
Supporting small businesses

Small businesses are essential to Alberta's economy. They provide jobs for Albertans and support growth in communities. To help these businesses succeed, Alberta's government is cutting red tape.

Updating Tax and Revenue Administration Client Self-Service (TRACS)

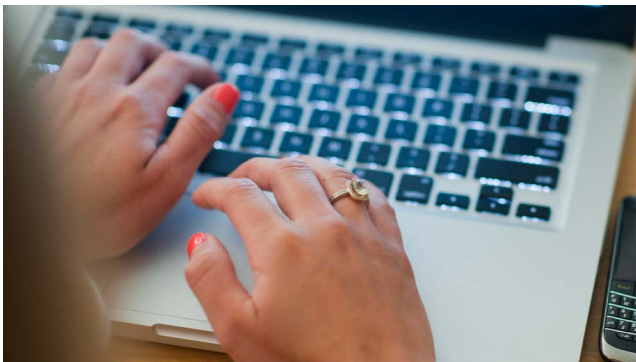
Small businesses told us they wanted more flexibility when filing corporate income tax. The result was improving TRACS, the secure online system for corporate and commodity taxpayers, claimants and filers to conduct business with Tax and Revenue Administration.

Updates to TRACS allow third-party representatives, such as accounting firms, to access corporate income tax accounts on behalf of their clients. This enables both individuals and their accounting representatives to self-enroll in the system using MyAlberta Digital ID and gain access to their corporate income tax information immediately. This change saves time and money for firms by eliminating the reliance on outdated fax and mail submissions.

Prior improvements include introducing electronic signatures on Alberta's tax forms and electronic filing (net file) for provincial corporate income tax returns. This simple change provides the user with immediate receipt confirmation, faster processing, and the convenience of filing from anywhere.

Streamlining OHS regulations

We have made changes to simplify Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations. Employers now have more flexible requirements for health and safety committees and representatives. This allows employers to tailor the committees to fit their own worksite needs.



To help employers navigate the OHS rules, government has also launched an online [OHS search tool](#). With the new search tool, the OHS Act, regulation and code is now available as a searchable document. Health and safety professionals can now easily filter through and apply relevant workplace rules, while supporting ongoing training.

Expanding online registry services

Alberta's government has expanded the number of registry services available online. Through [MyAlberta eServices](#), businesses can order commercial and farm vehicle registration renewals, in-transit permits, and duplicate vehicle registration certificates online instead of having to go to a registry office. This change is especially helpful for small businesses in rural communities that may not have a registry office nearby.

Supporting cooperatives in Alberta

Recent changes to the Cooperatives Act give Alberta cooperatives the flexibility to choose the most qualified directors. A cooperative is a business organization created by a group of people to provide services or goods that this specific group requires. Each member has a say in how the business is run and share in the profits the business makes.

The ratio of a cooperative's board of directors required to be Canadian residents has been reduced from a majority to 25 per cent. The requirements for managing directors to be Canadian residents have also been removed. These changes mean cooperatives can choose directors regardless of where they live, while retaining a degree of local representation, making Alberta a more attractive place for cooperatives to operate and invest.

In addition, cooperative members are now able to conduct virtual meetings and take part in electronic voting, saving organizations time and money by eliminating travel time and other logistics required to hold in-person meetings.



Cheers to change

Small businesses in the hospitality industry have more opportunities to increase sales and expand their operations, thanks to modernized liquor policies from Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC). The changes allow:

- Bars and restaurants to sell liquor and mixed drinks for delivery and consumption off-premises
- Restaurants and bars to serve liquor on patios not directly attached to the licensed premises

Supporting Alberta's entrepreneurs

Amendments to Alberta's Food Regulation support small entrepreneurs, enable job creation and give Albertans new opportunities to buy locally produced foods, all while maintaining food safety standards.

With these changes, food banks can prepare, cook and serve food on-site to better support the most vulnerable.

Bed and breakfasts can now serve food other than breakfast, creating new opportunities for small businesses and supporting the growth of Alberta's tourism industry.

Home-based businesses no longer require food-handling permits or inspections for foods that present a low risk for food-borne illness, such as baked goods, jams/jellies, candies, pickled foods and cereals.



Cutting municipal red tape

The latest updates to the Municipal Government Act support local economic development and small business growth. This includes enabling municipalities to establish intermunicipal business licences, so businesses can operate across multiple municipalities without having to purchase a licence in each municipality. This change will allow mobile businesses (for example, food trucks or photographers) to operate more easily across municipal boundaries, eliminating the time and cost of obtaining multiple licenses.

Also, great news for landowners, developers, consultants, municipalities and Albertans. To reduce the number of permit applications required for new or changes to roadside developments, Alberta Transportation has piloted Highway Vicinity Management Agreements (HVMAs). HVMAs are designed to reduce approval times, speed up development, and reduce regulatory burden.

Following a successful trial run in Cochrane, the pilot has been expanded to nearly 20 participating municipalities. Alberta Transportation will lead a province-wide roll out of the HVMAs in Winter 2022. Interested municipalities will be able to apply through a web-based system. Landowners and developers in participating municipalities will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to carry out their operations in an efficient, safe and timely manner.

Let's keep going

Alberta's government will continue working with industry panels and Albertans to identify regulatory barriers that may be preventing economic growth. Visit [Alberta.ca/cutredtape](https://alberta.ca/cutredtape) and tell us how we can help your business succeed.