

Cross-Ministry Initiatives

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Aboriginal Policy Initiative	1
Alberta Children and Youth Initiative	5
Economic Development and Innovation Initiative	11
Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative	18
Leading in Learning and Skilled Workforce Initiative	26

The Aboriginal Policy Initiative (API) provides a mechanism for Alberta ministries to work together to address issues facing Aboriginal communities and people. The API is one way to address the commitments in Alberta's Aboriginal Policy Framework (APF). The API's purpose is to improve the well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal people while ensuring that federal roles and responsibilities for Aboriginal peoples are respected.

The API was identified as a priority cross-ministry initiative in 2000-01 and each subsequent year until 2005-06. Over these five years the API has focused on building partnerships, developing collaborative and practical solutions, and strengthening relations between government, Aboriginal communities, industry and other partners. Partnerships and relationships are the foundation for finding long-term solutions to the complex issues involved in improving the well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal communities and people in Alberta.

The API contributed to the following Government of Alberta Business Plan goals:

- Goal 1 – Alberta will have a diversified and prosperous economy
- Goal 2 – Albertans will be well prepared for lifelong learning and work
- Goal 4 – Alberta's children and youth will be supported in reaching their potential
- Goal 5 – Albertans will be healthy
- Goal 7 – The well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal communities and people will be improved
- Goal 10 – Alberta will be a fair and safe place to work, live and raise families
- Goal 11 – The high quality of Alberta's environment will be sustained
- Goal 12 – Albertans will have the opportunity to participate in community and cultural activities and enjoy the province's historical resources and parks and protected areas

The champion ministries for the API are Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Justice, and Children's Services. Other partnering ministries are: Advanced Education, Health and Wellness (with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and the Alberta Mental Health Board), Education, Energy, Community Development, Infrastructure and Transportation, Human Resources and Employment, Sustainable Resource Development, Economic Development, Municipal Affairs, and Solicitor General and Public Security. Other Alberta ministries are involved in addressing Aboriginal issues and participate in specific Aboriginal initiatives.

API partnering ministries worked collaboratively and with non-government partners to address four priority areas in 2005-06:

- Improve the health status and well-being of Aboriginal people
- Support lifelong learning opportunities for Aboriginal people and promote appreciation of Aboriginal cultures
- Improve the participation by Aboriginal people in the Alberta economy
- Clarify federal/provincial/Aboriginal roles and responsibilities

API partnering ministries also participated in other cross-ministry initiatives and facilitated Aboriginal involvement in other provincial strategies and programs. Other Alberta ministries are also involved in specific projects with Aboriginal communities/organizations, the federal government and other partners.

Aboriginal Policy Initiative

PURPOSE: To improve the well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal people while ensuring that federal roles and responsibilities for Aboriginal peoples are respected.

RELATED GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PLAN GOALS:

- Goal 1 – Alberta will have a diversified and prosperous economy
- Goal 2 – Albertans will be well prepared for lifelong learning and work
- Goal 4 – Alberta's children and youth will be supported in reaching their potential
- Goal 5 – Albertans will be healthy
- Goal 7 – The well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal communities and people will be improved
- Goal 10 – Alberta will be a fair and safe place to work, live and raise families
- Goal 11 – The high quality of Alberta's environment will be sustained
- Goal 12 – Albertans will have the opportunity to participate in community and cultural activities and enjoy the province's historical resources and parks and protected areas

MINISTRY CHAMPIONS: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Justice, Children's Services.

OBJECTIVE: Improve the health status and well-being of Aboriginal people.

TARGETS

- Implement 55 new Aboriginal wellness initiatives that promote health and well-being in key Aboriginal issue areas such as: diabetes, HIV, tobacco prevention and reduction, and community-based health care.
- Develop a province-wide suicide prevention awareness and education campaign targeting Aboriginal youth.
- Develop and implement a Provincial Aboriginal Mental Health Framework in collaboration with Aboriginal communities, regional health authorities, provincial ministries and other stakeholders as part of the Provincial Mental Health Plan.
- Provide practical training in screening, intervention and referral to service providers in five Aboriginal communities who work with women with substance-use problems in the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- Provide leadership development and recreation programming for youth in 15 Aboriginal communities.

RESULTS

- 55 new wellness initiatives addressing community-based primary health care, diabetes prevention, HIV awareness and prevention, tobacco reduction, and substance abuse awareness and prevention were implemented.
- As part of the Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, a social marketing plan was developed for suicide prevention awareness and education activities targeted to Aboriginal youth in the province.
- Aboriginal Mental Health Framework developed. Implementation is underway.
- Training successfully conducted in six communities: High Level, High Prairie, Wetaskiwin, Ft. McMurray, Ft. McKay, and Siksika.
- Leadership and recreation programming provided to youth in 19 communities by four provincial ministries.

Aboriginal Policy Initiative

OBJECTIVE: Support lifelong learning opportunities for Aboriginal people and promote appreciation of Aboriginal cultures.

TARGETS

- Increase percentage of Aboriginal Albertans aged 25-34 completing high school and post-secondary programs (establish second year baseline data).
- 65 learners will progress to years two and three of Aboriginal-specific teacher preparation initiatives.
- Increase Aboriginal registration in apprenticeship programs to 900.
- Initiate the establishment of two Parent Link Centres with an Aboriginal focus.
- Complete a needs assessment for on-reserve public library service.

RESULTS

- Third year baseline data established. Aboriginal Albertans aged 25-34 completed high school: 76% (2005); 73% (2004); and 76% (2003). Three year baseline data average is 75%. For post-secondary rates, third year baseline data established. Aboriginal Albertans aged 25-34 completed post-secondary education: 39% (2005); 41% (2004), and 42% (2003). Three year baseline data average is 41%.
- A total of 65 learners have progressed to years two and three of Aboriginal-specific teacher training. (Based on September 1, 2005 enrollment data.)
- Over 1,100 Aboriginal people were registered in apprenticeship programs in 2005-06.
- Three new Aboriginal Parent Link Centres were established in 2005-06: Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society in Edmonton, Metis Calgary Family Services, and Native Counselling Services of Alberta with sites in Stony Plain, Wildwood and Wabamun.
- Needs assessment commissioned and completed.

OBJECTIVE: Increase the participation by Aboriginal people in the Alberta economy.

TARGETS

- Make Alberta SuperNet available to all eligible First Nation sites requesting service.
- With Aboriginal communities, industry, stakeholders and the federal government, implement the Alberta Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project in two locations in southern Alberta.
- Produce second year of baseline data on off-reserve Aboriginal employment and labour force participation rates from the Aboriginal Labour Force Survey.
- Report second year of baseline data on completion and employment rates post-intervention under the First Nations Training to Employment Program.

RESULTS

- SuperNet construction completed to 120 sites within 44 First Nations.
- Alberta Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project expanded to the southern Alberta cities of Calgary and Lethbridge.
- Second year baseline data established. Unemployment Rate: 10.2% (2004); 9% (2005) Employment Rate: 62.6% (2004); 64.2% (2005) Participation Rate: 69.7% (2004); 70.6% (2005)
- Second year baseline data established. A total of 19 programs reported full program completion for 2005-06. In total, 258 participants began training, 207 (80.2%) graduated from the program, and of those who graduated, 155 (74.9%) are employed.

