Red Tape Reduction

Rural Municipalities of Alberta

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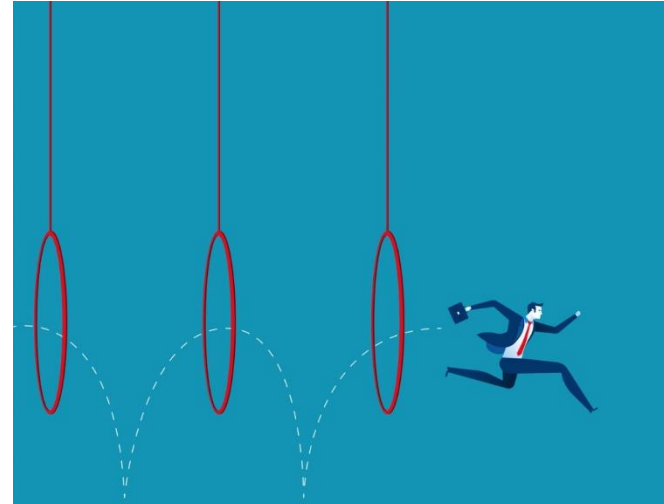
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Measuring Red Tape

Regulatory Requirements

Administrative Requirements

Objectives

Drive Economic Growth

Improve Service Delivery
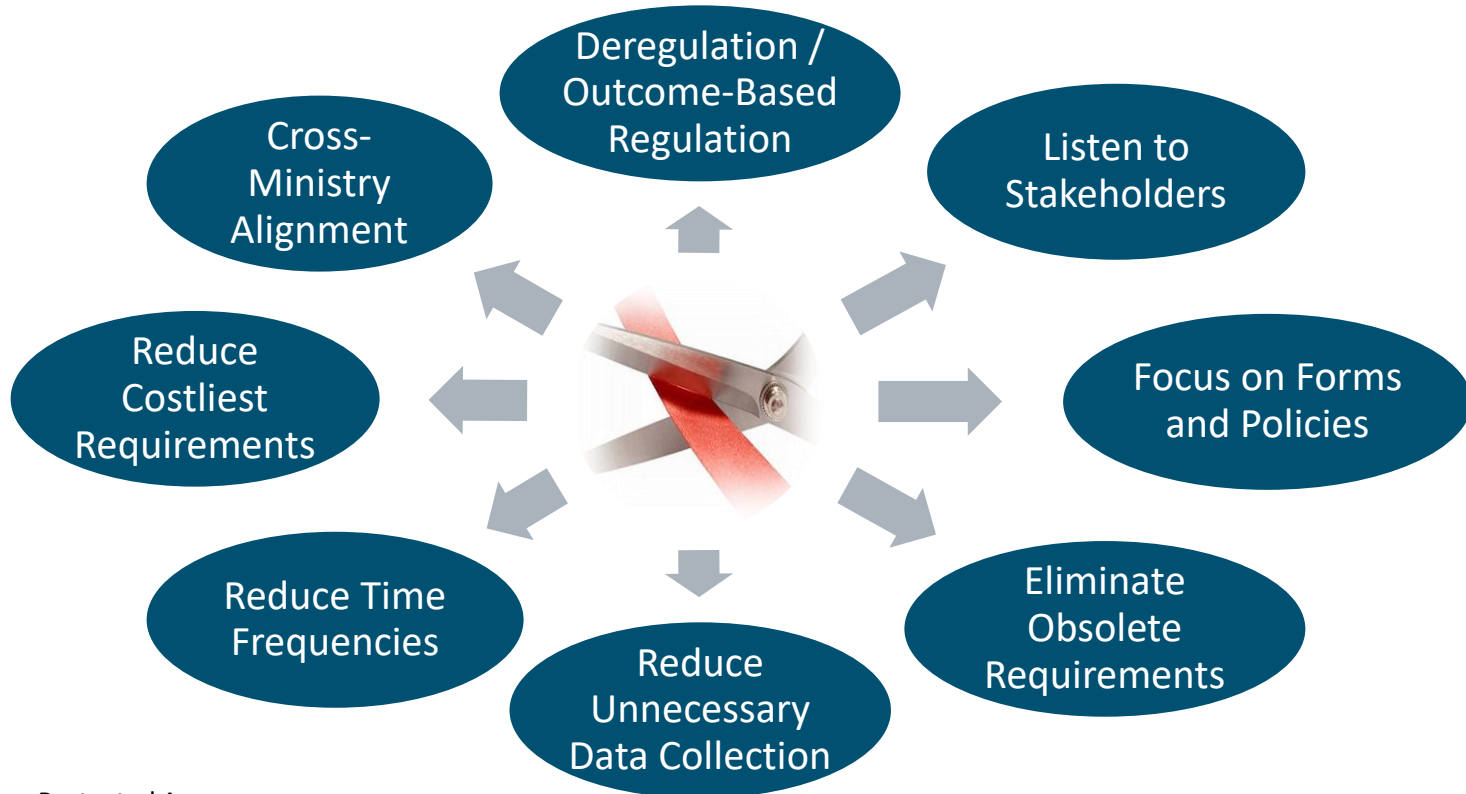
Deliverables

1/3 Reduction in Requirements

One in One out

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Five Principles of Red Tape Reduction

1. Necessity
2. Effectiveness
3. Efficiency
4. Proportionality
5. Meaningful Review

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Reduction Strategies

Deregulation / Outcome-Based Regulation

Cross-Ministry Alignment

Listen to Stakeholders

Reduce Costliest Requirements

Focus on Forms and Policies

Reduce Time Frequencies

Reduce Unnecessary Data Collection

Eliminate Obsolete Requirements

Government of Alberta RTR Engagement

9 Industry Panels

60+ Stakeholders with 1000+ Recommendations

6500+ Email & Form Submissions

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Government of Alberta RTR Progress

Over 5% reduction in requirements (Year 1)

280+ Completed Initiatives

550+ Initiatives on Department 2020 Plans

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Red Tape Reduction Efforts

RTR Opportunity Identification

To identify red tape reduction opportunities to improve efficiency and reduce regulatory burden in Alberta

- AF has completed a baseline count of regulatory, policy and form requirements and continues to work to reduce that count driving to 33% reduction by 2023.

- AF is using its existing relationships with key stakeholders to gather RTR ideas.

- AF has gathered RTR opportunities through online public submissions, industry submissions, industry RTR panels and from within the ministry.

- AF continues to lead a culture change within the department to drive the elimination of red tape.

What We Have Heard

