

Ministry of Finance



Plan for 2020-21

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
Donna Harpauer
Minister of Finance*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Finance Plan for 2020-21.

Government Direction and Budget 2020-21 is focused on growth for a better quality of life – fostering a strong economy, creating strong communities and strong families – and Building a Strong Saskatchewan.

I accept responsibility for ensuring that the Ministry is managed with integrity and professionalism and supports Government's commitments.

We will report on the progress made on this Plan in the Ministry's 2020-21 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Building a Strong Saskatchewan*. Investing in strong communities and strong families creates opportunities for a better quality of life for the people of our province. Maintaining a strong economy will enable us to build upon the past decade of growth and continue to provide the services, jobs and infrastructure that meets Saskatchewan's needs.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2020-21 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for oversight of government revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities. Finance is the lead ministry for fiscal policy; budget development and integrity; managing provincial debt; designing and administering fair, efficient, and competitive tax regimes; pension and benefit administration; labour relations advice to government; ensuring accountability to both the public and the Legislative Assembly for the use of public funds; and ensuring effective financial management and accounting policies and procedures.

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Finance supports excellence in governance and public administration through economic, financial and fiscal expertise, leadership and services.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Ministry Goal

Leadership in Financial Management and Accountability.

Strategy

The Ministry will maintain financial policies and procedures to ensure efficient and effective financial management and accountability, build strong financial capacity within the Ministry of Finance and across government entities, and ensure financial IT systems support and meet clients' needs.

Key Actions

- Assist ministries in ensuring the financial arrangements of federal-provincial agreements are appropriate and are accounted for within the Government's fiscal plan.
- Provide government-wide reporting through Public Accounts and annual reports.
- Ensure government-wide financial management policies and procedures are sound and the accounting policies are in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Board pronouncements.
- Provide efficient and effective accounts payable and travel expense claim processing services for executive government.
- Oversee the internal controls of Government financial operations and systems.
- Increase education across Government entities to build awareness and understanding of the accountability cycle, policies, processes and financial management responsibilities.
- Ensure the Government-wide financial systems are operational and support client needs.
- Engage and consult with clients to identify opportunities to strengthen financial management.
- Explore options to transform government's business processes through an integrated human resource, financial and procurement, cloud-based business system.



Performance Measures

Timeliness of the Release of Public Accounts, Volumes 1 and 2

The Public Accounts, Volume 1 will be tabled with the Legislature by August 1 and Volume 2 will be tabled by October 31.

Percentage of Entities Meeting Tabling Deadline

100 per cent of Government entities table their financial statements with the Legislature within 120 days of their year-end.

Purchase Card Usage in the Government

A target of 200,000 transactions totaling \$90 million dollars will be processed through the use of purchase cards, reflecting a target usage rate of 75% of eligible transactions.

Direct Deposit and Electronic Advice Usage for Supplier Payments

Direct deposits will be used for 80 per cent of supplier payments and 40 per cent of advices will be distributed electronically.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Ministry Goal

Fair Tax Administration

Strategy

The Ministry of Finance is committed to optimizing the tax revenue base and creating a level playing field for businesses operating in Saskatchewan, increasing tax remittance compliance for businesses and individuals and ensuring efficient and cost effective tax program administration where businesses voluntarily meet tax obligations and efforts to comply are minimized.

Key Actions

- Continue to optimize online services offered through the new Saskatchewan eTax Service (SETS) as part of the new Revenue Administration System.
- Promote compliance with Saskatchewan's tax programs through taxpayer education and responsible, effective enforcement.
- Enhance compliance actions along Saskatchewan's borders.
- Provide proactive outreach and education focused on Provincial Sales Tax (PST) base expansion.
- Continue to assess the impact of ecommerce on tax revenue and develop approaches to address the fair and consistent application of provincial taxes.
- Implement an automated Notice of Assessment process in the new Revenue Administration System.



Performance Measures

Benefit-Cost Ratio of Taxation Audit and Compliance Activities

The value of audit and compliance activities in relation to the cost of performing these activities will be 600% or; for each dollar spent on audit and compliance, the Ministry will generate \$6.00 of incremental revenue.

Client Satisfaction of Businesses Which Collect Taxes on Behalf of Government

The biennial client satisfaction survey results in a satisfaction rating of 90 per cent or higher.

Percentage of Tax Payments Processed Electronically

60 per cent of tax payments received will be processed electronically.

Number of Farmers that Applied for Fuel Tax Permit Renewals Online

16,200 or more farmers will file permit renewals online.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Ministry Goal

Sound Fiscal and Strategic Plans That Support Government's Priorities.

