Foundations and Funds

1. Alberta Foundation for the Arts

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts provides funding to artists, arts organizations and the cultural industries to encourage the growth and development of the arts sector in Alberta. Grants from the Foundation help to provide opportunities for public participation in, and enjoyment of, the arts. The Foundation also promotes an appreciation for the arts as integral to Alberta's social, historical and economic development.

2. Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation

The Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation facilitates opportunities for developing athletes who aspire to competitive excellence, promotes participation in sport and recreation as a means towards a healthy, active lifestyle and encourages the preservation and recreational use of the natural environment. The grants from the Foundation support organizations and individuals in the development of sport, recreation, parks and wildlife activities in the province.

3. Wild Rose Foundation

The Wild Rose Foundation supports Alberta's voluntary sector and promotes volunteerism through the provision of financial assistance, skills development and training, and recognition initiatives. The Foundation also provides grants to non-profit organizations for projects in developing countries.

4. Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission

The Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission is an independent Commission of the Government of Alberta, reporting through the Minister. The Commission protects human rights in Alberta by resolving complaints made under the *Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act*. Human rights panels adjudicate complaints that cannot be resolved. The Commission also works to eliminate discrimination and barriers to full participation in society through education and other services.

5. Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund

The Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund provides financial assistance to community organizations undertaking human rights and diversity initiatives and supports the human rights and equity education work of the Ministry. The Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund Advisory Committee provides the Minister with advice on the use of the Education Fund, reviews grant applications and makes recommendations on grants to the Minister.

6. Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation provides grant assistance for community-based heritage initiatives across the province. These initiatives include conservation of historical buildings and main street heritage districts as well as development of interpretive markers, publications and educational projects. In addition, the Foundation holds historic designation hearings as required and is responsible for the naming of geographical features in Alberta.

7. Government House Foundation

The Government House Foundation cares for and promotes the interests of Government House, the former home of the Lieutenant Governors of the province of Alberta. The Foundation advises the Minister on the preservation of Government House as an historic site and building and enhances the physical attributes of Government House, including its works of art and furnishings.

8. Historic Resources Fund

The purpose of the Fund is to protect, enhance, promote and display Alberta's historic resources. This is done through funding programs designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and by promoting the use and development of related facilities.



The Queen designates the Provincial Museum of Alberta as the Royal Alberta Museum

Operational Overview

The Ministry had a successful year in 2005-06. Many accomplishments were realized through effective partnerships, a dedicated volunteer base, strong support for the government's cross-ministry initiatives and the activities of engaged Albertans, communities and Ministry staff. Detailed accomplishments are provided in the Results Analysis Section.

Vision

A superior quality of life reflecting fair, inclusive, and active communities engaged in valuing Alberta's cultural, historical, and natural heritage.

Mission

To preserve and present Alberta's cultural and natural heritage, and promote community development, fairness and an inclusive society.

Core Businesses and Goals

The Ministry organizes delivery of its programs and services around the following three core businesses:

Core Business 1: Support individuals and organizations through community development.

Goal 1 Work in collaboration with individuals, organizations and communities to increase local capacity for self-reliance in arts and culture, sport and recreation, libraries and the voluntary sector.

Core Business 2: Protect human rights, promote fairness and access, and support the protection, inclusion and participation of all Albertans.

Goal 2 Increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism and diversity; foster equality and help prevent discrimination so all Albertans have the opportunity to participate in the social, economic and cultural life of the province.

Core Business 3: Preserve, protect and present Alberta's history, culture, provincial parks and protected areas.

Goal 3 Preserve, protect, present, research and promote appreciation for Alberta's historical resources and culture and provide opportunities for heritage tourism.

Goal 4 Maintain and enhance Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas to preserve the province's natural heritage and provide opportunities for heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation and heritage tourism.

Strategic Priorities

The strategic priorities described below have been identified through the Ministry's review of external and internal challenges. These are in addition to the important ongoing core activities of the Ministry and are of primary importance in focusing the Ministry on achieving its goals:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Quality of Life
 Linkage: Goals 1, 2, 3, 4</p> | <p>Building appreciation and understanding of the value of active and inclusive communities, cultural, historical and natural heritage to advancing quality of life.</p> |
| <p>2. Infrastructure Renewal
 Linkage: Goals 3 and 4</p> | <p>Upgrading, renewing and maintaining infrastructure for provincial parks, protected areas, historic sites, museums and interpretive centres.</p> |
| <p>3. Alberta Centennial
 Linkage: Goals 1, 3 and 4</p> | <p>Providing opportunities for Albertans to participate in the commemoration of the 2005 Centennial, and leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.</p> |
| <p>4. Capacity Building
 Linkage: Goals 1 and 2</p> | <p>Increasing local capacity for self-reliance in arts and culture, film, sport and recreation, libraries, the voluntary sector and human rights.</p> |
| <p>5. Inclusive Communities
 Linkage: Goal 2</p> | <p>Fostering equality, supporting the reduction of discrimination and barriers to full participation in society for everyone in Alberta, and supporting the development of inclusive communities.</p> |

Support for Government of Alberta Goals

In 2005-06, the Ministry supported the realization of the Government of Alberta's four key opportunities in the areas of unleashing innovation, leading in learning, competing in a global marketplace and making Alberta the best place to live, work and visit. Specifically, the Ministry concentrated its efforts on fostering a quality of life that is enriched by arts, culture, sport and recreation, libraries, the voluntary sector, human rights and by a natural environment and cultural heritage that is protected and preserved for future generations. These efforts are aligned with goals 10, 12 and 14 of the government's 2005-08 Strategic Business Plan, which includes 14 strategies and five performance measures from the Ministry's business plan.

The Ministry also supported the following Government of Alberta Medium-Term Strategies: Alberta Biodiversity Strategy, Alberta Tobacco Reduction Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Integrated Land Management Program, Land Use Policy Framework, Northern Development Strategy, Rural Development Strategy, Strategic Approach to K-12 Curriculum, Strategy for Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying, Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management Framework, and Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability.

Performance Highlights

In 2005-06, the Ministry continued to play an important role in achieving a superior quality of life for Albertans. The majority of the Ministry's performance targets were achieved and the results for 10 out of 13 performance measures were equal to or greater than results from the previous year. Results may be influenced by factors beyond the Ministry's control, such as lifestyle choices, demographic changes and disposable income.

The Ministry's efforts to advance quality of life were realized through consecutive increases in adult Albertans' participation in arts and cultural activities, and a renewed interest in volunteerism. There was also an increase in the usage of public library services in 2005-06.

Visitors to the Ministry's provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres continued to express high satisfaction with their experiences. In addition, revenue generated from these sites and facilities made a substantial economic contribution to the province, with a \$6 million increase in value-added economic impact from the previous year. Visitor satisfaction at provincial parks and recreation areas increased for the second consecutive year, meeting the 91 per cent target.

In addition to the achievements highlighted in the Minister's and Deputy Minister's messages, the Ministry had a number of other accomplishments:

- The Ministry was recognized with a silver 2006 Premier's Award of Excellence for its Customer Service Information System and a bronze award for its exhibition of Life and Times of the Motorcycle at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum. The Ministry was a participating member of cross-ministry teams for: A New Facility for the Provincial Archives of Alberta, a bronze award winner; Supporting Immigrants and Immigration to Alberta, a gold award winner; and Alberta's Bullying Prevention Public Awareness and Education Campaign, a bronze award winner.
- The creative talent of more than 600 Alberta artists, actors, musicians, writers, dancers and chefs was showcased in Ottawa during the first ever Alberta Scene arts festival.
- The talent of Alberta musicians was featured in 10 communities across the province as part of Alberta Tracks: A Centennial Music Celebration. Alberta Tracks presented a line-up of six diverse acts, and each concert offered a mix of musical styles, from classical pieces to alternative rock and contemporary country.
- A mammoth steel time capsule captured Albertans' memories and mementos on a province-wide tour offering more than 200 communities a chance to help mark Alberta's 100th birthday. The capsule will spend the next 100 years at the Royal Alberta Museum.
- The Ministry successfully launched a multi-faceted 2005 marketing campaign – Celebrate! Alberta Great – to celebrate Alberta's centennial and promote its cultural facilities and historic sites. This campaign was a finalist in the 2005 Travel Alberta Tourism Awards.
- Free admission was provided to provincial museums and historic sites, and free camping was provided in provincial parks and recreation areas on September 1st in celebration of Alberta's centennial.
- The Ministry provided \$1.5 million towards preparing to feature Alberta at the 2006 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. to increase awareness and appreciation of Alberta culture, market Alberta as a tourism destination and support economic development.

OVERVIEW Performance Highlights

- Support was provided to 450 young athletes and coaches to compete at the 2005 Canada Summer Games in Regina. Team Alberta won 100 medals in the 16 events, a best-ever result in this competition.
- Ministry staff met with municipal and library system boards across the province to explore opportunities to improve rural library service.
- The Film Classification Appeal of Rating Policy was developed to streamline the process of handling appeals from movie distributors who are dissatisfied with the classification given by the Ministry.
- The Ministry developed the publication *Duty to Accommodate Students with Disabilities in Post-secondary Educational Institutions*. Client and stakeholder consultation played an important role in the development of this plain language educational resource for students, faculty and staff at post-secondary institutions.
- Ministry staff worked on issues involving family violence and violence against women, particularly through the Interdepartmental Committee on Family Violence and Bullying.
- The Ministry returned the first of the sacred ceremonial objects housed at the Royal Alberta Museum to First Nations in Alberta for active ceremonial use.
- The Ministry's heritage facilities received a number of awards: the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village was recognized with an award from the Alberta Museums Association for its On Site Driving Tours for Mobility Impaired Seniors Program, the Travel Alberta's Alberta Pride ALTO Award and a Five out of Five Blooms National Award from Communities in Bloom; Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump received the Sustainable Tourism ALTO Award for the Tipi Camping Program; and the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium was a finalist for the Performing Arts Venue of the Year, awarded by the Canadian Music Industry.
- The exhibit *Finders: A Century of Fossil Hunting in Alberta* was opened at the Royal Tyrrell Museum to profile fossil hunters and specimens found in Alberta over the past 100 years. The Museum also hosted a Dinosaur Park Symposium that brought together national and international palaeontologists, geologists and palaeontological enthusiasts who recognize the vital role of Dinosaur Provincial Park.
- Nine individuals and organizations were honoured and recognized for their dedication in helping to protect Alberta's natural landscape and heritage at the 2005 Alberta Parks Volunteer Conference.
- Wildlife habitat was protected by permanently closing public access to certain areas of Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park and Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park in Kananaskis Country. The closures will provide a natural barrier between people and wildlife by limiting human use to one side of the wildlife corridor.
- A new provincial park was established in honour of the former Lieutenant Governor, Lois Hole. This internationally renowned region is known for the nesting and migration of waterfowl and shorebirds.
- Construction started on the *Centre de santé Saint-Thomas Health Centre* in Edmonton, which will include a 200-person aging-in-place complex and a bilingual community primary health centre. This Centre addresses an important need among Francophones in Edmonton to access primary health care services in French.
- The *Regroupement artistique francophone de l'Alberta* officially became a Provincial Arts Service Organization. Among the 10 organizations, it is the only francophone association and represents seven artistic sectors.

Financial Highlights

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31, 2006
(millions of dollars)

2005-06 Financial Analysis

	Budget	Actual	Difference	Explanation
Total Revenues	\$ 122.8	\$ 125.1	\$ 2.3	Increase primarily related to sale of deaccessioned collections at the Glenbow Museum and additional revenues generated by the Jubilee Auditoria.
Expenses				
Operating	246.8	294.3	(47.5)	Increased expenses primarily due to one-time funding for libraries, centennial grants, and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival; partially offset by decreased funding available for the Alberta NHL Teams Initiative (NHL lockout); and no divestitures of provincial parks or recreation areas.
Statutory	0.2	15.7	(15.5)	Increase related to the provision for environmental obligations.
Equipment/ Inventory Purchases	3.6	6.5	(2.9)	Increased equipment purchases at various historic sites and provincial parks and protected areas, construction of heritage preservation markers and further development of the Heritage Resource Management Information System (HeRMIS).
Capital Investment	41.2	34.8	6.4	Due to construction delays, some of the expenditures for the Canmore Nordic Centre, Centennial Interpretive Centres, and parks water and sewage projects were deferred to the next fiscal year.
Total Expenses	\$ 291.8	\$ 351.3	\$ (59.5)	

Revenues

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

(millions of dollars)

Revenues increased by \$21 million from the prior year and totalled \$125.1 million in 2005-06. The primary source of revenue consists of \$99.6 million in internal government transfers from the Lottery Fund. This represents a net increase of \$13.8 million over the prior year primarily for additional centennial grants, partially offset by a decrease in lottery funding provided for various branch operations in the Department.

Transfers from the Government of Canada amounted to \$1.8 million, primarily to further the goals of the Historic Places Initiative and to promote official languages through the Canada-Alberta Agreement on French Language Services. This represents an increase of \$0.3 million from the prior year used mainly to assist with the acquisition of a 1946 SG-VI Grey Gull Helicopter, which was the first helicopter designed, fabricated and certified in Canada.

