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NPVS Legislative Impact

*A Look at How the 2024-2025
Legislative Sessions May Impact
Your Organization*

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Agenda

(aka. 45 mins.
Legislative Blitz
Hold On!)

- A. Overview
- B. Relevant Legislation Summary by Theme
- C. Take Aways/Recommendations
- D. Questions?

A. Overview

More than 30 pieces of legislation were tabled in the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Legislative Sessions

Highlight key provisions, impacts, and why it matters

Relevant Acts have been broken into seven over-arching themes:

- 1. Human Rights & Equity**
- 2. Children, Youth, & Education**
- 3. Health, Mental Health, & Social Services**
- 4. Housing, Infrastructure, & Community Facilities**
- 5. Governance, Privacy, & Civic Engagement**
- 6. Economic Development, Workforce & Innovation**
- 7. Environment, Land, & Public Safety**

B1. Human Rights & Equity

Bill	Key Provisions	Impact
Bill 24 – <i>Alberta Bill of Rights</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protects Albertans from laws and actions by the provincial government (applies only the Legislature, the Government of Alberta, and bodies or activities that are under “extensive government control.”)The Alberta equivalent to the Canadian Charter of Rights and FreedomsOf note: the Amendment makes the Bill apply to GoA programs and policies – not just laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The application to GoA programs and policies is notable for organizations that receive government funding as if they don’t align with the Bill, they could be defundedThe addition of an explicit right to refuse medical care and vaccination means that consent/waiver forms need to spell out the voluntary nature of their programs
Bill 29 – <i>Fairness & Safety in Sports</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Applies to sports leagues in schools, PSIs, and provincial sports organizations (PSOs)Limits eligibility for female-only divisions to biologically female athletesAllows for the creation of further mixed-sex leagues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">New annual reporting requirementsOrganizations dealing with sports activities will need to update policies to align with legislation



B1. Human Rights & Equity

Theme Legislative Summary:

- **Bill 24 – *Alberta Bill of Rights***
 - The updated framework and baseline to which all Alberta legislation, policies and programs must comply...
 - Sets out - Property, firearms, medical care/treatment (+ vaccine), property rights.
 - BUT: Contains notwithstanding and reasonable limits out clauses
- **The Three Amigos - Bill 29 – *Fairness & Safety in Sports*** (also tbd later...– Bill 26 Health and Bill 27 Education.)
 - Regulate aspects of gender identity and expression in Alberta's health, education, and sports sectors

Human Rights & Equity

Sector-Wide Impact Summary:


- *Treat 24 like a new compliance pillar.*
- **Bill of Rights Application Review**
 - Is it a body or activity under extensive government regulation or control
 - Review of all organizational pieces:
 - Policy Sweeps (vaccine clauses, consent forms, etc.)
 - Scan of GoA funded or licensed programs (*if the province can tell you how to deliver them, assume Bill 24 rights now apply to those activities and make sure policies (e.g., medical-consent, freedom-of-expression limits) can pass the new “reasonable limits” test*)
 - **Bill of Rights Challenges**
- Intro. of additional rights while of including the justification clauses are certain to give rise to litigation. This is compounded by limitations to individuals for damages for infringement
- *Refine now before tested in court by your participants, clients, parents, or employees*
- **Inclusive-sport tensions:**
 - With the recent release of the regulations, the debate over sex-based vs gender-based eligibility definitions is likely to intensify. Organizations involved in sports activities will need to update operations and policies, and those serving the LGBTQ2S+ population may see an increase in demand for services

B.2 Children, Youth, & Education

Bill	Key Provisions	Impact
Bill 25 – <i>Early Learning and Child Care Amendment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthens the ability for the director to cancel or refuse to renew day home licences• Adds public interest as grounds for consideration in licensing oversight and enforcement• Adds the ability for the director to issue administrative penalties, not to exceed \$10,000 per contravention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early learning and childcare organizations will need to update and strengthen policies to ensure compliance with legislation, including the Public Health Act and the Safety Codes Act• Increased compliance measures will require updated record-keeping policies
Bill 27 – <i>Education Amendment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Minister must now approve any courses related to gender identity or sexual education, and schools must notify parents at least 30 days in advance about any discussion that includes these topics. Parents must provide written consent for their child's participation.• Primarily places parameters around the use of a different name or pronouns related to gender identity for students under the age of 18. For students between 16 and 18, the school must inform the parents, and for students under 16, parents must give consent for use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May impact organizations that deal with student representation (such as a school committee)• These changes significantly influence how Alberta nonprofits and charities approach education and family support, particularly in terms of inclusivity and emergency preparedness. Organizations supporting gender and sexual diversity may face challenges due to restrictions on teaching materials and the need for Ministerial approval, and nonprofits focused on family support and mental health may see increased demand for services.

