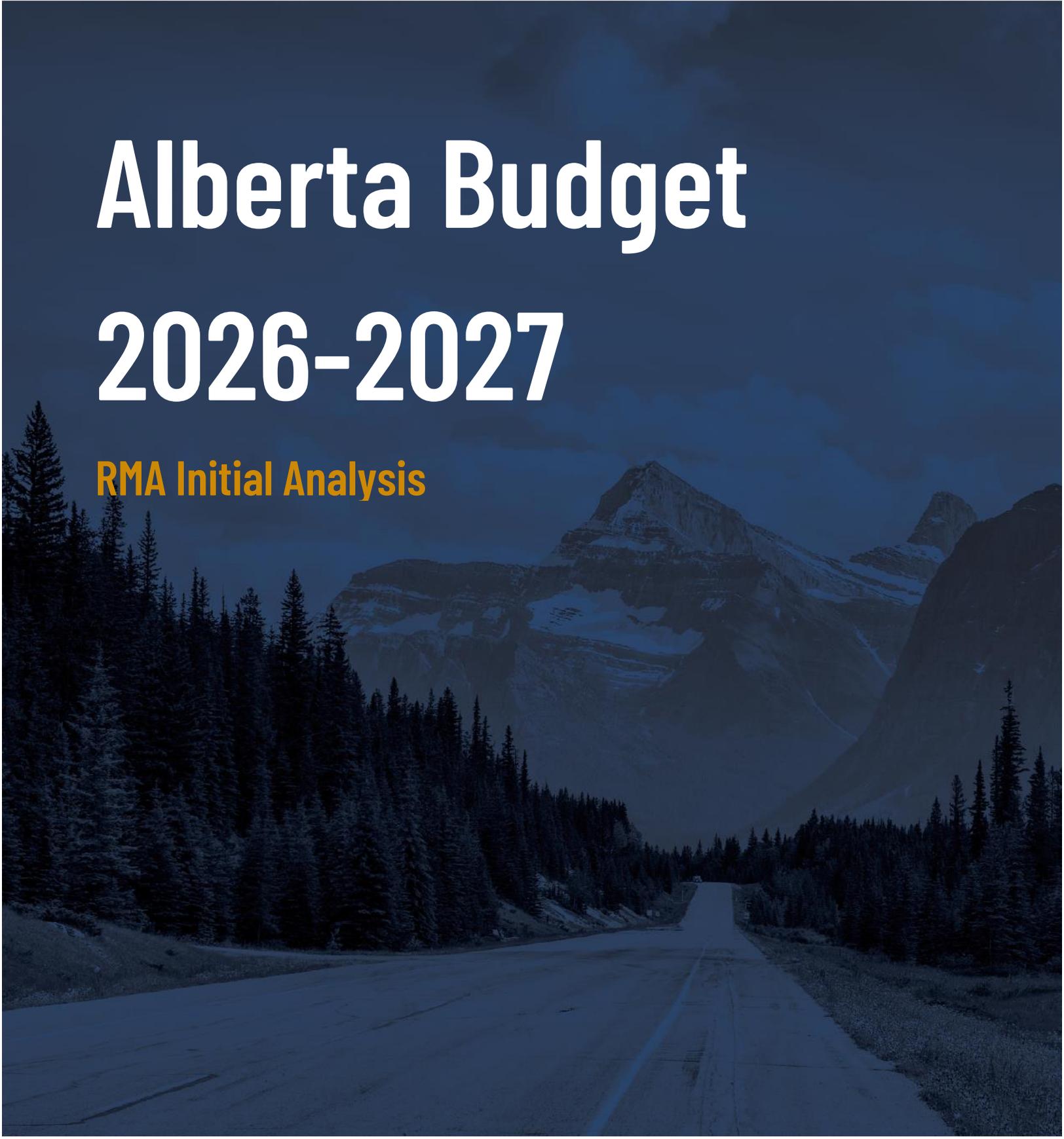




# Alberta Budget 2026-2027

**RMA Initial Analysis**



# Alberta Budget 2026-2027: RMA Initial Analysis

The Government of Alberta has released [Budget 2026](#) and the [2026-2029 Fiscal Plan](#).