The Ministry's funds and agencies generated \$1.4 million in investment income, which represents an increase of \$0.5 million in interest earnings over the prior year. Premiums, fees and licences generated \$8.8 million and include admission, camping and film classification fees. The \$1 million increase from the prior year is primarily related to increased revenues from camping activity at provincial parks and attendance at various museums and historic sites.

Other revenue totals \$13.5 million and includes revenue from donations, contributions in kind, sales, refunds of expenses and other miscellaneous revenues. This revenue reflected an increase of \$5.4 million from the prior year primarily due to the inclusion of the Northern and Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditoria operations, sale of deaccessioned collections at the Glenbow Museum, and increased cash and in-kind donations at various historic sites and cultural facilities.

	2006		2005	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	
Internal Government Transfers	\$ 99.6	\$ 99.6	\$	85.8
Transfers from the Government of Canada	1.9	1.8		1.5
Investment Income	1.6	1.4		0.9
Premiums, Fees and Licences	9.0	8.8		7.8
Other Revenue	10.7	13.5		8.1
Total Revenues	\$ 122.8	\$ 125.1	\$	104.1

Expenses

OPERATING EXPENSE BY CORE BUSINESS

(millions of dollars)

Operating and statutory expenses increased by \$108.3 million from the prior year and totalled \$310 million in 2005-06.

Nearly 40 per cent of the Ministry's operating expenses relate to the core business *Support individuals and organizations through community development*. The focus is on enhancing the quality of life in Alberta by strengthening community capacity in the areas of the arts, sport and recreation, libraries and the voluntary sector. In 2005-06, there were increased expenses of \$30.3 million. This is primarily related to one-time assistance of \$20 million for the enhancement of public library programs and services; financial support for a film production on the World War I Battle of Passchendaele in honour of the Year of the Veteran and Alberta's 2005 Centennial; and funding to feature Alberta at the 2006 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

Two per cent of the operating resources were used for the core business *Protect human rights, promote fairness and access, and support the protection, inclusion, and participation of all Albertans*. Services are provided to resolve and adjudicate human rights complaints, reduce discrimination, and increase awareness and appreciation of our diversity. In 2005-06, there were increased expenses of \$0.3 million due primarily to the increased complexity of human rights complaint investigations.

The remaining 58 per cent of operating expenditures relate to the core business *Preserve, protect, and present Alberta's history, culture and provincial parks and protected areas*. This core business provides opportunities for exploration, understanding and appreciation of Alberta's past, cultural resources, and the province's natural heritage. In 2005-06, there were increased expenses

OVERVIEW Financial Highlights

of \$77.7 million. This is due primarily to additional grants related to the Alberta 2005 Centennial Initiative; meeting environmental obligations; increased costs for parks operations; and inclusion of the Northern and Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditoria operations in the Ministry financial statements.

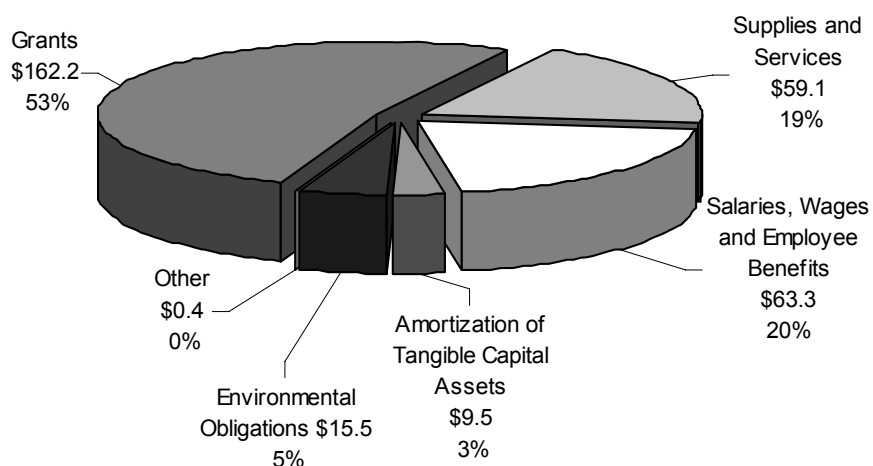
	2006		2005
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Support Individuals and Organizations through Community Development	\$ 101.1	\$ 123.3	\$ 93.0
Protect Human Rights, Promote Fairness and Access, and Support the Protection, Inclusion, and Participation of all Albertans	6.1	6.1	5.8
Preserve, Protect and Present Alberta's History, Culture and Provincial Parks and Protected Areas	139.8	180.6	102.9
Total Expense by Core Business	\$ 247.0	\$ 310.0	\$ 201.7

EXPENSE BY OBJECT

(millions of dollars)

The Ministry's greatest operating expense was grants, where 52 per cent of the budget is directed. Approximately \$162.2 million was awarded in 2005-06 to support individuals, organizations and communities, including \$53.9 million in centennial grants. Expenditures for salaries, wages and employee benefits totalled \$63.3 million, and were primarily for staffing parks and protected areas and heritage facilities. The remainder of the Ministry's expenses were for supplies and services (\$59.1 million), amortization of tangible capital assets (\$9.5 million), environmental obligations (\$15.5 million) and other expenses (\$0.4 million).

Operating expense by object - \$310.0 million



EXPENSE BY FUNCTION

(millions of dollars)

	2006		2005	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Protection of Persons and Property	\$ 6.1	\$ 6.1	\$ 5.8	
Recreation and Culture	240.9	303.9	195.9	
Total Expense by Function	\$ 247.0	\$ 310.0	\$ 201.7	

Expense by function identifies the principal purpose for which an expense is incurred rather than the activity involved. This basis of reporting is used for inter-provincial comparisons and for determining federal funding eligibility.

The function *protection of persons and property* includes expenses for human rights services provided specifically to ensure public interest objectives are achieved. The function *recreation and culture* includes programs and services related to recreation, sport, culture, historical artifacts and sites, museums, libraries, and provincial parks and protected areas. It also includes provincial grants for related capital infrastructure.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Ministry made a capital investment of \$34.8 million primarily related to the refurbishment of the Canmore Nordic Centre, construction of centennial interpretive centres, and upgrades to various parks' water and sewage systems. As well, a further \$6.5 million was spent on equipment purchases primarily for the centennial interpretive centres and various historic sites throughout the province.

Further financial information can be found in the Integrated Results Analysis Section of this report.

Results Analysis

Message from the Deputy Minister

The 2005-06 year was a remarkable year for Community Development and the Albertans we serve.

While the centennial is a theme prevalent throughout our accomplishments, Community Development continued to contribute to the cultural identity, health, well being and economic prosperity of Alberta in 2005-06.

These contributions are a result of many talented, dedicated and enthusiastic staff. The Ministry met the challenge of providing the quality services we are known for while seizing the opportunity to lead many of Alberta's centennial celebrations and projects.

The Ministry began the process to create a unified and inclusive cultural policy for the province. We talked to people stretching across cultural boundaries, including the Aboriginal community and new Canadians. When complete, the policy will encompass our cultural, historical and natural heritage and present Albertans' perceptions of culture and quality of life.

Libraries were allocated \$20 million in one-time funding to enhance programs and services. This was the largest one-time funding provision ever from the Ministry to libraries, helping them continue to further lifelong learning and support strong and healthy communities.

Our voluntary services team offered workshops and consultations to more than 13,000 Albertans from government, rural and urban voluntary sector organizations and agencies. These organizations were helped to work toward self reliance and sustainability, establish sound governance policies and procedures, focus on results and celebrate successes.

To help increase awareness of human rights and prevent discrimination in the workplace, approximately 90 workshops were held with employees and employers. In addition, stakeholder consultations were held in communities across Alberta to help guide future directions for human rights and diversity initiatives.

We released a report on the economic benefits of our cultural facilities and historic sites. The report shows that each year visitors to these facilities have an economic impact of \$24 million on local communities and the facilities generate more than 1,100 fulltime jobs.

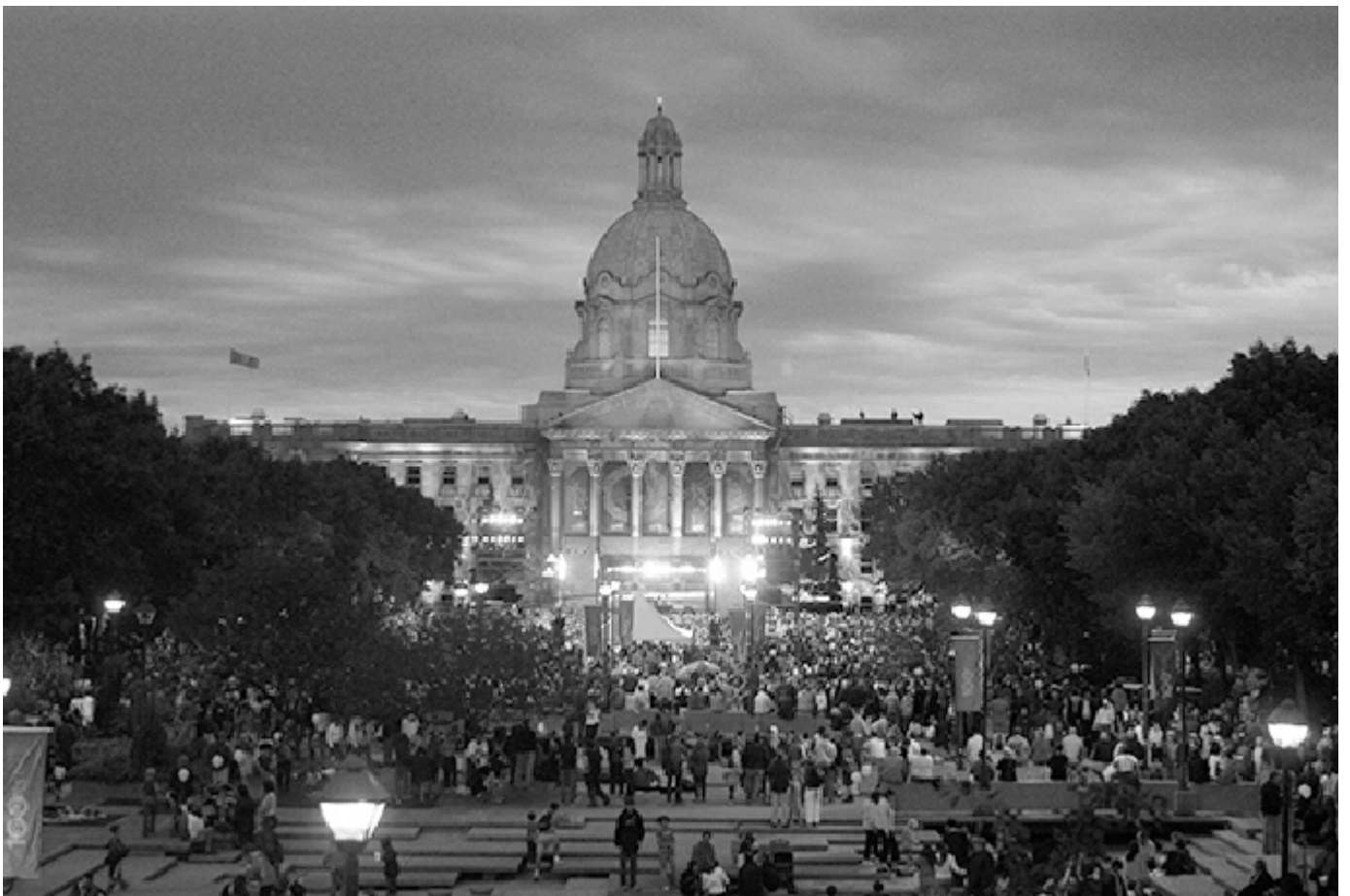
Our parks and historic sites staff responded admirably and professionally last June when we had to evacuate and close several sites in southern Alberta due to flooding.

Provincial parks and recreation areas benefited from over \$31 million to repair and replace deteriorating park infrastructure and to ensure that a safe and secure drinking water supply is maintained. This funding helped restore the facilities that visitors use most. Picnic tables and fires pits were repaired, campsites were levelled and regavelled and buildings were repainted.

Work is almost complete on the Canmore Nordic Centre's \$23.1 million renewal. The facility hosted the Alberta Centennial World Cup in December, a cross country ski event televised for a worldwide audience. The updated centre will also benefit Albertans by providing even better recreational ski and summer sport opportunities.

Further achievements from 2005-06 are detailed throughout this report. Looking ahead, Community Development will continue to strive for excellence and deliver programs that promote a superior quality of life and make Alberta the best place to live, work and visit.

Original signed by Fay Orr
Deputy Minister



Dusk at the Alberta Legislature on September 1, 2005

Report of the Auditor General on the Results of Applying Specified Auditing Procedures to Performance Measures

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

Management is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the performance results included in the *Ministry of Community Development's 2005-2006 Annual Report*. My responsibility is to carry out the following specified auditing procedures on performance measures in the annual report. I verified:

Completeness

1. Performance measures and targets matched those included in Budget 2005. Actual results are presented for all performance measures.

Reliability

2. Information in reports from external organizations, such as Statistics Canada, matched information that the Ministry used to calculate the actual results.
3. Information in reports that originated in the Ministry matched information that the Ministry used to calculate the actual results. In addition, I tested the processes the Ministry used to compile the results.