- Streamline the Canadian Agricultural Partnership application process for producers.

- Support the sustainability of Livestock & Poultry Confined Feeding Operations (CFOs), which need to address municipal constraints due to public pressure.

- Restore efficiency and transparency to the process to access funding for industry-led research and market development for Alberta's agriculture sectors.

What We Have Heard

- Request that AF consolidate forestry related approvals to streamline approvals for forest related operations.

- Consider developing a new Forest Management Agreement (FMA) Renewal Policy and Process that will ensure the renewal process is clearly understood by FMA holders and to ensure that only pertinent information is collected.

What We Have Done

Completed 25 Red Tape Reduction Initiatives and reduced Regulatory Requirement Counts by 8.53%

Response Time Reduction for *Weed Act* Appeals

- Created a streamlined process that reduced appeal time by 270 days.

Deregulate Crop Disease - Fusarium graminearium

- Reduced the regulatory burden for the majority of municipalities while giving others autonomy to regulate the crop disease as they see fit.

Amendments to the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act*

- Updated authorities to empower agriculture marketing boards and commissions with greater autonomy in their decision-making.

What We Have Done

Final Mile Rural Community Program Reporting Reduction

- Reduced the reporting requirements of grant agreements under the Final Mile Rural Community Program.

Forest Management Agreements

- Changed the authority to allow the Minister to enter into a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) without prior approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Completed farmer-led Agriculture Research Review

- Streamlined the approval and review process for Agriculture research.

Forest products Haul Annual Operating Plan

- Discontinued the Haul Annual Operating Plan requirement.

