

# ALBERTA

## AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2026

Alberta (Alta.) has had a record three women serve as premier, but its legislature has not yet achieved gender parity by having women make up at least half of its MLAs. The Legislative Assembly of Alberta seats 86\* members, of which 31 are women (36%). Alta.'s last election took place in May 2023.

\*one additional seat is vacant



**Population**  
5,048,151



**Female to Male**  
50% : 50%



**GDP**  
\$361.4 billion

### GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Alta. has a unicameral legislature, with one chamber: the **Legislative Assembly of Alberta**. As a parliamentary democracy, Alta. has 87 constituencies which are each represented by an elected **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)**.

The political party with the most elected MLAs forms government, and their leader becomes the head of government, called the **Premier**. The Premier selects MLAs to serve as Cabinet Ministers.

The **Lieutenant Governor of Alberta** is appointed by the Governor General of Canada and represents the King, Canada's Head of State.



### CURRENT EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION (as of Mar 2025)

**Premier:** Danielle Smith (W)  
**Assumed office:** 11 Oct. 2022  
**Party:** United Conservative Party of Alta

25 Cabinet Members  
5 women (20.0%) : 20 men (80.0%)

#### Notable portfolios currently held by women:

- Hospital and Surgical Health Services
- Arts, Culture and Status of Women
- Indigenous Relations
- Agriculture and Irrigation

### CURRENT LEGISLATURE (as of Mar 2025)

86 MLAs total\*  
31 women (36.0%) : 55 men (64.0%)

#### MLAS PER PARTY

**United Conservative Party of Alta.:** 47 MLAs  
11 women (23.4%) : 36 men (76.6%)

**Alta. New Democratic Party:** 38 MLAs  
20 women (52.6%) : 18 men (47.4%)

**Progressive Tory Party of Alta.:** 1 MLA  
0 women : 1 man

\*one additional seat is vacant, pending a by-election

### LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS (as of Mar 2025)

19 Lieutenant Governors since 1905  
4 women : 15 men

**Current Lieutenant Governor:**  
Salma Lakhani (W)

### PAST PREMIERS (as of Mar 2025)

19 Premiers since 1905  
3 women : 16 men

**Alison Redford,** 7 Oct. 2011 - 23 Mar. 2014  
**Rachel Notley,** 24 May. 2015 - 30 Apr. 2019  
**Danielle Smith,** 11 Oct. 2022 - present

## MILESTONES

**1917**

Alta. was the first Canadian province or territory to elect women MLAs to its legislature. Louise McKinney and Roberta MacAdams Price were also the first women elected to a provincial legislature in the entire British Empire.

**1921**

Irene Parbly was the first woman named to Cabinet in Alberta.

**1951**

Alta. was the first Canadian province or territory to elect women MLAs to its legislature. Louise McKinney and Roberta MacAdams Price were also the first women elected to a provincial legislature in the entire British Empire.

**1985**

Helen Hunley was the first woman to be appointed Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.

**2011**

Alison Redford was the first woman premier of Alberta.

**2022**

Danielle Smith became the third woman premier of Alta. Three women - Alison Redford, Rachel Notley & Danielle Smith - have now held that role. This is more woman premiers than in any other Canadian province or territory.

**2023**

Rhiannon Hoyle was the first Black woman MLA and Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse was the first First Nations woman MLA elected in Alberta.

**2023**

Alta.'s 2023 election saw a record number of women win seats in the province's legislature, with 33 women MLAs out of 87 (37.9%). This is the highest proportion of women MLAs in Alta.'s history.