Comparability and Understandability

4. Actual results are presented clearly and consistently with the stated methodology and are presented on the same basis as targets and prior years' information.

I found no exceptions when I performed these procedures.

As my examination was limited to these procedures, I do not express an opinion on whether the set of measures is relevant and sufficient to assess the performance of the Ministry in achieving its goals.

Original signed by Fred J. Dunn, FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
August 3, 2006

The official version of this Report of the Auditor General, and the information the Report covers, is in printed form.

Strategic Priorities

1. Quality of Life (Linkage: Goals 1, 2, 3 and 4)

The Ministry worked to build appreciation and understanding of the value of active and inclusive communities, and cultural, historical and natural heritage to advancing quality of life. Approximately \$9 million in support was provided to provincial sport and recreation associations, active living agencies and community-based projects to promote healthy and active lifestyles, and advance sport and recreation in the province. A draft cultural policy was developed for the province which adopts a broad definition of culture and promotes inclusiveness in Alberta communities. The Ministry's provincial parks and recreation areas, museums, interpretive centres and historic sites continued to provide a wide range of opportunities to discover the province's rich heritage and cultural offerings.

2. Infrastructure Renewal (Linkage: Goals 3, and 4)

Upgrading, renewing and maintaining infrastructure for provincial parks, recreation areas, historic sites, museums and interpretive centres remained a priority. Funding was provided to provincial parks and recreation areas to repair, restore and revitalize infrastructure, including picnic tables, fire pits, campsites, buildings and water and sewage systems. Building and landscape renewal also took place at the Ministry's historic sites and cultural facilities, including extensive renovations of the Jubilee Auditoria in Edmonton and Calgary.

3. Alberta Centennial (Linkage: Goals 1, 3 and 4)

The Ministry provided opportunities for Albertans to participate in the commemoration of Alberta's 2005 centennial and leave a lasting legacy for future generations. Over 1,900 events took place throughout the province involving thousands of participants and hundreds of volunteers. The Ministry continued to support projects with enduring value, including the renewal of the Royal Alberta Museum, the construction of new interpretive centres at four provincial parks and community cultural and recreation facilities across Alberta. Grants totalling \$59 were awarded to support the development of the Calgary Zoo's Project Discovery, the expansion of the Art Gallery of Alberta and the construction of a historical square and grand entrance at Calgary Heritage Park.

4. Capacity Building (Linkage: Goals 1 and 2)

The Ministry worked to increase local capacity for self-reliance in arts and culture, film, sport and recreation, libraries, the voluntary sector and human rights. Libraries were allocated \$20 million in one-time funding to enhance programs and services. This was the largest one-time funding provision ever from the Ministry to libraries. Ministry staff provided consultation, coaching, facilitation, organizational/board development and training to communities and community organizations across the province. In 2005-06, 275 consultations, facilitations and workshops were held in rural Alberta, and 48 grants representing over \$1.4 million were awarded to rural non-profit voluntary sector organizations.

5. Inclusive Communities (Linkage: Goal 2)

Supporting the development of inclusive communities and the reduction of discrimination continued to be a priority for the Ministry. Workshops were held with employees and employers across the province to help increase awareness of human rights and to prevent discrimination in the workplace. The Ministry also conducted stakeholder consultations in various communities to help guide future directions for human rights and diversity initiatives. Approximately \$855,000 was provided to community organizations to support educational initiatives that help reduce racism and discrimination. The importance of recognizing the benefits of diversity and of building an inclusive and respectful society were promoted through initiatives such as the Help Make a Difference campaign.

Core Businesses, Goals, Strategies and Performance Measures

Core Business 1

Support individuals and organizations through community development

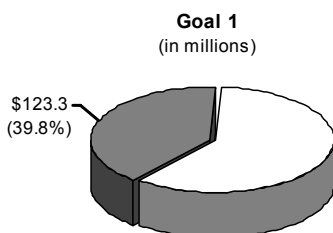
Goal 1

Work in collaboration with individuals, organizations and communities to increase local capacity for self-reliance in arts and culture, sport and recreation, libraries and the voluntary sector.

Overview

The Ministry supports this goal on an ongoing basis by:

- Working with organizations and communities to strengthen their capacity to enhance and further develop the areas of arts and culture, sport and recreation, libraries and the voluntary sector by providing financial support, consultation, information, education and facilitation services.
- Working with individuals to increase their potential to contribute to activities that enhance quality of life.
- Providing support to key activities such as: promoting participation in arts and cultural activities; furthering a province-wide library system and information network through Alberta SuperNet; participating in the Active Living Strategy and affirming the actions of the Alberta Sport Plan; advancing the voluntary sector through organizational and volunteer development; and delivering the Film Development and Film Classification Programs.
- Providing financial and consultative support through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts; the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation; and the Wild Rose Foundation.
- Serving as a liaison between the government and the francophone community in Alberta.



Goal 1 - Supporting individuals, organizations and communities in the development of their capacity to participate in, and contribute to, activities in the areas of the arts, sport and recreation, libraries and the voluntary sector consumed 39.8% (\$123.3 million) of the Ministry's 2005-06 operating expense.

Achievements

STRATEGY 1.1

Initiate the development of a unified and inclusive cultural policy, which encompasses Alberta's cultural, historical and natural heritage through a broadly based consultation process with Albertans.

STRATEGY 1.2

Work with stakeholders and other government entities to assist with developing the capacity of the voluntary sector and communities of Alberta to further mutual goals and a shared vision.

INTERESTING FACT

Of the 514 projects completed in the area of facilitation, skill development, and public participation, 35 per cent of projects involved jointly working with rural and urban areas, 37 per cent involved working with rural areas and 28 per cent involved working with urban areas.

In support of a province rich in cultural diversity, the Ministry led the development of draft cultural policy that encompasses the arts, our natural landscape, human rights, heritage, sport and recreation, cultural facilities and libraries. Consultations with stakeholders took place across Alberta, including targeted discussions with new Albertans and the Aboriginal community, to help understand Albertans' perceptions of culture and quality of life.

The Ministry provided capacity-enhancing workshops and consultations to more than 13,000 Albertans from government, rural and urban voluntary sector organizations, and agencies that serve the voluntary sector. These organizations were helped to work toward self reliance and sustainability, establish sound governance policies and procedures, focus on results and celebrate successes. The Ministry also trained 19 volunteer instructors to deliver workshops to non-profit boards.

More than \$4.8 million in grants were provided to approximately 150 non-profit organizations through the Wild Rose Foundation to support programs and projects that respond to community needs. Additionally, almost \$600,000 was provided to non-profit organizations and municipalities to support the enhancement of the voluntary sector in Alberta. As well, through the Ministry's Youth Initiatives Limited Grant Program, grants totalling \$79,500 were provided to support youth volunteerism in Alberta.

The Ministry supported Vitalize 2005, a provincial voluntary sector conference, which brought together over 1,000 delegates from more than 130 communities. Over 80 sessions were offered to address the educational needs of the voluntary sector. Support was also provided for youth and mentors to attend the event.



Alberta Spirit Gala at the Jubilee Auditorium

STRATEGY 1.3

Engage in a public review process to ensure provincial public library policy and existing legislation reflects emerging trends in service delivery.

The Ministry conducted a public review process that led to proposed amendments to the *Libraries Act*. The amendments focus on simplifying financial reporting requirements, establishing joint boards to serve more than one municipality, and specifying terms and conditions for dissolution or amalgamation of municipal library boards in the event of municipal amalgamation or dissolution.

Staff continued the library audit process as part of the provincial library needs assessment process. Audits were carried out in Forestburg, Daysland, Amisk, Alliance, Provost, Provost Municipal District, Hardesty, Rimbey, Innisfail and Blackfalds in the Parkland Regional Library System area, and in Hussar and Cochrane in the Marigold Library System area. The Ministry also completed A Study of Public Library Service Needs of On-Reserve First Nations People in Alberta that resulted in a series of recommendations regarding on-reserve public library services.

STRATEGY 1.4

Maximize public library service potential provided by the Alberta SuperNet connection.

The Ministry continued to facilitate access to the Alberta SuperNet for public libraries. Approximately 77 per cent of Alberta public libraries (240 out of 310) are now able to provide Internet service to Albertans.

STRATEGY 1.5

Provide consultative services and access to financial resources to artists, arts organizations and cultural industries such as film development, magazine and book publishing and sound recording to enable public participation and appreciation of the arts.

The Ministry provided almost \$20 million to arts organizations and artists to support activities in the literary, performing and visual arts. A further \$12.8 million was provided to support film development. Funding was provided for Alberta's major performing arts companies, arts festivals, public art galleries, community theatres, music productions, publishing, sound recording, film production and writing.

More than \$80,000 was provided in support of the arts camps component of the Alberta's Future Leaders Program for Aboriginal Youth to encourage awareness of the arts in Aboriginal communities. Ministry staff also conducted focus groups and completed interviews with Aboriginal artists across the province to determine their needs and to identify ways to increase their participation in the arts.

STRATEGY 1.6

Classify films prior to public exhibition in Alberta and promote the film rating system to Albertans.

In 2005-06, Ministry staff classified 989 films prior to public exhibition. The film classification process generated more than \$600,000 in revenue.

Ministry staff continued to work with clients and stakeholders to promote Alberta's film rating system. Posters and bookmarks highlighting the Ministry's website albertafilmratings.ca were distributed across the province and various speaking engagements were held to promote the website.

DID YOU KNOW?

How films were classified:

- G - 170 films
- PG - 431 films
- 14A - 294 films
- 18A - 81 films
- R - 13 films

STRATEGY 1.7

Collaborate with communities to promote healthy recreational and active living activities and to encourage the preservation and public use of the natural environment and community recreation areas.

INTERESTING FACT

190 Alberta athletes, coaches and staff participated in the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Torino, Italy -

- 93 Olympians
- 5 Paralympians
- 85 Olympic coaches and staff
- 7 Paralympic staff

STRATEGY 1.8

Work with local, provincial, national and international agencies to support athletic achievement through joint planning, consultation and financial assistance.

INTERESTING FACT

Team Alberta wrapped up the 2005 Canada Summer Games in Regina, Saskatchewan by reaching the 100 medal milestone:

- 29 gold medals
- 34 silver medals
- 37 bronze medals

The Ministry maintained its commitment to supporting a strong and healthy Alberta by promoting active lifestyles and supporting sport and recreation opportunities. Provincial sport and recreation associations and active living agencies were assisted in providing programs and services to Albertans through the provision of \$8.4 million in funding. In addition, approximately 280 grants totalling more than \$600,000 were provided for various provincial and community based projects in the areas of sport, recreation, parks and wildlife. Participation in sport for under-represented groups (e.g., girls, women, Aboriginal people and persons with disabilities) was enhanced by providing approximately \$100,000 in grants to provincial sport and recreation associations for programs involving these groups.

The Ministry approved more than 260 Municipal Recreation/Tourism Areas grants across the province to ensure that outdoor public facilities are maintained as safe and useable and to enable communities to improve local amenities and encourage tourism.

The Ministry partnered with 20 provincial sport and recreation associations and active living agencies to integrate the Live Outside the Box theme into their programs. For example, the Calgary Be Fit Life Centre staged a Live Outside the Box Health Fair Day in four high-needs junior high schools and Alberta Speed Skating toured the province with Learn to Speed Skate clinics.

In partnership with provincial and federal agencies, communities and private businesses, the Ministry facilitated the delivery of the Alberta’s Future Leaders Program to 12 Aboriginal communities. Opportunities were provided for youth to participate in summer sport and recreation programming, provincial leadership retreats and arts camps. More than 3,500 hours of sport and recreation programming were provided.

The Ministry continued to provide opportunities for Alberta’s developing athletes to participate in various provincial and national competitions, including the World Masters Games, the Arctic Winter Games and the Canada Summer Games. The City of Edmonton was provided with the final \$1.3 million of a \$4 million commitment to support the 2005 World Masters Games, and over \$460,000 was provided to assist with training for the 2006 Arctic Winter Games and the 2005 Canada Summer Games. Financial and consultative support was provided to the 2006 Alberta Winter Games in Edson, Hinton, Jasper and Yellowhead County, which attracted more than 2,000 young Albertans, coaches and officials.

The Ministry approved 95 Hosting Grants totalling \$389,000 for provincial sport and recreation associations and for local clubs and organizations to host western Canadian, national and international events in Alberta.

The achievements, performances and contributions of amateur athletes were recognized by the Ministry. Awards were presented for Alberta’s Athlete and Team of the Year, and recognition was given to outstanding officials, coaches and sport volunteers who devoted their time and effort to the development of sport in Alberta.



Alberta Centennial World Cup

STRATEGY 1.9

Showcase Alberta talent and recognize the contribution of Albertans at special events held to mark Alberta's centennial.

STRATEGY 1.10

Utilize support from the renegotiated 2005-09 Canada-Alberta Agreement on French Language Services to foster development of the francophone community and collaboration with other ministries on community priorities such as arts and culture, heritage preservation, and early childhood and health related services, and foster the development of a youth initiative within the francophone community through support provided from a new Alberta/Quebec Cooperation Agreement.

DID YOU KNOW?

Alberta's French speaking population is the fastest growing outside Quebec. As of 2001, there were approximately 205,000 French speaking Albertans.

