

1. How much has the government spent on telephone town halls to date?

In Fiscal Year 2016-17 Executive Council spent \$184,392.12 on telephone town halls; all related to the Wood Buffalo Wildfire.

Executive Council's reporting for Fiscal Year 2016-17 does not include the government-wide figure for spending by departments on telephone town halls. As the service bureau for Government's department communications branches, the Public Affairs Bureau will often assist in the acquisition of contract services, but may not be privy to all costs incurred or the final details of a contract.

Individual departments would be able to provide details on their communications activities.

2. Referencing the government-produced ads respecting companies such as Enmax and Capital Power while the government was involved in legal proceedings against these companies, is it not the role of the Public Affairs Bureau to advise other ministries with respect to their public affairs and communications?

As part of its role as the service bureau for department communications branches, the Public Affairs Bureau advises other ministries on public affairs and communications activities.

3. Please provide detailed user and subscription information for McDougall Centre.

Executive Council, through the Protocol Office, manages the bookings for McDougall Centre based on the following parameters:

Use of the conference and meeting facilities, with the exception of Caucus and Cabinet, will be allotted as follows:

- o The Premier of Alberta
- o The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta
- o Government of Alberta ministerial level meetings
- o High level international meetings
- o Federal/Provincial meetings and conferences at the ministerial level
- o Interprovincial meetings at the ministerial level
- o Alberta Protocol Office
- o Government party caucus meetings
- o GOA Ministerial meetings
- o Government commissions and ministerial advisory boards
- o Not for Profit groups meeting criteria outlined in Non-profit usage guidelines

Space is managed with the understanding that precedence be given to the Premier, Lieutenant Governor, and Ministers.

The usage for McDougall Centre has changed over time. In 2012/13, non-government organizations with offices in McDougall Centre (i.e. Calgary Homeless) were moved out of the building. These spaces were retrofitted into meeting/conference and office space. During this time the priority was for Premier's usage. However, there were opportunities for Deputy

Minister level meetings within the facility. Since that time, the usage has been expanded and is available to all GoA Ministries.

Information on the utilization of the facility is included in the response to question five below.

4. **Has Executive Council ever conducted a study into the feasibility of allowing private Members, particularly government Members but all private Members in general, to use the facilities at McDougall Centre?**

Executive Council has not conducted a study into the feasibility of allowing Private Members to use Government facilities (i.e. McDougall Centre). Executive Council manages the Government meeting and conference spaces (McDougall Centre, Government House, and the 10th and 11th Floors of the Edmonton Federal Building). These spaces have space booking policies, and these policies focus on usage by Government of Alberta Ministers and Ministries. Premier and Ministers take priority and can and have bumped other GoA users from space when necessary.

The Legislative Assembly Office of Alberta(LAO) addresses the needs of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. LAO space within GoA facilities are controlled entirely by LAO staff.

5. **Can Executive Council provide a utilization report for McDougall Centre, and how greater utilization might help to reduce both government and other legislative organizational costs?**

Executive Council has been working to increase the utilization of all three venues (McDougall Centre, Government House, and the 10th and 11th Floors of the Edmonton Federal Building) managed by the Protocol Office. Staff within Executive Council continue to work with Ministries to encourage the usage of these spaces. In the past year, each venue has seen an increase in utilization; currently Executive Council cannot meet the demand for space in EFB.

The usage for McDougall Centre for the past 3 years

- **Numbers of Visitors**
 - 2014/15 14,442
 - 2015/16 13,572
 - 2016/17 15,012 (Data to March 15, 2017)
- **Number of Meetings**
 - 2014/15 763
 - 2015/16 507
 - 2016/17 844 (Data to March 15, 2017)
- **McDougall Centre usage for Mon-Fri work days shows an increase over previous years.**
 - 2014/15 87%
 - 2015/16 84%
 - 2016/17 91%
- **Based on annual available work days McDougall Centre has an average of 3.44 meetings per day and in excess of 60 visitors per day.**

- 6. What justification was there for the significant jump in compensation from the previous position of Deputy Chief of Policy Coordination, noted as a Deputy Minister position in the annual report notes on the transition, to the current position of Deputy Minister of Policy Coordination?**

In August 2015, OC 175/2015 authorized an additional Deputy Minister for the President of Executive Council to be designated as the Deputy Minister of Policy Coordination Office. As a result, the previous positions of Deputy Chief, Policy Coordination Office and Associate Deputy Minister Policy Coordination Office were eliminated.

Pay for the position is in accordance with the approved pay rates for a Deputy Minister.

The scope of positions within Executive Council are modified as required and based on needs and demands to support the implementation of government priorities. The position was made a Deputy Minister level to reflect the increased degree of accountability for leading the Policy Coordination Office.

The Policy Coordination Office plays a leadership role working with the Premier's and ministers' offices, as well as ministry staff, to develop high-quality policy documents for the consideration of Cabinet Committees and Cabinet.

The head of the Policy Coordination Office engages directly with Deputy Ministers and Ministers (and their offices), so the level of responsibility aligns with the leadership position.

