

Thursday, October 18, 2001

Spending reductions, by ministry

Following are details of spending reductions in ministries across government. Savings will come primarily from administrative reductions, the recently announced hiring freeze and some project deferrals.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

- targets will be met by reductions in all areas of discretionary spending

For information, contact Peter Tadman (780) 415-0876

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

- reductions will not affect programs and services provided to Albertans;
- targets will be met through:
 - savings from unfilled staff vacancies and reduced contract, travel and other discretionary spending, and reductions in unallocated grant funds for the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Council, Agriculture Initiatives and varied other grant programs
 - lapsed funding from Agriculture Financial Services Corporation through deferred capital projects, unfilled staff vacancies and reduced discretionary spending
 - reduced operating expenses from Alberta Opportunity Company through decreased discretionary spending and savings resulting from unfilled staff vacancies

For information, contact Terry Willock (780) 422-7683

Children's Services

- target to be met through a hiring freeze, putting information technology updates on hold and curtailing travel
- a review of spending has identified administrative efficiencies and contracts with private service agencies will also be reviewed – any reductions will respect legislative and policy commitments and maintain critical front line child protection services for children and youth at risk

For information, contact Mark Kastner (780) 427-4801

Community Development

- targets will be met with minimal impact to direct services to Albertans
- funding levels for ongoing annual operating grants will not be affected

For information, contact Kathy Telfer (780) 427-2395

Economic Development

- spending reduction targets to be met from deferral of international travel and from other sources
- reductions will not affect dollars targeted for tourism promotion; funding has been reallocated within tourism budgets to increase domestic and in-province promotion in light of reduced international travel

For information, contact Mark Erdman (780) 427-0528

Energy

- targets will be met by adhering to the government hiring freeze and reducing discretionary spending to minimize impacts on program areas

For information, contact Charlotte Moran (780) 422-3667

Environment

- reduction target to be met by:
 - not filling vacant staff positions
 - reducing the total amount of grant funding available to municipalities under the Water Management and Erosion Control (AWMEC) and the Waste Management Assistance programs, applicable only to unallocated funding remaining in both programs as all current projects have already received funding approvals and will not be affected by the reductions

For information, contact Val Mellesmoen (780) 427-2848

Executive Council

- targets to be met through various reductions in discretionary spending

For information, contact Fay Orr (780) 427-4350

Finance

- targets to be met through unfilled staffing vacancies and reductions in discretionary spending

For information, contact Ed Greenberg (780) 427-5364

Gaming

- targets to be met through minimal reductions to Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission's operating costs; the Racing Industry Renewal Initiative; the Community Facilities Enhancement Program; Community Lottery Board grants; the Alberta Lottery Fund support services and program administration; and other lottery initiatives.
- Community Lottery Boards and the Community Facility Enhancement Program will continue to spend over \$73 million this fiscal year and provide funding to over 4,000 community-based initiatives

For information, contact Jody Korchinski (780) 447-8741

Government Services

- Reduction targets to be met through savings from unfilled staff vacancies and deferring enhancements to technology used by registry services
- deferrals will not affect Albertans who are buying a vehicle, recording the birth of a child, or accessing any of the other registry services offered by the ministry

For information, contact Shannon Larkins (780) 422-4950

Health and Wellness

- see Government of Alberta news release issued October 18, 2001 for more information

Human Resources and Employment

- targets will be met with no reductions to benefit levels for clients who rely on financial and training support from Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped, Supports for Independence, or the Skills Development Program
- reductions to come from lapsed spending due to lower than projected demand for training supports, Supports for Independence, and employment and training initiatives, due to high employment levels
- Human Resources and Employment and the Personnel Administration Office to defer some information technology projects and save on salary costs of unfilled staffing positions

For information, contact Laurie Collins (780) 427-5649

Infrastructure

- see Government of Alberta news release issued October 18, 2001 for more information

Innovation and Science

- targets will be met through selected one-time reductions in research activity and a freeze on hiring for the balance of the fiscal year

For information, contact Glenn Guenther (780) 415-4761

International and Intergovernmental Relations

- budget reductions will come from areas of discretionary spending, including travel, training, intern program and contracts
- no program spending or service levels will be cut due to spending reductions

For information, contact Beryl Cullum (780) 422-2465

Justice and Attorney General

- spending reductions will be drawn from the Motor Vehicle Accident Claim Fund, expected to be available as one-time savings based on projected spending patterns for the remainder of 2001-02
- reductions are not expected to affect services to Albertans or staff members who administer the fund

For information, contact Bart Johnson (780) 427-6154

Learning

- see Government of Alberta news release issued October 18, 2001 for more information

Municipal Affairs

- saving targets to be met through unfilled staff vacancies, reductions in supply and services, travel, contracting, Information Technology, and a reduction of the amount required to pay to the grants in place of taxes program
- a portion of the budget targeted to the Underground Petroleum Storage Tank Remediation Program, which has provided funding for the assessment and/or remediation of more than 500 high-risk sites, will be deferred - the ministry will continue working on lower-risk categories

For information, contact Jay O'Neill (780) 422-8817

Revenue

- targets will be met by delaying non-critical development and upgrades to tax administration data processing systems, freezing non-essential hiring and freezing and/or delaying non-priority service contracts

For information, contact Gordon Vincent (780) 427-5364

Seniors

- targets to be met with no affect on critical support programs to seniors and those lower income families and individuals receiving shelter support

For information, contact Jan Berkowski (780) 427-2201

Solicitor General

- see Government of Alberta news release issued October 18, 2001 for more information

Sustainable Resource Development

- reduction targets to be achieved by leaving vacant positions unfilled
- ministry staff will be able to work around any job vacancies to ensure the long-term security of Alberta's forests, fish, wildlife and public lands

For information, contact Donna Babchishin (780) 427-8122

Transportation

- see Government of Alberta news release issued October 18, 2001 for more information