- Statistics Canada

The Ministry recognized 100 influential Albertans with the Alberta Centennial Salute for Sport and Recreation Award for their commitment and contributions to the development of sport and recreation in Alberta. Recipients were chosen from communities across the province for having an impact on the lives of others through their involvement in sport and recreation.

A number of activities related to health, children's services, heritage preservation, arts and culture, economic development and immigration were undertaken in support of the francophone community. In particular, the Ministry worked to improve the provision of health services in French in the Edmonton and Peace regions. It also assisted with establishing new francophone junior kindergarten programs, promoted tolerance, supported the implementation and maintenance of heritage preservation and history, facilitated the integration and settlement of French speaking immigrants, and promoted tourism from francophone regions and countries.

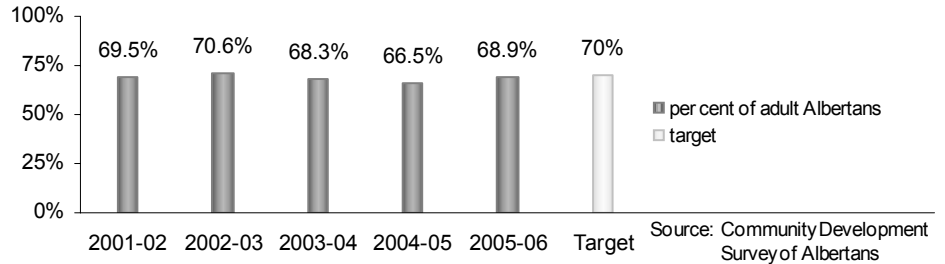
The Ministry also supported the *Association La Girandole* in the delivery of training sessions to young professional dancers. This project helped the dancers develop leadership qualities and contributed to fostering amateur and professional dance initiatives across the province, particularly among young francophones.

MEASURE 1.A

Level of community volunteerism by adult Albertans

Performance Measures

Percentage of adult Albertans who volunteer



Description

This measure represents the percentage of adult Albertans who make an unpaid contribution of time, energy and/or talents to charitable or non-profit organizations, causes, community development activities or help through personal initiatives to individuals.

Results

The percentage of adult Albertans who reported that they volunteer increased to 68.9 per cent in 2005-06, progressing toward the target of 70 per cent.

Analysis

The Ministry continued to support the voluntary sector by providing funding for non-profit organizations and through the delivery of leadership training and capacity enhancing workshops and consultations. The Ministry also recognized the importance of volunteers at events such as National Volunteer Week and the Stars of the Millennium Volunteer Awards.

Factors such as the awareness of the benefits of volunteering and personal circumstances related to age, lifestyle and economic conditions may influence volunteer levels. The target for this measure was reduced to 69 per cent in the Ministry's 2006-09 Business Plan based on an average of results for the last three years, plus a one per cent stretch factor. It is expected that work on a new Voluntary Sector Framework will address issues such as recruitment challenges and may have a positive impact on the level of volunteerism in future years.

INTERESTING FACT

Volunteers in Alberta spend an average of 13 hours per month doing volunteer work.
- Community Development Survey of Albertans

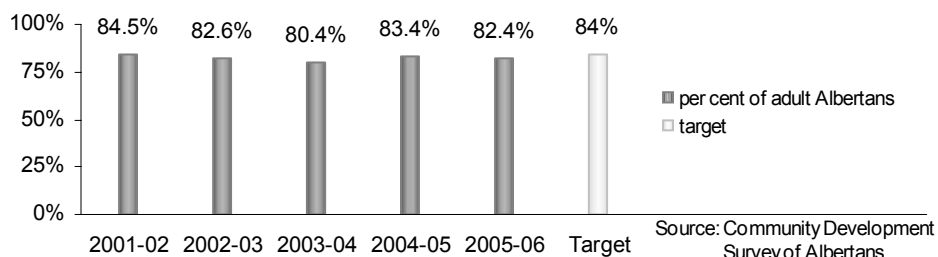
DID YOU KNOW?

The main reason respondents were not able to volunteer is that they did not have enough time or were too busy (58 per cent).
- Community Development Survey of Albertans

MEASURE 1.B

Participation in sport and recreational activities by adult Albertans

Percentage of adult Albertans who participate in sport and recreational activities



Description

This measure indicates the percentage of adult Albertans who participate in sport and recreational activities in a given year. Respondents were asked if they had participated in a recreational activity such as walking, bicycling, skiing, golfing, skating, swimming or amateur sports in the past year.

Results

The percentage of adult Albertans who participated in sport and recreational activities decreased to 82.4 per cent in 2005-06, only one per cent lower than in the previous year, but still two per cent higher than in 2003-04.

Analysis

The Ministry continued to promote healthy and active lifestyles and encourage participation and involvement in sport and recreational activities. The Live Outside the Box and Summer Active campaigns encouraged Albertans to become more active. In addition, the Ministry’s efforts to provide opportunities for children and youth, including those in Aboriginal communities and under-represented groups, to participate in sport and recreation better prepares them to lead healthy and active lifestyles as adults.

Factors such as an aging population, lifestyle choices, disposable income and user fees may have contributed to the slight decrease in results. The target for this measure was reduced to 83 per cent in the Ministry’s 2006-09 Business Plan based on an average of results for the last three years, plus a one per cent stretch factor. However, a continued emphasis on active living strategies and the promotion of healthy lifestyles is expected to have a positive influence on future results.

DID YOU KNOW?
 On May 26, Alberta walked away with a new world record - 79, 280 Albertans simultaneously walked one kilometre to successfully set a new Guinness Book world record for walking.

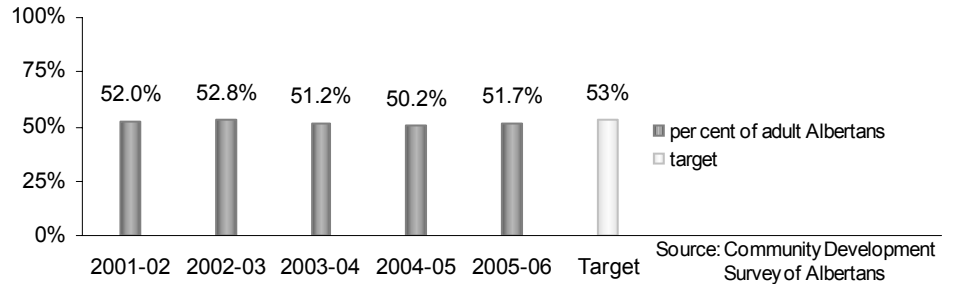
MEASURE 1.C

Usage of public library services by adult Albertans

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 30 million items a year are borrowed from Alberta's public libraries.

Percentage of adult Albertans who use public library services



Description

This measure indicates the percentage of adult Albertans who have used public library services in Alberta in a given year. Libraries support strong, healthy communities, further lifelong learning and help Albertans compete in the global economy.

Results

In 2005-06, the percentage of adult Albertans who used public library services increased to 51.7 per cent, approaching the 53 per cent target.

Analysis

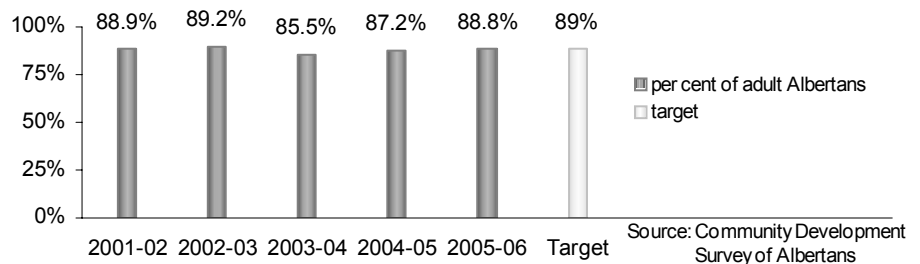
The Ministry continued efforts to facilitate access to the Alberta SuperNet for public libraries across the province. The Ministry also explored opportunities to improve library services in rural areas and to better understand public library needs of on reserve First Nations people in Alberta.

Influences such as library hours of operation, lifestyle choices and the availability of the Internet and home-based entertainment technologies may affect the results. The target for this measure was reduced to 52 per cent in the Ministry's 2006-09 Business Plan based on an average of results for the past three years, plus a one per cent stretch factor.

MEASURE 1.D

Participation in arts and cultural activities by adult Albertans

Percentage of adult Albertans who attend or participate in arts and cultural activities



DID YOU KNOW?
 Alberta arts festivals produce over 4,500 shows at over 500 events across the province.

MEASURE 1.E
 Customer satisfaction with community development services

CLIENT FEEDBACK
 "I would like to compliment and congratulate your team for helping us to develop, enhance and sustain a process for building community partnerships."
 - Client receiving community development services

Description

This measure indicates the percentage of adult Albertans who attend or participate in arts and cultural activities in a given year. Respondents were asked if they had personally attended or participated in a large range of arts and cultural activities such as performing in a choir, playing a musical instrument, taking an arts course or visiting an arts exhibition or gallery.

Results

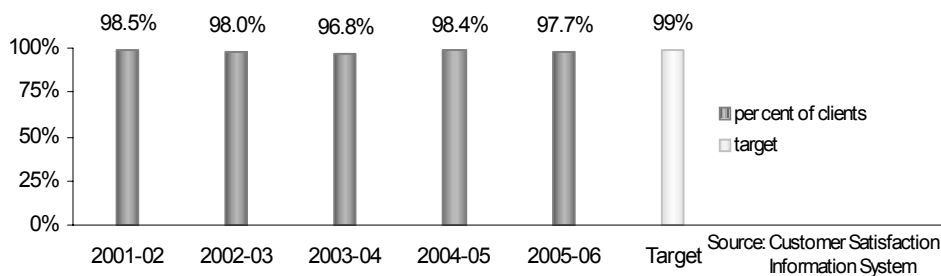
The percentage of adult Albertans who attended or participated in arts and cultural activities remained high in 2005-06, increasing from 87.2 per cent in 2004-05 to 88.8 per cent and essentially meeting the target.

Analysis

Increased participation might be partially attributed to centennial events promoting Alberta artists, such as Alberta Scene and Alberta Tracks: A Centennial Music Celebration. Support continued for activities in the literary, performing and visual arts and film development.

The results may be affected by external influences such as lifestyle choices, disposable income, home-based entertainment technology, time constraints and demographics. The target was reduced to 88 per cent in the Ministry's 2006-09 Business Plan based on an average of results for the past three years, plus a one per cent stretch factor.

Percentage of Ministry clients satisfied with community development services



Description

This measure indicates the percentage of clients who were satisfied overall with the Ministry's community development services. Community development services encompass a broad range of capacity building activities including planning, knowledge and skill transfer facilitation and/or consultation regarding a variety of topics from organizational development to public consultation.

Results

Satisfaction with community development services decreased slightly from 98.4 per cent in 2004-05 to 97.7 per cent in 2005-06, falling below target, but remaining high.

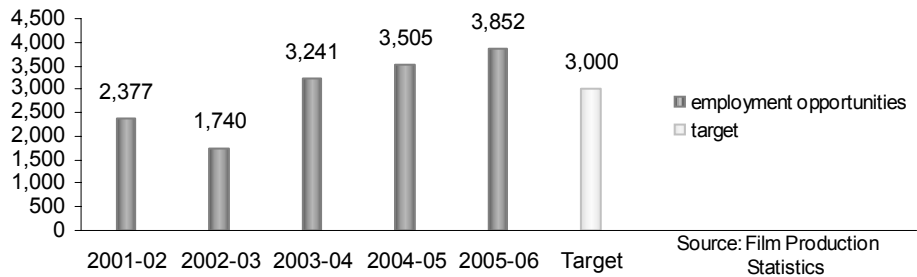
Analysis

The Ministry provided a broad range of community development services to Albertans from government, rural and urban voluntary sector organizations and agencies serving the voluntary sector. The results may be affected by shifting expectations for assistance with community development services given high client expectations and public demand for help in addressing community development issues.

MEASURE 1.F (i)

Impact of the support provided by the Alberta Film Development Program:
Number of film production employment opportunities for Albertans

Film production employment opportunities for Albertans



MEASURE 1.F (ii)

Impact of the support provided by the Alberta Film Development Program:
Value of film production by Albertans in Alberta (\$ millions)

Value of film production by Albertans in Alberta



Description

Measures 1.f (i) and (ii) indicate the impact of the Alberta Film Development Program and the financial support it provides for filmmaking in Alberta. An Alberta employment opportunity is counted when an individual, who is a resident of Alberta, provides a service to a film production and receives credit and reimbursement for that service. The dollar value of film production by Albertans is reported in current dollars.

Results

Employment opportunities for Albertans in the film industry increased from 3,505 in 2004-05 to 3,852 in 2005-06, surpassing the target of 3,000. The value of film production by Albertans in Alberta reached \$68.2 million in 2005-06, also above target.

Analysis

More film productions and capacity within the province to support the industry have contributed to the third consecutive increase in employment opportunities for Albertans and the value of film production in Alberta. External influences that may impact results include the long lead times regularly associated with film production and accountability reporting, availability of funding and wide variations in the amount of activity associated with a particular production. The Alberta Film Development Program was transferred to the Ministry of Economic Development and will be reported on by that Ministry in 2006-07.