Strategy

The Ministry of Finance is aligned to deliver an improved comprehensive summary financial plan and support fully informed financial decision making with collaboration and robust analysis. The Ministry provides excellence in planning and improvement to support Executive Government and Treasury Board Crowns in achieving Government direction and delivers strategic bargaining and compensation advice.

Key Actions

- Increase efficiency, awareness, understanding, and accountability for the budget and in-year forecasting.
- Borrow strategically to sustain robust government finances.
- Review provincial tax policies to ensure alignment with the Government's priorities and that specific policies and actions are affordable within a balanced budget.
- Continue to work with economic ministries to review the efficacy and competitiveness of economic incentives and tax measures.
- Consider opportunities to ensure the consistent and fair application of provincial taxes in response to the increase of e-commerce, in the purchase of both goods and services.
- Implement and Manage a Centre of Excellence delivery model for Executive Government and Treasury Board Crowns for planning and improvement.
- Work with ministries and agencies to continue to develop capacity for planning, improvement and reporting for each organization that assists in the achievement of Government's priorities.
- Provide guidance and advice to government in the development of strategy for public sector collective bargaining and assist ministries and public sector employers with the implementation of strategies to achieve collective agreements within parameters established by Cabinet.



Performance Measures

Percentage of Entities Meeting Tabling Deadlines

100 per cent of Government entities table their Annual Reports with the Legislature within 120 days of their year-end.

Percentage of Net Debt-to-GDP

Maintain a stable debt-to-GDP ratio over the long term.

Medium Term Fiscal Plan

Maintain a stable and balanced fiscal plan.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Ministry Goal

Foster the Financial Wellness of Pension and Benefit Plan Members Through Working for Plan Governing Bodies.

Strategy

Meet pension and benefit plan member needs and ensure cost effective administration of plans.

Key Actions

- Provide advice, governance and administrative services to pension and benefit plan boards and participating employers as well as payment and support services to active and retired plan members.
- Continue to replace multiple pension administration systems with a single enterprise system.

Performance Measures

See PEBA Annual Report at <http://www.peba.gov.sk.ca/about/annual-reports.html>



Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Ministry Goal

Engaged Employees and Satisfied Clients.

Strategy

Enhance our culture and employee engagement, strengthen our internal and external partnerships and client experiences, and continue to increase communication and leadership across the ministry.

Key Actions

- Strengthen our partnerships, engagement and communication across the summary entity.
- Provide communication strategies that deliver timely, relevant, and effective information to internal and external audiences.
- Continue ongoing implementation of the Culture Sustainment Plan.
- Refresh and execute the Ministry's IT Strategic Plan, including actions that prioritize IT security, ensure our modern, integrated and client focused systems support core business.

Performance Measures

Employee Engagement Index (EEI)

Highlights

2020-21 Budget Highlights:

- The 2020-21 expense budget for the Ministry's operations, not including Pensions and Benefits, is \$55.9 million.
- When Pensions and Benefits for all of government are included the budget increases to \$351.0 million.
- The Ministry's 2020-21 budget provides:
 - \$295.2 million for Pensions and Benefits funding requirements; and,
 - \$4.5 million in revenue generation due to implementation of an automated Notice of Assessment process.

Other Ministry Highlights:

- Approves financial statements for 131 government agencies, which are to be tabled within 120 days of the agencies' fiscal year end. Saskatchewan has achieved 98 per cent of entities meeting the tabling deadline, which has been trending upwards from a low of 76 per cent in 2006-07.
- Produces approximately 275,000 payments to suppliers, grant recipients, employees and for government programs and supports approximately 10,000 financial system users.
- Provides services to over 100,000 business clients annually through tax revenue, refund and incentive programs.
- Effectively forecasts and manages the government's cash and debt requirements.
- Produces budget reviews, Estimates and quarterly reports within the respective deadlines, and publication of ministry, agency and Treasury Board Crown plans and annual reports within the respective deadlines.
- Provides advice to the Sub-Committee on Public Sector Bargaining for 38 collective bargaining agreements as well as the agreement with the Saskatchewan Medical Association. In addition, provides advice to government on compensation matters for out-of-scope employment.
- Generates tax revenue and promotes compliance with tax programs using risk-based audit and enforcement activities.