Aboriginal Policy Initiative

OBJECTIVE: Clarify federal/provincial/Aboriginal roles and responsibilities.

TARGETS

- Complete development and begin implementation of the First Nations Consultation Policy and guidelines.
- Work with partners in Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge to develop and implement urban Aboriginal initiatives.
- Develop a framework to guide Alberta's participation in self-government discussions with First Nations and Canada.

RESULTS

- Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development developed and approved. An interim approach is in place for implementation.
- Provided support to assist with development and implementation of urban Aboriginal projects within the major urban centres of Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge.
- Framework developed to guide Alberta's participation in self-government discussions. Received Cabinet approval April 11, 2006.

Alberta has the youngest population of all the provinces, with children and youth making up nearly a third of the total population. Children and youth who are healthy, well cared for and educated, grow up to be active, community-minded and contributing adults. The services needed to effectively support children and youth are varied and are provided by multiple ministries, authorities, and community organizations. Meeting the needs of Alberta's children and youth requires an integrated effort by all these partners.

The purpose of the Alberta Child and Youth Initiative (ACYI) is to be a collaborative partnership of government ministries working together on issues affecting children and youth. 2005-06 marks the seventh year of the ACYI working together on issues affecting children and youth. The ACYI supports the healthy development of Alberta's children and youth through the joint efforts of provincial government ministries, local authorities and boards, families and communities. Its vision ensures that Alberta's children and youth will be supported in reaching their potential (Goal 4: 2005-08 Government of Alberta Strategic Business Plan).

The ACYI contributes to the following Alberta Government Business Plan goals:

- Goal 2 – Albertans will be well prepared for lifelong learning and work
- Goal 4 – Alberta's children and youth will be supported in reaching their potential
- Goal 5 – Albertans will be healthy
- Goal 6 – Albertans will be self reliant and independent and those unable to provide for their basic needs will receive help
- Goal 7 – The well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal communities and people will be improved
- Goal 10 – Alberta will be a fair and safe place to work, live and raise families

The Ministry champions include Children's Services, Education, and Health and Wellness (together with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and the Alberta Mental

Health Board). Partnering ministries include Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Advanced Education, Community Development, Human Resources and Employment, Justice, Seniors and Community Supports, and Solicitor General and Public Security.

The unified efforts of ACYI partners to integrate programs and services on behalf of children, youth and families will benefit Albertans for years to come. The following indicators of success demonstrate the difference ACYI partners are making and will continue to make through collaborative efforts.

- Children are born healthy.
- Children are ready to learn when they start school.
- Children and youth practice healthy behaviours.
- Children and youth succeed in schools.
- Youth are successful in the transition to adulthood.
- Parents are provided with resources to meet the needs of their children.
- Children and youth are safe and free from abuse or neglect.
- Aboriginal children and youth receive supports that are responsive to their cultural needs.

Based on key issues identified by families, communities, regional authorities and partnering ministries the ACYI worked collaboratively to implement initiatives that address the following four priority objectives in 2005-06.

- Children and youth will be well cared for, safe, successful at learning and healthy.
- Families with children and youth with special and complex needs (developmental disabilities, physical and sensory disabilities, health conditions and/or emotional/behavioural disabilities) will benefit from integrated and coordinated assessment of needs and planning of services and supports.
- Children and youth are supported and assisted in making successful transitions in their life, from birth to adulthood.

Alberta Children and Youth Initiative

- Ministries and regions increase their capacity to collaboratively plan and deliver services that promote the well-being of children, youth and families.

In addition to these priority areas, ACYI ministries continued to coordinate and support several other key initiatives including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Children's Mental Health, Prevention of Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation, Student Health Initiative and Early Childhood Development.

Many examples of multi-faceted and complex issues that require cross-ministry and cross-sector efforts and resources can be identified. During the 2005-06 year, ministries collaborated to build on the foundation of ACYI and agreed to highlight 15 key target areas to focus their efforts. Through the integrated approach of the involved ministries, eleven of the targets were met and four targets were exceeded, demonstrating that cross-ministry partnerships are an effective way for ministries to work together to provide holistic services that serve children, youth, families and communities.

PURPOSE: Support the healthy development of Alberta's children and youth through the joint efforts of provincial government ministries, local authorities and boards, families and communities.

RELATED GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PLAN GOALS:

- Goal 2 – Albertans will be well prepared for lifelong learning and work
- Goal 4 – Alberta's children and youth will be supported in reaching their potential
- Goal 5 – Albertans will be healthy
- Goal 6 – Albertans will be self-reliant and independent and those unable to provide for their basic needs will receive help
- Goal 7 – The well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal communities and people will be improved
- Goal 10 – Alberta will be a fair and safe place to work, live and raise families

MINISTRY CHAMPIONS: Children's Services, Education, Health and Wellness.

OBJECTIVE: Children and youth will be well cared for, safe, successful at learning and healthy.

TARGETS

- Phased implementation of a bullying prevention strategy, including public awareness indicators and development of tools to facilitate information sharing to support integrated interventions.

RESULTS

- The first phase of a three-year bullying prevention public awareness campaign, targeting children aged 3-11 years, was launched in June 2005. This campaign includes an interactive website for children www.teamheroes.ca; which helps young children learn how to handle bullying; a website that provides information and resources for parents and professionals www.bullyfreealberta.ca; a comic book; posters; fact sheets; and radio advertisements. There have been over 800,000 visits to the www.teamheroes.ca website and over 80,000 visits to www.bullyfreealberta.ca
- Bullying prevention "starter kits," containing fact sheets and posters were mailed to almost 6,200 community partners in June 2005.
- Awareness indicators have been established to measure: the percent of awareness by children of pro-social bullying prevention methods; where one can go for help; appropriate people to contact to report bullying; and the different types of bullying.

Alberta Children and Youth Initiative

TARGETS

- Develop and distribute provincial training resources for parents and caregivers to assist in increasing awareness of and interventions, preventing child and youth sexual exploitation and focus test in three communities.
- Implement up to an additional 16 Parent Link centres across the province to connect parents to resources, community supports and training.

RESULTS

- Work is progressing on the second stage of phase one of the public awareness campaign, which targets youth (12-24 years).
- The pilot project, Taking Action on Bullying: Linking Parents, Schools, and Communities is being delivered by six Parent Link Centres, in partnership with local schools. The project is designed to give parents and school staff skills and knowledge to identify the signs of bullying and give children the skills they need to address bullying.
- Phase one of the three-year provincial cross-sector information sharing training initiative was initiated. Results include completing four online training modules, sharing information in an integrated/collaborative framework, engaging others in the delivery of integrated/collaborative programs and sharing information in the context of family violence.
- The implementation of the strategic plan for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and youth is proceeding, focusing on the four key areas of education/awareness; prevention/protection; enforcement; and research/training.
- In May 2005, a program – Children, Sex and the Net: What Every Parent Should Know – aired on Access TV and HELP TV. This show has been re-broadcast a number of times throughout Canada.
- Getwebwise.ca, which provides educational material for young children, youth and parents, was launched in May 2005.
- A formal partnership has been developed with Microsoft Canada. Partnership packages are being prepared for IBM, Telus, Bell and Shaw.
- The Integrated Child Exploitation Unit is now operational and training to combat child and youth sexual exploitation is being offered throughout the province.
- Established 14 new Parent Link Centres, bringing the total to 36 Centres throughout the province; including five Aboriginal focused centres.
- Centres provide parents and their children necessary supports to ensure children are school ready to learn and parents have what they need to help their children develop their potential.