Bomba! - Alberta Scene Band

Core Business 2

Protect human rights, promote fairness and access, and support the protection, inclusion, and participation of all Albertans

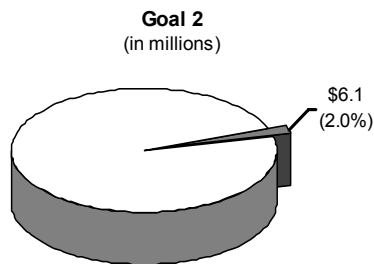
Goal 2

Increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism and diversity; foster equality and help prevent discrimination so all Albertans have the opportunity to participate in the social, economic and cultural life of the province.

Overview

The Ministry supports this goal on an ongoing basis by:

- Protecting human rights and reducing discrimination by resolving and adjudicating human rights complaints, and promoting understanding of Alberta's human rights legislation through the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission.
- Fostering equality, promoting the benefits of diversity and multiculturalism, helping to prevent discrimination and reducing barriers to full participation in society through the provision of information and public education resources and programs, awareness initiatives, consultation services, and research and policy initiatives.
- Undertaking collaborative projects with other governments and organizations that further human rights, diversity and multiculturalism goals.
- Providing financial support for community educational initiatives that advance human rights, diversity, and multiculturalism goals through the Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund.



Goal 2 - Supporting people in having an opportunity to participate in the social, economic and cultural life of the province without discrimination consumed 2.0% (\$6.1 million) of the Ministry's 2005-06 operating expense.

STRATEGY 2.1

Continue protecting human rights by resolving and adjudicating complaints of alleged discrimination

Achievements

In 2005-06, the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission opened 778 new complaint files and closed 749 files, with physical disability and gender continuing to be the most common grounds for complaint. The majority of these files (97.2 per cent) were closed with the assistance of Commission staff who were involved in resolving and settling discrimination complaints. The remaining files, (2.8 per cent) were closed at the human rights panel stage, either prior to a hearing or through a panel decision. Human rights panels addressed issues such as discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual harassment, physical disability and mental disability.

RESULTS ANALYSIS **Protect human rights, promote fairness and access, and support the protection, inclusion, and participation of all Albertans**

In response to appeals, the Court of Queen’s Bench and Court of Appeal further clarified and supported human rights principles, and in response to judicial reviews of the Chief Commissioner’s decisions, the courts found the decisions to be reasonable.

STRATEGY 2.2

Develop resources and programs that increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of human rights, multiculturalism and diversity, and increase the understanding of legal decisions on the interpretation of human rights legislation.

The Ministry remained committed to building respectful and inclusive communities by fostering equality and reducing discrimination for Albertans. To help increase awareness of human rights and prevent discrimination in the workplace, approximately 90 workshops were held with employees and employers across Alberta.

Educational resources such as complainant and respondent guides for the human rights complaint process were developed to clarify the rights and responsibilities of Albertans. A new interpretive bulletin called Human Rights in the Hospitality Industry was published to give hospitality industry operators and their customers an overview of their rights and responsibilities under Alberta’s human rights legislation. Examples of discriminatory and non-discriminatory alternatives, summaries of leading human rights cases, a list of related resources and options for dispute resolution were addressed. Also, the Ministry worked in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage to develop educational materials that will assist organizations to contribute to the inclusion of all Albertans in society.

The Ministry, in partnership with Global Television and the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports, continued the second phase of the Help Make a Difference Initiative to build awareness about the importance of diversity and to encourage Albertans to make communities more inclusive. Public service announcements were broadcast over 870 times, reaching up to 71.5 per cent of the viewing population. Cumulatively, these announcements were seen over 6.7 million times. Related resource materials were also produced.



Aboriginal dancers at AlbertaSpirit celebration in Bonnyville

DID YOU KNOW?

In collaboration with Advanced Education, five recipients were selected for the 2005 Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Citizenship Medal and \$5,000 award to recognize their contribution to the community through good citizenship, leadership, community service or volunteering.

The Ministry, in collaboration with Advanced Education, coordinated the annual Persons Case Scholarship. The scholarships are awarded to students whose studies and career goals will ultimately contribute to the advancement of women, or to students who are studying in fields where members of their gender are traditionally few in number. Eight students received the post-secondary scholarship, with amounts awarded ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000, totalling \$20,000.

The *Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Recognition Act* and the *Queen Elizabeth II Award and Scholarship Regulation* were both amended to increase the number of medals and awards made annually to young Albertans for their excellence in citizenship, leadership, community service and volunteering. The Ministry enhanced its Diversity Leadership Award of Distinction by offering two awards in 2005-06, one for small and medium-sized employers, and one for larger employers. The awards are presented to organizations that embrace diversity, encourage respect and inclusion, eliminate discrimination and help create welcoming and inclusive workplaces and communities.

The first Alberta Award of \$10,000 for the Study of Canadian Human Rights and Multiculturalism was made to a graduate student to support studies that will contribute to the advancement of human rights and multiculturalism. The award was established in recognition of Alberta's centennial and the contributions and experiences of our diverse populations.

STRATEGY 2.3

Consult with Albertans concerning appropriate strategies to advance human rights, diversity and multiculturalism goals, and support organizations to develop capacity to build a society that is respectful of human rights, that welcomes multiculturalism and diversity, and that is free of discrimination.

The Ministry led a province-wide stakeholder consultation on future directions, priorities and strategies for human rights and diversity initiatives supported through the Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund. Work will continue on this initiative in 2006-07.

Thirty-one grants totalling approximately \$855,000 were provided to community organizations across Alberta to support their efforts to reduce racism and discrimination and create positive, systemic change in their communities and organizations. Also, a pilot program was completed to help organizations build their capacity to develop and implement diversity change initiatives.

The Ministry coordinated the development of the Government of Alberta's contributions to a number of international reports on discrimination and rights, including Canada's 17th and 18th reports on the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*. The Ministry also coordinated the Government of Alberta's consideration of, and agreement to support, Canada's ratification of the United Nations *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*. The Ministry was involved with negotiations of the *International Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*; the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*; and the proposed *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

RESULTS ANALYSIS **Protect human rights, promote fairness and access, and support the protection, inclusion, and participation of all Albertans**

Ministry staff participated in the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination initiative to strengthen the work being done in Alberta municipalities to prevent racism and discrimination. The Ministry also coordinated Alberta’s delegation of community representatives and government officials for a National Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence. In collaboration with the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Status of Women Forum and Statistics Canada, work began on a statistical report, *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006*.



AlbertaSpirit celebrations at the Alberta Legislature

Performance Measures

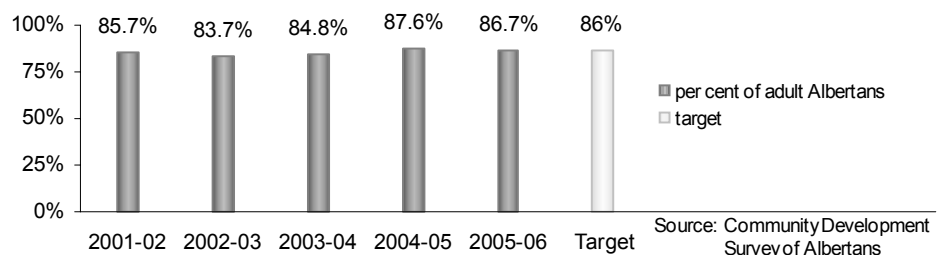
MEASURE 2.A

Adult Albertans' perception of how well human rights are protected in Alberta

DID YOU KNOW?

Overall, the percentage of adult Albertans who believe human rights are well protected in Alberta increased from 81.7 per cent in 1998-99 to 86.7 per cent in 2005-06.

Percentage of adult Albertans who believe human rights are well protected in Alberta



Description

This measure provides an indication of adult Albertans’ perceptions of how well human rights are protected in Alberta. Results are based on the combined total of adult Albertans who indicated human rights are “fairly well” or “very well” protected, the top two categories of a four point rating scale.

Results

In 2005-06, 86.7 per cent of adult Albertans felt that human rights were well protected in Alberta. Although the results decreased slightly from 2004-05, they have increased over the last several years and are above the target of 86 per cent.

Analysis

The Ministry remained committed to fostering equality and reducing discrimination by helping Albertans to resolve human rights complaints. The Ministry also developed resources to provide clarity about the human rights complaint process and delivered information and education programs to increase awareness and understanding about human rights in the workplace.

Results may be affected by issues, events and legislative matters concerning human rights, both in the province and in other jurisdictions around the world, media coverage, demographics and respondents' historical and personal circumstances and experiences. The target for this measure was increased to 88 per cent in the Ministry's 2006-09 Business Plan based on the high results achieved in 2004-05.

Core Business 3

Preserve, protect and present Alberta's history, culture, provincial parks and protected areas

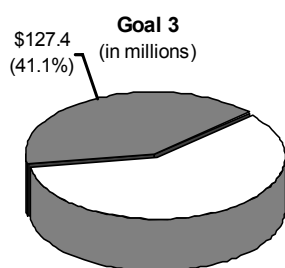
Goal 3

Preserve, protect, present, research and promote appreciation for Alberta's historical resources and culture and provide opportunities for heritage tourism.

Overview

The Ministry supports this goal on an ongoing basis by:

- Operating, in consultation and/or partnership with cooperating societies, provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres; the Provincial Archives of Alberta; and the Northern and Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditoria.
- Delivering public programs and exhibits and conducting applied or targeted research to increase the body of knowledge of Alberta's past, and the public's understanding of it.
- Identifying, acquiring and preserving cultural and natural resources of significance to Alberta for future generations.
- Acquiring and preserving significant private and government records and making them available for research and interpretive purposes.
- Regulating land-based development activity to preserve significant historical resources.
- Providing professional and technical advice and funding assistance through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation to individuals, organizations, communities and parts of the private sector involved in historical preservation and presentation.



Goal 3 - Preserving, protecting, presenting, researching and promoting appreciation for Alberta's historical resources and culture and providing opportunities for heritage tourism consumed 41.1% (\$127.4 million) of the Ministry's 2005-06 operating expense.

STRATEGY 3.1

Work with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation to a) develop appropriate storage solutions for the province's heritage collections, b) improve access to the province's modern heritage facilities for persons with disabilities, and c) continue to review and update recapitalization requirements for provincially owned and operated historic sites, museums and cultural facilities.

STRATEGY 3.2

Further the preservation of heritage properties by assisting Alberta municipalities in the establishment of local Heritage Preservation Programs with a view to placing locally significant sites on the newly created Canadian Register of Historic Places.

STRATEGY 3.3

Investigate, identify and implement steps to increase self-generating revenues for facility/program reinvestment through partnerships, new products and additional funding structures to enrich the Ministry's heritage and cultural facilities network.

Achievements

The need for artifact centres to house the province's heritage collections continues. Focus on the requirement for storage solutions will be maintained over the coming years as the detailed analysis of on-site storage needs and projected storage requirements for the next 20 years is developed.

Accessibility was improved for visitors with disabilities at the Oil Sands Discovery Centre and Frank Slide Interpretive Centre by designing and installing accessible front doors and washrooms. Improved and increased wheelchair locations were provided on the main floor and first balcony levels of the newly renovated Jubilee Auditoria, and automatic patio doors were installed in the Royal Tyrrell Museum cafeteria.

The Ministry developed a design package for redevelopment of the Introduction to the Mesozoic Gallery at the Royal Tyrrell Museum to introduce visitors to dinosaurs and palaeoconservatory. The first part of a phased overhaul of the Museum's introductory galleries was started with the design of a life-sized Albertosaurus diorama in an authentic cretaceous environment.

Additionally, gallery and exhibit recapitalization activities commenced with a range of projects at the Remington Carriage Museum, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, Rutherford House, Oil Sands Discovery Centre, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, and Reynolds-Alberta Museum. As well, theatre equipment was upgraded to high definition at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Remington Carriage Museum, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Reynolds-Alberta Museum and Oil Sands Discovery Centre. Also, the theatre productions at Frank Slide Interpretive Centre and Reynolds-Alberta Museum were transferred into digital technology.

The Ministry continued to develop the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program, providing financial support to assist six municipalities in developing municipal heritage resource management programs. This cooperation with municipalities has contributed to a 52 per cent increase in the number of municipally protected historic places since January 2004 (total of 111 at the end of 2005-06).

Alberta continued its participation in the Historic Places Initiative, listing 114 municipally and provincially protected historic places on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

The Ministry's heritage facilities continued to pursue self-generated revenue to support the delivery of heritage programs. Admissions revenues received from historic sites, museums and interpretive centres increased by 4.5 per cent from the year previous. In addition, the Ministry obtained over \$300,000 in funding from federal, provincial and corporate sources for the Royal Alberta Museum and over \$1 million in self-generated revenue from Museum programs, admission and donations.

Donations and sponsorships for the Royal Tyrrell Museum included a commitment by Imperial Oil to donate \$250,000 over 5 years to support the First

RESULTS ANALYSIS **Preserve, protect and present Alberta's history, culture, provincial parks and protected areas**

Classroom of the Learning Centre and a \$25,000 commitment from the Royal Bank of Canada to support distance learning initiatives. The Reynolds-Alberta Museum entered into a successful, two-year agreement with Honda Canada to sponsor Life and Times of the Motorcycle.

