

1986 BILL 266

First Session, 21st Legislature, 35 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 266

DEPARTMENT OF MULTICULTURALISM ACT

MS. BARRETT

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee of the Whole

Third Reading

Royal Assent

Bill 266
Ms. Barrett

BILL 266

1986

DEPARTMENT OF MULTICULTURALISM ACT

(Assented to , 1986)

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

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| Definitions | <p>1 In this Act,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) “Department” means the Department of Multiculturalism;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) “Minister” means the Minister of Multiculturalism.</p> |
| Establishment | <p>2 There shall be a department of the Government called the Department of Multiculturalism over which shall preside the member of the Executive Council appointed by the Lieutenant Governor under the Great Seal of the Province as Minister of Multiculturalism.</p> |
| Staff | <p>3 In accordance with the <i>Public Service Act</i> there may be appointed a Deputy Minister of Multiculturalism and other employees required to conduct the business of the Department.</p> |
| Consultants | <p>4 The Minister may from time to time engage the services of experts or persons having special or other technical knowledge to advise him or to inquire into and report to him on matters under the Minister’s administration, and a person whose services are engaged under this section may be paid remuneration and expenses that the Minister prescribes.</p> |

Fees **5** The Minister may charge fees in connection with any material, facility, service, program or other matter under the Minister's administration.

Delegation **6** The Minister may in writing delegate any power, duty or function conferred or imposed on him by this Act or any other Act under his administration to any employee of the Department or any member, officer or employee of any agent of the Crown in right of Alberta.

Objects **7(1)** It is the purpose of the Department, working in conjunction with other departments of the Government where appropriate, to promote multiculturalism in Alberta and to promote the equality of access for all Albertans to all amenities and services in Alberta.

(2) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the purpose of the Department includes the following objectives:

(a) to develop and maintain an Immigrant Access Services Program to help immigrants to Alberta to gain access to services made available by the Government,

(b) to develop and maintain a program of multi-lingual "work hazard" signs and other ethno-sensitive workplace initiatives,

(c) to develop and maintain community-based ethno-cultural social service and health programs which are sensitive to the linguistic and cultural characteristics of the communities they serve,

(d) to promote equal access to business development programs implemented and continued by the Government, including the exploration and development of ways in which Alberta businesses may take advantage of unique opportunities for international trade on the basis of the special knowledge and linguistic skills of Albertans within various ethno-cultural communities, and

(e) to regularly review the representation of Alberta's ethno-cultural communities within various aspects of the Government, and to propose and initiate programs and policies designed to redress imbalances where they are found.

Council
established

8(1) There is hereby established the Intercultural Council.

(2) The Intercultural Council shall advise the Minister on matters pertaining to the purposes of the Department.

(3) The Intercultural Council

(a) may study Government policies and legislation which may have a bearing on the equality, rights, status and welfare of members of ethno-cultural groups and communities in Alberta, and communicate its findings thereon to the Minister and any other person,

(b) may receive representations and presentations from persons and organizations concerned with the economic, political and social equality of members of ethno-cultural groups and communities in Alberta,

(c) if the Minister refers to it any matter relating to the equality, rights, status or welfare of members of ethno-cultural groups and communities in Alberta, shall study the matter and report to the Minister thereon,

(d) may study any matter relating to the equality, rights, status or welfare of members of ethno-cultural groups and communities in Alberta and cause research to be carried out on such subjects and be reported to the Council,

(e) may assist in the planning and implementation of programs, seminars, training sessions or conferences which relate to the equality, rights, status and welfare of ethno-cultural groups and communities in Alberta and the individual members of those groups and communities,

(f) may from time to time publish such reports, studies or recommendations as it deems advisable, and

(g) shall inform the Minister of any problem which comes to its attention and which in its opinion requires study, a change of policy or the introduction of legislation by Government.

(4) The Council may, with the prior approval of the Minister, appoint 1 or more special committees for the study of particular issues which shall report on their findings to the Council.

(5) A committee appointed pursuant to subsection (4) may consist of members of the Council or of other persons or of any combination thereof.

Voluntary
associations

9(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall, by order, prescribe those voluntary associations or groups operating within the Province that are active in the area of the equality, rights, status and welfare of ethno-cultural groups and communities.

(2) Each of the associations or groups prescribed pursuant to subsection (1) may nominate not more than 1 person for membership in the Council.

