



# Membership Advisory

## Government of Alberta Budget 2021

On February 25, 2021, Finance Minister Travis Toews presented the Government of Alberta's Budget 2021-22, *Protecting Lives and Livelihoods*. This budget prioritizes measures to ensure healthcare is well resourced to deal with the pandemic, position the economy for growth and recovery, and enable the most efficient delivery of government services.

For the Alberta Museums Association (AMA), Budget 2021-22 restores the funding allocation to the Provincial Heritage Organizations to the pre-pandemic level set in Budget 2020. This funding will now be distributed to six heritage organizations, with the addition of the Francophone Historical Society of Alberta. The Heritage Division also saw reductions in funding to government-operated museums and historic sites, as well as support for the Glenbow Museum. Included below is a breakdown of the funding in Budget 2021-22 for museums and heritage organizations, as well as for programs accessed by our membership across the province.

While this budget restores funding to the 2020 levels, the AMA is continuing to operate on a reduced allocation, putting strain on the programs and services that are offered to support the membership. Moreover, the prolonged closure of museums has had severe and direct impacts on the financial sustainability of our sector, challenges that threaten permanent closures and a loss of heritage and community vitality across our province. In recognition of the particular hardships faced by museums and heritage organizations over the past year, the AMA will also receive supplementary funding of \$216,000 for the 2021-22 fiscal year to enable us to respond to the needs of the sector.

*"The restoration of the AMA's funding to pre-pandemic levels is a testament to the value of museums to Albertans and the government's commitment to supporting Alberta's heritage community. I am pleased to have worked with Minister Aheer over the last year to highlight the needs of our sector and find a path forward."*

*- Meghan Patterson, Executive Director / CEO, Alberta Museums Association*

*"We know that Albertans truly value our province's museums. We also recognize that the Alberta Museums Association will play a key role in the recovery of our province's tourism sector, and this past year was especially challenging for the museums they represent. We thank them for their commitment to preserving Alberta's history, and for their leadership and perseverance."*

*- The Honourable Leela Aheer, Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women*

With Budget 2021-22, the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women has outlined several key initiatives in the Heritage Division that align with the existing work of the AMA and Alberta's museums. These commitments include increasing online accessibility for heritage facilities and their programs and services; improving brand awareness of heritage facilities through cost-effective supports; and leading the stewardship of Alberta's heritage resources. We look forward to partnering with the government on these initiatives to support the sector in these directions.

In addition, the government's commitment to economic diversification includes increased investment in the tourism economy, with a focus on domestic tourism. Budget 2021 allocates approximately \$60 million in funding for Travel Alberta, an increase of 58% over Budget 2020. Museums are key drivers of tourism, and our sector has been working diligently to ensure museums continue to be trusted, safe spaces to explore the history and culture of our province.

Once able to reopen to the public, museums are well positioned to support the revitalization of local and regional tourism economies. Our sector must ensure that we are engaging with our counterparts at Travel Alberta and the Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Innovation to capitalize on these opportunities for museums and heritage organizations to grow tourism in the province and build partnerships that increase our sustainability.

Alberta's museum community has responded to the challenges of the last year with resilience and ingenuity. As we look to the future, the financial stability of the sector will require innovative approaches to generating revenue and leveraging funds. The AMA is continuing to advocate for immediate and ongoing supports necessary to ensure a sustainable path forward.

We encourage all members of Alberta's museum community to keep working with your elected representatives and the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women to advocate for the value of museums in building vibrant communities, as well as preserving and promoting Alberta's heritage. On behalf of our members, we look forward to working together to support museums as leading contributors to the social, cultural, and economic landscape of the province.

<b>2021 - 2022 BUDGET</b>				
<i>Please note: The figures for Budget 2020 - 2021 in this chart reflect the projections in February 2020, and do not reflect subsequent changes to funding made during the year.</i>				
<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	<b>2019 - 2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020 - 2021 Budget</b>	<b>2021 - 2022 Budget</b>	<b>% Change from 2020 - 2021 to 2021 - 2022</b>
<b>Community and Voluntary Support Services</b>				
Community Facility Enhancement Program	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$18,500	-26%
Community Initiatives Program	\$23,565	\$19,725	\$37,085	+88%
<b>Heritage</b>				
Royal Alberta Museum	\$16,770	\$13,285	\$11,715	-12%
Royal Tyrrell Museum	\$6,350	\$6,325	\$5,205	-18%
Historic Sites and Other Museums	\$11,395	\$9,715	\$7,630	-21%
Provincial Archives	\$3,310	\$3,380	\$3,250	-4%
Support to Glenbow Museum	\$3,588	\$2,691	\$2,288	-15%
Heritage Preservation Partnership Programs	\$1,630	\$1,450	\$1,450	0%
Support for Provincial Heritage Organizations	\$1,915	\$1,705	\$1,705	0%
<b>Arts</b>				
Assistance to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$28,355	\$26,935	\$25,585	-5%
<b>Tourism</b>				
Travel Alberta	\$41,860	\$37,747	\$59,691	+58%