The Ministry developed a 2005 centennial marketing partnership initiative with the following partners: Travel Alberta, Alberta Motor Association, Husky-Mohawk, Best Western Hotels, Global Television, the Edmonton Journal, the Calgary Herald and Edmonton BMW.

Partnerships continued with a number of Alberta-based publishers to sell relevant publications at the Provincial Archives of Alberta Store. The Ministry also partnered with OPCOM Hospitality Solutions Inc. to develop a series of phone cards that showcase a range of historic images selected from the Archive's holdings.



History in the Hills - Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park

STRATEGY 3.4

Support Albertans' lifelong learning through promoting appreciation for Alberta's historical resources and culture at provincial historic sites, museums, interpretive centres and archives.

To support Albertans' lifelong learning, the Ministry offered various school and education programs through its provincial heritage facilities, attracting over 107,000 participants. Educational programs complimented the social studies, sciences, art, mathematics, economics, environmental, Aboriginal and history portions of the Ministry of Education's curricula.

Learning opportunities in palaeontology were offered for school groups from across the province through the delivery of videoconferencing sessions at the Royal Tyrrell Museum. A new videoconferencing program called Up Close and Palaeo was developed for students from grades 4-12 to interact with scientists and science educators. A new pilot program was also launched at the Museum that allowed high school students to participate in hands-on palaeontology activities. The Royal Tyrrell Museum and the Alberta Science Foundation launched Junior Palaeontologist (Science in a Crate), a hands-on activity program that has direct ties to Alberta's kindergarten curriculum. The Badlands Science Camp, an outdoor, multi-day camp for children and families was launched to foster an appreciation of the natural sciences and the environment through a fun, interactive educational program.

The Royal Alberta Museum continued to offer distinctive programming, including interpretive programs, lectures and workshops customized for schools, children, families and adults. Over 42,000 students participated in curriculum-based education programs at the Museum, including students in the fully-booked Museum School, in which school classes spend a week in a non-traditional classroom at the Museum exploring the galleries, visiting labs and collections behind the scenes and meeting with Museum staff.

STRATEGY 3.5

Develop a 20-year strategic plan to preserve, protect and present Alberta's history and culture and to provide a roadmap for future capital and program initiatives such as increasing Alberta's dinosaur and Aboriginal profile.

A strategic plan to guide the Ministry's heritage related activities over the coming 20 years was completed. The plan includes the cultural, social and economic contributions of heritage to society and outlines the key challenges and opportunities facing the Ministry to ensure that Alberta's rich heritage is protected and presented for future generations.

STRATEGY 3.6

Address public interest in accessing Alberta's historical and cultural resources electronically by planning for and advancing virtual museums, electronic archives and collections listings.

Work continued with the Ministry of Government Services to determine requirements for establishing a government digital preservation strategy for archival records. In partnership with the University of Calgary, the Ministry furthered development of a digital preservation standard for the Provincial Archives of Alberta. This initiative will be harmonized with digital preservation strategies for the Government of Alberta as a whole.

The Ministry developed an Internet portal into the Royal Tyrrell Museum's collections database that allows the public to search for information and learn about the collections management program. Work also continued in converting the Royal Alberta Museum's natural history databases to the Heritage Resource Management Information System. The Creature Collection website has proven very popular and has been accessed over 58,000 times from April 2005 to January 2006.

STRATEGY 3.7

Coordinate Alberta's 2005 Centennial Program in partnership with other ministries, foundations, communities, non-profit organizations, municipalities and the federal government to provide opportunities for Albertans to participate in the commemoration of the centennial, and its celebrations and special events.

A number of festivities were held across the province in celebration of Alberta's centennial. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Alberta and designated the Provincial Museum of Alberta as the Royal Alberta Museum. The Ministry also planned a celebration worthy of a 100th birthday. On September 1, 2005 more than 250,000 individuals participated in AlbertaSpirit, a provincial celebration that was held at 12 locations in 10 communities and featured home grown musicians, artists and personalities. The event included a live television broadcast linking the ten communities and culminated with incredible displays of fireworks. Alberta talent was showcased on the national stage in Ottawa during the first ever Alberta Scene arts festival, which included the creative talent of more than 600 Alberta artists, actors, musicians, writers, dancers and chefs. Alberta musicians were also featured in 10 communities across the province in September and October as part of Alberta Tracks: A Centennial Music Celebration.

CENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHT

The Centennial Invitation Program sent over 36,000 letters from the Premier to 110 countries around the world inviting friends, relatives and colleagues to visit Alberta during the centennial year.

The Ministry worked closely with Saskatchewan and collectively undertook two special events. These events were the Centennial Challenge Cup, a hockey game held in the border city of Lloydminster that was broadcast on television, and the Centennial Gridiron Challenge between the Edmonton Eskimos and Saskatchewan Roughriders. The Ministry also worked with Canada Post to issue a special centennial stamp and the Royal Canadian Mint to unveil a

CENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHT

Approximately 8,000 Centennial medals were awarded to Albertans who made significant contributions to their fellow citizens.

The Design

The design features Alberta's coat of arms and "Alberta Centennial 1905-2005" on the front and shield of the arms and "Honouring Outstanding Albertans" on the back. It is cast in bronze and plated in gold.

centennial quarter.

A number of communication vehicles were established to share information on Alberta's centennial. The centennial website was used by many communities to register their centennial events. Also, a number of other communication mediums were developed, including a quarterly newsletter, a weekly electronic bulletin and a centennial media program that included a television campaign.

**STRATEGY 3.8**

Provide financial support to community owned and operated Centennial Legacy Projects across Alberta to leave tangible, memorable investments for future generations

The Ministry continued to support community centennial capital projects in 2005-06. In addition to the \$116.7 million previously awarded, \$59 million was awarded to support the development of the Calgary Zoo's Project Discovery, the expansion of the Art Gallery of Alberta, and the construction of a historical square and grand entrance at Calgary Heritage Park. This legacy of cultural and recreational facilities will benefit Albertans in every region of the province for decades to come. Facilities that received funding included museums, theatres, arenas, libraries and community centres.

CENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHT

Since 2000-01, \$ 176 million in grants have been awarded to support centennial capital projects worth more than \$860 million.

Most of the 407 municipalities that received Alberta Centennial Per Capita Municipal Grants completed their legacy projects in 2005-06. Grants ranging from \$3,000 to over \$1 million were provided to incorporated municipalities, First Nations and Métis Settlements. Many municipalities submitted reports on projects undertaken with centennial funding, which include parks, historical signage and capital projects.

STRATEGY 3.9

Support Government of Alberta Centennial Legacy Projects that preserve Alberta's heritage, provide educational opportunities and increase tourism, such as the redevelopment and expansion of the Provincial Museum of Alberta and the rejuvenation of the Jubilee Auditoria in Edmonton and Calgary.

The Ministry announced a \$180 million multi-year investment to renew, expand and update the Royal Alberta Museum, of which \$30 million is from the federal government. The renewed Museum will deliver an extraordinary visitor experience and attract touring exhibits from museums around the world. Several key milestones were achieved, including the creation of an architectural vision and a design concept for six new galleries.

The Northern and Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditoria were renovated to improve accessibility, patron sightlines and natural acoustics. They reopened with a gala at each facility as part of Alberta's centennial celebrations.

DID YOU KNOW?


One of the steelworkers on the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium renovation project also worked on the original construction of that building nearly 50 years ago.

Centennial legacy funding was provided for the construction of visitor centres in Writing-on-Stone, Dinosaur, and Cypress Hills Provincial Parks, as well as the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park.


Celebrate!

Alberta great


VISIT ALBERTA'S PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITES & MUSEUMS
and Celebrate Alberta's 100th Anniversary!




Oil Sands Discovery Centre
515 Mackenzie Blvd, Fort McMurray
Ph: (780) 743-7167




Fort George & Buckingham House
13 km southeast of Elk Point
Ph: (780) 724-2611




Historic Dunvegan
26 km south of Fairview
Ph: (780) 835-7150




Father Lacombe Chapel
St. Albert
Ph: (780) 459-7663




Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village
25 minutes east of Edmonton on Hwy 16
Ph: (780) 462-3640




Victoria Settlement
off Hwy 855, near Smoky Lake
Ph: (780) 656-2333




Royal Alberta Museum
72845-102 Avenue, Edmonton
Ph: (780) 453-9100




Rutherford House
11153 Saskatchewan Drive, Edmonton
Ph: (780) 427-3995




Reynolds-Alberta Museum
2 km west of Wetzstein on Hwy 13
Ph: (780) 361-1351




Royal Tyrrell Museum
Drumheller
Ph: (403) 823-7707




Stephanson House
30 minutes southwest of Red Deer, off Hwy 592 & 781
Ph: (403) 728-9929




Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump
18 km north and west of Fort Macleod on Secondary Hwy 785
Ph: (403) 553-2731




Brooks Aqueduct
8 km southwest of Brooks, off Trans-Canada Hwy 1
Ph: (403) 653-5139




Turner Valley Gas Plant
60 km south of Calgary in the town of Turner Valley
Ph: (403) 562-7398



Frank Slide Interpretive Centre
Hwy 3, Municipality of Crownest Pass
Ph: (403) 562-7388




Leitch Collieries
Hwy 3, Municipality of Crownest Pass
Ph: (403) 562-7388




Remington Carriage Museum
623 Main Street, Cardston
Ph: (403) 653-5137

VISIT Alberta's Provincial Historic Sites & Museums this summer and enter to


Win a Mini!





LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!
Contest closes Sept. 5, 2005
Full contest details at www.AlbertaCelebrates.com




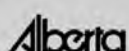
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












MEASURE 3.A

Satisfaction of visitors with experiences at provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres

CLIENT FEEDBACK

You have done an excellent job telling the story with creative use of still photography and music.

– Visitor to Frank Slide Interpretive Centre

The staff was wonderful and friendly, we enjoyed the role playing immensely. Every year there are changes for the better.

– Visitor to the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village

It was our first time [to Historic Dunvegan] and I loved it. My daughter did a unit in school on Peace River and the Hudson's Bay Company and she loved it a lot.

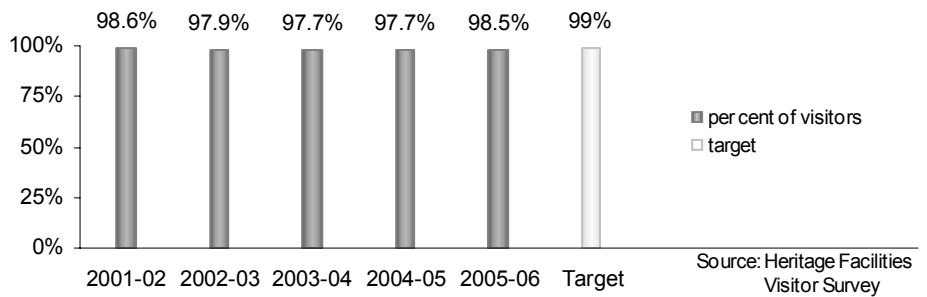
– Visitor to Historic Dunvegan

MEASURE 3.B

Knowledge gained of Alberta history by visitors to provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres

Performance Measures

Percentage of visitors satisfied with their experience



Description

This measure shows the percentage of visitors to provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres who were satisfied overall with their visit and provides an indication of the Ministry's success in preserving and presenting Alberta's heritage.

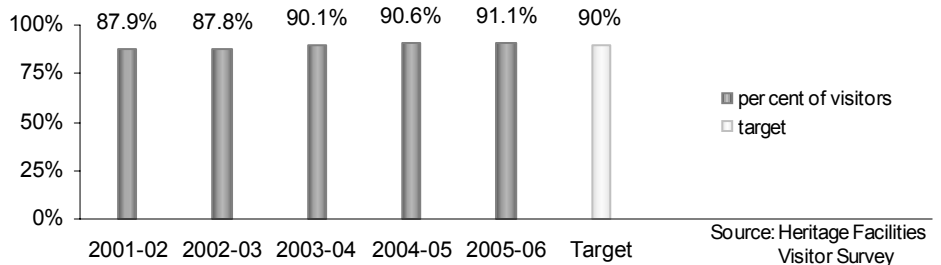
Results

In 2005-06, 98.5 per cent of visitors reported overall satisfaction with their visit to a provincial historic site, museum or interpretive centre. Results remained exceptionally high, essentially meeting the target of 99 per cent.

Analysis

Renovated facilities, new exhibits and events related to Alberta's centennial may have positively impacted visitors' satisfaction with the Ministry's historic sites, museums and interpretive centres. Visitors' expectations and previous experiences may have also influenced results.

Perception of knowledge gained of Alberta history by visitors to provincial historic sites, museums and interpretative centres



Description

This measure indicates visitors' perceptions of the knowledge they gained of Alberta history during a visit to a provincial historic site, museum or interpretive centre.

Results

For the third consecutive year, the knowledge gained of Alberta history at provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres increased, surpassing the 90 per cent target set for 2005-06.

