



# Membership Advisory

## Government of Alberta Budget 2024

On February 29, 2024, Finance Minister Nate Horner presented the Government of Alberta's Budget 2024. The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) would like to thank the Government of Alberta for its continued support of the museum community. Museums are accessible and welcoming public spaces where Albertans can see themselves in the stories we tell about our province.

The Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women's budget for 2024 - 2025 saw an increase in funding to the Heritage Division for the Royal Alberta Museum (\$1,400,000), Historic Sites and Other Museums (\$585,000), and the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology (\$90,000). Funding to the Community Facility Enhancement Program was maintained at \$50 million, while the allocation to the Community Initiatives Program decreased (\$1,500,000) to approximately \$16 million. The Glenbow Museum, and TELUS Spark Science Centre continue to receive capital funds to support the Glenbow Revitalization (\$24.6 million) and World Class Gallery Development (\$6.3 million over 2 years), respectively. No new capital funds for other museums were announced. Included below is a breakdown of the funding in the 2024 - 2025 budget for museums and heritage organizations.

The budget maintains the funding allocation to the Provincial Heritage Organizations at the level set in 2021. The stagnation of funding over the past four years follows recent reductions to the Provincial Heritage Organizations funding envelope in 2019, and again in 2020. As a result, the AMA continues to operate on a reduced funding envelope putting continued strain on the programs and services that are offered to the diverse community of museums and museum professionals that we support.

Museums are at the heart of our communities, essential participants in creating the great quality of life that has attracted more people to choose Alberta as a place to raise their families. Museums and the broader heritage sector have an important part to play in shaping and reflecting Alberta's unique character, and investment from the Government of Alberta is important to ensure a sustainable path forward for the sector.

Budget 2024 will have an impact on the AMA's ability to offer the programs and services that our members require. Fifteen years ago, in 2009, the AMA received a \$2,000,000 annual allotment from the provincial government. In 2023, that allotment was \$1,370,000 and remains unchanged for the 2024 - 2025 budget year. Inflationary pressures paired with stagnant funding will impact the ability of the Association to provide grants at the level we have previously. The grants we do provide are consistently oversubscribed and already do not meet the needs of museums in Alberta.

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, Arts, and Status of Women's mandate letter](#).

<b>2024 - 2025 BUDGET</b>				
<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	<b>2022 - 2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 - 2024 Budget</b>	<b>2024 - 2025 Budget</b>	<b>% Change from 2023 - 2024 to 2024 - 2025</b>
<b>Community and Voluntary Support Services</b>				
Community Facility Enhancement Program	\$38,500	\$50,000	\$50,000	+0.0%
Community Initiatives Program	\$20,735	\$17,525	\$16,025	-8.6%
<b>Heritage</b>				
Royal Alberta Museum	\$10,260	\$11,040	\$12,440	+7.6%
Royal Tyrrell Museum	\$6,975	\$6,770	\$6,860	+1.3%
Historic Sites and Other Museums	\$7,865	\$8,375	\$8,960	+7.0%
Provincial Archives	\$3,210	\$3,330	\$3,410	+2.4%
Support to Glenbow Museum	\$2,288	\$2,288	\$2,288	0.0%
Historic Resources Management	\$5,090	\$5,250	5,405	+3.0%
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%
<b>Arts</b>				
Assistance to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$25,585	\$25,585	\$30,085	+17.6%
<b>Tourism</b>				
Travel Alberta	\$59,925	\$72,156	\$79,498	+10.2%