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Alberta Scan

Issue 1067

week ending 15 June 2018

Elections...

On June 14, premier **Rachel Notley** called by-elections for Fort McMurray-Conklin and Innisfail-Sylvan Lake to fill vacancies in the Alberta Legislature. The by-elections will be held July 12.

To vote, an elector with an Alberta Driver's Licence or an Alberta Identification Card, may register on-line [here](#) until June 30th, 2018. Otherwise, voters can register at an Advance Poll or on Election Day, providing authorized identification containing a name and address proving residence in the electoral division. A list of authorized identification is on Election Alberta's [website](#).

There are a number of voting deadlines during the campaign:

- ▶ electors have 28 days to vote by Special Ballot beginning June 14.
- ▶ candidate nominations begin Thursday, June 14, 2018 and end at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 25, 2018.
- ▶ advance polls begin Tuesday, July 3, 2018 and end on Saturday, July 7, 2018.

Former Wildrose Party leader **Brian Jean** won Fort McMurray-Conklin in the May 2015 election with 43.9 per cent of the vote. The NDP was second with 30.8 per cent of the vote. The incumbent PC candidate was third with 22.3 per cent. Voter turnout, which is traditionally lower in by-elections, was 55.4 per cent in the riding in the general election.

This by-election will be an interesting test of the premier's efforts to get the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion built, given that the bitumen at the centre of the controversy is mined in Fort McMurray.

Innisfail-Sylvan Lake was won by Wildrose candidate **Don MacIntyre** in 2015 with 42.7 per cent of the vote. The PC candidate was second with 28 per cent. The NDP was third with 23.1 per cent. Voter turnout was 51.2 per cent.

The average provincial turnout in 2015 was 57 per cent.

Details are available [here](#).

Meanwhile, the United Conservative Party (UCP) continued to announce acclaimed candidates for the 2019 election including:

- ▶ **David Dorward** in Edmonton-Gold Bar. "David's experience in the Legislature as an MLA and cabinet minister [as a Progressive Conservative], combined with his background as an accountant and small business owner, will be a huge asset as we work to restore the Alberta Advantage and get our province back on track," UCP leader **Jason Kenney** said.
- ▶ Sitting UCP MLA **Drew Barnes** in Cypress-Medicine Hat. "Since first being elected in 2012, **Drew** has been a strong voice on behalf of his constituents," **Kenney** said. "As a former small business owner, he brings valuable experience and insight to his role as our finance critic." □

Government Scan...

The following announcements were made this week by the provincial government. The title of the announcement, as written by the government, is in bold. Cabinet

decisions, called *Orders in Council*, are marked with the abbreviation “OC” and the number of the decision. Copies of the full text of the OCs mentioned below are available online [here](#).

Advanced Education

8 June 2018

Athabasca University on Path to Long-term Success

Advanced education minister **Marlin Schmidt** announced a \$4.9 million grant to Athabasca University to modernize its digital learning environment and upgrade the existing IT infrastructure.

The money will be allocated as follows:

- ▶ \$1.5 million to implement Imagine: Transforming Lives and Transforming Communities strategic plan.
- ▶ \$1.5 million to implement Rise: Athabasca University's Digital Transformation five-year IT strategy.
- ▶ \$1.5 million for planning and development of a student delivery framework.
- ▶ \$400,000 for a long-range development plan and for renewal of the teaching and learning framework.

Details are [here](#).

Agriculture and Forestry

12 June 2018

Local Food Council to Support Growth in Sector

Agriculture and forestry minister **Oneil Carlier** is looking for applications to sit on Alberta's first local food council.

The council is to provide recommendations on provincial policies, programs, pilot projects or initiatives to support the continued growth and sustainability of Alberta's local food sector.

Recruiting a Local Food Council is the first step in implementing the Supporting Alberta's *Local Food Sector Act* that was passed on May 30.

The council will have representation from Alberta's local food sector across the province, including small producers and processors and those with specialized and academic knowledge, and would report to the minister within one year.

The legislation requires the council to examine:

- ▶ potential barriers and challenges for local food producers and local food processors, including specific challenges faced by small producers and processors.
- ▶ local food aggregation and distribution.
- ▶ risk-management tools for local food producers and processors.
- ▶ increasing access to local food.
- ▶ consumer awareness of local food.
- ▶ certification opportunities for local food producers and local food processors.