RMA President Kara Westerlund's initial reaction to Budget 2026 is as follows:

*The Government of Alberta is facing a challenging fiscal situation. Budget 2026 reflects the shifting economic environment and demonstrates a provincial approach of continuing to contribute to infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. While such investments are needed, this budget missed a crucial opportunity to invest in rural infrastructure that provides proven economic returns, both locally and across the province. As rural municipalities wrestle with a \$17 billion infrastructure deficit, it is disappointing to see a significant reduction in the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program. This, combined with a substantial increase in Education Property Tax rates, will reduce rural municipal capacity to maintain core infrastructure and provide essential services, resulting in increased risk of asset failure and missed opportunities for new investment and economic growth. These types of strategic investments are necessary for sectors such as oil and gas, agriculture, and forestry, as well as the ability of Alberta to attract emerging sectors such as data centres and value-added agriculture.*

*While municipal infrastructure funding levels will remain an issue, enhanced partnership in other areas can help. We continue to call on the Government of Alberta to collaborate with RMA and its members to develop a strategic approach to ensuring that existing funding is allocated in a way that reflects rural cost drivers, prioritizes assets that are strategically significant on a local and provincewide basis, and reflects the economic benefit of a safe and resilient rural infrastructure network. Budget 2026's vision of growing the economy through attraction of data centres, increases in oil production, and investment incentives for new sectors provides optimism for rural Alberta. Rural municipalities are seeking partnership with the Government of Alberta to attract and provide services to these emerging and longstanding industries. Investment in local infrastructure is not just a secondary priority; it is the essential requirement without which industrial growth cannot move forward. Simply put, not investing in rural municipal infrastructure is a missed opportunity to build the province's economic future.*

For a full breakdown of the budget and estimates, visit the [Government of Alberta's Budget 2026 webpage](#).

The following are details of the 2026-2027 budget that will be important for RMA members:

- ◆ Alberta's estimated revenue is \$74.6 billion, a slight increase from last year's budgeted \$74.1 billion, but much lower than the \$82.5 billion recorded in 2024-2025.
- ◆ Budget 2026's *Three-year Capital Plan* is forecast at \$28.3 billion, which is a \$2.2 billion increase from Budget 2025. For 2026-27, capital spending is forecast at \$8.7 billion; \$48 million more than estimated in Budget 2025.
- ◆ In 2024-25, Alberta recorded an \$8.3 billion surplus. Last year's budget projected a \$5.2 billion deficit, and the 2026 budget now anticipates a \$9.4 billion deficit in 2026-27, followed by \$7.6 billion in 2027-28 and \$6.9 billion in 2028-29.
- ◆ Education property tax (EPT) rates will increase in 2026, rising to \$2.84 per \$1,000 of equalized assessment for residential/farmland property and \$4.17 per \$1,000 for non-residential property. This reflects a 7.2% increase in education-related operating costs, with government indicating that EPT will be raised to cover one-third of these expenses. As a result, the amount of EPT

collected is projected to grow from last year's \$3.1 billion to \$3.6 billion in 2026-27, further increasing to \$3.8 billion in both 2027-28 and 2028-29.

- ◆ \$265.6 million is allocated over three years (2026-27 to 2028-29) under the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program and dedicated grants to municipalities toward road and bridge improvements and airport upgrades. This is a significant decrease from Budget 2025, which allocated \$344.9 million over three years. Budget 2026 allocates only \$29.3 million to STIP in 2026-2027 – almost \$10 million less than the amount allocated in Budget 2025.
- ◆ \$860 million is allocated in 2026-2027 for the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), representing a decrease from \$880 million in 2025-2026:
  - ◇ The LGFF capital component declines from \$820 million to \$799.7 million.
  - ◇ LGFF operating component remains at \$60 million.
  - ◇ Total LGFF funding is expected to increase to \$955 million in 2026-2027, in line with changes to provincial revenues as per the *Local Government Fiscal Framework Act*.
- ◆ Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) increased from \$55.3 million in 2025-26 to \$75.3 million in 2026-27, reflecting the province's shift to resume GIPOT coverage for 100% of the eligible property tax amounts. GIPOT is expected to remain at 100% in 2027-28 and 2028-29, with funding projected at \$79.3 million in both years.
- ◆ \$60 million is designated for the Rural Hospital Enhancement Program over two years, a significant increase from previous years. This is likely a replacement for the recently-eliminated Rural Health Facilities Revitalization Program.
- ◆ Municipal water infrastructure grant programs are increasing from \$121 million to over \$175 million:
  - ◇ Funding for the Municipal Water and Wastewater Program has increased from \$44.6 million in 2025-26 to over \$63 million in 2026-27. However, this still remains far less than Budget 2023, which provided the program with \$85.7 million.
  - ◇ Funding for Water for Life is estimated to be \$97.6 million in 2026-27, which represents a significant increase from the 2025-26 amount of \$51.3 million.
  - ◇ Funding for the First Nations Water Tie-in Program has more than doubled, from \$7.5 million in 2025-26 to over \$15 million in 2026-27.
- ◆ The Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) has been renamed to the Hazard Assistance and Resilience Program (HARP), and remains under the administration of Public Safety and Emergency Services. However, there are no line items in Budget 2026 regarding this updated program, with DRP funding ending in 2025-26.
- ◆ In 2026-27, \$530,000 is allocated to support nuclear energy engagement activities and education initiatives to advance broader public engagement and awareness.

The backgrounder below provides more budget highlights that may affect rural Alberta. The RMA will provide additional details and analysis through member bulletins as they become available. You can [view the complete budget and its supporting documents online](#).

