



Membership Advisory

Government of Alberta Budget 2023

On February 28, 2023, Finance Minister Travis Toews presented the Government of Alberta's Budget 2023, *Securing Alberta's Future*. The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) would like to thank the Government of Alberta for its continued support of the museum community and other heritage organizations. Museums are accessible and welcoming public spaces where Albertans can see themselves in the stories we tell about our province. By providing sustainable funding to the museum and heritage sector, the capacity of civil society to encourage dialogue and foster belonging is strengthened.

The Ministry of Culture's budget for 2023 - 2024 maintains the funding allocation to the Provincial Heritage Organizations at the level set in 2022. While funding levels remain consistent year-over-year, the AMA is continuing to operate on a reduced funding envelope following previous reductions, putting continued strain on the programs and services that are offered to the diverse community of museums and museum professionals that we support. The Heritage Division also saw an increase in funding to the Royal Alberta Museum (\$780,000), an increase to the Historic Sites and Other Museums (\$510,000), and a small decrease to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology (\$205,000).

Funding to the Community Facility Enhancement Program increased substantially (\$11.5 million) to \$50 million, while the allocation to the Community Initiatives Program slightly decreased (\$710,000) to approximately \$20 million. Capital funds have been allocated to TELUS Spark Science Centre (\$9.5 million over three years) for World Class Gallery Development and Reynolds-Alberta Museum (\$1 million) for Storage Warehouse (Wetaskiwin) Planning. The Glenbow Museum, Calgary Stampede Foundation, and Calgary Zoo continue to receive capital funds to support the Glenbow Revitalization (\$59.2 million over two years), SAM Centre (\$1.9 million), and the Canadian Wilds Redevelopment (\$2.6 million), respectively. Included below is a breakdown of the funding in the 2023 - 2024 budget for museums and heritage organizations.

Museums are at the heart of our small towns and big cities, essential participants in creating the vibrant, inclusive, and active communities that make our province a great place to live, work, and play. Museums and the broader heritage sector have an important part to play in affirming Alberta's unique cultural identity and the ongoing supports and investment reflected in Budget 2023 are important to ensure a sustainable path forward for the sector. As we look toward the future, the AMA will continue to advocate for our sector and support the diverse ways museums across Alberta contribute to building community and advancing culture for social good.

For more information on the role museums will play in sharing and celebrating Alberta's unique cultural identity and heritage, please see the [Minister of Culture's mandate letter](#).

2023 – 2024 BUDGET				
<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	2021 – 2022 Budget	2022 – 2023 Budget	2023 – 2024 Budget	% Change from 2022 – 2023 to 2023 – 2024
Community and Voluntary Support Services				
Community Facility Enhancement Program	\$18,500	\$38,500	\$50,000	+29.9%
Community Initiatives Program	\$37,085	\$20,735	\$20,025	-3.4%
Heritage				
Royal Alberta Museum	\$11,715	\$10,260	\$11,040	+7.6%
Royal Tyrrell Museum	\$5,205	\$6,975	\$6,770	-2.9%
Historic Sites and Other Museums	\$7,630	\$7,865	\$8,375	+6.5%
Provincial Archives	\$3,250	\$3,210	\$3,330	+3.7%
Support to Glenbow Museum	\$2,288	\$2,288	\$2,288	0.0%
Historic Resources Management	\$5,120	\$5,090	\$5,250	+3.1%
Heritage Preservation Partnership Programs	\$1,450	\$1,450	\$1,450	0.0%
Support for Provincial Heritage Organizations	\$1,705	\$1,705	\$1,705	0.0%
Arts				
Assistance to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$25,585	\$25,585	\$25,585	0.0%
Tourism				
Travel Alberta	\$59,691	\$59,925	\$72,156	+20.4%