Alberta Children and Youth Initiative

TARGETS

- Implementation plan developed for strategies to enhance screening and referral for young children and their families to support healthy child development.
- Percentage of Alberta children demonstrating healthy social and emotional development (maintain or improve level in relation to national average).

RESULTS

- Current screening activities were explored to determine what services currently exist and what additional supports and services may be required.
- Southern Alberta has implemented three-year-old screening as a pilot project.
- Developmental screening is a service component offered by Parent Link Centres and regional health authorities.
- Alberta children rank above the national average in demonstrating healthy social and emotional development.
- 85.9% of Alberta children demonstrate healthy social development compared to the national average of 84.3%.
- 83.8% of Alberta children display healthy emotional development compared to the national average of 83.3%.
- Reporting is based on 2002-03 data from the National Longitudinal Study on Children and Youth, early childhood development indicators of well-being.

OBJECTIVE:

Families with children and youth with special and complex needs (developmental disabilities, physical and sensory disabilities, health conditions and/or emotional/behavioural disabilities) will benefit from coordinated assessments of needs and integrated planning and delivery of services and supports.

TARGETS

- Phased implementation of priority strategies identified in the Speech Language Services Review.
- Establishment of baseline measures for provincial Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) activities related to prevention and awareness, assessment and diagnosis, and training and education.

RESULTS

- Under the implementation plan from the Speech Language Services Review, priority actions are already underway.
- Measures and data sources have been identified for provincial activities related to prevention and awareness, assessment and diagnosis, and training and education.
- More than one baseline measure was established for each of the categories.
- The FASD Provincial Activity Inventory identified 103 programs at the provincial, regional and community levels that target FASD in Alberta, an increase of approximately 30 programs from the original inventory undertaken in 2004.

Alberta Children and Youth Initiative

TARGETS

- Develop a transitional planning protocol for youth with disabilities and distribute to 100% of regions.

- Expand Multi-Disciplinary Service Delivery model to two additional communities.

- Ten percent increase in the number of families accessing resource information through the Child Disability Resource Link line.

RESULTS

- A transitional planning protocol for youth with disabilities was developed based on research and input obtained from key stakeholders, and parents through provincial focus groups. The protocol identifies important processes and components of transition planning that will assist in better helping youth and families to address transitional issues.
- A transition planning protocol for youth with disabilities will be distributed throughout the province in mid 2006.

- The Multi-Disciplinary Service Delivery model under the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program was expanded to eight communities. The teams focus on assessment and planning for children and youth with severe disabilities. Multi-Disciplinary teams are now operating in the following regions: Southwest Alberta, Southeast Alberta, Calgary and Area, Central Alberta, East Central Alberta, Edmonton and Area, Northwest Alberta, and Northeast Alberta.

- Children's Service continued to work with Capital Health Link promoting the Child Disability Resource Link, a toll-free information line.
- For 2005-06 there were over 1,600 calls, a 25% increase from 2004-05.

OBJECTIVE: **Children and youth are supported and assisted in making successful transitions in their life, from birth to adulthood.**

TARGETS

- Implement user-friendly procedures under the *Family Law Act* using a multi-stakeholder forum to help determine priorities for family justice initiatives.

- Establish 10 Youth Networks across the province to engage youth in their communities and support their future growth and success.

RESULTS

- The *Family Law Act* was proclaimed on October 1, 2005. This new legislation brought all current family law enactments under one piece of legislation.
- The Family Justice Strategy is a three-year strategy to develop an integrated family justice system.
- Priority supports and programs for families accessing both courts were implemented.

- 10 Youth Networks have been established in the province in 2005-06, in partnership with the Child and Family Services Authorities (CFSAs) and youth serving agencies.
- All of the Youth Networks are intended to provide youth with a voice in identifying social, health, community and economic issues affecting youth and to provide them with an opportunity to collaborate with local and provincial authorities in developing solutions.

Alberta Children and Youth Initiative

TARGETS

- Engage up to three additional communities to develop community action plans to address the determinants of Aboriginal youth suicide.

RESULTS

- As part of the Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, established in 2005-06, two more communities as expansion pilot sites include: Assumption and surrounding First Nation communities; and Hobbema and surrounding First Nation communities.
- Additional pilot sites addressing the determinants of youth suicide include: Lethbridge and surrounding First Nations; High Prairie and the Métis Tri-Settlements; and Eden Valley First Nation.

OBJECTIVE: Ministries and regions increase their capacity to collaboratively plan and deliver services that promote the well-being of children, youth, and families.

TARGETS

- Minimum of two cross-sector opportunities provided for provincial and regional participation in learning events related to integrated service delivery.
- Videoconferencing pilot sites established in key areas across the province to enhance distance planning and delivery of services for children and youth.

RESULTS

- Four videoconference presentations were provided in 22 sites. Participants included professionals from the health, education, children's services and justice sectors.
- Information Sharing Training sessions and workshops on effective cross-sector collaboration have been provided to over 50 groups and organizations and evaluations have been positive.
- The cross-ministry pilot established a total of 19 functional videoconference sites in 2005-06.
- A "Videoconferencing Basics" Handbook was developed for review by site contacts.
- An evaluation of videoconferencing pilot project was planned and conducted to measure family, staff, and regional partnership satisfaction and the shift in practice with service delivery.

Alberta's economy continued to thrive in 2005 due to strong investments, high energy prices, robust consumer spending and significant growth in retail and wholesale trade and in manufacturing shipments. In 2005, Alberta's economic growth rate of 4.5% was the highest in Canada whereas the unemployment rate of 3.9% was the lowest among all provinces, and also the lowest Alberta rate in 24 years.

In order to achieve this economic performance, several challenges needed to be addressed: making a transition to a more knowledge intensive, broadly-based and value-added economy; enhancing Alberta's international competitiveness; creating appropriate infrastructure and transportation; and managing workforce shortages. The 2005-06 Economic Development and Innovation Initiative was developed as a collaborative cross-ministry initiative in order to address these challenges and help Alberta maintain its economic and social lead in Canada.

The Economic Development and Innovation Initiative contributed to the following Alberta Government Business Plan goals:

- Goal 1 – Alberta will have a diversified and prosperous economy
- Goal 3 – Alberta's international competitiveness will be enhanced
- Goal 9 – Alberta will have strong effective partnerships with local, provincial, national and international governments
- Goal 11 – The high quality of Alberta's environment will be sustained
- Goal 14 – Alberta will have a supportive and sustainable infrastructure that promotes growth and enhances quality of life

Alberta's 2005-06 Economic Development and Innovation Initiative had four objectives:

- to achieve a more sustainable, innovative, and broadly-based economy built on the strengths of our natural capital;
- to enhance the value-added capacity of the natural resource sectors;

- to build vibrant and sustainable communities; and
- to ensure appropriate infrastructure and transportation to support Alberta's economic growth and innovation.