Looking Forward

Agriculture Operation Practices Act (AOPA) Review

- Review and amend AOPA to streamline approval processes and encourage long term sustainability of industry within rural municipalities.

Modernization of the *Agricultural Pests Act* regulations

- Review of regulations to reduce regulatory requirements and clean up administrative pieces.

Review of Alberta Approved Farmers' Market Program Guidelines

- Review of policies around Farmer's Market operations to reduce red tape and to remove barriers to entry.

Looking Forward

Changes to *Forests Act* legislative framework

- Review of *Forests Act* to reduce regulatory requirements, increase administrative efficiencies and promote long-term forest sector competiveness.

Streamlining / Amalgamating Forestry Operating Ground Rules

- Review operating ground rules for forestry operations to streamline and amalgamate policies where possible.
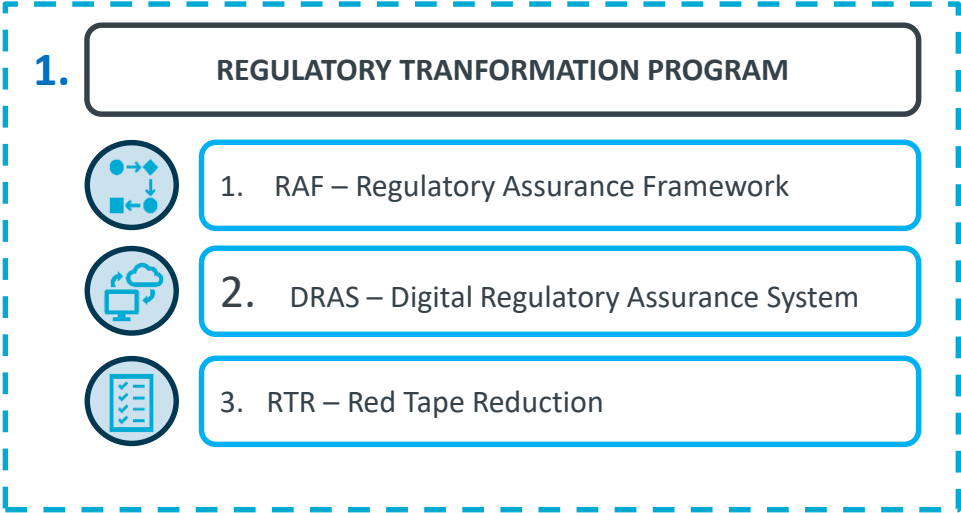
Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Program Modernization Project

- Through the realignment of CAP to the GOA/AF priorities, the suite of CAP programs will be adjusted to stream-line and reduce the number of programs.

Alberta Environment and Parks Red Tape Reduction Efforts

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Red Tape in the Context of Environmental Regulatory Transformation

1.

REGULATORY TRANFORMATION PROGRAM

1. RAF – Regulatory Assurance Framework

2. DRAS – Digital Regulatory Assurance System

3. RTR – Red Tape Reduction

2. **REGIONAL & SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING AND POLICY**

Site Specific Policy and Plans

Sector Examples: Designated Industrial Zones (DIZ), Caribou Sub-Regional Plans, Fish & Wildlife

3. **INTEGRATED CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT**

Modernized Legislation, Regulations, Classifications, and Policy

Multi-Use Crown Land Management for Public and Park Land: Recreation and Tourism, Conservation, Sustainable Development

Benefits to Albertans

Protected environment

Albertans back to work

Recreational opportunities

Increased investment and amplified economic growth

Reduced cost to the ministry and stakeholders

ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA	*INDUSTRY SECTORS IN FOCUS*

Focus Areas

Air and Climate Change

Water and Wetlands

Fish and Wildlife

Land Management

Oil and Gas

Surface Materials

Tourism

Agriculture

Strategic Solutions

Improving client service experience:
- Clarification and coordination of jurisdictions
- Clarity of regulatory requirements
- Technological improvements and digital processes
- Eliminate backlog

Reducing regulatory requirements and burden to Albertans:
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory requirements
- Repeal or update outdated legislation
- Increase use of non-regulatory mechanisms
- Long term clarity on environmental outcomes