Children, Youth, & Education

Bill	Key Provisions	Impact
Bill 38 – <i>Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfers all licensing, inspection, and enforcement powers from the Minister to a new Director of Charitable Fundraising Alters oversight by limiting mandatory investigations by the Child and Youth Advocate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the implementation of the Director position, expect updated fundraising regulations Much of the public-facing legislative power has been transferred to the bureaucracy Youth service agencies may wish to review and bolster their internal critical incident reporting mechanisms
Private Members' Bill 206 – <i>Child and Youth Advocate (Parent and Guardian Liaison) Amendment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a Parent and Guardian Advisor inside the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate Advisors are to assist parents and guardians in navigating government services and systems that affect their children, and can assist with various needs, including mental and physical health, spiritual support, academic services, human and social services, and language and cultural support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisors must be advocacy and facilitation-oriented – they have no power to aid in any decisions being made by a court or administrative body. There are concerns about the impact on the independence of the Advocate and the potential for conflicts of interest



B.2 Children, Youth, & Education

Theme Legislative Summary:

- **Bill 25 – *Early Learning and Childcare Amendment Act***
 - Primarily focused on expanding licensing oversight and enforcement to enforce quality care standards
- **Bill 27 – *Education Amendment Act***
 - Regulate aspects of gender identity (<16 y/o. pronouns) and expression in Alberta's schools, sex education ministerial oversight and opt-in, Indigenous history courses and expands STEM and financial literacy education
 - Requires new educators to complete cultural competency and mental health awareness training
- **Bill 38 – *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act***
 - Introduces changes to the Charitable Fund-raising Act that affect not-for-profit organizations by enhancing donor transparency, reducing administrative burdens through streamlined reporting requirements, and potentially altering oversight mechanisms
- **PMB 206 – *Child and Youth Advocate (Parent and Guardian Liaison) Amendment Act***
 - Creates a Parent and Guardian Advisor inside the OCYA office
 - Advisors are to assist parents and guardians in navigating government systems and services

Children, Youth, & Education

Section-Wide Impact Summary:

•Review of internal policies:

- Assess and update pronoun/GSA policies for minors
- Fundraising and reporting policies to ensure compliance with regulations
- These pieces of legislation reinforce parental prerogative and government oversight in children's services
- Organizations involved in education and child-care may need to adjust curricula and training programs
- Engage with NFP sector organizations for resources, guidance and advocacy
- Potential collaboration with schools to support new educational requirements

•Regulatory Tightening in Children Services

- There is an increased focus on license compliance and parental rights. Parent communication and policy reviews are necessary. Organizations that work with minors may need to embed opt-in procedures and adopt stringent consent tracking practices

•Shifts in child-protection oversight:

- Changes in the Child & Youth Advocate's oversight powers move the responsibility downstream

•Potential Chilling Effect on Inclusive Programming:

- New legislation requirements may impact partnerships with and funding for LGBTQ2S+ or sexual health organizations

Health, Mental Health, & Social Services

Bill	Key Provisions	Impact
Bill 26 – <i>Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Creates a new legal framework by establishing a provincial health corporation and converts AHS from a regional health authority into a focused acute care service providerStrengthens patient support by requiring provincial health authorities and corporations to establish a patient concern resolution processAdds definitions of gender dysphoria/incongruence and bans sex-reassignment surgery and most hormone therapy for minors except by ministerial order	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organizations that receive government funding may need to renegotiate contracts and/or align service provision with the strategic priorities of the new provincial corporationsThis could present opportunities for more targeted funding but also a need to adapt services or operations to meet the expectations of the relevant sector minister or health agency.
Bill 32 – <i>Financial Statutes Amendment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focuses on adjustments to benefits, tax rates, and definitions related to income support, housing, and other financial provisionsRemoves all references to CPI in the <i>Alberta Housing Act</i>, <i>Alberta Personal Income Tax Act</i>, <i>AISH</i>, <i>Income and Employment Supports Act</i>, and the <i>Seniors Benefit Act</i>, and replaces them with the term “Alberta Escalator”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Social benefits are indexed to the lesser of the Alberta Escalator or 2%This will also impact contract indexing efforts