Applications close July 12.

Details are [here](#).

Alberta Health Services (AHS)

11 June 2018

New Online Tool to Help Albertans Understand Health System

AHS announced a new online information resource to help Albertans better understand their health system.

Healthcare 101 outlines the foundation and partners of the health-care system, including government and non-government organizations, services and resources.

Details are [here](#).

8 June 2018

AHS Ranked Among Best in World for Integration of Care

The 18th International Congress on

Integrated Care held in late May in Utrecht, Netherlands, identified AHS as among the top five most integrated health systems from more than 200 submissions from around the world.

Details are [here](#).

Children's Services

14 June 2018

Indigenous Programming at Affordable Child Centres

Children's services minister **Danielle Larivee** announced five new \$25-a-day child care centres are offering Indigenous-focused programming.

There are now six centres across Alberta implementing Indigenous-focused programming, including traditional drumming, storytelling and lessons in Michif, Blackfoot and Cree.

Details are [here](#).

Culture and Tourism

12 June 2018

New Community Centre for Families in Calgary

Culture and tourism minister **Ricardo Miranda** announced almost \$600,000 in matching funding through the Community Facility Enhancement Program to support construction of the multi-use facility in Calgary's Citadel community.

Plans include development of an outdoor patio to support community events, including the annual Stampede Breakfast/Barbecue, Fall Fair and Community Clean Up. The new facility will provide services for an estimated 10,000 people.

More details are [here](#).

8 June 2018

More Access to Autism Services for Kids, Families

The Alberta government announced a \$1.25 million grant to Children's Autism Services of Edmonton to support the purchase of a facility in south Edmonton. This will allow the organization to expand its services to more than 200 families from across

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northern Alberta.

Total cost of the purchase and renovations to the facility is \$3.3 million with Children's Autism Services of Edmonton providing \$1.95 million secured through the organization's capital campaign and private financing.

The provincial contribution is provided through Culture and Tourism's Community Grants program using existing 2017-18 resources.

Details are [here](#).

Energy

11 June 2018

Moving Towards a More Diversified Energy Sector

Energy minister **Margaret McCuaig-Boyd** announced three new energy incentive programs created through the recently passed *Energy Diversification Act*.

- Some \$2 billion is available for private industry to apply for under:
- ▶ round 2 of the Petrochemicals Diversification Program.
- ▶ the Petrochemicals Feedstock Infrastructure Program.
- ▶ the Partial Upgrading Program.

The programs provide a combination of royalty credits, grants and loan guarantees designed to encourage energy diversification, like petrochemicals and partial upgrading.

Details are [here](#).

Finance

12 June 2018

World Cup Bar Hours Extended

Finance minister **Joe Ceci** announced an extension of hours so that bars can be open during FIFA World Cup games.

A province-wide liquor service extension is being offered to all establishments where liquor is served for on-site consumption throughout the duration of the FIFA World Cup, which is set to start June 14 and end July 15.

Details [here](#).

Health

12 June 2018

Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act (section 6)

Cabinet passed the Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Regulation. OC 195/2018.

The regulation identifies Calgary's Kensington Clinic and Edmonton's Woman's Health Options as facilities for which an access zone is established under the act.

11 June 2018

New Opioid Treatment Clinics in Northern Alberta

Health minister **Sarah Hoffman** announced new opioid dependency treatment clinics in Fort McMurray, High Prairie and Bonnyville.

The three clinics can treat up to 600 new patients annually, with medication-assisted treatment, such as methadone and Suboxone. Patients also receive mental health services and other supports.

Last year, 80 people in Alberta Health Services' North Zone died of an apparent opioid overdose. In the first three months of 2018, another eight people died of a suspected fentanyl poisoning in the North Zone.

Details are available [here](#).

Labour

8 June 2018

Workplace Changes for Youth Will Improve Safety

The labour department is seeking feedback on new youth employment rules it intends to implement September 1, 2018.

The proposed rules include:

- ▶ youth aged 13 to 14 can take jobs on the light work list such as food assembly and retail. Employers need a permit to hire them for work not on the light work list.
- ▶ fifteen-year-olds can continue to do most jobs except for hazardous work.
- ▶ on farms and ranches, waged, non-family youth age 13 to 15 can do any work that is not hazardous. The rules do not apply to family, friends and neighbours.
- ▶ volunteering, babysitting, collect-

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Recent Consultant Lobbyist Registrations

The following lobbyists recently registered to represent the clients below with Alberta's lobby registry.