	<p>(3) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint 15 persons from amongst those nominated pursuant to subsection (2) to be members of the Council.</p> <p>(4) In selecting those persons to be appointed to the Council the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall consider the knowledge, background and expertise of each person nominated and shall bear in mind the desirability of representation of the various ethno-cultural groups and communities in the Province and of the various geographical regions of the Province.</p>
Reimbursement of expenses	<p>10 Members of the Council and members of any committee of the Council shall receive such fees and shall be reimbursed for such expenses as are prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, providing that money has been first appropriated to that purpose by the Legislature.</p>
Term of office	<p>11(1) The members of the Council appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall be appointed for a term of 4 years.</p> <p>(2) In appointing the members of the Council the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall name 1 of them to be chairman of the Council.</p> <p>(3) A member of the Council may be reappointed for 1 or more subsequent terms of office.</p> <p>(4) At the expiry of the term of office of a member the member shall remain in office until reappointed or replaced.</p> <p>(5) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may fill any vacancy in the Council which arises as a result of resignation, death or inability to act by a further appointment from amongst those persons nominated pursuant to section 9.</p>
Office of chairman	<p>12 The office of Chairman of the Council shall be a full-time position and the chairman shall devote his full time to the fulfillment of his duties as chairman.</p>
Quorum	<p>13(1) Eight members constitute a quorum of the Council.</p> <p>(2) The Council shall meet no less than once every 3 months.</p> <p>(3) In the absence of the chairman those members present may appoint an acting chairman of the meeting.</p> <p>(4) The Council may appoint pursuant to the <i>Public Service Act</i> a secretary and such other employees of the Council as the Council deems necessary, subject to the approval of the Minister.</p>
Report	<p>14(1) The Council shall submit, no later than September 30th in each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year to the Minister.</p>

(2) On receiving the report the Minister shall table it in the Legislative Assembly if it is then sitting and if it is not then sitting, within 30 days of the commencement of the next sitting.

Boards,
committees or
councils

15(1) The Minister may establish any boards, committees or councils he considers necessary or desirable to act in an advisory or administrative capacity in connection with any of the policies, programs, services or other matters under his jurisdiction.

(2) The Minister may, with respect to any board, committee or council established under this section,

(a) appoint or provide for the manner of the appointment of its members,

(b) prescribe the term of office of a member,

(c) designate a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary, and

(d) authorize, fix and provide for the payment of remuneration and expenses of its members, providing that money has first been appropriated to that purpose by the Legislature.

(3) A board, committee or council established pursuant to this section may, subject to the approval of the Minister, make rules of procedure governing the calling of its meetings and the conduct of business at its meetings.

(4) A board, committee or council established pursuant to this section may exercise the powers and shall perform the duties and functions that the Minister approves, confers or imposes on it.

Agreements

16 The Minister may on behalf of the Government of Alberta enter into agreements with the Government of Canada, the government of a province of Canada, the government of a foreign jurisdiction, an agency of any of those governments, a municipal corporation in Alberta or any other person in respect of matters concerning ethno-cultural groups or communities in Alberta.

Grants

17(1) The Minister may make grants if

(a) he is authorized to do so by regulations under this section, and

(b) there is authority available in a supply vote for the purpose for which the grant is to be made.

Regulations

18(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

(a) authorizing the Minister to make grants out of money appropriated to that purpose by the Legislature,

- (b) prescribing the purposes for which grants may be made,
 - (c) governing applications for grants,
 - (d) prescribing the persons or organizations or classes of persons or organizations eligible for grants
 - (d) specifying the conditions required to be met by any applicant for a grant to render that person eligible for the grant,
 - (f) prescribing the conditions on which a grant is made and requiring the repayment of the grant to the Government if the conditions are not met,
 - (g) providing for the payment of any grant in a lump sum or by installments and prescribing the time or times at which the grant or the installments may be paid,
 - (h) limiting the amount of any grant or class of grant that may be made,
 - (i) requiring any person receiving a grant to account for the way in which the grant is spent in whole or in part, and
 - (j) authorizing the Minister to enter into an agreement with respect to any matter relating to the payment of a grant.
- (2) Any regulation made under subsection (1) may be specific or general in its application.

Coming into
force

19 This Act comes into force on Proclamation which shall not be earlier than the date upon which money is appropriated to the purposes of this Act by the Legislature.