These objectives built on Securing Tomorrow's Prosperity, the economic pillar of the Alberta government's 20-year plan, in order to respond to increasing global challenges, maximize value-added opportunities and sustain economic performance.

The 2005-06 Economic Development and Innovation Initiative marked a number of successes. In addition to the results presented in the table below, other notable achievements that supported this initiative include:

- The Heavy Oil Alberta Project was launched to address opportunities to market Alberta's niche technologies in heavy oil extraction, production and processing in the global marketplace.
- The national Unmanned Vehicle Systems Canada Conference which focused on Advancing Innovations and Partnerships successfully attracted 250 senior level delegates from across Canada and the world. The concept of an Alberta Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Flight Test Corridor was showcased and received much attention. Follow-up with several interested companies is underway.
- A number of Alberta's companies implemented lean manufacturing process improvements in order to achieve higher efficiency.
- A consortium of eastern Alberta businesses, communities and Regional Economic Development Alliances identified new ways to take better advantage of the business opportunities associated with the significant military presence at Cold Lake, Wainwright, and Suffield.
- Premier Klein's mission to New York City in June 2005 provided increased exposure for Alberta with New York's business community, investors and media.

Economic Development and Innovation Initiative

PURPOSE: A future of opportunity in a province that is unmatched, through ministries working together with business, industry, communities, other governments and public institutions, employees and other stakeholders to promote economic development and innovation.

RELATED GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PLAN GOALS:

- Goal 1 – Alberta will have a diversified and prosperous economy
- Goal 3 – Alberta’s international competitiveness will be enhanced
- Goal 9 – Alberta will have strong effective partnerships with local, provincial, national and international governments
- Goal 11 – The high quality of Alberta’s environment will be sustained
- Goal 14 – Alberta will have a supportive and sustainable infrastructure that promotes growth and enhances quality of life

MINISTRY CHAMPIONS: Economic Development, Innovation and Science, and Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development

OBJECTIVE: **To achieve a more sustainable, innovative and broadly based economy built on the strengths of our natural capital.**

TARGETS

- Amount of venture capital under management in Alberta (under development; baseline data will be collected in 2005).
- Establishment of a joint Alberta Economic Development Authority (AEDA) and Alberta Science and Research Authority (ASRA) technology commercialization and adoption advisory committee.
- Five percent increase of machinery and equipment investment in value-added manufacturing and business services (in constant dollars).
- Development of a bilateral trade enhancement agreement with British Columbia.

RESULTS

- Innovation and Science, in collaboration with Economic Development, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and Finance, continues to examine how to best improve access to capital for investment and early financing in Alberta. Several alternatives have been identified and are still under investigation. Innovation and Science and Economic Development have jointly subscribed to a national database – Thompson McDonald on private equity. Innovation and Science and Economic Development will continue to work with Thompson McDonald to improve this database.
- The joint AEDA and ASRA committee has not been established. A ministerial decision was made to proceed with AEDA and ASRA reviewing documents and providing advice independently.
- The target has been exceeded as machinery and equipment investment in value-added manufacturing and business services increased by 13 percentage points in 2005.
- Bilateral negotiations were concluded in March 2006, with a final agreement presentation scheduled for joint Cabinet consideration in April 2006. The agreement is expected to come into force in April 2007 and to be implemented fully by April 2009.

Economic Development and Innovation Initiative

TARGETS

- Implementation of an Alberta Office in Washington D.C. to advance Alberta's interests with key decision-makers in Washington.
- Update and focus the Alberta International Marketing Strategy (AIMS) on primary and secondary markets.
- Number of international visitors to Alberta from destinations other than the U.S. will increase by five percent in 2005.
- Additional funding is contributed to endowment funds in 2005-06.

RESULTS

- The Alberta Office in Washington, D.C. began operations as a co-location in the Canadian Embassy in January 2005 and was officially opened by Premier Klein in March 2005. The Office succeeded in significantly raising the level of knowledge and understanding in the U.S. capital of Alberta's key role in U.S. energy security and advanced Alberta's interests on softwood lumber trade issues. The Office will also facilitate Alberta's presence in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in 2006.
- The 2005 edition of the AIMS was published in July 2005. AIMS will be updated triennially.
- The target is projected to be achieved based on the past results and current trends. Data confirming results for 2005 will be available from Statistics Canada in December 2006.
- In Bill 1, *Access to the Future Act* introduced on March 2, 2005 during 1st Session of the 26th Legislature, the Government of Alberta committed to doubling the Alberta Heritage Science and Engineering Research Endowment Fund with an additional \$500 million, to be contributed as funds become available. \$100 million has been formally contributed. \$200 million has been committed to the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. In Budget 2006, the Government of Alberta committed \$100 million to establish a Rural Development Fund and \$500 million for an Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund.

OBJECTIVE: To enhance the efficiency and value-added capacity of the natural resources sectors.

TARGETS

- Develop and implement a Ministerial Report on value-added for the natural resource sectors.
- Develop a business case through the joint government/industry Hydrocarbon Upgrading Task Force, which can be used to attract and promote investment in upgrading and refining bitumen into higher value products.

RESULTS

- Components of the Ministerial Report are being advanced and implemented independently. Hydrocarbon upgrading is a predominant focus.
- The Bitumen Integration studies to support the business case have been completed. The studies will be promoted to potential investors in the United States, Asia and Europe in 2006.

Economic Development and Innovation Initiative

TARGETS

- Funding for agri-food research, development and commercialization enhanced through government, industry and research institutions partnerships.

- Principles and new criteria for forest tenure renewal are prepared.
- Implement the EnergyINet Strategy.

RESULTS

- An additional \$5 million has been allocated to an industrial infrastructure program to help municipalities meet increased demand for water/wastewater development to accommodate new slaughter or agri-processing facilities. The Beef Product and Market Development Program has received an additional \$3 million to assist companies with processing and marketing meat products from older animals. \$17 million has been allocated to AVAC Ltd. for world-class research and development projects and \$7 million for specified risk material research, development and pre-commercialization. A further \$30 million was allocated to AVAC Ltd. to provide mentoring and assistance to start-up and early stage companies in the information and communications technology and life sciences sectors. \$23 million has been contributed to the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund to support world-class research and development projects and programs in Bioproduct Development, Feed Grain Quality, and Supply and Specific Areas of Environment and Nutrient Management. \$30 million has been assigned to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) for market development initiatives aimed to regain and expand Alberta's position in beef, beef cattle genetics and beef product export markets.
- The Policy and Process for Forest Management Agreement Renewal was approved by the Cabinet on November 15, 2005.
- EnergyINet was formally incorporated in October 2005 and it is running as a national organization, with a CEO and a Board. Projects have been initiated on behalf of the EnergyINet in four of the six priority areas. As of January 2006, there are 21 participating organizations including seven provincial/federal governments and 14 industry organizations. Energy developed the Innovative Energy Technologies Program to provide royalty adjustments to aid in the development of innovative technologies to maximize recovery of Alberta's oil and natural gas reserves. The program makes available up to \$200 million over five years in royalty offsets that will fund up to 30% of eligible expenditures for approved projects. Thirteen approvals were finalized for the first round of applications for the program in 2005.