Health, Mental Health, & Social Services

Bill	Key Provisions	Impact
Bill 37 – <i>Mental Health Services Protection Amendment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targets licensing requirements for bed-side mental health practitioners Classifies services into withdrawal management (medically supervised detox), intensive treatment (structured residential care), and non-intensive recovery (less-intensive, recovery-oriented support) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that utilize these practitioners will need to ensure that appropriate licenses have been obtained The authority granted to the Minister for exemptions for these new licenses has raised concerns about the consistency and fairness of regulatory enforcement Organizations will need to ensure they are abiding by new record-keeping and incident-reporting rules, and service contract and criminal record check requirements
Bill 53 – <i>Compassionate Intervention Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a new framework for parents, family members, guardians, health care professionals, and police or peace officers to request a treatment order or a care plan for those individuals with severe substance use disorders who pose a likely risk to themselves or others First law in Canada to compel addiction treatment for adults beyond existing mental health laws Establishes a new Compassionate Intervention Commission to issue orders Repeals the <i>Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act</i> (PChAD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places new record-keeping, reporting, and oversight duties on organizations Raises civil-liberties questions that may affect future court challenges and professional college guidance Organizations operating in this space will need to watch for the release of regulations, changes to access to information protocols, and potential shifts in service delivery requirements With the Minister's power to delegate a hospital/agency as either secure compassionate-intervention facilities or community providers, organizations may be required to allocate part or all of their facilities to this program

Health, Mental Health, & Social Services

Bill	Key Provisions	Impact
Bill 55 – <i>Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connected to Bill 26, this Bill is a refinement of the health system restructuring Amends the <i>Provincial Health Agencies Act</i>, <i>Public Health Act</i>, <i>Protection of Persons in Care Act</i>, <i>Health Information Act</i>, and the <i>Hospitals Act</i> Centralizes accountability in provincial health corporations and agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centralization may streamline province-wide contracts but reduce regional discretion in program design Organizations in the health and mental health sectors may be impacted by this Bill both in reporting standards and funding apparatuses. Organizations will also need to ensure that they are in compliance with new license standards
PM Bill 213 – <i>Cancer Care Delivery Standards Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a Cancer Treatment Standards Committee to set service-delivery benchmarks Designates key cancer diagnosis and treatment services and establishes fixed delivery-standard time-limits Establishes mandatory quarterly performance reporting by every healthcare body that offers a designated service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While new reporting requirements increase administrative burden, these reports can be leveraged to target fundraising, awareness, and advocacy efforts Hospital foundations and NPVS service providers that deliver oncology care may fall under the Act’s definition of a healthcare body and will need to adjust operations accordingly Patient-voice organizations now have a formal route to seek seats on or make submissions to, the Standards Committee

B.3 Health, Mental Health, & Social Services

Theme Legislative Summary:

Most are part of the “Alberta Recovery Model”

- **Bill 22 (v.1.0) and 26 – *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2)***

- Clean-up/Fine tune Alberta Health Services, aligned with existing legislation, introducing provincial health corporations
- More importantly - prohibited certain treatments for minors identifying as transgender or gender diverse

- **Bill 32 – *Financial Statutes Amendment***

- Quietly reshapes NFP finances on several fronts: it raises the minimum-disposable-income threshold used in rent-geared-to-income housing, trimming social-housing revenues by an estimated 5-8 %; swaps CPI for a new “Alberta escalator” in personal-income-tax brackets, requiring payroll-table updates and potentially squeezing mid-income donors’ giving power

- **Bill 37 – *Mental Health Services Protection Amendment***

- Updates the regulatory framework for mental health and addiction services, focusing on licensing and standards for service providers
- 4 sets of standards provide requirements for the following licensed mental health and addiction services:
 - Bed-based addiction treatment
 - Drug consumption services
 - Narcotic transition services
 - Psychedelic drug treatment

Health, Mental Health, & Social Services

Theme Legislative Summary (cont.):