Consultant Lobbyists (in order of registration)

Registered	Client	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Target Departments/Organizations
11-Jun-2018	Wing Kei Christian Nursing Home Association, Calgary	Hawkesworth Strategies, Calgary	Bob Hawkesworth	Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Seniors and Housing, Premier's Office, Alberta Health Services
Financial Benefit or Grant: Capital Grants available to build long term care beds, supportive living units and affordable housing units. Meetings with ministry officials to ensure we understand correctly the criteria for awarding capital grants.				
08-Jun-2018	CARPROOF Corporation, London, Ontario	Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Calgary	Peter Feldberg, Dana Gregoire, Daniel Brock	Executive Council, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

Existing Legislation: Privacy Laws. Communicating with government officials about the application of privacy laws to vehicle history information.

Alberta Scan

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Subscriptions

Subscriptions to *Alberta Scan* are \$250 plus GST (\$12.50) for one year. Information on bulk subscriptions is available on request. Please make cheques payable to Word of Mouth Communications.

Photocopying

Please do not photocopy this publication. Every photocopy makes it more difficult to gather useful information on your behalf.

Research

Thanks to staff at the Legislature Library for their ongoing help with researching items in this newsletter.

Political Monitor

Word of Mouth Communications provides *Alberta Political Monitor*, a service about ongoing policy developments. Call or email for further information.

Seminars on Alberta Politics

Word of Mouth Communications offers presentations of varying lengths about how the Alberta government decides and how the Cabinet Policy Committee process works. Call or email for further information.

Feedback

If you have suggestions to improve *Alberta Scan*, please contact:

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ing eggs and doing farm chores are not considered employment and are not affected.

Youth, guardians and employers can provide feedback until June 29 by emailing LBR.YouthReview@gov.ab.ca.

Details are [here](#).

Municipal Affairs

11 June 2018

Investing in Flood Resilience Across Alberta

Municipal affairs minister **Shaye Anderson** announced details of flood mitigation funding promised earlier this year.

Calgary is receiving \$1 million to support a variety of flood mitigation projects, including high-volume water pumps and temporary flood barriers that require less time and resources to build than permanent barriers.

Eighteen other at-risk communities received \$10,000 to review and update their flood-readiness plans and submit project proposals to the province for funding. Twelve of these proposals have been accepted and the communities are receiving additional funding for immediate projects to prepare for the current flood season.

Other communities receiving funding include:

- ▶ Clearwater County: \$156,000.
- ▶ Municipal District of Foothills: \$43,250.
- ▶ Municipal District of Big Horn: \$30,000.
- ▶ Kananaskis Improvement District: \$40,000.
- ▶ Mountain View County: \$50,000.
- ▶ Municipality of Crowsnest Pass: \$137,700.
- ▶ Rockyview County: \$25,000.
- ▶ Town of Banff: \$87,387.
- ▶ Town of Drumheller: \$128,500.
- ▶ Town of Okotoks: \$70,500.
- ▶ Town of Sundre: \$13,780.
- ▶ Town of Whitecourt: \$100,000.

Details are [here](#).

Seniors and Housing

14 June 2018

New Housing for Low-income Seniors in Calgary

Culture minister **Ricardo Miranda** celebrated a \$20 million contribution to a new 120-unit affordable housing project for seniors as part of the \$1.2 billion commitment in the government's Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy.

The new facility will be operated by Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta, and will specifically provide 70 supportive housing units for those aged 55 and older who have trouble finding traditional housing and 50 apartments for seniors with low income.

Details are available [here](#).

Service Alberta

8 June 2018

Gender-inclusive "X" Option for ID Documents

Service Alberta minister **Stephanie McLean** announced document changes to make Alberta a more inclusive province.

Albertans are now able to choose Female, Male or "X" on their driver's licences, ID cards and vital statistics records, such as birth certificates and death certificates.

Details are [here](#).

Transportation

12 June 2018

Relief for Southwest Anthony Henday Commuters

Transportation minister **Brian Mason** re-announced funding provisions in Budget 2018 to expand the southwest leg of Anthony Henday Drive in Edmonton.

The funding will allow expansion of the ring road to six lanes from four.

The government expects design work to be finalized later this year, with construction for the three-year project planned to begin in 2019.

Details are available [here](#). □