- 7. What was the total amount spent on the 110 advertising campaigns referred to in the annual report?**

In 2015-16 the Public Affairs Bureau coordinated \$6.3 million in advertising expenditures on behalf of the departments.

- 8. What progress has been made with respect to key files within Intergovernmental Relations?**

a. Federal-Provincial Relations

Since April 2016, Premier Notley has met with Prime Minister Trudeau on four occasions:

- In April 2016, the Premier was invited to speak at the Federal Cabinet Retreat in Kananaskis. To our knowledge, this was the first time any Premier in Canada has been asked to speak to the entire federal Cabinet.
- In May 2016, following the Fort McMurray wildfires, the Prime Minister came to Alberta. They had the opportunity to discuss recovery efforts, and the Premier Minister also announced the expansion of EI benefits to Edmonton area residents, for which the government had been advocating.

- In November 2016, she was in Ottawa with the Prime Minister for the announcement that the federal government had approved the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline and Enbridge's Line 3.
- In December 2016, the Prime Minister and Premiers held a First Ministers' Meeting. They released the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. The Framework is a collaborative document that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage economic growth. It builds on the important work we have already undertaken here in Alberta.
- In addition to these in-person meetings, the Prime Minister and the Premier have had a number of phone calls, including a recent call regarding the new U.S. administration and its implications for Canada.

b. Interprovincial Relations

- Alberta remains actively engaged with other provinces and territories across Canada. Over the past year, there has been:
 - 11 bilateral meetings with other Premiers
 - 3 multilateral Premiers meetings, such as the Council of the Federation and the Western Premiers Conference.
- Establishing and maintaining open lines of communication is part of a solid foundation for sound relationships with other jurisdictions in Canada. And Alberta has seen the benefits – from the emerging agreement on carbon pricing, to the immediate and heartfelt offers of help from coast to coast to coast when the wild fires struck Fort McMurray.
- Alberta will host the 2017 Council of the Federation summer meeting. The Council of the Federation is an important forum for raising and resolving intergovernmental issues.

c. Market Access and Trade

- Energy market access is critical to the future of our country and to the well-being of every Albertan. Pipelines build a strong Alberta with a strong economy.
- The government has taken steps to address climate change and worked with other provinces to create conditions that support pipeline expansion.
- In November, the Prime Minister announced that the federal government, recognizing the significance of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan, had approved both the Trans-Mountain and the Enbridge Line 3 pipelines.

- Building strong trade and investment relationships is essential to creating jobs and diversifying the Alberta economy. In the past year, two significant advancements related to the Canada Free Trade Agreement and the New West Partnership have been achieved.
- After years of negotiation on a new internal trade agreement, Premiers reached an agreement in principle at the Council of the Federation Meeting in Whitehorse, in July 2016.
- Since then, officials have been working through a legal scrub of the agreement, which will be signed on April 7th.
- In November, Premier Notley announced that Manitoba had joined the New West Partnership Trade Agreement, strengthening and expanding Canada's largest, barrier-free interprovincial market.

9. What were the highlights of the work of the Policy Coordination Office during 2015-16?

The Policy Coordination Office achieved the following in the 2015-16 fiscal year:

- provided secretariat services to Cabinet's Policy Committees between May 2015 and March 31, 2016, including:
 - 14 Economic Development Policy Committee meetings
 - 14 Legislative Review Committee meetings (as of October 2015)
 - 5 Municipal Governance Committee meetings
 - 14 Social Policy Committee meetings
 - 1 Climate Leadership Policy Committee meeting (Committee was established in March 2016)
- Supported 38 Cabinet meetings.
- Worked with ministries, the Government House Leader, and the Premier's Office to coordinate the preparation of 24 Bills (5 in Fall Session 2015; 19 in Spring Session 2016) for introduction in the Legislature. This was made possible in part by absorption of former "Regulatory Review Secretariat" into PCO organization and PCO's subsequent Secretariat of the Legislative Review Committee.
- Absorbed former Regulatory Review Secretariat functions and 4 FTEs into PCO structure and business in October 2015:
 - Enabled PCO's assumption of Secretariat services to Legislative Review Committee
 - Resulted in PCO facilitation of 160 Regulations (including associated Orders in Council)
- Redeveloped Policy InSite website for internal GOA staff use – averages approximately 1200 visits per month since website traffic measurement was initiated (Fall 2016)
- Presented a "Cabinet Decision Making" education session to several internal to GOA training sessions and teams – have made presentation available to all GOA staff on Policy InSite website.

10. Does the Ministry consider satisfaction surveys to be an appropriate tool to measure performance or achievement of the current or future ministry business plans?

Yes, as a provider of central services to other departments, Executive Council relies on anonymous satisfaction surveys to honestly and quantitatively measure performance as viewed by our department client's year-over-year.

At the request of the Premier, Executive Council will be augmenting these metrics with additional performance measures that relate to Executive Council's outward facing functions. Measurements are being piloted for areas such as FOIP compliance, correspondence response time and the effectiveness of government communications.