

Ministry of Seniors and Housing
Written Submissions for December 5, 2017 Appearance

- 1. How many of the 4,700 total units, that were either owned or supported lodges, have sprinklers been installed in – as was announced with the program originally?**
 - As of December 4, 2017, sprinkler upgrades were completed in a total of 2,267 government owned or supported lodge units under the Health and Safety (Sprinkler) program.

- 2. How many net new affordable housing units were delivered during the 2016-17 fiscal year? How many will be delivered this year?**
 - As stated in the Annual Report on Page 22, 10 projects were substantially completed and occupied resulting in 340 net new.

- 3. How many seniors are waiting for assessment for the Alberta Seniors Benefit Program today?**
 - 2,667 Seniors Financial Assistance applications were awaiting review as of December 13, 2017.

- 4. For the seniors' tax deferral: could we obtain the annual household participation broken down from its inception in 2013 to present?**
 - Loan disbursements have increased each year since the Seniors Property Tax Deferral program was introduced in 2013. Table 1 (attachment 2) provides a monthly and annual breakdown of loans disbursed between 2013 and 2017.

- 5. For the seniors' home adaptation program: could we obtain:
A monthly breakdown of applicants who have received funds since its inception in July 2016;
Total funding that has been allocated since its inception; and
The department's annual target year and whether it is meeting this target?**
 - Table 2 (attachment 2) provides a monthly breakdown of loan and grant disbursements since 2016 (does not include accrual).
 - Table 2 (attachment) provides the total funding that was allocated to the Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair Program (SHARP). It does not include accrual.
 - For the current year, SHARP has a budget of \$10.2 million for loans and is on target to issue approximately \$9.8 million in loans.
 - As this is a regulated program, annual budgets are closely monitored to ensure the program is able to respond should demand increase.

- 6. What is the average wait time for an individual seeking assessment for a senior benefit program in 2016-17 compared to 2015-2016? How many seniors are waiting for an assessment for the program today?**
- Average processing times in 2015-16 were 35 working days or 7 weeks.
 - Average processing times in 2016-17 were 45 working days or 9 weeks.
 - 2,667 Seniors Financial Assistance applications were awaiting review as of December 13, 2017.
- 7. Please elaborate on the 25-week wait time. How many seniors received support through the Alberta Seniors Benefit Program in 2016-17 and 2015-16? How many seniors applied to the program in 2016?**
- Processing times for Alberta Seniors Benefit (ASB) vary depending on the time of year information is received and whether an application contains all required supporting documents.
 - The following amounts include seniors who received ASB for only part of the year, (e.g., seniors who have moved out of the province or have passed away).
 - 168,579 seniors received ASB in 2015-16.
 - 170,314 seniors received ASB in 2016-17.
 - 15,830 seniors applied for ASB between April 2016 and March 2017.
- 8. We have heard that there have been some requests for handing over of ownership of supported but not owned lodges to the public: Could you please explain the objectives behind that request to some of those lodges?**
- The department has not requested that any buildings owned by municipalities or housing management bodies be turned over to the Alberta Social Housing Corporation (ASHC).
 - *Capital Plan 2016* allocated capital investment funding toward replacing or building new affordable housing, including lodges. As a result, the department met with all of the housing management bodies to ask whether they had concerns that the new buildings would be owned by ASHC.
 - Most housing management bodies noted no concerns and so construction proceeded as capital investment.
 - To accommodate other projects that required a community-owned structure, the department requested that a portion of the ASHC capital plan be re-profiled to grant funding to accommodate this requirement.
 - Treasury Board granted the conversion of \$50 million from capital investment to capital grants for seniors' lodge projects in the first quarter of 2016-17.
- 9. With respect to private partnerships, private and nonprofit partnerships versus public ownership, could you explain to us or provide us with information on the cost per door, cost per bed, of public ownership versus the nonprofit and private ownership partnerships that you have?**
- As we do not gather data on final costs for buildings or units not owned provincially, we do not have comparison available.

10. The effectiveness of the lodge program is dependent on being able to meet the changing needs of seniors in communities, so I would like to know how the new lodge buildings are taking this Auditor General recommendation into consideration?