Economic Development and Innovation Initiative

TARGETS

- Implement monitoring and reporting of actual water use by all sectors.
- Develop a land use policy review process.
- Continued implementation of the Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management Framework.

RESULTS

- Implementation progress report on Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability has been released. Environment has developed and launched a new electronic Water Use Reporting system. Actual water use in 2005 is on track to be reported by fiscal year end, serving as a baseline for measuring achievement of water conservation targets.
- The Standing Policy Committee on Energy and Sustainable Development and Cabinet have approved implementation of Phase I of framework development (Ideas Group). An Ideas Group consisting of knowledgeable Albertans was established in the spring of 2006. The Group will provide advice to government on the scope and possible content of a provincial land use framework, as well as on broader public consultation needs.
- In 2005-06, the government continued its commitment to Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management to improve integration of sustainable resource development and environmental policies; develop new, or streamline existing, regulatory and non-regulatory processes, and provide reliable and accessible environmental data and information to stakeholders and the public. Under this initiative, a draft oil sands strategy was released, and an MLA-led Stakeholder Consultation Advisory Group provided recommendations to government on a public consultation process for future oil sands development. Furthermore, in 2005, a stakeholder consultation was held to identify issues, solutions and opportunities for integrating and streamlining upstream oil and gas regulation.

Economic Development and Innovation Initiative

OBJECTIVE: To build vibrant and sustainable communities.

TARGETS

- Eight significant regional economic development projects in rural Alberta benefit from cross ministry support.
- Alberta SuperNet available to 402 rural communities and 27 urban communities in 2005.
- With the implementation of the Alberta Bio Energy Strategy, starting April 1, 2005, a further two to three projects to be successfully operating in the province by the end of 2005-06.

RESULTS

- All eight projects are currently underway and will continue into 2006-07. One example of a regional economic development project is the Defence Industry Development project. The project expands the opportunities for Alberta communities and businesses to benefit from the military presence in the province, through new investment and through increased opportunity for local businesses to supply the bases. Another example is the Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) Labour Force Capacity Strategy. The collaborative labour force strategy provides a blueprint for government, industry associations, businesses, and other stakeholders to help fulfill the CAEP region's potential with a sustainable labour force.
- In Budget 2006, the Government of Alberta allocated \$100 million to a new Rural Development Fund to help kick start innovative projects that will contribute to the growth of rural Alberta.
- Construction of Alberta SuperNet in 402 rural communities and 27 urban communities was completed in 2005. The network is operational, enabling high-speed internet access to thousands of facilities across the province.
- Two additional projects are successfully operating in Alberta. An Integrated Manure Utilization System (IMUS) has been developed in partnership between Alberta Research Council and Highmark Renewables. The IMUS technology turns livestock manure into energy, bio-based fertilizers and reusable water. A bio-energy demonstration project is underway through the efforts of Alberta Forestry Research Institute, Alberta Agriculture Research Institute and Alberta Energy Research Institute to establish a pilot plant at a forest products facility in Alberta to demonstrate turning waste from the forest industry into electricity.

Economic Development and Innovation Initiative

TARGETS

- A process for clarifying provincial/municipal roles, responsibilities and resources.
- Major one-time funding increase for municipal infrastructure that will support urban and rural communities.

RESULTS

- The Minister's Council on Municipal Sustainability has been established. Three working groups have been formed to examine options for new revenue sources (including legislative changes); further clarify municipal roles and responsibilities (leading to reducing or eliminating the provincial education property tax); and to explore intermunicipal relationships and other issues related to municipal growth challenges, annexation, and better coordination of land use planning near municipal boundaries. The working group proposals will also be reviewed as to the impact on small urban and rural municipalities.
- Through the new Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program, \$600 million per year in capital grants are being provided to some 360 municipalities to assist them in addressing their infrastructure backlogs.

OBJECTIVE: To ensure appropriate infrastructure and transportation to support Alberta's economic growth and innovation.

TARGETS

- Approve a multi-year Capital Plan with the Budget, which provides priority investment in infrastructure.
- Publish guidelines to assist ministries in considering alternative financing of infrastructure projects.
- Publish a draft of the Alberta Multi-Modal Transportation Strategy for review with key stakeholders.

RESULTS

- The 2005-08 Capital Plan, including priority infrastructure investments, was approved.
- A final draft of the cross ministry guidelines have been completed and presented for approval in April, 2006.
- An initial draft of the Alberta Multi-Modal Strategic Infrastructure Plan was completed and presented to members of the Strategic Transportation Advisory Committee for comments.

The Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative (HIWI) is a cross-ministry initiative that demonstrates the Alberta government's commitment to sustaining a publicly funded health care system that meets the needs of Albertans now and into the future. It has once again strengthened collaboration across government, building understanding of shared responsibility for health and a more innovative and sustainable health system.

Overall, Albertans have an exceptional health care system. Progress has been made to reduce waitlists, improve patient safety and increase access to local primary care initiatives. However, the health system continues to face many pressures. These include escalating costs for new drugs and technologies, increasing rates of chronic disease, a growing and aging population, rising demand for health services, and mounting cost and scarcity of health human resources. As the rates of cost growth may soon outpace the growth in provincial revenues, the situation is not sustainable.

Finding solutions for this range of challenges requires collaboration. Slowing the rate of cost growth will require a number of complementary strategies such as achieving a healthier population by reducing chronic disease and injury, focusing on the determinants of health, shifting to new models of care, and exploring innovations to further enhance and sustain the health system.

Through the Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative, the Alberta government focused resources on policies and strategies to improve health outcomes by addressing the themes of:

- Staying healthy
- The right service in the right place
- Integrated policy options for health innovation

Here are the key highlights for 2005-06 Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative:

Staying healthy:

- The Healthy U Campaign, Young Family Wellness Initiative, Diabetes Prevention

Campaign, and Tobacco Reduction Strategy all raised the awareness of health promoting behaviors.

- Youth detoxification services were enhanced with Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) opening 24 new youth detoxification and inpatient treatment beds in Edmonton and Calgary.
- A Pandemic Contingency Plan is being developed, with the draft plan to be completed by June 30, 2006.

Right service in the right place:

- Continuing care services were enhanced. The MLA task force released the Achieving Excellence in Continuing Care report, and RHAs have begun implementing the recommendations. RHAs implemented aging-in-place strategies resulting in more Albertans receiving community-based continuing care services.
- AADAC successfully implemented two pilot projects designed to enhance addictions and mental health services. An urban-based project focused on ensuring a seamless continuum of services for patients, while a rural-based project focused on enhancing access to services for youth and their families in rural and remote areas.

Integrated policy options for health innovation:

- As of March 1, 2006, 14 Local Primary Care Networks are in operation across the province, with another 15 in various stages of development. This exceeded the original target of 12.
- \$25 million in Health Sustainability Initiative funds were distributed to 18 projects to help facilitate utilization and functionality of health facilities.
- The International Symposium on Health was successfully held in Calgary on May 3-5, 2005 and helped lay the groundwork for one of government's top eight priorities: Improving Alberta's Health System – The Third Way.

Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative

PURPOSE: Optimize Albertans' health by implementing policies and programs that relate to the key determinants of health, reduce chronic disease and injury, and protect public health from emerging threats. Better meet Albertans' expectations for accessible and high quality health services by: streamlining and coordinating health and social supports; and improving models of care.

