



MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY

Government of Alberta Budget 2020

On February 27, 2020, Finance Minister Travis Toews presented the Government of Alberta's Budget 2020-21, *A Plan for Jobs and the Economy*. This budget continues the government's plan outlined in Budget 2019-20, whose overarching theme was to bring Alberta's spending in line with revenues by reducing redundancy and finding efficiencies across all government departments.

For the Alberta Museums Association (AMA), Budget 2020-21 implements reductions that were projected in the 2019 budget. Funding for Provincial Heritage Organizations, including the AMA, will be reduced by 11% for 2020-21. This additional decrease has had the cumulative effect of reducing funding to the AMA by approximately 18% since 2019.

For programs accessed by our membership across the province, Budget 2020-21 maintained funding levels for the Community Facility Enhancement Program and reduced funding to the Community Initiatives Program by 16%. Funding to the Royal Alberta Museum was adjusted to reflect the operating costs of their new facility, resulting in a reduction of 21%. While this budget commits \$40 million in capital funding over the next three years for the Glenbow Revitalization project, the Glenbow's operational funding was reduced by 25%. The Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology maintained near 2019 funding levels, while the Provincial Archives received a 2% increase.

Budget 2020-21 also emphasized the government's commitment to creating opportunities for arts and culture organizations to collaborate with and generate support from philanthropists and private businesses. It highlights the work being done within the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism to develop a ten-year strategy that addresses the need to build capacity of communities, businesses, and government stakeholders to support and grow tourism. Recognizing the importance of the museum sector as a driver of tourism, the AMA looks forward to actively engaging with the Ministry to fully support our members' ability to capitalize on these opportunities for museums and heritage institutions to build partnerships that increase their sustainability.

Overall for the AMA, Budget 2020-21 signifies that, as an association, we will need to do things differently. We will not be able to maintain the same range of programs and services that we have traditionally provided to the Alberta museum community. In the short-term, we will be implementing interim measures to adjust, and over the coming months, we will re-evaluate our offerings in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the AMA and ultimately of the museum sector as a whole. We will be responsive, and we will adapt.

The AMA Board of Directors and Secretariat will be seeking input from our membership and key stakeholders regarding how we will move forward as an organization in order to best support the Alberta museum community. And, we will continue to work alongside our membership and government to engage key stakeholders around heritage and heritage resources to ensure that the value of the museum and heritage community continues to be recognized across the province.

The AMA is a proud champion of the museum community in Alberta, and we will continue to partner with the government to ensure there is an understanding of the vital role Alberta's museums have in communities across our province. We also want to encourage our membership to continue to actively engage with your local MLAs, and with elected officials at all levels of government, to ensure they have first-hand experience of your institution and recognize your role in your local community's cultural landscape.

Collectively, we need to ensure that we are demonstrating how museums, all across the province, are leading contributors to the economic, social, and cultural development of Alberta. We encourage you to demonstrate how these changes will impact your museum's capacity to continue to provide accessible cultural opportunities that enrich the lives of everyday Albertans and all visitors to our province.

"I am very grateful for the partnership of the Alberta Museums Association during this fiscally challenging time for our province. Museums provide us with a connection to history, art, culture, education and experience. By working together we can ensure that Albertans and visitors from around the world enjoy our province's museums for generations to come."

- *Hon. Leela Sharon Aheer, Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women*

In closing, we understand that these reductions will have a definite impact on our ability to provide services at the level we are accustomed to. However, as an association, we will be resilient in the face of changing fiscal realities within the province. It is important to note that the heritage and culture community has not been singled out by this government; our funding has been reduced at levels comparable to reductions seen in other sectors and, like our counterparts in the non-profit, charitable, and public sectors, we will respond by finding ways to be innovative in how we move forward to ensure that we are able to support our membership to the very best of our ability.

We will continue to work closely with the Office of the Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women to ensure the needs of our community are clearly communicated, and to ensure that we are working towards a sustainable future for our sector. On behalf of our members, we look forward to working together to support museums as leading contributors to the social, cultural, and economic development of the province.

Budget 2020 by the Numbers

2020 – 2021 BUDGET				
<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	2018 – 2019 Budget	2019 – 2020 Budget	2020 – 2021 Budget	% Change from 2019-20 to 2020-21
Community and Voluntary Support Services				
Community Facility Enhancement Program	\$38,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	0%
Community Initiatives Program	\$25,700	\$23,565	\$19,725	-16%
Heritage				
Royal Alberta Museum	\$16,585	\$16,770	\$13,285	-21%
Royal Tyrrell Museum	\$8,145	\$6,350	\$6,325	-0.4%
Historic Sites and Other Museums	\$11,599	\$11,395	\$9,715	-15%
Provincial Archives	\$3,635	\$3,310	\$3,380	2%
Support to Glenbow Museum	\$3,588	\$3,588	\$2,691	-25%
Heritage Preservation Partnership Programs	\$1,773	\$1,630	\$1,450	-11%
Support for Provincial Heritage Organizations	\$2,080	\$1,915	\$1,705	-11%
Arts				
Assistance to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$29,844	\$28,355	\$26,935	-5%
Tourism				
Travel Alberta	\$44,130	\$41,860	\$37,747	-10%