



Membership Advisory

Government of Alberta Budget 2026

On February 26, 2026, Finance Minister Nate Horner presented the Government of Alberta’s Budget 2026. The theme of the Budget, *Focusing on what matters*, reflects the difficult fiscal position of the Alberta government, and proposes significant deficit spending with minimal reductions to key social services.

Funding for major provincial institutions and heritage services saw moderate increases of approximately 6.8% to 11%; however, the overall operating expenses of the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women have decreased by 9%. Some of the budget lines impacted by this reduction are as follows: Provincial Heritage Organizations (9% reduction), the Heritage Preservation Partnership Programs (8.3% reduction), and the Community Initiatives Program (2.9% reduction). As was anticipated in last year’s Capital Budget, the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) has decreased from \$50 million to \$25 million. See chart below for details.

The Business Plan for the Ministry outlines their outcomes for the year, including a commitment to ensuring that Alberta’s culture is built on strong communities and a shared and celebrated history.¹ Albertans continue to demonstrate strong engagement with the heritage sector, with 61% of adults visiting a heritage facility or site in 2024-2025. This high level of participation reflects the important role museums, archives, and historic sites play in ensuring culturally vibrant and engaged communities across the province.

The Alberta Museums Association continues to work in partnership with the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women to support the museum sector and to advocate for stable, sustainable funding that enables Alberta’s heritage community to thrive. We remain committed to advocating for sustained and predictable investment, ensuring Alberta’s museums have the necessary resources to support public engagement, research, preservation efforts, and the long-term viability of Alberta’s cultural landscape.

	2026 - 2027 BUDGET			
(thousands of dollars)	2024 - 2025 Budget	2025 - 2026 Budget	2026 - 2027 Budget	% Change from 2025 - 2026 to 2026 - 2027
	Community and Voluntary Support Services			
Community Facility Enhancement Program*	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	-50.0%
Community Initiatives Program	\$16,025	\$14,025	\$13,625	-2.9%
	Heritage			
Royal Alberta Museum	\$12,440	\$12,640	\$13,850	9.6%

¹ Government of Alberta, *Business Plan 2026-29: Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women* (Edmonton: Government of Alberta, 2026), page 27, <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/148e717e-ea65-42e7-8a3d-53cd3d50df56/resource/be05956d-3afd-4fe7-9faf-08fb9f72b198/download/acsw-business-plan-2026-29.pdf>

Royal Tyrrell Museum	\$6,860	\$6,950	\$7,720	6.8%
Historic Sites and Other Museums	\$8,960	\$9,105	\$10,020	10.0%
Provincial Archives	\$3,410	\$3,470	\$3,850	11.0%
Support to Glenbow Museum**	\$2,288	\$0	0	0%
Historic Resources Management	\$5,405	\$5,500	\$6,105	11%
Heritage Preservation Partnership Programs	\$1,450	\$1,450	\$1,185	-18.3%
Support for Provincial Heritage Organizations	\$1,705	\$1,705	\$1,551	-9.0%
	Arts			
Assistance to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts*	\$30,085	\$34,585	\$38,085	10.1%
	Tourism			
Travel Alberta	\$79,498	\$75,248	\$75,248	0%

* Funding decrease was anticipated in the 2025-26 Capital Budget.

** Support to Glenbow Museum was moved out of the Heritage budget line in 2025 and into the Assistance to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts budget line.