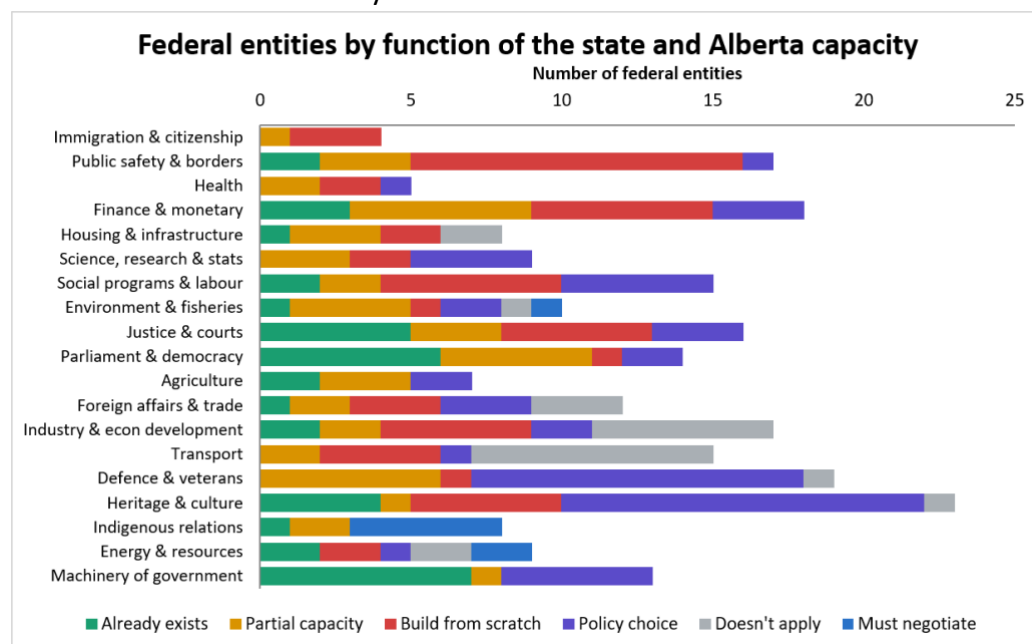


REPLICATING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN A SEPARATE ALBERTA

What would need to be built from scratch and what might a newly independent country avoid?

The School of Public Policy recently published a report on the [Economic and Fiscal Implications of Alberta Separation](#). It includes [spending requirements to replicate existing federal services](#), as well as a detailed account of [current federal activity](#) (239 departments, agencies, and other entities) and whether Alberta has equivalent functions. An independent Alberta would need to decide which functions delivered by the Government of Canada it would take on.



Some activities would be easy to replicate because of existing expertise; others would not. The figure shows current federal functions and where Alberta would need to expand, build from scratch, negotiate, or cease delivering.

For 39 federal entities (16%), Alberta has existing capacity to take on the responsibilities but would need to expand a function it already provides, such as correctional services, the Auditor General of Alberta, or Service Alberta. For 51 entities (21%), it has partial capacity but must significantly expand responsibilities, such as international relations, trade agreements and treaties.

There could be savings where Alberta and Canada perform many of the same functions, such as tourism marketing or administering elections. There are 24 (10%) federal entities that don't apply in Alberta, e.g., regional development agencies or Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

For 59 entities (25%), an independent Alberta would need to build them from scratch. Examples are employment insurance, passports and border control, intellectual property regulation, mortgage insurance, national defence, and postal services. There are 58 (24%) federal entities requiring a policy choice. For example, would an independent Alberta support a public broadcaster like CBC/Radio Canada or invest in an Alberta Space Agency.

Of the 239 federal entities, Alberta has existing capacity for 39, partial capacity for 51, would need to build 59 from scratch, and make policy choices on 58. Only 24 don't apply, and eight require negotiation as they touch on Indigenous rights.

The numbers show creating a new state is a complex endeavour requiring substantial expansion of Alberta's government and many choices about what Alberta does for its residents and citizens.