



Province of Alberta

## **ACCESS TO THE FUTURE ACT**

Statutes of Alberta, 2005  
Chapter A-1.5

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# **ACCESS TO THE FUTURE ACT**

## **Chapter A-1.5**

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#### **Preamble**

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta believes that the creation and sharing of knowledge through advanced education drives positive transformation of the economy, society and individuals, and is crucial to Alberta's future competitive advantage in a global economy;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta desires to provide Albertans with advanced education opportunities that enable Albertans to develop appropriate and relevant skills, enrich their quality of life, and assist them in reaching their full potential;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is committed to ensuring that all qualified and motivated Albertans have the opportunity to participate in high-quality advanced education; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta encourages and supports the development and application of innovation to enhance access, to remove financial and non-financial barriers to participation, and to make the learning experience more successful and rewarding;

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

**Definitions**

**1** In this Act,

- (a) “advanced education” means the full range of learning opportunities for adults from basic literacy to all vocational, apprenticeship and academic levels;
- (b) “Fund” means the Access to the Future Fund established under section 4;
- (c) “Minister” means the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for this Act;
- (d) “public post-secondary institution” means a public post-secondary institution as defined in the *Post-secondary Learning Act*.

**Accessibility and affordability**

**2(1)** The Minister, in consultation with public post-secondary institutions, shall identify and establish enrolment targets and minimum entrance requirements.

**(2)** The Minister, in consultation with public post-secondary institutions and such other persons as the Minister considers appropriate, shall identify and evaluate and, where appropriate, implement plans, arrangements or processes that enhance the access to and affordability of advanced education, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) a common application process for entrance to public post-secondary institutions;
- (b) a searchable inventory and simplified application process for scholarships, bursaries and other financial assistance available to Alberta students attending post-secondary institutions in Alberta;
- (c) plans to increase the participation in advanced education of individuals who are disadvantaged due to social, economic, geographic or cultural factors;
- (d) arrangements among public post-secondary institutions regarding recognition of prior learning and course credits and the admission of transfer students;
- (e) plans for ensuring that financial need is not a barrier to pursuing advanced education opportunities.

**(3)** The Minister shall report on the progress in enhancing access and ensuring the affordability of advanced education in the Ministry's annual report.

#### **Quality**

**3** The Minister shall develop and implement mechanisms to monitor, evaluate and report on the quality of advanced education in Alberta to ensure that it continues to provide high quality learning opportunities in relation to national and international standards.

#### **Access to the Future Fund**

**4(1)** The Access to the Future Fund is established.

**(1.1)** The Minister

- (a) shall administer the Fund, and
- (b) may approve grants, agreements and other payments from the Fund.

**(1.2)** Any income of the Fund accrues to and forms part of the Fund.

**(2)** The purpose of the Fund is generally to support innovation and excellence that enhances and expands opportunities for Albertans to participate in accessible, affordable and high-quality advanced education opportunities and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing,

- (a) to support initiatives that enhance the quality of learning and instruction;
- (b) to promote the development, attraction and retention of the faculty, staff and graduate students necessary to expand and enhance teaching excellence;
- (c) to support initiatives that foster the application of knowledge to the benefit of communities, the Province and society;
- (d) to encourage the creation or expansion of industry funded and privately funded scholarship and bursary programs;
- (e) to support initiatives that foster innovation and collaboration in education;
- (f) to carry out any other initiatives set out in the regulations.

**(3)** Repealed 2007 c24 s2.

**(4)** An account from within the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund is deemed to be established to which is allocated, as considered appropriate by the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, money that is transferred to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund after April 1, 2005.

**(4.1)** In each fiscal year the balance in the account referred to in subsection (4) is to be adjusted as follows:

- (a) the closing balance is to be adjusted for the fiscal year as determined under subsection (4.2);
- (b) the balance is to be reduced by the amounts transferred to the Access to the Future Fund in the fiscal year under subsection (7).

**(4.2)** For the purpose of subsection (4.1)(a), the adjustment is determined in accordance with the following formula:

$A \times B$

where

A is the opening balance of the account in the fiscal year;

B is the annual rate of return for the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund as published in the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund's audited annual financial statements for that fiscal year.

**(5)** The maximum amount that may be allocated under subsection (4) is \$3 000 000 000.

**(6)** Repealed 2014 cS-2.5 s8.

**(7)** The President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance shall in each fiscal year, in a manner determined by the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, transfer from the General Revenue Fund to the Access to the Future Fund an amount in accordance with subsections (7.1) and (7.2).

**(7.1)** The amount that may be transferred under subsection (7) in a fiscal year must not exceed 4.5% of the average of the closing balances of the account referred to in subsection (4) for the preceding 3 fiscal years as published in the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund's audited annual financial statements for those fiscal years.

**(7.2)** If less than 4.5% is transferred under subsection (7) in a fiscal year, the unused portion of the amount permitted to be

transferred in that fiscal year may be transferred in any subsequent fiscal year.

**(8)** Repealed 2007 c24 s2.

**(9)** The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

- (a) respecting initiatives for the purpose of furthering the purposes of the Fund;
- (b) respecting the administration of the Fund;
- (c) respecting any other matter that the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary to carry out the intent of this Act.

2005 cA-1.5 s4;2007 c24 s2;2013 c10 s32;  
2014 cS-2.5 s8;2014 c16 s3;2015 cF-14.7 s13

**5 and 6** Repealed 2017 c16 s1.

#### **Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund**

**7** The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund shall be increased by \$1 000 000 000, in amounts considered appropriate by the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

2005 cA-1.5 s7;2013 c10 s32

#### **Alberta Heritage Science and Engineering Research Endowment Fund**

**8** The Alberta Heritage Science and Engineering Research Endowment Fund shall be increased by \$500 000 000, in amounts considered appropriate by the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

2005 cA-1.5 s8;2013 c10 s32

#### **Coming into force**

**9** This Act comes into force on Proclamation.

*(NOTE: Proclaimed in force October 5, 2005.)*



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