

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund— Systems to Manage Sustainability and Assess Results

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Report of the Auditor General
November 2024

**Assessment of
Implementation Report**

**Auditor
General**
OF ALBERTA

The logo for the Auditor General of Alberta, featuring a stylized orange and white graphic element resembling a corner or a bracket.

Shane Getson, MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

I am honoured to transmit my *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund—Systems to Manage Sustainability and Assess Results Assessment of Implementation* to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, under the *Auditor General Act*.



W. Doug Wylie FCPA, FCMA, ICD.D
Auditor General of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta
November 2024

Outstanding Recommendations

Assessment of Implementation Report

Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund—Systems to Manage Sustainability and Assess Results

Public Safety and Emergency Services

(February 2016)

Summary of Recommendations

We completed an assessment of implementation of our February 2016 audit of the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund—Systems to Manage Sustainability and Assess Results*.

IMPLEMENTED Recommendation:

Develop and publicly report on a business plan for the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

Introduction

Our recommendation to the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Services (department) from our February 2016 audit of *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund—Systems to Manage Sustainability and Assess Results* has been implemented.¹

¹ Recommendation was originally assigned to the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General in the 2016 audit and 2021 AOI. In 2022, Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund was transferred to the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

Recommendation:

Develop and publicly report on a business plan for the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund

IMPLEMENTED

Context

In our 2016 audit, the department did not have a current, approved strategy for the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund (fund).² This strategy would set out achievable measurable goals or targets, including timelines and milestones, to determine if the fund was meeting its mandate as set out in the then *Victims of Crime Act*.

In our 2021 Assessment of Implementation, the department still did not have an approved business plan for the fund. As a result, there had not been the intended reporting of results and whether the objectives of the fund were being met.

Our current findings

The department has implemented our recommendation to develop and approve a business plan with measurable desired results for the Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund.³

Since our 2021 repeated recommendation, the department decided to plan for and report on the fund within established business planning processes, rather than through a separate business plan. This ensures the work is integrated with similar services and allows the department to leverage related programs, skills, and resources.

The department's 2023–2024 annual report states they are committed to making sure victims get the support they need when they need it. It includes information on how the department is modernizing victim services delivery to improve consistency, stability, and continuity of frontline services received by victims of crime. The report also details the Victims of Crime Assistance Program (VOCAP) and has a performance measure and target for average days to decision for applications to the VOCAP. This measure reflects the effectiveness of the redesigned victim services delivery program in providing timely support to victims of crime.

The department's 2024–2027 business plan speaks to improving access to timely and efficient services and supports for victims of crime and tragedy and includes additional future targets for the performance measure.

Both reports highlight financial information related to the VOCAP and funding allocated to external partner organizations.

The department is currently working on the draft 2025–2028 business plan. To strengthen the planning and reporting, the department will create a new outcome for the fund and its programs and will examine potential new performance measures.

² Section 9(1) of the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*, which replaced the previous *Victims of Crime Act* on June 26, 2020, when Bill 16, *Victims of Crime (Strengthening Public Safety) Amendment Act, 2020* received Royal Assent.

³ *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund—Systems to Manage Sustainability and Assess Results*, November 2021, Assessment of Implementation.

About our Assessment of Implementation Report

Management is responsible for implementing our recommendations. We examine implementation plans and perform procedures to determine whether management has implemented our recommendations when management asserts that they have been implemented. We repeat our recommendations if we do not find evidence they have been implemented. We may also issue new recommendations for matters that come to our attention during our assessment.

We conduct our assessments of implementation under the *Auditor General Act*. We apply Canadian Standard on Quality Management 1. Accordingly, we have maintained a comprehensive system of quality control, including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with applicable professional standards and applicable ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements. We comply with the independence and other ethical requirements of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta Rules of Professional Conduct, which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity and due care, objectivity, professional competence, confidentiality, and professional behaviour.



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