- When we regenerate and build a new lodge, we do not use the one-design-fits-all approach that was previously used.
- We engage with the community and ask about the needs of seniors in the community. This helps us understand where the building should be located, the size and types of rooms required, and what types of amenities the seniors in the community need to age in the community.
- We work with Alberta Health Services to determine whether there is sufficient Designated Supportive Living capacity to allow the seniors to stay in the community if home care services are insufficient.
- Where additional capacity is required or will likely be required in the future, and it is more efficient to incorporate it into the new lodge, the lodge is designed to standards that can allow for health care services while still retaining the focus on a building that is primarily for independent living to allow for socializing among the residents.
- In addition, the new buildings have a greater focus than ever before on sound environmental standards that promote more fiscally responsible operations.

Table 1 Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program Loan Disbursements

	2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018	
	Loan Disbursement Total	Loan Disbursement Count	Loan Disbursement Total	Loan Disbursement Count	Loan Disbursement Total	Loan Disbursement Count	Loan Disbursement Total	Loan Disbursement Count	Loan Disbursement Total	Loan Disbursement Count
<i>April</i>	\$0.00	0	\$40,053.64	4	\$13,812.55	2	\$0.00	0	\$14,089.19	2
<i>May</i>	\$10,917.85	4	\$5,613.19	5	\$23,994.82	5	\$12,802.79	4	\$19,259.90	7
<i>June</i>	\$3,356,712.49	1106	\$4,195,008.11	1383	\$4,535,746.06	1444	\$5,473,504.87	1664	\$5,890,738.76	1781
<i>July</i>	\$457,101.83	159	\$329,464.74	117	\$332,459.95	111	\$348,455.87	120	\$354,284.13	130
<i>August</i>	\$135,178.96	63	\$107,654.73	50	\$141,003.30	61	\$193,063.91	72	\$164,025.62	75
<i>September</i>	\$141,749.89	49	\$106,945.89	39	\$124,217.86	48	\$109,703.86	28	\$148,473.97	55
<i>October</i>	\$109,675.30	43	\$84,327.48	29	\$86,132.90	35	\$60,729.23	28	\$40,078.54	22
<i>November</i>	\$110,679.31	39	\$26,037.10	12	\$64,979.53	28	\$23,960.76	15	\$39,137.96	16
<i>December</i>	\$57,939.65	18	\$69,883.86	18	\$42,705.03	10	\$7,148.30	3		
<i>January</i>	\$61,547.89	13	\$8,046.52	1	\$13,860.94	3	\$22,101.32	4		
<i>February</i>	\$69,806.32	13	\$23,378.51	5	\$88,237.16	14	\$20,451.56	2		
<i>March</i>	\$15,160.08	4	\$15,367.02	3	\$13,544.41	2	\$37,041.34	7		
Totals	\$4,526,469.57	1511	\$5,011,780.79	1666	\$5,480,694.51	1763	\$6,308,963.81	1947	\$6,670,088.07	2088

Table 2 Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair Program Loan and Grant Disbursements

	SHARP Loans				SHARP Grants			
	2016/2017		2017/2018		2016/2017		2017/2018	
	Loan Disbursement Total	Loan Disbursement Count	Loan Disbursement Total	Loan Disbursement Count	Grant Disbursement Total	Grant Disbursement Count	Grant Disbursement Total	Grant Disbursement Count
<i>April</i>			\$636,622.18	55			\$34,551.97	16
<i>May</i>			\$448,842.95	45			\$24,392.33	9
<i>June</i>			\$735,928.25	46			\$35,599.91	12
<i>July</i>	\$199,924.20	13	\$712,995.53	51	\$16,500.90	3	\$38,023.12	15
<i>August</i>	\$981,034.06	73	\$1,036,223.27	65	\$50,449.23	16	\$28,490.20	10
<i>September</i>	\$1,222,182.49	89	\$1,026,018.39	87	\$43,957.60	15	\$69,655.57	26
<i>October</i>	\$915,168.01	71	\$1,002,413.94	66	\$34,353.95	13	\$61,929.07	25
<i>November</i>	\$980,158.48	68	\$478,623.72	51	\$38,305.54	13	\$70,619.00	32
<i>December</i>	\$598,696.76	39			\$39,126.43	11		
<i>January</i>	\$347,878.35	41			\$24,598.02	11		
<i>February</i>	\$449,573.04	38			\$50,091.12	19		
<i>March</i>	\$546,953.86	48			\$30,383.78	18		
Totals	\$6,241,569.25	480	\$6,077,668.23	466	\$327,766.57	119	\$363,261.17	145