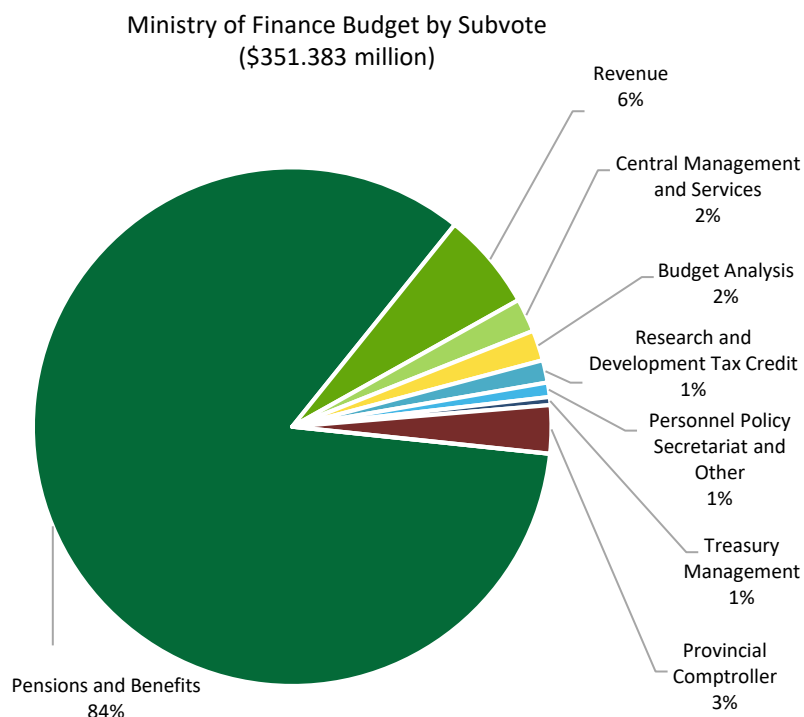
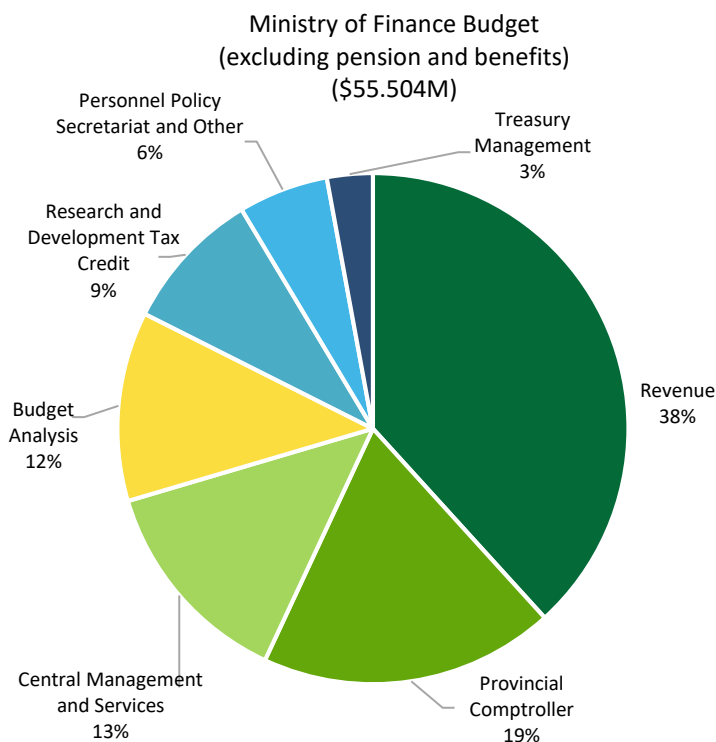
Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA):

- PEBA is an agency within the Ministry of Finance responsible for administering 12 pension plans for more than 95,000 members and more than 900 employers, and 23 benefit plans for over 89,000 member accounts.
- PEBA operates on a cost-recovery basis using a revolving fund. The costs incurred are charged to pension and benefit plans administered by PEBA.
- Most of the plans administered by PEBA are governed by a body that is established by statute. These boards, commissions, and committees are responsible for the administration of the plans, hold in trust the assets of the plans, and approve the expenditure budgets for the administration of the plans.
- PEBA highlights include:
 - In 2019, PEBA received almost \$600 million in combined member and employer pension contributions and almost \$80 million in combined member and employer benefit contributions.
 - In 2019, PEBA processed over \$411 million in pension payments to over 17,000 pensioners and oversaw almost \$74 million in benefit payments.
 - PEBA monitors 55 investment managers, who have invested \$13.8 billion in pension and benefit assets.
 - PEBA staff made 134 presentations to more than 4,400 members and conducted approximately 2,000 individual retirement planning consultations.
 - Pension staff handled approximately 40,000 phone calls and more than 16,500 emails from members.
 - PEBA is responsible for preparing 24 financial statements for tabling in the Legislature.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Finance 2020-21 Estimates		(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services		\$7,503
Treasury Management		1,594
Provincial Comptroller		13,369
Budget Analysis		6,635
Revenue		21,584
Personnel Policy Secretariat		513
Research and Development Tax Credit		5,000
Miscellaneous Payments		23
Appropriation		56,221
Capital Asset Acquisition		(3,000)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment		2,633
Expense		55,584
Public Service Pensions and Benefits		295,162
Total Expense		351,016
Total Appropriation		351,383

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/finance>