

Budget 2019 Highlights from Minister Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women

Good afternoon,

Today, the Alberta government released Budget 2019. Budget 2019 is a balanced plan to create jobs, grow the economy and protect vital services. It charts a path back to balance through targeted reductions – and thoughtful reallocations away from wasteful, inefficient and unnecessary spending. I understand this tough fiscal situation may create new challenges for government-funded organizations; but I have faith we can all look within our organizations and be creative to find cost savings while continuing to provide the best service to Albertans.

I have directed Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women to look inside our own house to find ways to bring us back to balance. Budget 2019 shows some of the efforts we are making to continue investing in our communities while being fiscally responsible. One example is consolidating Alberta Sport Connection and the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation into government. This creates cost savings and will realize operational efficiencies.

Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women's operating budget 2019-20 is \$276.5 million.

Highlights of Budget 2019 include:

- \$94.4 million in grant funding for community and voluntary support services. This includes \$23.5 million for the Community Initiatives Program and \$11.2 million for Major Fairs. The Other Initiatives Program provides \$1.5 million in funding.
- \$60.6 million allocated to support local heritage preservation and the province's museums, archives and historic sites.
- \$86.2 million to the arts and creative industries, which includes \$28.4 million to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, \$46.7 million to the Alberta Media Fund, and \$8.1 million to Cultural Industries.
- \$24.4 million to support sport, recreation and physical activity programs that will help encourage Albertans to enjoy a healthy, more active lifestyle while creating new economic opportunities for our communities.
- \$1.5 million for the Francophone Secretariat, which includes additional federal funding, towards the continued development and implementation of Alberta's French Policy.
- \$4.9 million for Status of Women and Multiculturalism.
- Budget 2019 provides \$13.3 million in Support for Culture Infrastructure supporting expansion of the TELUS World of Science (\$4 million in 2019, for an overall project contribution of \$12 million), Winspear Centre (\$4.3 million in 2019, for an overall project contribution of \$13 million) and Vivo for Healthier Generations facility (\$5 million in 2019, for an overall project contribution of \$15 million).

Full budget details are available on alberta.ca. You can also read about the new business plan on the Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women website, which outlines the ministry's priorities over the next four years. We remain committed to supporting the efforts of our industry and community partners to realize the full potential of our culture sector.

Leela Sharon Aheer
Minister Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women