- **Bill 53 – *Compassionate Intervention Act***

- *We'll dive deeper into this one in our Legislative Deep Dive Session*
- Involuntary treatment of individuals with severe substance use disorders who pose a risk to themselves or others
- Key Provisions:
 - *Involuntary Treatment Orders*: Allows family members, healthcare professionals, or law enforcement to apply for treatment orders compelling individuals into addiction treatment programs
 - *Compassionate Intervention Commission*: Establishes a quasi-judicial body to oversee applications for treatment orders, ensuring due process
 - *Treatment Facilities*: Plans for the construction of dedicated facilities in Edmonton and Calgary to provide care for individuals under treatment orders

- **Bill 55 – *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025***

- Restructured to 4 pillars: Primary Care, Acute Care, Continuing Care, Mental Health and Addictions (+ Health Shared Services to come)
- Senior health admin and inspectors now report to Primary Care
- Tighter privacy for custodian NFPs (hospice, youth mental health)
- Reporting Transparency – director can publish findings for licenced facilities
- Community consultation groups

- **PM Bill 213 – *Cancer Care Delivery Standards Act***

- direct cancer-related services—such as diagnostics, navigation, treatment assistance, or outpatient support—you may be considered a “health care body” with new reporting and standards

Health, Mental Health, & Social Services

Sector-Wide Impact Summary:

- Health-focused organizations may need to navigate new structures and regulations. Adoption or renegotiation of contracts with new entities
- Possible competition with for-profit ngo's – imbalance in rfp/procurement, or licensing
- New service-specific standards (i.e. addiction,
- Potential impact on services provided to transgender and gender-diverse youth
- **Compliance Load Intensifies in Health & Addictions**
 - New licensing, reporting, and governance requirements necessitate a review of policies, possibly staff training, and legal counsel
- **Heightened Focus on Vulnerable Populations**
 - Much of the legislation passed in 2024-2025 has been focused on facilitating a fundamental shift in how organizations and government support vulnerable populations
- **Data-Driven Accountability:**
 - The new legislation reflects a trend toward public performance reporting
- **Bottom Line:**
 - The 2024-25 legislative session demonstrates a continued restructuring of the healthcare system and stricter oversight of addiction and youth services

B.4 Housing, Infrastructure, & Community Facilities

Theme Legislative Summary:

- **Bill 30 – Service Alberta Statutes Amendment Act**
 - Creates a condo dispute tribunal, new prompt pay lien remedies
- **Bill 32 – *Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2)***
 - See earlier notes re. MMDI (monthly disposable income) and indexing formula for low-income tenants

Housing, Infrastructure, & Community Facilities

Sector-Wide Impact Summary:

- **Potential for Reduced Administrative Burden**

- A single fundraising director, e-service for tenant notification, and simplified condo governance may reduce organizational administrative burden

- **Governance Changes**

- Organizations may need to update their policies to authorize electronic notice services to tenants, revise internal fundraising controls to align with Bill 38 and reflect the new Alberta Escalator clause

- **Bottom Line:**

- These Bills tighten regulatory expectations, expand transparency tools, and simultaneously expand and limit social financial support programs
- Any non-profit that runs clinics, counselling, continuing-care, hospice, lab, pharmacy or public-health outreach will see new masters, new contracts and tougher transparency rules by late 2025—begin re-papering agreements and privacy processes now to avoid a last-minute compliance scramble

Governance, Privacy, & Civic Engagement

Bill	Key Provisions	Impact
Bill 31 – <i>Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2024</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amends the <i>Electoral Boundaries Commission Act</i>, <i>Public's Right to Know Act</i>, <i>Critical Infrastructure Defence Act</i>, and the <i>Alberta Evidence Act</i>Expands the definition of “essential infrastructure” to include hospitals, long-term care homes, and ambulancesGives the Justice Minister authority to collect additional crime data from government and policing bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Two additional electoral divisions will be established, changing electoral boundariesCommunity watch organizations may be compelled to provide the Ministry with additional crime statsAccess to justice organizations can support clients to electronically submit an affidavit on oath rather than going to a courthouse or paying someone to certify it for them
Bill 33 – <i>Protection of Privacy Act, 2024</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Splits the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy</i> (FOIP) Act into two different actsThe <i>Protection of Privacy Act</i> maintains what public bodies can do with the information collectedRequires public bodies to adopt a ‘privacy by design’ model and create a privacy management program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">While most NPVS organizations are typically private bodies, some may be treated as public bodies in specific legal contexts, especially if they receive significant public funding, perform public functions, or are controlled or established by the government. If your organization falls into any of these categories, you may want to consult a lawyer to determine if this new legislation applies to you