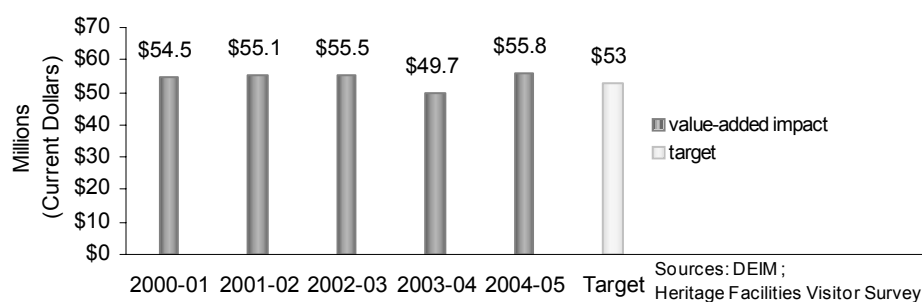
Analysis

The Ministry continued to offer a wide range of public programs that enhance and expand visitors' knowledge and appreciation of Alberta's history, including special events, tours, interpretive activities and exhibits. Results may be influenced by the focus of exhibits and programs offered during a visit and visitors' expectations or previous experiences. The target for this measure increased to 91 per cent in the 2006-09 Business Plan based on an average of results for the last three years, plus a one per cent stretch factor.

MEASURE 3.C (i)

Economic impact of provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres (\$ millions):
Value-added impact

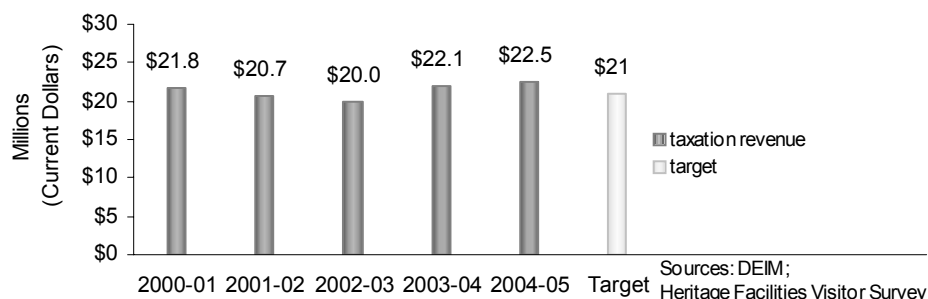
Value-added economic impact of provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres



MEASURE 3.C (ii)

Economic impact of provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres (\$ millions):
Taxation revenue returned to three levels of government

Taxation revenue from provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres



Description

Measures 3.c (i) and (ii) indicate the level of economic activity, in current dollars, created by the operation of the Ministry's provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres. They also provide an indication of the economic benefits associated with preservation and development of the province's heritage resources. Due to the volume and complexity of data collection and analysis, results lag one year behind the reporting year.

INTERESTING FACT

Alberta's provincial historic sites generate the equivalent of 1,160 full-time jobs.
- *Demand Economic Impact Model*

Results

In 2004-05, the value-added economic impact generated by the Ministry's historic sites, museums and interpretive centres increased by more than \$6 million from the previous year and the taxation revenue created increased by \$0.4 million. Results for both measures exceeded their targets.

Analysis

These contributions were influenced by increased visitor spending and improvements in the general state of the economy. Results for these measures are also affected by global, national and provincial tourism trends. The target for taxation revenue was increased to \$22 million in the Ministry's 2006-09 Business Plan based on previous results.



Korean Pavillion - Royal Alberta Museum

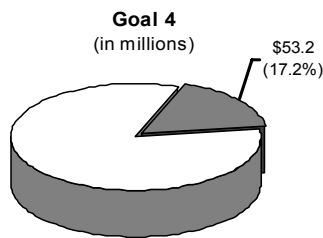
Goal 4

Maintain and enhance Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas to preserve the province's natural heritage and provide opportunities for heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation and heritage tourism.

Overview

The Ministry supports this goal on an ongoing basis by:

- Preserving a network of provincial parks and protected areas that represents the diversity of the province's natural heritage and related cultural heritage and enhances the overall environmental quality of the province.
- Providing opportunities for Albertans and visitors to explore, understand and appreciate the province's natural heritage through nature and heritage based recreation, education and tourism opportunities, facilities and services.
- Operating the province's biodiversity database, the Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre, which is used to support land use decisions, setting of priorities and effective management of Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas.
- Promoting lifelong learning through an emphasis on interpretation and environmental education that fosters heritage appreciation.
- Contributing to scientific knowledge of the province's natural history and biodiversity.
- Keeping Alberta's provincial parks and recreation areas safe and enjoyable for visitors.



Goal 4 - Maintain Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas to preserve the province's natural heritage and provide opportunities for heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation and heritage tourism consumed 17.2% (\$53.2 million) of the Ministry's 2005-06 operating expense.

STRATEGY 4.1

Work with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation to complete the planning and development of four centennial legacy projects (visitor centres in Writing-on-Stone, Dinosaur, and Cypress Hills provincial parks and the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation, an avian research centre in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park).

DID YOU KNOW?

Park visitation in Dinosaur, Writing-on-Stone and Cypress Hills Provincial Parks is expected to grow by 20 per cent by 2020.

Achievements

The Ministry provided \$8.1 million for the construction of visitor centres in Writing-on-Stone, Dinosaur, and Cypress Hills Provincial Parks, as well as the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. Main building construction was completed at Dinosaur and Lesser Slave Lake provincial parks, and construction is underway at Writing-on-Stone and Cypress Hills provincial parks. The new visitor centres will encourage awareness and understanding of the parks through interactive exhibits, professional staff-led programs and opportunities to share in park experiences and discoveries.



Dinosaur Provincial Park Visitor Centre

STRATEGY 4.2

Work with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation, within the framework of the Capital Planning Initiative, to revise capital planning and delivery processes to re-capitalize, sustain and monitor the condition of facilities and infrastructure in Alberta's provincial parks and major recreation areas to ensure effective management of capital redevelopment and ensure public health, safety and enjoyment, including a safe and secure drinking water supply.

STRATEGY 4.3

Develop an updated parks system plan and strategic direction for the management and protection of Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

Parks attract visitors and provide tourism income for local communities. These economic benefits enable communities to function and prosper and contribute to building social cohesion, social capital and healthy communities.

STRATEGY 4.4

Develop, consolidate and update legislation and regulations to provide a sound basis for the management and protection of Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas.

INTERESTING FACT

In 2005-06, 99 per cent of Albertans surveyed said the protection of natural resources, such as parks, is important to their overall quality of life.
- *Community Development Survey of Albertans*

The Ministry invested over \$31 million to repair and replace deteriorating park infrastructure and to ensure that a safe and secure drinking water supply is maintained. This funding helped restore the facilities that visitors use most. Picnic tables and fires pits were repaired, campsites were levelled and regravelled and buildings were repainted. Extensive upgrades and renovations were completed at Wabamun Lake Provincial Park, including the renewal of the water and sewer infrastructure and construction of a new shower building. Work continues on upgrading water treatment systems in provincial parks to ensure government standards are met.

Work was completed to develop an updated parks system plan based on the updated Natural Regions Framework, which is the landscape classification system and scientific framework used to describe environmental diversity. The Natural Regions Framework was further refined by a committee of representatives from different government Ministries and agencies, academics and other professionals to better define the parameters of all sub-regions. An additional sub-region was added to the Boreal Natural Region to provide for more precise classification of landscapes and features. Boundaries of sub-regions throughout the province were adjusted based on scientific information.

Level 1 natural history theme targets were also reviewed and adjusted for all parks and protected areas that were impacted by the sub-region boundary changes. New natural region and sub-region maps were completed along with a detailed scientific report documenting the various attributes for each sub-region. The Ministry was also instrumental in the development of the Natural Regions and Sub-regions of Alberta Report and new maps.

The *Provincial Parks Amendment Act* and the *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Amendment Act* were developed and introduced in the Legislative Assembly. The amendments bring these Acts more in line with other environmental legislation by updating regulation-making powers and improving administrative, enforcement, offence and penalty provisions, legal clarity and removing outdated and obsolete provisions in order to provide a stronger basis for effective management and protection of Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas.

Specified penalties for offences under the *Provincial Parks Act* were significantly increased to help ensure Alberta's provincial parks and recreation areas continue to be effectively protected and that all visitors can have a safe and enjoyable experience.

STRATEGY 4.5

Develop and implement a revitalization strategy for heritage appreciation that includes education, interpretive and marketing strategies to increase Albertans' awareness and appreciation for Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas and their contribution to Alberta's economy and quality of life.

STRATEGY 4.6

Increase opportunities for volunteer involvement and new partnerships to enhance research, monitoring and the provision of services at provincial parks and protected areas.

STRATEGY 4.7

Enhance the Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre's ability to provide quality natural heritage data to support effective management and protection of Alberta's provincial parks and protected areas and to provide natural heritage data to clients and partners in other provincial and federal agencies, universities, industry and national and international conservation organizations.

STRATEGY 4.8

Identify biophysical resource inventory and management planning priorities for the 2005-08 timeframe and complete biophysical resource inventories and management plans for priority parks and protected areas.

Implementation of the revitalization strategy continued in 2005-06 and a number of initiatives were completed such as the development of curriculum based on environmental education programs, wetlands education programs and family oriented interpretive programming.

A heritage appreciation plan was completed for the Beaverhills area that focused on Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area.

The Parks and Protected Areas Gateway website was revamped to improve customer service and make publications available to the public online.

The number of volunteers supporting provincial parks and protected areas continues to grow. Volunteers make significant contributions to a range of activities that include customer service, conservation efforts, greeting park visitors, education programming, scientific research and maintenance and administration.

Nine individuals and organizations were honoured at the 2005 Alberta Parks' Volunteer Conference. Awards in seven categories were distributed, based on nominations received from Albertans, Ministry staff, volunteers and partners.

The Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre is one of over 80 conservation data centres in an international Natural Heritage Network and is a member of NatureServe – a network connecting science with conservation. The Centre compiles and updates data to support the management of Alberta's parks and protected areas and responds to external requests for biophysical data.

The Centre continued to compile and update data, and provide data analysis and mapping to support management planning and resource management in parks and protected areas. The Centre also allowed users to access, view, query and print maps through the Internet. In addition, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to share conservation-related data.

The Centre partnered with other agencies on several initiatives, including a Forest Gene Conservation Plan for Alberta and the Adopt-a-Plant Program with the Alberta Native Plant Council. Cooperative projects were undertaken with NatureServe Canada, Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service to update natural heritage data.

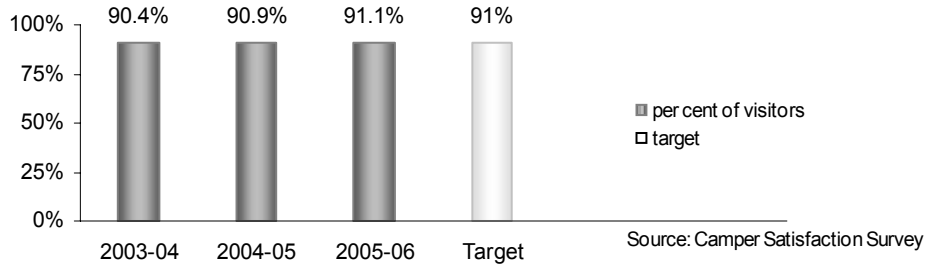
To provide long-term direction for management and protection of Alberta's parks and protected areas, management plans for a number of provincial parks were initiated. Biophysical resource inventory work included a preliminary survey of beetles, and completion of bird and mammal lists and spider records in Caribou Mountains Wildland Provincial Park. A survey of dragonfly, damselfly and butterfly fauna was completed in the Birch Mountains. In addition, surveys of butterfly fauna of the Wainwright Dunes Ecological Reserve and a bat survey of the Middle Red Deer and Battle Rivers were completed.

Performance Measures

MEASURE 4.A

Satisfaction of visitors with experiences at provincial parks and recreation areas

Percentage of visitors satisfied with services and facilities at provincial parks and recreation areas



Description

This measure indicates the percentage of visitors who were satisfied overall with the services and facilities at Alberta's provincial parks and recreation areas.

Results

In 2005-06, 91.1 per cent of visitors were satisfied with overall services and facilities at Alberta's provincial parks and recreation areas, meeting the target of 91 per cent.

Analysis

Investment in several infrastructure renewal projects to restore or replace aging facilities in provincial parks and recreation areas across the province may have positively impacted visitor satisfaction. Satisfaction may have also been influenced by several other factors, including interactions with other visitors, programs offered during the visit, public awareness of facilities and services, service provided by contractors and park staff.

INTERESTING FACT

Since 2002, campers have consistently rated their satisfaction with the friendliness and courtesy of staff the highest of all measured services.

- Camper Satisfaction Survey



Parks Staff - Announcement of the Lois Hole Provincial Park

Cross-Ministry Policy Initiatives

ABORIGINAL POLICY INITIATIVE

The Ministry:

Participated in the development of guidelines for Aboriginal consultation on resource development, including an Interim Approach document and a Government of Alberta Guidelines Framework, as well as the review of these documents with industry and First Nations. Ministry-specific guidelines for Community Development's consultation activities were also developed.

Participated in the development and planning for implementation of the Métis Harvesting Agreement with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development. Close cooperation and consultation is continuing with these ministries regarding the legal and constitutional interpretations of the agreement.

Implemented procedures to support the repatriation of sacred and ceremonial objects from government collections to First Nations, and participated in the development of government policy for unregistered burials.

Worked with Aboriginals to preserve, protect and present Aboriginal culture, including the provision of financial and technical support to the Métis Crossing Cultural Centre near Smoky Lake. The Ministry also completed an assessment for on-reserve public library services and assisted in developing the Grande Cache Aboriginal and Fur Trade Listing.