RELATED GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PLAN GOALS:

- Goal 4 – Alberta's children and youth will be supported in reaching their potential
- Goal 5 – Albertans will be healthy
- Goal 6 – Albertans will be self-reliant and independent, and those unable to provide for their basic needs will receive help
- Goal 8 – Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government
- Goal 13 – The vitality and independence of Alberta's seniors will be supported

MINISTRY CHAMPIONS: Health and Wellness, Seniors and Community Supports, Finance, Infrastructure and Transportation.

OBJECTIVE: Optimize Albertans' health by working collaboratively to reduce chronic disease and injury and to protect public health from emerging threats.

TARGETS

- Strategies will be implemented by all partner ministries and Regional Health Authorities to increase health-promoting behaviour, such as increased physical activity, improved eating practices, tobacco reduction and injury prevention, and Young Family Wellness Initiatives that support healthy child development.

RESULTS

- Health and Wellness is working with AADAC, Alberta Children's Services, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission and the University of Alberta on a prevention campaign to influence risk-taking behaviours of young adults, with the intention of reducing unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and the incidence of young women who drink while pregnant.
- The Healthy U program continues to go forward. Key programs running include: Healthy U TV and transit ads; Snacktivity Box; Community Choosewell Challenge; Premier's Award for Healthy Workplaces; and Healthy U Crew.
- Young Family Wellness strategies continue to be implemented in RHAs. Implementation plans for the next two years have been received and are under review.
- Health and Wellness has provided funding to the Alberta Medical Association for the development and implementation of a strategy to enhance physicians' contribution to the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The project will investigate, design and deliver supports to Alberta physicians to enhance their ability to support their patients in avoiding alcohol during pregnancy. FASD is dealt with comprehensively in the Alberta Children & Youth Initiative.
- RHAs' 2005-08 health plans confirmed that they are in the process of developing long-term plans to improve healthy behaviour and reduce chronic disease. Guidance was provided to RHAs with respect to 2006-09 health plan reporting and accountability expectations.

Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative

TARGETS

- Baseline data will be established on physical activity levels in schools.
- Implement new youth detoxification and residential treatment services in Alberta.
- Implement a pilot project in Lac La Biche to increase the number of at-risk and pregnant women who are referred by physicians to addictions services.

RESULTS

- A Diabetes Prevention Campaign with a goal to educate and engage individuals in reducing their risks of developing type 2 diabetes through healthy eating and active living was completed on March 31, 2006.
- An aggressive tobacco reduction campaign has been implemented. This includes information, prevention and reduction strategies being implemented, including the launch of Albertaquits.ca; and the *Smoke-Free Places Act* which came into effect January 1, 2006.
- Health and Wellness and Education have jointly recruited a School Health and Wellness Manager, who commenced in the position December 2005.
- Health and Education are working with a consultant to collect baseline data on physical activity levels in schools.
- A discussion paper including the proposed Healthy Alberta Schools plan is under development and will be forwarded for internal consideration and approval.
- The Edmonton Bridges pilot project and final reports were completed in June 2005. The Calgary Bridges pilot project commenced in January of 2006 and is partnered with the Calgary Health Region, Mental Health, Solicitor General and Public Security and NGO Enviro Wildness School Association.
- In October of 2005 AADAC opened 24 new voluntary youth detox, residential inpatient treatment beds in Edmonton and Calgary.
- As of January 2006, the project office for the *Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act* was established with the cross-ministry communication planning for public awareness launch well underway. Targeted consultations with key stakeholders have been completed.
- Request for proposals for establishment of protective safe houses and due diligence related to public awareness, are posted on Alberta Purchasing Connection.
- A pilot project was implemented in Lac La Biche and the number of referrals to addiction services increased. The final performance measures will be available upon project completion March 31, 2006.

Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative

TARGETS

- Exercise the Alberta Pandemic Influenza Contingency Plan by March 2006.

RESULTS

- AADAC provided physicians from the Lac La Biche Clinic with best practice information and resources pertaining to gender specific approaches. Posters and relevant resources have been permanently introduced into the clinic for physician and patient use. Physicians were provided with a screening tool for inclusion on the inside of patient files.
- An AADAC counselor was established in the Lac La Biche clinic with regular clinic hours, however, in January, as a result of the clinic hiring two additional physicians, the space that had been used by the AADAC counselor is no longer available.
- Pandemic influenza presentations were given to all Health Boards and RHAs in preparation to begin emergency response planning process. A draft Health and Wellness revision of the Pandemic Influenza Emergency Response Plan is in progress and is expected to be completed by June 30, 2006.
- Incident Command System (ICS) training was provided to 7 RHAs and the Provincial Laboratory on June 13, 2005 in cooperation with the Capital Health Region. There was a 93% completion rate for the training session. The session demonstrated Health and Wellness leadership in coordinating the provincial emergency health response to pandemic and supported the RHAs in developing their pandemic plans.
- Health and Wellness hosted a Communicable Disease Emergency Management and Influenza Program Planning Forum June, 2005 to RHAs and other stakeholders. The three day session was attended by 106 participants and covered Emergency Management of Pandemic Influenza and Smallpox, Pandemic Preparedness and seasonal influenza.
- An Emergency Operations Centre Communication Exercise was held October 4, 2005. Nine RHAs, Alberta Region – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch and Health and Wellness participated. A summary report of the exercise was shared with the RHAs, with key findings relating to the need for further development of the concept of operations required for the health emergency response.
- A sub-committee on Pandemic Preparedness has been established and is reviewing a draft government Pandemic Plan.

Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative

TARGETS

- Increase the percentage of vehicle occupants wearing seatbelts in Alberta from 84.9% to 85.5%.

RESULTS

- In September 2005, The Traffic Safety Plan was formally designated as a cross-ministry initiative.
- A draft Traffic Safety Plan has been developed and presented. The first phase of the Plan will be released and implemented in Spring 2006, and will include those items that action can be taken on immediately (enforcement, driver education, public awareness and engineering). A public consultation process will be undertaken to ensure Albertans have a chance for input prior to legislative reform.
- The Alberta Occupant Restraint Program continues to be implemented and has developed a position paper calling for demerits for seatbelt infractions. The Demerit Position Paper has been distributed to key contacts and all MLAs in Alberta.
- Provided support to Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation towards the introduction of regulation changes which would make booster seats mandatory for children who are still too small to use seatbelt assemblies safely.
- Results of Transport Canada's provincial seatbelt survey were released February 2006. Vehicle occupants wearing seatbelts decreased slightly to 83% in 2005.

OBJECTIVE:

Enhance accessibility, quality and “seamlessness” of community services to better meet the expectations of Albertans, and influence key determinants of health, with particular focus on the needs of seniors, Aboriginal people, individuals with mental illness or addictions, persons with disabilities and low-income Albertans.

TARGETS

- Continue the shift so more Albertans over 75 years receive community-based continuing care services, reducing the ratio of those in institutions from 70.5 per thousand in 2003-04 to 69 per thousand in 2005-06.
- Approve policy options for establishing quality standards and monitoring requirements for the housing components of adult supportive living and long-term care and the health care service components for home care, supportive living and long-term care.