**Wyatt Skovron**

*General Manager of Policy & Advocacy*

780.955.4096

[wyatt@RMAAlberta.com](mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com)

## RMA BACKGROUNDER: Budget 2026

### PROVINCIAL FINANCES

- ◆ On February 26, the Government of Alberta tabled Budget 2026. According to the Government of Alberta, Budget 2026 focuses on modernizing the province's health-care system, investing in education, strengthening workforce and skills training, and advancing economic diversification and investment attraction to maintain Alberta's competitive advantage.
- ◆ Alberta's estimated revenue is \$74.6 billion, a slight increase from last year's budgeted \$74.1 billion, but much lower than the \$82.5 billion recorded in 2024-2025. The province attributes this decline to weaker oil prices, rising global trade and geopolitical tensions, and intensifying competition for investment, all of which are slowing revenue growth. Government also identifies rapid population growth, volatile resource revenues, federal policy impacts, and higher costs for infrastructure and services, as contributing to additional fiscal pressures.
- ◆ Estimated operating expenses are \$70.4 billion, an approximate \$6 billion increase from last year's budgeted amount; total budgeted expenses are \$83.9 billion, an increase from the \$79.3 billion budgeted in 2025-2026.
- ◆ Budget 2026's *Three-year Capital Plan* is forecast at \$28.3 billion, which is a \$2.2 billion increase from Budget 2025. For 2026-27, capital spending is forecast at \$8.7 billion; \$48 million more than estimated in Budget 2025.
- ◆ In 2024-25, Alberta recorded an \$8.3 billion surplus. Last year's budget projected a \$5.2 billion deficit, and the 2026 budget now anticipates a \$9.4 billion deficit in 2026-27, followed by \$7.6 billion in 2027-28 and \$6.9 billion in 2028-29.
- ◆ Alberta's real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3.0% in 2024, with growth expected to decrease to 2.2% for 2025 and 1.8% in 2026, with moderate growth to 2.3% forecasted in 2027.
- ◆ Alberta's net debt-to-GDP ratio was 7.2% in 2024-25, initially expected to rise to 8.5% in 2025-26 (now forecasted at 8.3%). Under Budget 2026, the ratio is expected to increase to 10.5% in 2026-27, 11.5% in 2027-28, and 12.9% in 2028-29.

### ADVANCED EDUCATION

- ◆ The Ministry of Advanced Education's business plan includes several objectives relevant to RMA members including:
  - ◇ Strengthening the alignment of post-secondary programs to employment and with current and emerging labour market demands by enhancing education pathways and opportunities, and expanding innovative learning opportunities, such as work-integrated learning and apprenticeship learning models, to meet Albertans' skills development needs.
  - ◇ Advocating for and championing the value of designated trades careers and certification to meet the needs of Alberta's labour market and the economy.
- ◆ Budget 2026 includes \$83 million over three years to support doubling enrollment at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine by 2028-29.

### AFFORDABILITY AND UTILITIES

- ◆ The Ministry of Affordability and Utilities business plan includes several objectives relevant to the RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Address regional disparities in utility rates by conducting a comprehensive review of distribution rates.

- ◇ Engage with stakeholders to develop distribution policy that supports cost effective and efficient long-term planning by distribution facility owners, grid modernization, system resilience, emergency preparedness, and the integration of demand-side management and distributed energy resources.
  - ◇ Drive modernization of Alberta's utility system by implementing policy and system reforms that enhance reliability, efficiency, and integration of large users such as Artificial Intelligence data centres
  - ◇ Develop and implement Alberta's Nuclear Roadmap to enable potential future energy projects through engagement, regulatory framework development, and education on nuclear energy.
- ◆ Utility Rebate and Grant Programs are slated to receive \$8 million in 2026-27 to bolster the advancement of rural utility infrastructure. This includes \$5.3 million for the Rural Gas Program, intended to make home heating more affordable in rural areas, \$700,000 for the Rural Electric Program, \$450,000 for the administration of the Rural Water Program, and \$1.5 million for the Remote Area Heating Allowance program.
  - ◆ In 2026-27, \$530,000 is allocated to support nuclear energy engagement activities and education initiatives to advance broader public engagement and awareness.

## AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

- ◆ The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's business plan includes several objectives relevant to RMA members including:
  - ◇ Increase investment in value-added agriculture to generate economic growth and create jobs.
  - ◇ Invest in modernization and expansion of irrigation infrastructure that enhances agricultural productivity and improves water utilization.
  - ◇ Improve access to capital to generate direct economic and social benefits in rural communities, including entry and succession within the primary agriculture sector.
  - ◇ Manage government-owned and operated water infrastructure and allocate water resources in support of public safety and water security.
- ◆ \$80 million is made available through a joint investment with the irrigation districts and the Canada Infrastructure Bank to expand the irrigated area in Alberta.
- ◆ The capital plan allocates \$19 million towards the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program which supports the expansion and support for Alberta's irrigated areas and associated agricultural production. This amount is consistent with Budget 2025.
- ◆ Contingency, disaster, and emergency assistance funding is grouped together. This includes funding for fighting wildfires, crop insurance, and flood recovery. In 2026 the contingency funding for these elements is \$2 billion.
- ◆ Funding for the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) has decreased slightly from \$65.4 million to \$62.7 million.
- ◆ The University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine faculty has been allocated \$3.1 million to develop accessible diagnostics capacity.
- ◆ \$41.5 million is allocated to Results Driven Agriculture Research to develop high-quality, robust and adaptable crops and farmed animals, disseminate agricultural research, and meet market demands. This is consistent with the funding provided in Budget 2025.

- ◆ \$2 million is allocated for the Water Management Feasibility Study while \$65 million is allocated towards Water Management Infrastructure in Budget 2026, an increase from \$59 million in Budget 2025.
- ◆ Agricultural societies are allocated \$14 million in operating and capital funding to support rural quality of life while Agricultural Society Infrastructure Revitalization is allocated \$3 million to support modernization through repairs, renovations, and energy efficiency upgrades to existing facilities. Both amounts are consistent with Budget 2025.
- ◆ \$60.7 million (an increase from \$54.9 million in Budget 2025) is allocated to irrigation modernization and expansion to minimize the effects of adverse weather conditions and improve water utilization.
- ◆ \$11.6 million is allocated for agricultural service boards (ASBs) to support rural municipalities in their work to manage and enforce invasive species legislation.
- ◆ Over a three-year period from 2026-2029, \$2.3 million will be allocated to increase support for Alberta's beef industry to support the domestic and international economic viability of small and medium sized producers. This is consistent with the previous funding amount.
- ◆ Alberta's two crop diversification centres are provided \$2.1 million in operating and capital funding in 2026-27. This is a significant decrease from \$5.2 million last year. These centres help agricultural producers to address threats from emerging plant, bee and soil health issues and support crop resilience.

## ARTS, CULTURE AND STATUS OF WOMEN

- ◆ The overall ministry budget is \$199 million, a decrease of \$27 million from Budget 2025.
- ◆ Funding for the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) has decreased from \$50 million to \$25 million per year for the next three years. While municipalities are ineligible for CFEP funding, rural community organizations will be impacted.

## EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

- ◆ Budget 2026 invests \$10.8 billion in the education system, a 7.2% increase over 2025-26. This investment is intended to help hire more teachers and educational assistants to support growing classes and classroom complexity.
- ◆ Budget 2026 is also investing \$3.3 billion over three years into building educational infrastructure across the province.
- ◆ Student Transportation Services funding increases from \$486 million to \$505 million.

## ENERGY AND MINERALS

- ◆ The Alberta Energy and Minerals business plan identifies several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Collaborate with other ministries to streamline government processes and enhance regulatory efficiency and effectiveness through measures such as establishing an expedited provincial approval process for priority projects and promoting sustainable resource development through initiatives such as the Mature Asset Strategy.
  - ◇ Modernize Alberta's coal legislation and regulatory framework to guide responsible development, protect the environment and collect an appropriate share of royalties for the benefit of all people in Alberta.
- ◆ The Alberta Energy Regulator budget has increased from \$269.7 million in 2025-26 to \$282.6 million in 2026-27.

- ◆ Orphan Well program funding has increased from \$145 million to \$155 million.

## ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

- ◆ The Alberta Environment and Protected Areas business plan identifies several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Collaborate with Indigenous communities and organizations, municipalities, non-profit organizations, industry, academia, and others to strengthen environmental stewardship and conservation.
  - ◇ Enhance drinking water and municipal wastewater policy and programs to assure ongoing public health and safety and protection of the environment, including updating guidelines, supporting municipalities and enabling new technologies.
  - ◇ Refine and modernize Alberta's land-use planning system and tools to accelerate the development and implementation of regional, sub-regional and issue-specific plans that support environmental stewardship and enable sustainable development.
  - ◇ Enhance Alberta's water management strategy to increase water availability and ensure responsible long-term management of water resources while respecting traditional uses, maintaining ecosystem health and meeting transboundary agreement commitments.
- ◆ The capital plan invests \$154 million over three years in water management infrastructure to improve flood resiliency. This is a \$10 million decrease from Budget 2025.
- ◆ \$10.1 million is made available for designated industrial zones with the aim of attracting targeted investment.
- ◆ \$6.7 million is allocated to complete the digitization of environmental approvals for all permits issued under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and the *Water Act*.
- ◆ \$8.7 million is allocated for the Wetland Restoration Program (WRP).
- ◆ The Drought and Flood Protection Program and Water Storage Assessment Program will receive \$30.3 million.
- ◆ \$53 million is allocated for flood mitigation projects including the Ghost Reservoir, Springbank Reservoir, and other projects.
- ◆ \$27 million is allocated for caribou recovery planning and actions, a significant decrease from \$40 million in Budget 2025.
- ◆ \$5.8 million is allocated for aquatic invasive species management and prevention, an increase from \$4 million in the previous year.
- ◆ \$10 million is allocated through the Land Stewardship Fund in 2026 to support the conservation and stewardship of land in Alberta. This is consistent with Budget 2025.