ALBERTA CHILDREN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE

The Ministry:

Provided financial assistance to community-based programs and services that place a priority on projects supporting the participation and inclusion of children, youth and their families. Funding was provided through the Ministry's Youth Initiatives Limited Grant Program to support youth volunteerism. The Ministry also provided funding to develop educational materials that help children and youth to combat discrimination.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION INITIATIVE

The Ministry:

Promoted international, national and local tourism through centennial celebrations and events across the province to commemorate Alberta's 100th anniversary, and supported centennial legacy projects to further enhance Alberta tourism opportunities and to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Operated 18 provincial heritage facilities featuring numerous learning programs, thematic exhibits, cultural and special events, and various festivities. Heritage based tourism opportunities were also provided through the Ministry's network of parks and recreation areas. The first cross-country world cup ski events in Alberta since 1989 were held at the renewed Canmore Nordic Centre. The events attracted skiers, officials, staff and fans from around the world.

Furthered the Rural Development Initiative by developing the capacity of rural libraries, communities and voluntary sector organizations. Ministry staff met with municipalities across the province, including the Town of Mundare, the Municipal District of Taber and the County of Warner to explore opportunities to improve rural library services. The Ministry also provided financial support to non-profit voluntary sector organizations in rural Alberta and sponsored

**HEALTH INNOVATION AND
WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

The Ministry:

consultations, facilitations and workshops for rural communities and voluntary sector organizations.

Supported various initiatives to promote participation in physical activity and to encourage Albertans to pursue active and healthy lifestyles. The Ministry supported the Alberta launch of Summer Active, which highlighted the importance of integrating healthy eating, tobacco-free living and daily physical activity into a healthy lifestyle. An active lifestyle was promoted through the Live Outside the Box Campaign, which encouraged individuals to turn off their televisions, computers and video games. Active living was further promoted through partnering with community organizations to coordinate an event in which Albertans set a new Guinness Book world record for walking.

Worked with the Minister’s Coordinating Council on Active Living to analyze actions resulting from meetings with active living stakeholders. Ministry staff also met with the Council to develop recommendations for an updated Alberta Active Living Strategy, and provided funding to the Schools Come Alive and Ever Active Schools Programs to support the Ministry of Education’s Daily Physical Activity Initiative.

Provided financial support to the Home Support Exercise Program and participated on the Program Advisory Committee. The Program supports the training of home care staff to deliver physical activity exercises to homebound seniors in Northern Lights, David Thompson, Calgary, Chinook and Palliser health authorities.

**LEADING IN LEARNING AND
SKILLED WORKFORCE
INITIATIVE**

The Ministry:

Provided consultative and financial support to the Artists in Education Program and for post-secondary arts activities in communities, schools, colleges and universities.

Led “welcoming communities,” one of the four strategic directions of the government’s new immigration policy, to support immigrants and immigration to Alberta. For example, the Ministry provided support to an organization to identify needs and mechanisms to deliver human rights information to immigrants. The Ministry also supported the development of a toolkit of online resources to assist in building action plans to combat racism and build inclusive communities.

Provided curriculum-based and family-oriented learning opportunities to thousands of participants who took part in educational programs at provincial heritage facilities. The Ministry launched the Junior Palaeontologist Program at the Royal Tyrrell Museum, which has direct linkages to Alberta’s kindergarten curriculum. The Badlands Science Camp, an outdoor, multi-day camp for children and families was also launched at the Museum to foster an appreciation of science and the environment. The Ministry continued to offer curriculum-based education programs to thousands of students at the Royal Alberta Museum and worked with the Ministry of Education to develop a program based on the new K-3 social studies curriculum.

Provided curriculum based environmental educational opportunities across the province, including outreach education programs in Calgary and Edmonton. In addition, the Ministry continued a successful partnership with Ducks Unlimited for the wetlands education programs at Fish Creek and Saskatoon Island provincial parks.

Integrated Results Analysis

OPERATING EXPENSE BY CORE BUSINESS

(millions of dollars)

This section focuses on comparing planned to actual results in terms of both financial and business performance. The following schedule outlines the actual expenditures incurred in comparison to budgeted resources for achieving the objectives of each core business.

	2006		2005
	Estimates (per 2005-08 Business Plan)	Actual	Actual
Core Business 1 – Support Individuals and Organizations Through Community Development	\$ 101.1	\$ 123.3	\$ 93.0
Objectives:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong community capacity in the areas of arts, sport and recreation, libraries, and the voluntary sector. ▪ Participatory opportunities enhance individual's quality of life. ▪ Effective liaison with the Francophone community in Alberta. 			
Core Business 2 – Protect Human Rights, Promote Fairness and Access, and Support the Protection, Inclusion, and Participation of all Albertans	6.1	6.1	5.8
Objectives:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equal dignity, rights, and responsibilities for all Albertans. ▪ Albertans appreciate diverse racial and cultural composition in the province. 			
Core Business 3 – Preserve, Protect and Present Alberta's History, Culture and Provincial Parks and Protected Areas	139.8	180.6	102.9
Objectives:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alberta's history and culture is well preserved. ▪ Albertans and visitors explore and appreciate the historic sites and provincial parks and protected areas. ▪ Albertans understand and appreciate the province's natural heritage. 			
Total Operating Expense	\$ 247.0	\$ 310.0	\$ 201.7

Core Business 1 – Total Operating Expense - \$123.3 Million

The Ministry spent a total of \$123.3 million to support individuals, organizations, and communities in the development of their capacity to participate in, and contribute to, activities in the areas of arts, sport and recreation, libraries, and the voluntary sector.

Nearly \$40 million was provided for public libraries to support strong and healthy communities, further lifelong learning and help Albertans to compete in the global economy. This represents a \$20 million increase from the prior year primarily related to one-time funding to support library operations and maintenance pressures.

About \$1 million in financial support was provided for SuperNet connectivity at Alberta's public libraries. This may have contributed to a slight increase in the usage of public library services by adult Albertans. The majority of public libraries have implemented or are in the process of implementing the SuperNet.

Facilitating access to the Internet is important in addressing an increasing trend towards the usage of electronic sources of information in rural communities.

The Ministry continued to promote active and healthy lifestyles by providing \$8.4 million in funding to provincial sport and recreation associations and active living agencies with a focus on supporting sport and recreational activities. Factors such as an aging population and lifestyle choices may have contributed to a slight decrease in participation in sport and recreational activities by adult Albertans in 2005-06.

The Ministry's efforts to support and promote the voluntary sector and recognize the contributions it makes to developing strong communities may have contributed to a 2.4 per cent increase from the previous year in the level of community volunteerism by adult Albertans. The Ministry supported volunteerism through delivering capacity-enhancing workshops, providing funding of \$4.8 million for non-profit organizations and promoting the voluntary sector and the benefits of volunteerism.

In 2005-06, the Ministry provided \$1.5 million towards featuring Alberta at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., during the summer of 2006. The event highlights Alberta's indigenous traditions, rich pioneer and immigrant heritage and thriving contemporary culture.

The Alberta Film Development Program's contribution of \$12.8 million provided a substantial number of new employment opportunities for Albertans in the industry. Results have increased from 3,505 employment opportunities in 2004-05 to 3,852 in 2005-06.

Core Business 2 – Total Operating Expense - \$6.1 Million

The Ministry continued its efforts to foster equality and prevent discrimination by providing public information and education programs and by helping Albertans to resolve human rights complaints. The Ministry provided an additional \$300,000 from the prior year to protect human rights and promote fairness because of pressure on services in this area.

The percentage of adult Albertans who feel human rights are well protected in Alberta decreased slightly in 2005-06, but remained above the target of 86 per cent. A number of factors outside the Ministry's control such as media coverage on human rights issues or events, respondent experiences and demographics could have influenced results.

Core Business 3 – Total Operating Expense - \$180.6 Million

The Ministry spent a total of \$180.6 million to preserve, protect and present the province's history, culture, provincial parks and protected areas.

About \$64.3 million was utilized to preserve, protect, present, research and promote appreciation for Alberta's historical resources and culture and provide opportunities for heritage tourism.

Renovated facilities, new exhibits and events may have contributed to an increase in the percentage of visitors reporting overall satisfaction with the Ministry's historic sites, museums and interpretive centres. The percentage of visitors who rated the knowledge gained of Alberta history as "excellent" or "good" increased for the third consecutive year and exceeded its target.

The Ministry's historic sites, museums and interpretive centres continued to make a substantial economic contribution to the province, with an increase from the previous year of over \$6 million in value-added impact and an increase of \$0.4 million in taxation revenue, both surpassing their targets. These contributions were influenced by increased visitor spending and improvements in the general state of the economy. Results for this measure lag one year behind the reporting year.

Compared to the prior year, the Ministry provided an additional \$40 million in centennial grants for a total of \$53.9 million in 2005-06 to commemorate Alberta's centennial. Funds were provided for the Calgary Zoo, Heritage Park Society, and numerous museums, theatres, arenas, libraries and community centres. These facilities will benefit Albertans in every region of the province for decades to come. Additionally, the Ministry spent \$9.3 million related to centennial celebrations and events across the province. This included the visit by Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in May 2005.

The Ministry spent an additional \$8.6 million for a total of \$53.2 million for parks operations and programs to enhance services and learning opportunities for visitors. Visitors reported increased satisfaction with their experiences at provincial parks and recreation areas, meeting the target of 91 per cent.

Forward Looking Information

Service expectations are driven by Alberta's thriving economy, population growth and changing patterns in the demographics of its residents and visitors. The public is keen to have accessible and affordable outdoor recreational opportunities as evidenced by the more than eight million visits to provincial parks and recreation areas each year. We need to balance the enjoyment of these provincial parks and recreation areas with the need to protect and preserve Alberta's natural heritage and ecological diversity.

The technology and knowledge sectors are increasingly important and will enhance how we deliver our services. New technologies allow us to optimize the presentation of Alberta's history by enabling access to Alberta's historical resources through the Internet. There are also increasingly high expectations for up-to-date exhibits and services at provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres, which attract an average of 900,000 visits annually.

Albertans want access to information in a timely manner. This has resulted in increasingly complex demands within the public library and archival systems. Alberta's libraries in rural and urban communities are Service Alberta Information Centres and, with the full implementation of the Alberta SuperNet, will be linked electronically to the rest of the world. Currently, over 30 million items are borrowed from libraries each year and this is expected to increase.

Communities thrive with support from their local volunteers. However, the pool of volunteers is limited by an aging population, increasingly busy lifestyles and concerns with liability issues. A voluntary sector framework is under development to facilitate closer cooperation and collaboration between the government and the voluntary sector in addressing issues such as recruitment challenges and liability insurance.

Given Alberta's diverse population, human rights issues are becoming increasingly complex. Generally, there is a growing need for programs and services to protect Albertans from discrimination and to contribute to building a more inclusive and respectful society.

Albertans are becoming increasingly conscious of their quality of life and are aware of the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle. Communities need to have the capacity to offer a diverse range of physical and social leisure activities in order to attract and retain residents. This is a particular challenge for smaller rural communities where partnerships may be required to ensure resources are available.

Culture is a key component in defining quality of life and an important part of attracting people to Alberta. Eighty seven per cent of adult Albertans feel that the arts are important in contributing to the overall quality of life in their communities. As well, nine out of ten adult Albertans attend or participate in arts or cultural events each year.

The Ministry's strategic priorities for 2006-09 have been identified through a review of environmental factors, including our external and internal opportunities and challenges, and are described below. These are in addition to the important ongoing core activities of the Ministry and are of primary importance in focusing the Ministry on achieving its goals:

1. Infrastructure Renewal – Renew infrastructure for provincial parks and recreation areas, historic sites, museums and interpretive centres. This will be addressed by expanding our capacity to address Alberta's growing population, repairing or replacing damaged or deteriorating facilities and equipment, upgrading water and sewage systems in provincial parks and recreation areas as part of the Water for Life Strategy, and modernizing our exhibits and developing our collections to reflect new areas of interest. Centennial projects will also be monitored to their conclusion to ensure their intended legacy is delivered to Albertans.

2. Community Capacity Building – Strengthen community resources in support of libraries, the voluntary sector, sport and recreation and the arts. This will be addressed by supporting rural sustainability, developing a voluntary sector framework, addressing recommendations from the Alberta Sport Plan, furthering the Active Living Strategy and introducing an inclusive cultural policy.
3. Inclusive Communities – Foster equality, support the reduction of discrimination and barriers to full participation in society and support the development of inclusive communities and workplaces. This will be furthered by addressing increasing volumes in human rights caseloads, emerging workplace issues related to accommodating disabilities, and developing strategies to support the inclusion and integration of immigrants and ethnic and racial groups into Alberta communities and workplaces. Comprehensive and effective legislation, education and enforcement are also critical to supporting the protection, inclusion and participation of all Albertans.
4. Using and Respecting the Land - Participate in the development of a land use framework for effective management of competing land use interests to preserve Alberta’s high quality of life and continued economic prosperity. A vital component of this framework will be an Alberta approach to biodiversity and landscape management to maintain the province’s natural advantage.



AlbertaSpirit celebrations at Olympic Plaza in Calgary