Governance, Privacy, & Civic Engagement

Bill	Key Provisions	Impact
Bill 34 – <i>Access to Information Act, 2024</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Access to Information Act</i> enhances Albertan’s access to information from public bodies• Expands the range of organizations that must comply with the Act• Adds public interest as grounds for application overrides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Similarly, while most NPVS organizations are typically private bodies, some may be treated as public bodies in specific legal contexts, especially if they receive significant public funding, perform public functions, or are controlled or established by the government. If your organization falls into any of these categories, you may want to consult a lawyer to determine if this new legislation applies to you
Bill 46 – <i>Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes consequential amendments referred to as Henry VIII Clauses• Carves out the Office of Statistics and Information and exempts the Office from some of the <i>Protection of Privacy</i> and <i>Access to Information Act</i> provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Henry VIII clauses matter because they strike at the heart of how democratic governments make laws—and who gets to do so.• The breadth and ambiguity of this provision give rise to concerns that substantive legal changes could be effected absent clear legislative intent or adequate public oversight. In particular, apprehensions persist that such powers may be exercised to restrict public access to information and diminish transparency, potentially under the guise of privacy protection, or through unwarranted limitations on data essential to academic inquiry, investigative journalism, and democratic accountability.
Bill 54 – <i>Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 290-page omnibus bill that makes more than 50 changes to rules around elections• Refreshes almost every law that governs how Albertans register, campaign, vote, launch petitions, hold referenda and recalls, and finance politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes to voter eligibility, referendum and recall processes, and vote-counting procedures.• New electoral finance rules allow organizations to pay for ticket fees to political events/fundraisers rather than having it be considered a personal donation



B.5

Governance, Privacy, & Civic Engagement

Theme Legislative Summary:

- **Bill 31 – *Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2024***
 - Electoral Boundaries (87-89), Crime Data (public's right to know), Critical Infrastructure Defence Act - protests around expanded "essential infrastructure" (hospitals, care homes)
- **Bill 33 – *Protection of Privacy Act, 2024***
 - Public Bodies – no sale of personal info., privacy mgt. programs mandatory, PIA's (privacy Impact Assessment) for new programs/services, Mandatory Breach reporting and stronger penalties
- **Bill 34 – *Access to Information Act, 2024***
 - Broadened exceptions and enhanced discretion to disclosure, expanded response times to disclosure requests



Governance, Privacy, & Civic Engagement

Theme Legislative Summary:

- **Bill 46 – *Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025***
 - Defines the Office of Statistics and Information ("OSI") and states that public bodies may disclose data derived from personal information to this Office. NFP organizations should be aware that the information they collect about their clients may be required to be released to the OSI, **but** only if the organization is a public entity
- **Bill 54 – *Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025***
 - A 290-page omnibus bill that makes more than 50 changes to rules around elections
 - Refreshes almost every law that governs how Albertans register, campaign, vote, launch petitions, hold referenda, recalls, and finance politics

Governance, Privacy, & Civic Engagement

Sector-Wide Impact Summary:

• Privacy and Transparency Overhaul

- Boards will need to confirm whether their organizations are considered a public body (even GoA contract could attract) and amend policies accordingly. All organizations will need to monitor the release of regulation
- Review existing policies and update to align with heightened privacy obligations, policy requirements and breach response protocols. Staff training and consider in advance PIA's for future projects
- NFPs that rely on accessing information from public bodies for research, advocacy, or program development may experience longer wait times and increased denials when seeking information from public assoc. bodies

• Access to Data

- New opportunity for evidence-based programming exists with the potential to access more data. However, access to data comes with stricter conditions

• Civic Engagement Opportunity:

- Election rules fundamentally changes the way organizations, TPAs, and citizens can involve themselves in the political process
- The creation of two new constituencies means some organizations will see a change in representation

B.6 Economic Development, Workforce, & Innovation

Sector-Wide Impact Summary:

- **Investment Climate & Access to Capital**
 - There is a continued focus on public-private partnerships and social enterprise models
- **Workforce Development & Credential Mobility**
 - New childcare grant structures, credential streamlining, and targeted sector programming seek to address workforce challenges
- **Focus on Digital Service Delivery:**
 - Legislation continues to demonstrate a trend toward increasing the delivery of programs digitally. Organizations will need to continue to focus on digital transformation