RESULTS

- RHA health plans have been reviewed and all have implemented “aging in place” strategies. Health Plan guidelines on continuing care were prepared and presented to RHAs.
- The resident ratio target set for both 2005-06 and 2006-07 has already been exceeded in the year 2004-05. The latest result for 2005-06 is 67.3/1,000 versus the target of 69/1,000.
- Assessment of Home Care Innovations required to modernize home/community care services completed. Proposed strategies developed for further discussion on priorities and implementation strategies.
- The MLA Task Force submitted its final draft standard recommendations to Seniors and Community Supports and Health and Wellness in December 2005, with planned implementation of the standards beginning in 2006-07.

Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative

TARGETS

- Add 750 affordable supportive living spaces in rural areas during 2005-07.
- To improve quality of care, develop and implement province-wide quality and safety training for staff working in long-term care facilities and designated assisted living in 2005-07.
- Enhance short-term acute home care, end-of-life care and short-term community mental health home care by 2006.
- Implement the approved government policy direction to provide benefits to clients eligible for the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) benefit and the Alberta Seniors Benefit (ASB) to improve access to supportive living units.

RESULTS

- The Achieving Excellence in Continuing Care report was accepted in principle on February 23, 2006.
- Phased implementation of standard's new monitoring, reporting, enforcement and concerns resolution processes as recommended will begin in 2006-07.
- Letters were sent on April 4, 2005 to all RHAs inviting them to proceed with detailed project proposals on the Rural Affordable Supportive Living program (RASL).
- Grant funding in the amount of \$76 million has been disbursed in 2005-06 towards the building of approximately 1,225 supportive living units, which is above the targeted 750 units.
- Designated Assisted Living spaces were increased to 1,371 in September 2005.
- Guidelines for inter-regional transfers were developed and approved for implementation, effective November 2005. Health and Wellness is receiving fewer complaints regarding inter-regional transfers.
- A draft business plan expanding the mandate of the Continuing Care Education Resource Centre was completed and approved by the Continuing Care Leaders Council.
- RHAs increased paid hours of workers in long-term care centres from 3.1 to 3.4 hours per day.
- Training of staff providing services to clients with Alzheimer disease and dementia is nearing completion and over 7,200 workers have been trained. Regional report summaries have been completed and an external evaluation of the project will be completed by the end of June, 2006.
- Proposed strategic innovations on short-term acute home care, end-of-life care, and short-term community mental health home care have been developed.
- \$5.3 million in funding for increasing the benefits to long-term care residents who receive the ASB or the AISH benefit, and provide the same level of support to those receiving assistance while residing in designated assisted living facilities. This enhanced benefit will assist Albertans to live in the continuing care environment that best meets their needs. The maximum benefits rose from \$7,335 to \$9,660 for ASB and from \$17,430 to \$20,810 for AISH, retroactive to January 1, 2006.

Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative

TARGETS

- Implement two pilot projects, in collaboration with regional health authorities and aligned with the provincial service delivery strategy, to better support Albertans whose lives are affected by addictions and mental health issues.
- Implement two pilot projects that enhance inner-city health and social supports for homeless people with the aim of improving health status and reducing pressures on acute health services.

RESULTS

- Two projects have been developed and implemented to test the rigor of Building Capacity – A Framework for Serving Albertans Affected by Addiction and Mental Health Issues. In consultation with AADAC, an external evaluator has completed an evaluation of the fidelity and effectiveness of the projects.
- The urban-based project is operating in partnership with Capital Health, and will focus on ensuring a seamless continuum of services, while building capacity to provide effective, client centred services.
- The rural-based project is operating in partnership with Northern Lights Health Region, and will focus on enhancing access to services for youth and their families, as well as ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated service delivery approach.
- Final results are being presented to participating organizational executive managers and other key stakeholders April 2006.
- Relationships amongst all stakeholders have evolved to the betterment of client focused, client centered service delivery.
- In conjunction with Seniors and Community Supports, two pilot projects (one in Edmonton and one in Calgary) have been selected for implementation:
 - Calgary – Project to evaluate factors influencing the health of homeless children and youth.
 - Edmonton – Resiliency based assessment of children from complex families to determine factors contributing to homelessness.

OBJECTIVE: Implement integrated policy options for health system innovation.

TARGETS

- Implement 12 Local Primary Care Initiatives, including in non-metro and rural areas, which incorporate population health strategies in their service delivery model, and improve appropriate access to multidisciplinary teams of health professionals.

RESULTS

- As of March 1, 2006 a total of 14 Primary Care Networks are in operation across the province. Another 15 physician/RHA groups are in various stages of developing business plans. These networks range in size from rural areas with small groups of physicians to urban areas with more than 60 physicians participating. All networks have plans to use multi-disciplinary teams and incorporate population health strategies into their service delivery model, based on the provincial objectives and service requirements but tailored to local needs.
- An interdisciplinary training initiative to support the Primary Care Networks is underway, and is targeted for completion by September 2006.

Health Innovation and Wellness Initiative

TARGETS

- Allocate the remaining \$25 million Health Sustainability Initiative funds to facilitate the appropriate utilization and functionality of health facilities in support of health innovation priorities.
- Engage cross-ministry partners and other key stakeholders in an international symposium to learn more about the best health systems in the world.

RESULTS

- The Primary Care Initiative Committee has developed a fairly comprehensive policy framework to guide the networks, including funding guidelines and guidelines for compensation. Work to address outstanding policy issues such as funding methodology and formal enrolment are in the plans for the next year.
- RHAs submitted a total of 34 project proposals for capital funding support in 2005-06. Of these proposals, the 18 projects identified as a top priority were approved for funding.
- International symposium successfully held in Calgary May 3-5, 2005. Conference Board of Canada was commissioned to provide a summary report on the symposium, and in August 2005 released the report entitled “Unleashing Innovation in Health Systems: Alberta’s Symposium on Health.”
- Minister held focus discussion tables with RHAs and regional stakeholder groups following the symposium to discuss what was learned at the symposium, RHA priorities, and to further discuss Third Way development.
- Getting on with Better Health Care Package released July 12, 2005.
- Health Policy Framework released February 28, 2006.

The Leading in Learning and Skilled Workforce Initiative (LLSWI) was a collaborative partnership among government ministries working together to ensure that an excellent learning system is available to meet the varying needs of Alberta learners of all ages.

Alberta's 2005-06 Leading in Learning and Skilled Workforce Initiative had four objectives:

- Provide high quality, accessible and affordable learning opportunities to ensure that Albertans have the opportunities to learn, adapt and develop new knowledge and new skills.
- Assist Albertans to achieve their full potential and to foster a superior quality of life for Albertans.
- Ensure a sufficient supply of human capital to meet Alberta's economic growth.
- Ensure sustainability and innovation within the learning system.

In addition to the results reported by target in the following table, other notable achievements for 2005-06 in support of the Leading in Learning and Skilled Workforce objectives included:

- The Alberta Initiative for School Improvement, which provided funding for over 450 local innovative programs and projects now underway in the K-12 system.
- An investment of over \$551 million in just two years (three years ahead of schedule) in support of the 87 accepted recommendations of Alberta's Commission on Learning.
- An additional investment of \$433 million over three years, operating budgets for post-secondary institutions are increasing, new and expanded scholarship programs are being created, and thousands of new student spaces are being added.
- Albertans applying online for student loans, grants and bursaries now have access to a new online financial application system that allows instantaneous processing.

