

OVERVIEW

BUDGET 2012 Investing in People

3

key facts
about
Budget
2012

1. Increased investment in families, communities, education and supports for the vulnerable
2. No tax increases
3. Balanced budget projected by 2013-14

Revenue

\$40.3 billion

- Up \$1.8 billion from 2011-12 forecast, largely due to higher tax revenue stemming from economic growth, federal transfers and investment income

Expense

\$41.1 billion

- Total expense up \$1.3 billion from 2011-12 forecast largely due to about 75% of operating budget being invested in health, education and human services
- \$16.5 billion in public infrastructure over 3 years

Deficit

\$886 million

- Down \$432 million from 2011-12 forecast
- Forecast \$5.2 billion surplus by 2014-15

Sustainability Fund

\$3.7 billion (current balance)

- Alberta's short-term savings account, built up with money from past surpluses
- Covers the deficit

SPENDING HIGHLIGHTS

Investing in families and communities

- \$100 million a year to improve access to primary health care and mental health services, including the introduction of Family Care Clinics to provide Albertans a variety of health services under one roof - three clinics to open in 2012.
- \$400 per month increase in the maximum monthly living allowance for about 46,000 Albertans who use the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program.
- \$110 million to decrease homelessness in Alberta, including the creation of an interagency council that will provide outreach support services, housing for 1,800 homeless, and over 3,100 shelter spaces.
- 90 new RCMP officers and 55 new sheriffs to be hired across Alberta by 2013-14.

Investing in students and research

- 14 new k-12 schools will be opening their doors this year, meaning 10,000 more children will be able to go to school in their own neighbourhood.
- \$34 million invested in k-12 students every school day.
- \$200 million for student financial assistance providing for Alberta's student debt management programs; scholarships; bursaries and grants.
- \$25 million to increase support for scientific research through an expanded, more competitive tax credit.

Investing in world-leading resource stewardship

- \$11 million to help deliver a comprehensive environmental monitoring program in the oil sands region, to assure Albertans we are developing our resources responsibly.
- \$540 million over three years in Green TRIP funding to make public transit more accessible and advance Alberta's leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- \$24 million to grow Alberta's presence internationally to ensure better market access for our products.
- \$750,000 to fund the operation of the new research greenhouse facilities in Brooks, the Crop Diversification Centre – South.