Environment, Land, & Public Safety

Bill	Key Provisions	Impact
Bill 35 – <i>All-season Resorts Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on the regulation, development, and oversight of all-season resort areas in Alberta • Allows Cabinet to designate public Crown land as all-season resort areas • Existing park or heritage-range status can be rescinded to clear land for a resort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in land designation may impact conservation and recreation-based organizations • Organizations focused on outdoor recreation, environmental education, or tourism may see new partnership opportunities to deliver programming and services within all-season resorts
Bill 41 – <i>Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily impacts hunting and wildlife management practices • Removes the requirement for prescribed permits to transport injured or ill animals to rehabilitation facilities or veterinary clinics • Provides allowance for laser aiming devices and permits 12 to 17-year-olds to hunt with firearms under looser supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife/species at risk organizations may see an increase in orphan/injured animal intakes • Permit requirement removal reduces administrative fees and time required to get permits to transport injured wildlife • Hunting-oriented organizations may need to update their regulations, while both hunting-oriented and wildlife conservation organizations will need to inform members about the new changes
Bill 49 – <i>Public Safety & Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhauls the <i>Emergency Management Act</i> to emphasize the importance of balancing Albertans’ individual rights and freedoms when exercising emergency powers • Updates the definition of “emergency,” formalizes financial assistance programs for hazard mitigation and disaster recovery, and establishes a framework for the creation of an independent provincial police agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations need to watch for the planned regulatory changes that will focus on enhancing community resilience by improving preparedness, coordination, and information sharing during emergencies • Community safety, disaster relief, and search-and-rescue organizations may experience changes in operational processes



B.7

Environment, Land, & Public Safety

Theme Legislative Summary:

- **Bill 35 – *All-season Resorts Act***
 - Focuses on the regulation, development, and oversight of all-season resort areas in Alberta
 - Allows Cabinet to designate public Crown land as all-season resort areas
- **Bill 41 – *Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025***
 - Primarily impacts hunting and wildlife management practices
 - Removes the requirement for prescribed permits to transport injured or ill animals to rehabilitation facilities or veterinary clinics, provides an allowance for laser aiming devices, and permits 12 to 17-year-olds to hunt with firearms under looser supervision, larger poaching fines
- **Bill 43 – *Water Act Amendment Act, 2025***
 - Streamlines temporary diversion licences for drought response
- **Bill 45 – *Critical Infrastructure Defence Amendment Act, 2025***
 - Broadens “essential infrastructure” (now includes a 2-km US-border buffer and oil/gas sites) and triples protest fines
- **Bill 49 – *Public Safety & Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025***
 - Overhauls the *Emergency Management Act* to emphasize the importance of balancing Albertans’ individual rights and freedoms when exercising emergency powers

Environment, Land, & Public Safety

Sector-Wide Impact Summary:

- **Land Use Changes**

- Legislation tilts Alberta toward more commercial land development and the further monetization of hunting practices

- **New Opportunity and Challenges**

- Legislation introduces a significant opportunity for Alberta's tourism and recreation sectors while also requiring careful consideration of environmental and community impacts. Nonprofits and charities should evaluate how these changes align with their missions and operational priorities

- **Bottom Line:**

- Organizations have the opportunity to strengthen habitat protection advocacy, modernize outdoor safety education, and formalize disaster response partnerships to establish themselves as credible partners in land stewardship and public safety
- Conservation trusts should update species-management plans; outdoor camps embed fire-evac tables; watershed groups benefit from faster drought-licence approvals; advocacy NFPs need to overhaul protest protocols to avoid big fines; stewardship groups should eye new parkland grants

Key Take-Aways

We are undergoing a fundamental shift in how the GoA funds and structures programs, especially in the health and social services space

New data-governance legislative frameworks mean that organizations will need to ensure alignment of existing policies and procedures

With increasing legislative authority being delegated through regulation, additional diligence and capacity will be required to keep updated on legislative timelines and to inform advocacy efforts

Recommendations

Align health-related proposals with integration language and new pillars

- Frame asks around coordinated care pathways and individualized service provision, using an outcome-focused approach.

Consistently use recovery-oriented language and stress community-based supports and partnerships

Stay engaged

- As much as capacity allows, keep up-to-date with legislative timelines, release of regulations, and GoA consultation opportunities.
- Ensure your organization's policies and procedures are up-to-date and align with new legislation.



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