

ALBERTA WELLNESS FOUNDATION

Statute	<i>Alberta Wellness Foundation Act</i>
Establishment of the Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Alberta Wellness Foundation Act</i> establishes the Alberta Wellness Foundation and regulates the annual funding commitment to the Foundation. • The Alberta Wellness Foundation is a corporate body, accountable to the Minister of Health.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mission of the Alberta Wellness Foundation is to provide prudent stewardship of new financial investments in evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion activities in Alberta to improve the physical, mental and social health and quality of life of current and future generations of all Albertans.
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence-based, primary prevention initiatives to address six major modifiable risk factors (physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, tobacco use, alcohol misuse, adverse childhood experiences and injury).
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation will fund, coordinate and build capacity for promoting health and preventing disease and disability in Alberta by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supporting community action; ○ Increasing education and awareness; ○ Developing capacity and leadership for healthy public policy; ○ Engaging wellness partners; and ○ Evaluating and monitoring progress.
Funding Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation will be funded through the implementation of a special Wellness Levy applied to tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverage products sold in the province. • An initial investment of \$60M, increasing over 3-5 years to approximately \$200 M/year of the new Wellness Levy revenue (an amount equivalent to least 1% of the annual Alberta Health Budget). Investments will be new and not reallocated from other budgets. • The funding model is comparable to the Alberta Tourism Levy (implemented in 2005), which reinvests the Tourism Levy revenue in promoting tourism in Alberta. Revenue from the Wellness Levy will be reinvested in promoting health and preventing disease in Alberta.
Governance Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act establishes a Standing Committee composed of nine members of the Legislative Assembly, including at least three individuals who are not members of the governing political party. • The Standing Committee is responsible for selecting a Foundation Board to directly oversee the activities of the Foundation including strategic oversight, performance monitoring and control and accountability systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Board Chair will be the Minister of Health (or a delegated Member of the Legislative Assembly). ○ Board membership will be diverse and include the public sector (including municipalities, academia, education, health and other Government departments), private sector, and non-governmental organizations. • As Chair, the Minister of Health (or delegate MLA) is responsible for the activities and outcomes of the Foundation and will table the Foundation annual report (including operational activities, outcomes achieved, financial statements) in the Alberta Legislature. • The governance model is comparable to the <i>Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund</i> model and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrates a dedicated Government commitment to Albertans long-term physical, mental and social health. ○ Ensures financial investments for evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion have the same assurance of public accountability, transparency and protection from being reallocated to other budgetary demands of Government.
Governance Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation Board performs the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reviews and approves the Alberta Wellness Foundation business plan each year; ○ Reviews quarterly reports on the Foundation's operations; ○ Approves the Foundation's annual report; ○ Reviews the Foundation's performance every year and reports to the Legislature; and ○ Holds public meetings with Albertans on the activities and results of the Foundation.