

2026 Strategic Planning Framework and Guidance

MANDATE

The Provincial Archives of Alberta's legislated mandate is the acquisition, preservation, storage, publication, and public exhibition of public records and records of which preservation is in the public interest.

PURPOSE

To provide a trusted, authentic, and diverse collection of records that describes Alberta's collective memory, making available the stories of the people and institutions that define the province.

PRINCIPLES OF DELIVERY

What needs to endure across all the work PAA does:

1. PAA stays current, evaluating itself and evolving its processes to be responsive to the needs of those whose records PAA acquires and those who access them.
2. PAA is steadfast in maintaining the highest standards for the foundational work of acquiring, preserving, and sharing records of enduring public interest.
3. PAA is continuously working to build an archival collection that is representative of Alberta's diverse society.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Be connected, visible, and
trusted

Offer a welcoming, accessible
experience for everyone

Demonstrate leadership
through focused expertise

Embed digital preservation as a
standard of practice

Be connected, visible, and trusted

- Continue to be a key resource for public servants, Government of Alberta (GOA), and other institutions on archival requirements and best practices.
- Build active relationships with communities that will enhance its collections.
- Grow the collection and program offerings to thoughtfully represent Alberta's many diverse identities and stories.

Offer a welcoming, accessible experience for everyone

- Continue to innovate to ensure the records are easy to find and use.
- Provide consistent, helpful service to researchers and the general public.
- Grow its capacity to embed reconciliation, making records approachable to those who do not yet see the archives as a place that serves them.

Demonstrate leadership through focused expertise

- Set the standard for archival record preservation and management, building and sharing its expertise to elevate archival practice across Alberta.
- Participate strategically in opportunities to share best practices and build capacity in the sector.

Embed digital preservation as a standard of practice

- Implement digital preservation governance required to leverage digital technology to deliver faster and more reliable archival services.
- Fully implement a modernized digital preservation solution as a trusted, secure resource backed by strong governance and trained staff.

This strategic planning document was developed through a collaborative discussion with the Provincial Archives of Alberta management team. Discussions took place in June and July of 2026 and were informed by stakeholder engagement and staff engagement conducted internally by the PAA.