Priority Interventions

Modernizing Legislation

Regulatory System Transformation (Regulatory Assurance Framework)

Consistency in Crown Land Management

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What We Have Heard

- Remove inconsistencies from the Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions (MSSC) where they contradict the Code of Practice for watercourse crossings
- Update the watercourse crossings directives to include other risk based approaches to managing water course crossings
- Delete the requirement for monthly reports on air, water, industrial wastewater, potable water, sanitary wastewater, solid waste
- Allow for storm water to be diverted to sustain wetlands in an urban environment

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What We Have Heard

- Review and remove unnecessary overlap (e.g. within municipal waste water and storm drainage design standards)

- Evaluate and improve approval processes (e.g. *Water Act* fence line zone approval process)

- Review and update existing regulations related to recycling of used oil, paint, electronics and tires

- Develop a made in Alberta Extended Producer Responsibility Paper and Packaging Program

What We Have Done

Completed 54 Red Tape Reduction Initiatives

Code of Practice for Powerlines Works Impacting Wetlands

- Applied a more appropriate level of oversight for low-risk construction activities

Sand and Gravel, EPEA and Water Act Approvals Backlog Projects

- Significantly reduced application backlogs AEP made 1,717 decisions (77% reduction) between May and September, 2020

Streamline Regulatory Process for Road Widening

- Reduced the number of environmental approval/authorizations required for municipal road maintenance activities, and made adjustments to the process to accept desktop assessments

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What We Have Done

Update the fee setting process for provincial recycling program

- Streamlined fee changes through an administrative process to ensure provincial recycling programs are financially sustainable and that Albertans continue to have access to these recycling opportunities

Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction

- Creating a more reasonable emissions regulation

Wildlife Amendments and Digitization of Licenses

- Making it easier for Albertans to enjoy the great outdoors when they are fishing and hunting

Looking Forward

Non-municipal drinking water systems

- Using an outcomes based approach to regulate non-municipal drinking water systems.

Restoration and retention of natural wetlands

- Provide streamlined approval process for low impact activities and construction projects

Stormwater use

- Reduce barriers to using stormwater as an alternative water source

Address watercourse crossings

- Providing greater flexibility during emergencies and electronic reporting to fulfills monitoring requirements
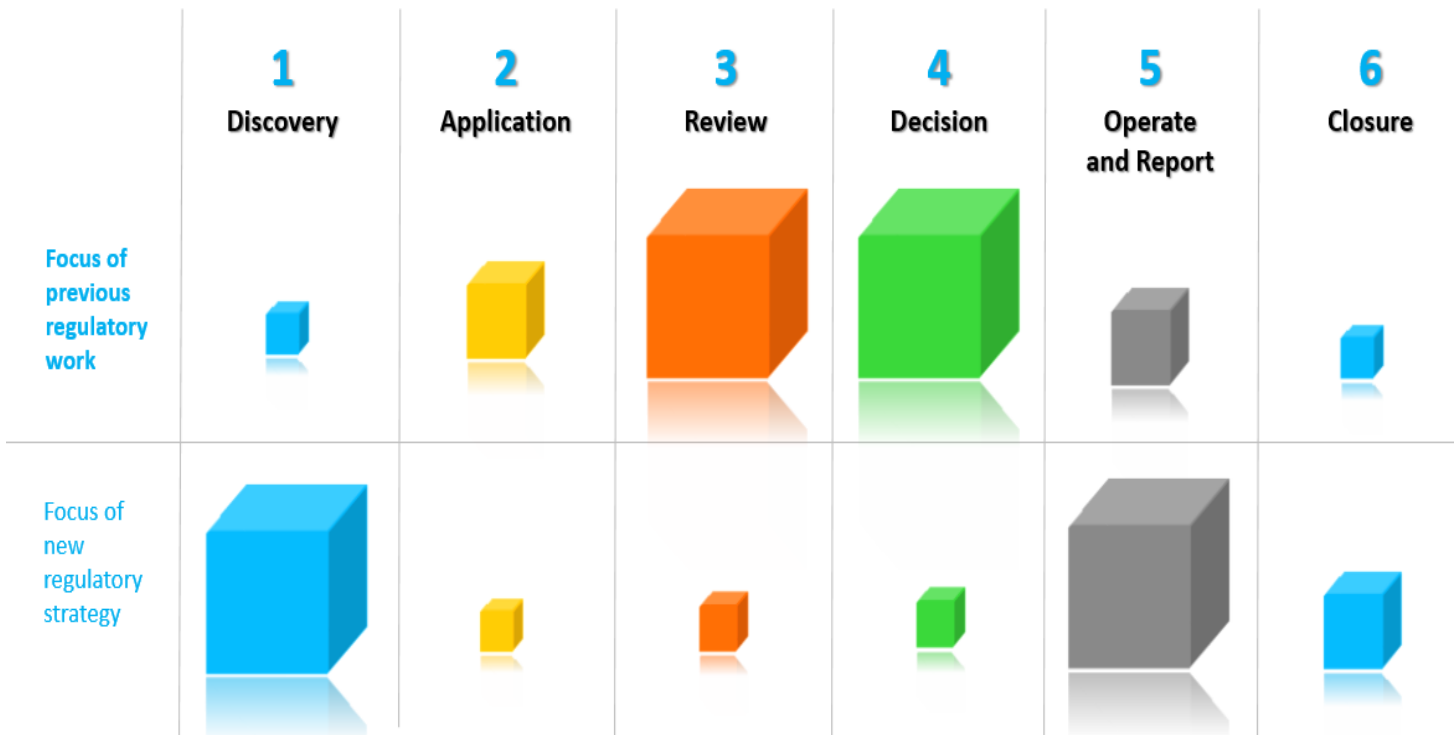
Regulatory Transformation