## FORESTRY AND PARKS

- ◆ The Ministry of Forestry and Parks business plan identifies several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Implement a Crown land recreation and conservation strategy and a new Plan for Parks.
  - ◇ Implement an Alberta Wildfire Mitigation Strategy with ministry, community, Indigenous, and industry partners to reduce the negative impacts of wildfire on Albertans.
  - ◇ Enhance wildfire management capacity through effective resource allocation, wildfire prediction, and collaborative partnerships.

- ◆ \$14.7 million is allocated to Crown land enforcement and compliance, an increase from \$13.4 million in 2025-26.
- ◆ Overall operating funding for wildfire management increases from \$161.5 million in 2025-26 to \$169.2 million in 2026-27.
- ◆ \$30.7 million is allocated for wildfire mitigation initiatives, and an additional \$4.2 million is available to modernize wildfire applications. This is a \$10 million decrease in mitigation initiatives, however, funding for modernizing wildfire applications is doubled from Budget 2025.

## PRIMARY AND PREVENTATIVE HEALTH SERVICES

- ◆ The Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services has several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Increase the number of Albertans attached to primary care providers by supporting ongoing uptake and participation in the primary care physician compensation model, supporting the recruitment and retention of family physicians, and the expansion of nurse practitioner practices.
  - ◇ Improve equitable and timely access to primary care health services across the province, including in underserved, rural and remote communities, by implementing the Alberta Health Workforce Strategy and the Rural Health Action Plan.
  - ◇ Provide strategic oversight and support for the primary care health services sector to improve access to coordinated and high-quality care in all areas of the province.
- ◆ Primary Care will receive a \$60 million capital investment over the next three years.
- ◆ Physician compensation investments will be raised by 22%, reaching a record \$7.7 billion in 2026-27, including additional investments to support the continued expansion of the Primary Care Physician Compensation Model for family medicine and rural generalist physicians.
- ◆ \$26 million will be invested to expand the Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Compensation Model.
- ◆ There appears to be no dedicated funding allocated to implementing the recommendations in the Rural Health Action Plan.
- ◆ The capital plan has allocated \$35 million over three years towards the University of Lethbridge Rural Medical Teaching School.
- ◆ The 2026 Capital Plan dedicates \$4.9 billion for health infrastructure, a \$1.3 billion increase from Budget 2025. This investment is likely spread across the four healthcare-related ministries.

## HOSPITAL AND SURGICAL HEALTH SERVICES

- ◆ The Ministry of Hospital and Surgical Health Services has several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Relieve emergency department pressures by enhancing emergency department operations and providing Albertans with alternative options for the most appropriate care when and where they need it.
  - ◇ Grow the health workforce, including enhancing recruitment and retention, and ensure Alberta's acute care workforce is available when and where it is required, while developing a long-term workforce plan to identify long-term workforce needs and ensures projected needs are proactively filled.
  - ◇ Enhance local accountability to empower hospital administrators to better meet the needs of local communities and to improve the efficiency and productivity of their facilities.

- ◆ \$60 million is designated for the Rural Hospital Enhancement Program over two years, a significant increase from previous years. This is likely a replacement for the recently-eliminated Rural Health Facilities Revitalization Program.
- ◆ Funding for Emergency Health Services Vehicles Capital Program is maintained at \$20 million.
- ◆ The Beaverlodge Health Centre will receive \$181 million for replacement in 2027-28.

## INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

- ◆ The Ministry of Indigenous Relations' business plan includes several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Lead and support collaboration with ministry partners, agencies, municipalities and utility commissions in order to provide recommendations for the connection of First Nations communities and Metis Settlements to utilities and water tie-in programs.
- ◆ 2026-27 funding for Indigenous Relations is \$268 million, an \$11 million increase from Budget 2025.
- ◆ The budget of the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) increased by nearly \$18 million as a result of iGaming initiatives.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- ◆ The Ministry of Infrastructure's business plan includes several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Optimize the value, use, transfer and management of all provincially-funded real property assets through continued implementation of the Real Property Governance Act framework and exploration of other investment opportunities, for the long-term benefit of Albertans.
  - ◇ Collaborate with municipalities and partner ministries to accelerate priority investments identified by Cabinet and Caucus, including supporting major urban revitalization, economic corridor and community growth capital projects
- ◆ Infrastructure is allocating \$1.4 billion for the construction of school facilities in 2026-27, including approximately \$200 million for Schools Now projects (formerly the School Construction Accelerator Program). This is nearly double the 2025-2026 school construction allocation of \$789.3 million, and includes an increase to the Schools Now program of over \$126 million.
- ◆ Funding for the construction of health and mental health facilities is allocated \$817.5 million, which represents an increase of \$192 million compared to Budget 2025. This includes \$6.5 million for Compassionate Intervention Centres and \$18.6 million for the new Stollery Children's Hospital.

