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Government annual reports outline programs and accomplishments of 2005-06

Edmonton... Increased investment in infrastructure and savings, new dental and optical programs for seniors, the formation of an environmental emergency response team, and the addition of 160 police officers to Alberta communities are among the accomplishments presented in the Alberta government's 2005-06 ministry annual reports.

"With the individual ministry annual reports, Albertans get an extensive look at the government's track record over the past year," said Finance Minister Shirley McClellan. "It's important to note that \$3.7 billion was provided for roads, schools, post-secondary institutions, health facilities, municipal infrastructure, and other capital projects in 2005-06. In total, capital spending increased by 32 per cent over the previous fiscal year, reflecting greater municipal infrastructure support and the first year of a new five-year, \$3 billion Municipal Infrastructure Program."

Other initiatives included reducing wait times for hip and knee replacement surgery, enhancing AISH benefits, providing disaster relief for flooding, reducing classroom sizes, assisting post-secondary students with tuition costs, funding centennial celebrations and legacy projects, improving the corporate and personal tax system, as well as distributing \$1.3 billion in resource rebates. The government also deposited \$2.7 billion in the Heritage Fund and other endowments, including \$750 million for the new advanced education endowment.

Ministry annual reports include financial statements and measure each ministry's performance against the targets established in the business plans published with *Budget 2005*.

"These reports are an integral part of the government's commitment to accountability and public openness," said McClellan. "They outline the activities undertaken by government ministries to address the priorities of Albertans, build on past successes and respond to pressures."

Annual reports are available on ministry websites, which can be accessed at www.gov.ab.ca

To link directly to the reports, please visit:
<http://www.finance.gov.ab.ca/publications/measuring/minann.html>

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Editor's note: Individual ministries should be contacted for details about specific reports.

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