To provide an effective and efficient regulatory assurance system to foster environmental sustainability in Alberta

- Clear accountability throughout the lifecycle of an activity
- A comprehensive, effective regulatory system
- An integrated approval process
- A common risk management framework
- Enhanced stakeholder awareness
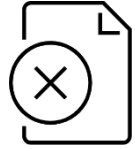- Enduring and sustainable programs
- Continuous business innovation

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Strategic Shift

	1 Discovery	2 Application	3 Review	4 Decision	5 Operate and Report	6 Closure
Focus of previous regulatory work						
Focus of new regulatory strategy						

Classification: Protected A

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Red Tape Reduction Efforts

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What we Have Heard

- The *Municipal Government Act* is Alberta's second-largest piece of legislation.
    - In addition to red tape reduction commitment, Premier Kenney directed department to review Act "line by line".

- Approach
    - Engagement with key partners – like RMA, AUMA and industry.
    - Part by part review
    - Focus on both reducing red tape but also streamlining MGA

What We Have Done

- First set of amendments
  - Expanded some City Charter provisions to all municipalities and other flexibilities
  - E.g. ability to use electronic notices, ability to correct tax rate bylaw without need for Ministerial Order
- Second set – Part 17.2 (Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks)
  - Streamlined and simplified while retaining intent
  - Aligned with feedback from stakeholders, including RMA

What We Have Done

- Third set of amendments – Part 15.1 (Regional Service Commissions)
  - Retained intent of section allowing municipalities to use RSCs to deliver services, but significantly streamlined the process around creation, dissolution, and operations of RSC
  - Reduced 608 regulatory requirements in both MGA and regulations

Looking Forward

- This fall: Part 17 and 17.1 (Planning and Development)
  - Streamline and eliminate unnecessary provisions and redundancies
- Next spring: Governance parts
- Next fall: Taxation and assessment parts

Other MA changes

- Reduced red tape for wood building construction
  - Early adoption of 2020 building code allows for 12 storey wood buildings.
- Oil and Gas equipment safety verification
  - Allows companies to use professional engineers to verify safety.
- Streamlined owner-builder authorizations
  - 35 per cent faster approval for Albertans building their own homes.
- Streamlined grants process
  - Simplified forms for MSI, PERC and DIRC programs
- Upgraded Municipal Disaster Recovery Program form
  - More up-front information means less follow-up