## JUSTICE

- ◆ The Ministry of Justice business plan identifies objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Improve Albertans' access to justice and ensure a sustainable justice system that utilizes court resources and infrastructure efficiently and effectively.
  - ◇ Work with the courts and other stakeholders to develop options and implement strategies for individuals interacting with the justice system who could benefit from targeted services, interventions, and supports where appropriate.

- ◆ Alberta Justice's operating budget is \$773 million in 2026-27, an increase of \$22 million from Budget 2025
- ◆ In 2026-27, the ministry will invest \$9.2 million to enable the Alberta Chief Firearms Office's delivery of the Canadian Firearms Program in Alberta and support of Alberta's law-abiding firearms owners in keeping with its obligation under the *Alberta Firearms Act*.

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- ◆ The Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services business plan identifies several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ In partnership with public safety stakeholders, advance initiatives to address crime and social disorder, including focused work on serious and organized crime, rural crime, drug trafficking, gender-based violence, hate-motivated crime and firearms violence.
  - ◇ Continue to implement strategies to improve the delivery of policing services including support for municipalities and Indigenous communities in the development of alternative models of policing and public safety.
  - ◇ Continue to work with policing, community and ministry partners through evidence-based interventions to support correctional operations and safer communities.
  - ◇ Continue to provide direct and timely supports and services to victims of crime and tragedy, including emergency expenses and recovery.
  - ◇ Continue to collaborate with public safety and community partners to deliver stable and consistent victims services across the province.
  - ◇ Enhance awareness of disaster risks and promote preventative actions among Albertans and their communities.
  - ◇ Strengthen coordination of disaster mitigation, response and recovery through collaboration with emergency management partners, including timely and fiscally responsible administration of disaster financial assistance.
  - ◇ Advance Alberta's emergency management system through continuous improvement and refinement.
- ◆ The Alberta Sheriffs' operating budget has increased from \$156 million in 2025 to \$200.9 million in 2026, including an additional \$36.9 million allocated to the implementation of the new Alberta Sheriffs Police Service.
  - ◇ Additionally, \$14.9 million is allocated to the Sheriffs Interdiction Patrol Teams to strengthen actions against human, drug, and weapon smuggling across the United States border. This is a substantial decrease from 2025-26 (\$28.6 million).
  - ◇ Another \$5.5 million is allocated to grants and initiatives to combat human trafficking, which does not appear to comprise a part of the Sheriffs' funding.
- ◆ In 2026-27, the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund is slated to receive a total of \$39.9 million in funding, including \$10.5 million for the Victims of Crime Assistance Program and \$23.1 million for external partner organizations to provide supports and services. This is a modest increase of approximately \$1.1 million over 2025-26.
- ◆ The Police Review Commission, launched in Budget 2025 with \$15.7 million, is slated to receive \$26.4 million in operational funding in 2026-27.
- ◆ In 2026-27, \$4.2 million has been allocated to the Wildland Urban Interface fire program to increase the provincial response to emergencies and disasters.
- ◆ Funding for provincial contract policing has increased slightly from approximately \$397 million in 2025-26 to \$432 million in 2026-27.

- ◆ Funding for law enforcement oversight, which includes specialized policing, is \$22.9 million in 2026-27. This represents a decrease of just under \$1 million from 2025-26.
- ◆ Funding to address organized and serious crime has received a slight increase from \$66.3 million to \$66.9 million.
- ◆ Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) operational funding has increased from \$118.3 million to \$125.1 million.
- ◆ The Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) has been renamed to the Hazard Assistance and Resilience Program (HARP), and remains under the administration of Public Safety and Emergency Services. However, there are no line items in Budget 2026 regarding this updated program, with DRP funding ending in 2025-26.
- ◆ Operational funding for legal services has increased from \$80 million to \$83 million.
- ◆ Operational funding for court and justice services is \$288 million in 2026-27.
- ◆ The Alberta Crown Prosecution Service's operating expenses are expected to increase to \$163 million in 2026-27, \$9 million more than the 2025-26 forecast.

## MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

- ◆ The Ministry of Municipal Affairs identifies several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Continue to engage with industry and municipal stakeholders to modernize the assessment models for regulated property, ensuring the models reflect current construction costs and methods to support fair taxation.
  - ◇ Continue to support cost-effective municipal service delivery and provide programs, grants, and resources that promote regional collaboration, asset management, and municipal viability.
  - ◇ Collaborate with municipalities and municipal associations to develop tools, resources, and training to support well-managed, and accountable municipalities, including reviewing and providing recommendations to ensure Albertans are served by viable communities.
  - ◇ Strengthen municipal fiscal responsibility by exploring ways to limit excessive property tax increases for businesses and residents, protecting residents from specialized municipal taxes, and promoting transparent compensation practices for municipal officials to ensure taxpayer dollars are being respected.
  - ◇ Provide fair, timely, and well-reasoned decisions and recommendations for matters brought before the Land and Property Rights Tribunal.
- ◆ \$860 million is allocated in 2026-2027 for the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), representing a decrease from \$880 million in 2025-2026:
  - ◇ The LGFF capital component declines from \$820 million to \$799.7 million.
  - ◇ LGFF operating component remains at \$60 million.
  - ◇ Total LGFF funding is expected to increase to \$955 million in 2026-2027, in line with changes to provincial revenues as per the *Local Government Fiscal Framework Act*.
- ◆ Alberta expects to receive \$276.2 million from the Canada Community-Building Fund in 2026-27, the same as 2025-26. The province expects this amount to increase to \$287.2 million in 2027-28.
- ◆ Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) funding decreased from \$15.4 million in 2024-25 to \$13.4 million in 2025-26. It is budgeted to decline again to \$10.6 million in 2026-27, with the same \$10.6 million level budgeted for 2027-28 and 2028-29.

- ◆ Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) increased from \$55.3 million in 2025-26 to \$75.3 million in 2026-27, reflecting the province's shift to resume GIPOT coverage for 100% of the eligible property tax amounts. GIPOT is expected to remain at 100% in 2027-28 and 2028-29, with funding projected at \$79.3 million in both years.
- ◆ Education property tax (EPT) rates will increase in 2026, rising to \$2.84 per \$1,000 of equalized assessment for residential/farmland property and \$4.17 per \$1,000 for non-residential property. This reflects a 7.2% increase in education-related operating costs, with government indicating that EPT will be raised to cover one-third of these expenses. As a result, the amount of EPT collected is projected to grow from last year's \$3.1 billion to \$3.6 billion in 2026-27, further increasing to \$3.8 billion in both 2027-28 and 2028-29.
- ◆ Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT) funding has increased slightly from \$8 million in 2025-2026 to \$8.6 million in 2026-2027.
- ◆ The Safety Codes Council is budgeted \$21.2 million, up from \$20 million in 2025-2026.
- ◆ Although not reported on in Budget 2026, RMA expects that the Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) funding will be maintained for 2026-27. RMA will confirm this with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.
- ◆ Funding for the Designated Industrial Zone Pilot Project, intended to provide new infrastructure to support economic growth in the Industrial Heartland, decreased from \$18 million in 2025-26 to \$10 million in 2026-27.
- ◆ Public library service funding decreased from \$39 million to \$33.7 million.

## ASSISTED LIVING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- ◆ The business plan for the Ministry of Assisted Living and Social Services includes several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Collaborate with other ministry, federal and municipal partners to remove barriers and incentivize the construction of new homes and rental units.
  - ◇ Work with seniors lodge providers to improve operations, enhance resident experience and expand seniors lodges and facilities to meet increased demand.
  - ◇ Support municipalities and Metis Settlements to design and deliver preventive social programs which help to address key social issues in their communities.
  - ◇ Modernize and transform the continuing care system to improve quality of care, increase technology use and innovation, shift to enable provision of more care in the community and support the continuing care workforce.
  - ◇ Continue the transformation of assisted living services to include comprehensive wraparound supports, including medical and non-medical supports, home care, community care and social services, to ensure older adults and vulnerable populations can maintain their quality of life and independence.
  - ◇ Recognize the contributions of seniors and support their independence and well-being by funding community-based senior-serving organizations that provide home and community supports, such as assisted transportation, social programming and navigation supports, to help them age well.
- ◆ Grants for senior-serving organizations to develop and deliver programming for seniors to age in their homes and prevent elder abuse have decreased substantially from \$6.5 million in 2025-26 to \$2.5 million in 2026-27.
- ◆ Budget 2026 allocates \$648 million to build, renew, maintain, and operate affordable housing in Alberta through the government-supported affordable housing programs. This is a modest increase from \$641.2 million in Budget 2025.

- ◆ Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding remains steady at \$105 million.