- The Supporting Immigrants and Immigration to Alberta policy was released this year. It aims to attract and retain more immigrants to the province to help fill the skills shortage.
- In support of research and skills development, an estimated \$22.4 million was invested through the Alberta Science and Research Investment Program.

Leading in Learning and Skilled Workforce Initiative

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Leading in Learning and Skilled Workforce Initiative was to have the best learning system in Canada where Albertans acquire and apply leading edge knowledge and skills to foster innovation, to ensure a highly skilled, knowledgeable workforce, and to enjoy a high quality of life while being active and responsive citizens.

RELATED GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PLAN GOALS:

- Goal 1 – Alberta will have a diversified and prosperous economy
- Goal 2 – Albertans will be well prepared for lifelong learning and work
- Goal 3 – Alberta's international competitiveness will be enhanced
- Goal 4 – Alberta's children and youth will be supported in reaching their potential
- Goal 5 – Albertans will be healthy
- Goal 6 – Albertans will be self-reliant and independent and those unable to provide for their basic needs will receive help
- Goal 7 – The well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal communities and people will be improved
- Goal 12 – Albertans will have the opportunity to participate in community and cultural activities and enjoy the province's historical resources and parks and protected areas

MINISTRY CHAMPIONS: Education, Advanced Education, Economic Development, Children's Services, Human Resources and Employment, and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

OBJECTIVE: **Provide high quality, accessible and affordable learning opportunities to ensure that Albertans have the opportunities to learn, adapt and develop new knowledge and new skills.**

TARGETS

- Public satisfaction with the overall quality of basic education (target = 70%; survey confidence interval = $\pm 2.2\%$).
- Satisfaction of post-secondary graduates with the overall quality of their education (data available every 2nd year) (target = 80%+; survey confidence interval = $\pm 5.0\%$).
- Support the creation of up to 2,000 new spaces through the Access Fund over three years.

RESULTS

- Latest data from 2005-06 show that public satisfaction with the overall quality of basic education was 74%, up from 72% in 2004-05 and exceeding the target of 70%. In 2005-06, the aggregate satisfaction rate for those directly involved in the K-12 education system, (i.e., students, parents, teachers, and school board members along with members of the public) was 85%, similar to results in the previous two years. Satisfaction of respondents who are directly involved in the education system is higher than overall public satisfaction.
- 79% of 2001-02 graduates surveyed in 2003-04 were satisfied with the overall quality of their post-secondary education. Survey results for 2005-06 were not available at time of printing.
- As part of the Access Growth Fund, 1,050 new spaces in colleges, universities and technical institutes in the first year of programs were funded in 2005-06. These spaces will grow to 2,614 in 2008-09. In addition, 2,382 new apprenticeship technical training seats were provided in 2005-06.

Leading in Learning and Skilled Workforce Initiative

- Through the Campus Alberta Quality Council, reviews will be complete or underway for five degree program expansion proposals.
- This target was exceeded. The Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) made recommendations with respect to four degree proposals. Two additional proposals are currently under review.

OBJECTIVE: Assist Albertans to achieve their full potential and to foster a superior quality of life for Albertans.

TARGETS

- Percentages of students achieving acceptable results on Grades 3 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (targets = Grade 3 Language Arts at 83%; Grade 3 Math at 83%; Grade 9 Language Arts at 80%; Grade 9 Math at 68%).

RESULTS

- Results for 2004-05 are: Grade 3 Language Arts 82.2%; Grade 3 Math 80.3%; Grade 9 Language Arts 77.9%; and Grade 9 Math 68.0% .
- The target for Grade 9 Math was met, while the targets for Grade 3 Language Arts, Grade 3 Math and Grade 9 Language Arts were not met. Results for Grade 3 Language Arts, Grade 9 Language Arts and Grade 9 Math were higher in 2004-05 than in 2003-04. Results are affected by lower participation rates in 2004-05 as compared to 2003-04. 2005-06 results will be available in September 2006. Initiatives underway to improve achievement test results are: additional funding has been provided to school boards to hire more teachers and reduce class sizes; ongoing funding is provided to school authorities under the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement, which they can use for priority improvement areas; curriculum is revised and updated on an ongoing basis, and tests are designed to reflect the curriculum; jurisdictions are encouraged to emphasize the importance of participation in achievement tests with schools and parents; and the implementation of the Accountability Pillar of the Renewed Funding Framework will give school jurisdictions a consistent evaluation of their success on a variety of measures and will help identify areas for improvement, including provincial achievement test results.
- High school completion rate (target = 75%).
- In the 2004-05 school year, the high school completion rate of students within five years of entering Grade 10 was 77%, up from 75% in 2003-04 and exceeding the target of 75%. This is the most recent result available as data for this measure lag a year.
- High school to post-secondary transition rate (target = 51%).
- In the 2004-05 school year, 57% of students entered a post-secondary program within six years of entering Grade 10, up from 54% in 2003-04 and exceeding the target of 51%. This is the latest result available as data for this measure lag a year.

Leading in Learning and Skilled Workforce Initiative

TARGETS	RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet or exceed 2 million visitor sessions per year to the Alberta Learning Information Service website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 3 million visitor sessions were recorded in 2004-05.

OBJECTIVE: Ensure a sufficient supply of human capital to meet Alberta’s economic growth

TARGETS	RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The labour force participation rate remains the highest among all provinces of Canada. • Percentage of participants who indicate their training helped prepare them for future employment. • Post-secondary educational attainment of Albertans aged 25-64 (target = 55%; survey confidence interval = ±1.0%). • Employment rate of post-secondary system graduates (target = 94%; survey confidence interval = ±5.0%). • Employer satisfaction with the supply of learning system graduates (including high school graduates and post-secondary degree, diploma and certificate graduates) (data available every second year) (target = 74%; survey confidence interval = ±2.2%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta consistently has the highest labour force participation rate. In March 2006, Alberta’s rate was 73% compared to the national average of 67.1%. • Preliminary results for 2005-06 indicate that almost 80% of participants agreed that their training, funded by Human Resources and Employment, helped prepare them for future employment. • In 2005, the post-secondary completion rate of Albertans aged 25-64 was 58%. • A 2005 survey of education system graduates found employment rates of 95% for certificate and diploma graduates and 96% for degree graduates. A 2005 survey of journey people who graduated in 2004-05 found 97% to be employed. • Of the employers surveyed in 2005-06, 70.5% were satisfied with the supply of learning system graduates. Rationales for this lower than expected rate include increased difficulties employers have finding workers in the increasingly tight labour market, combined with the enticement of some students into the labour market prior to graduation.

OBJECTIVE: Ensure sustainability and innovation within the learning system.

TARGETS	RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin implementation of a post-secondary funding review in 2005. • Total sponsored research revenue attracted by Alberta universities (target = \$606 million). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive review of Alberta’s advanced education system called “A Learning Alberta: Framing the Challenge” is underway, and includes a review of funding mechanisms. • Data for 2004-05 show \$650 million in total sponsored research revenue at Alberta universities. The target for 2005-06 is set at \$750 million.