Less red tape. More fun.

The government is getting out of the way of summer fun by removing inefficient processes and prescriptive requirements – focusing, instead, on supporting businesses in our communities and enhancing Albertans’ experiences.

Here’s how less red tape brings an extra dose of fun to your summer months.

Food
Red tape reduction initiatives support Alberta entrepreneurs and allow Albertans and its visitors to have a better local experience – whether on a visit to a community next door or buying locally produced foods – all while maintaining high standards for food safety.

This includes providing more options to fuel up for those on the go across the province this summer. Bed and breakfasts and other small lodging operators can now serve other meals beyond breakfast, providing more convenience for travellers and additional revenue for small business.

Alberta travelers can look forward to more convenient stops on their road trips, thanks to improvements to commercial safety rest areas, including gas, food services and other amenities, along the provincial highways. These updates make traveling more enjoyable and will help increase commercial development opportunities and job creation across the province. We’re making this possible by making rules more efficient – a hallmark of red tape reduction efforts – for private sector developers to lease government-owned land for development purposes.

This summer, your local farmers’ markets or summer community events are set to feature more homemade foods. Home-based businesses no longer require food-handling permits, nor are they subject to inspections for foods that present a low risk for food-borne illness. These are foods that do not require refrigeration, such as baked goods, jams/jellies, candies, pickled foods and cereals. High-risk foods and foods containing meat, poultry, seafood and/or raw milk continue to be prohibited.

Eating out this summer also means you can bring your furry friends along. Bars and restaurants no longer need approval from a public health inspector if they wish to allow patrons to bring their dogs on patios. This change saves food establishments time and money obtaining previously-required approvals from Alberta Health Services, while still ensuring customer health, safety and enjoyment.

Fun
The province’s liquor laws are more flexible and responsive to industry and consumer needs thanks to reduced red tape. Small liquor manufacturers, retailers, bars and restaurants now have greater opportunities to grow their businesses and create jobs, and Albertans have more options when choosing to purchase or consume alcohol responsibly.

Whether you’re enjoying a summer day in the park, camping, or taking part in events and activities involving liquor service, here’s how less red tape means more fun:

- Select day-use area picnic sites now permit liquor consumption from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- The Victoria Day long weekend liquor ban no longer applies at select provincial parks.
- Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis regulations have been clarified to allow event organizers the flexibility to serve drinks anywhere on festival grounds, and liquor licensing is less restrictive for festivals and events held in provincial parks.
- Alberta municipalities are now allowed to create bylaws establishing Entertainment Districts – designated public areas where Albertans can responsibly consume alcohol.
- Albertans can enjoy homemade drinks at weddings or family reunions as made-at-home beer, wine and cider are now allowed to be served at private non-sale special events.
The great outdoors

Alberta’s natural environment offers numerous opportunities to get outside and enjoy your favourite activities. Here’s how less red tape makes it easier for you to access Alberta’s great outdoors.

Camping

You can now use Visa Debit and Debit MasterCard to pay for campsite registrations online and by phone. This provides an additional payment method for individuals without a credit card, allowing more Albertans to book campsites.

Whether you are looking to celebrate a special occasion, enhance your camping stay, or organize a sporting event in a provincial park, securing a special events permit is now easier with online applications. The standardized online form simplifies the application process and improves clarity and convenience for event organizers, while reducing administration for Alberta Parks staff.

Fishing and hunting

Albertans enjoying recreational activities such as sportfishing and hunting are benefiting from improvements to licence renewals and training.

Anglers can now subscribe to automatic annual renewals of their sportfishing licences, improving client service and supporting increased participation in sportfishing, while increasing overall revenues and compliance with licensing requirements.

Hunters gearing up for fall can now complete their training online. In-person training sessions have been replaced by online orientation packages for each of the Alberta Parks sites where hunting is allowed.

Public land leases

Tourism and commercial recreation operators may apply to access longer leases on public land in Alberta to a maximum of up to 60 years. This change is intended to help boost tourism growth by making it easier for tourism and commercial recreation operators to secure financing.

Let’s keep going

Alberta’s government will continue working to remove regulatory barriers that may be hindering economic growth or interfering with everyday activities. Visit Alberta.ca/CutRedTape to learn more about our ongoing success in reducing red tape for Albertans and Alberta businesses, and to provide your ideas on where there should be less red tape.