## SERVICE ALBERTA AND RED TAPE REDUCTION

- ◆ The Ministry of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction business plan includes several objectives relevant to the RMA's members, including:
  - ◇ Work with partner ministries and stakeholders to modernize registry systems and services to ensure Albertans continue to receive efficient and effective services.
  - ◇ Lead government-wide efforts to reduce permit decision times for Albertans and Alberta businesses, through improved processes and enhanced communication, to support economic development.
  - ◇ Enhance legislation and regulations to support the effective governance and operations of condominium communities, including the establishment of a condominium tribunal.
  - ◇ Support government transparency and Albertans' timely access to Government of Alberta records
- ◆ In 2026-27, \$70.9 million, representing an overall increase of \$8.5 million over Budget 2025, is allocated to maintain and modernize Land Titles services, Motor Vehicles, and other registry systems to help ensure that Albertans are receiving timely and efficient services.
  - ◇ Of that amount, \$25.2 million is allocated to transition the Land Titles Office to the modernized Alberta Registries for Land Online System.
- ◆ In 2026-27, \$10.8 million is allocated to access to information services to support the Government of Alberta in being open, accessible, and accountable.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- ◆ The business plan for Technology and Innovation includes several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Strengthen privacy protections for Albertans by introducing new privacy legislation.
  - ◇ Build capability and modernize infrastructure and service delivery approaches to create a stronger, more efficient government that delivers better, faster, smarter, and safer services that are accessible to more Albertans.
  - ◇ Lead government's implementation of the Alberta Technology and Innovation Strategy to support Alberta's economic diversification by optimizing Alberta's technology and innovation ecosystem, creating and retaining jobs, attracting investment, and working with industry, academia, and government to grow and scale up companies in the province's technology sector.
  - ◇ Finalize Alberta's AI data centre attraction strategy to enhance investment attractiveness with stable, affordable electricity and fair returns for Albertans.
  - ◇ Enable co-investment in technology companies for the purpose of maximizing returns for Albertans, with Alberta Enterprise Corporation and Alberta Innovates.
- ◆ In 2026-27, \$183 million, an increase of \$76.8 million over Budget 2025, is allocated to continue implementing Alberta's Broadband Strategy to ensure all Albertans have access to reliable, high-speed internet. This now includes access to satellite technologies.
- ◆ In 2026-27, \$141 million is allocated to Alberta Innovates to continue to drive high-tech innovation and commercialization, to develop new technology that will improve industry competitiveness and to support small-and-medium-sized businesses in commercializing their technology. This is a decrease of around \$60 million from 2025-2026.

## TOURISM AND SPORT

- ◆ The business plan for the Ministry of Tourism and Sport includes several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Continue implementation of Alberta's long-term Higher Ground Tourism Sector Strategy with a goal of growing the province's visitor economy to \$25 billion in annual visitor expenditures by 2035.
  - ◇ Implement the *All-Season Resorts Act* by expanding opportunities for sustainable tourism in the Alberta's Rockies with a special focus on the Kananaskis, Crowsnest Pass, David Thompson, and Grande Cache regions.
- ◆ \$75.2 million is allocated to Travel Alberta to grow Alberta's tourism industry.
- ◆ \$9 million is available through the Active Communities Initiative to support the development of small to mid-sized sport and recreation facilities.

## TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

- ◆ The business plan for the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors includes several objectives relevant to RMA members, including:
  - ◇ Plan the multi-year replacement of a set of aging bridges which are vital to rural Alberta.
  - ◇ Invest in vital projects to advance local bridge infrastructure, regional water and wastewater systems, and mobility options such as transit.
  - ◇ Investigate and implement alternative funding opportunities supporting economic investment in the province.
  - ◇ Develop and maintain critical water management infrastructure, such as the Springbank Reservoir project and future Ghost Reservoir Infrastructure Project, to enhance resilience from current and future hazards.
- ◆ \$265.6 million is allocated over three years (2026-27 to 2028-29) under the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program and dedicated grants to municipalities toward road and bridge improvements and airport upgrades. This is a significant decrease from Budget 2025, which allocated \$344.9 million over three years. Budget 2026 allocates only \$29.3 million to STIP in 2026-2027 – almost \$10 million less than the amount allocated in Budget 2025.
- ◆ Provincial highway maintenance and major rehabilitation funding has increased from \$482.8 to \$497.3 million, and provincial bridge construction allocation has increased from \$120.9 million to \$125 million.
- ◆ Municipal water infrastructure grant programs are increasing from \$121 million to over \$175 million:
  - ◇ Funding for the Municipal Water and Wastewater Program has increased from \$44.6 million in 2025-26 to over \$63 million in 2026-27. However, this still remains far less than Budget 2023, which provided the program with \$85.7 million.
  - ◇ Funding for Water for Life is estimated to be \$97.6 million in 2026-27, which represents a significant increase from the 2025-26 amount of \$51.3 million.
  - ◇ Funding for the First Nations Water Tie-in Program has more than doubled, from \$7.5 million in 2025-26 to over \$15 million in 2026-27.
- ◆ Despite increases to existing water infrastructure grant programs, Budget 2026 includes no updates on the Integrated Water Program (IWP), which was initially announced by

Transportation and Economic Corridors in Spring 2025 as a new, consolidated funding stream intended to address gaps in current programs by supporting water and wastewater infrastructure for residential, industrial, and agricultural users. Given the program's goal of expanding eligibility beyond primarily residential systems, its absence from the budget leaves uncertainty around timelines and future support for non-residential water infrastructure needs.