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Alberta Scan

Issue 1083

week ending 7 December 2018

Early...

No sooner had the Alberta Legislature completed its fall sitting than United Conservative Party leader **Jason Kenney** said the NDP government should call an election as soon as possible.

Under Alberta's fixed election period law, voting must occur between March 1 and May 31, 2019.

In a statement issued December 6, the day the sitting ended, **Kenny** said there is no point to bring back a lame duck session of the Legislature in the spring.

He said a 2019 budget from the NDP would have no credibility.

"I am therefore requesting that the Premier ask the Lieutenant Governor to sign the writ starting a general election in early February for a vote in early March," **Kenney** said.

"I will commit to ensuring that we consider all the options are available to us to ensure that Albertans have a good understanding of what their options are before we go into the next election and that the election will be held within the times that the current legislation suggests. There may or may not be a budget. There are two options, and one of those two options will happen," premier **Rachel Notley** responded.

Much like an election speech kicking off his campaign, the leader of the Official Opposition proceeded to list the sins of the NDP, foreshadowing the themes of his party's campaign:

- ▶ the government has lost the confidence of Albertans.
- ▶ Albertans want a government that is focused on reigniting our economy, restoring fiscal responsibility, and fighting for our province. "On all of these counts the NDP has been a total failure." Ironically, the NDP have been emphasizing for weeks now that premier **Rachel Notley** has been "fighting for" Albertans through her pursuit of the TransMountain pipeline and through maintaining social programs and jobs in the face of an economic downturn.

"The NDP is completely out of touch with economic reality: they talk about a recovery while unemployment has been growing for six straight months. They celebrate construction of a coastal pipeline, while we are further than ever from getting access to global markets for our energy," **Kenney** added. "Their political alliance with **Justin Trudeau** has been a complete failure for Alberta. Their mismanagement of our province's finances is risking our future."

The next day Statistics Canada released jobs numbers showing a one per cent drop in Alberta's unemployment rate, from 7.3 per cent in November 2017 to 6.3 per cent in November 2018. Even month-to-month, the rate dropped from 7.3 per cent in October 2018. Details are [here](#).

On the employment side, total employment in Alberta increased by 23,700 jobs from October to November 2018. On a year-to-year basis, employment grew by 58,900 jobs from November 2017 to November 2018. Details are [here](#). □

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](#).

Agriculture and Forestry

3 December 2018

Beef Producers Vote on Service Charge Model

Agriculture minister **Oneil Carlier** thanked Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) and the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council for conducting a vote on whether the industry service charges levied on producers should be refundable.

Preliminary results show more than 1,800 ABP members cast votes with 51.3 per cent voting in favour of the refundable service charge model.

Details are [here](#).

Energy

3 December 2018

Oil and Gas Conservation Act (sec-

tion 10); Oil Sands Conservation Act (section 20); Responsible Energy Development Act (sections 68 and 70).

Cabinet passed the Curtailment Rules. OC 375/2018.

Further details are [here](#).

Environment and Parks

7 December 2018

Public Lands Act (section 7).

Cabinet authorized the minister of environment and parks to sell certain public land to the Town of Fox Creek for \$128,500. OC 383/2018.

Finance

7 December 2018

Canada Pension Plan (Canada) (section 114).

Cabinet signified the consent of the

Regulations Scan...

The provincial cabinet passed the following regulations this week. Copies of the cabinet decisions

(called Orders in Council or "OCs") are available online [here](#).

Labour

7 December 2018

Employment Standards Code (section 138).

Cabinet passed the Employment Standards Amendment Regulation. OC 384/2018.

The amendment updates regulations governing youth aged 12 and under.

The new standards only apply when there is an employment relationship, such as jobs where employers

make mandatory deductions or provide benefits such as vacation pay. They do not apply to volunteer activities or casual work such as baby sitting, lawn-mowing, snow-shovelling or farm and ranch work.

The changes mean that youth aged 12 and under will only be able to be employed in artistic endeavours such as film, stage or television productions, and only with parental/guardian consent and a government-issued permit.

Details are [here](#).

Province of Alberta to the enactment of relevant sections of an act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on February 27, 2018 and other measures. OC 377/2018.

7 December 2018

Conflicts of Interest Act (section 23.921).

Cabinet passed the *Conflicts of Interest Act* Part 4.3 Designation Amendment Order. OC 378/2018.

7 December 2018

Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions Compensation Act (sections 5 and 23).

Cabinet passed the Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions Compensation Amendment Regulation. OC 380/2018.

Infrastructure

7 December 2018

Post-secondary Learning Act (section 67).

Cabinet approved the lease of certain land by The Board of Governors of Red Deer College to the Central Alberta Child Advocacy Centre for a term of 50 years, for the purposes of the construction and operation of a centre specializing in leading practices, training, research, community awareness and education in the area of integrated child advocacy practice. OC 385/2018.

Service Alberta

7 December 2018

Foreign Ownership of Land Regulations (section 14).

Cabinet ordered that the transaction under which The Canada Trust Company, as trustee for Rocky View Holdings LLC, retains an interest in certain land for estate planning purposes is excluded from the operation of the Foreign Ownership of Land Regulations, except for sections 22 and 25.

...continued on last page

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
07-Dec-2018	Team Alberta: Alberta Wheat Commission, Alberta Canola, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Barley	Alberta Counsel	Jonathon Wescott, Pascal Ryffel, Bronte Valk, Jenelle Saskiw, Cam MacKay, Keith Pridgen, Zack Ziolkoski, Shayne Saskiw	Alberta Labour, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Climate Change Office, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Advanced Education, Premier's Office
<p>Existing Legislation: <i>Climate Leadership Implementation Act</i>. Mitigating impacts of the carbon levy on Alberta's agricultural industry and advocating for further exemptions.</p> <p>Program or Policy: <i>Agricultural Research</i>. Supporting increased funding to farmer directed research.</p>				
07-Dec-2018	Muslim Association of Canada	StrategyCorp Inc., Toronto	John Matheson, Garry Keller	Alberta Legislative Assembly
<p>Existing Legislation: <i>Bill 24: An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances</i>. Arranging meetings regarding education policy and regulations.</p>				
05-Dec-2018	Interac Corp	1689986 ALBERTA LIMITED carrying on business as Navigator	Jason Hatcher, Sally Houser, Brent Kossey	Executive Council, Service Alberta, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission
<p>Decision: <i>Government use of secure identification technologies</i>. To provide information on new secure identification technology with the goal of implementation for applicable government services.</p>				
05-Dec-2018	Canadian Off High-Way Vehicle Distributors Council	Canadian Strategy Group	Hal Danchilla, Michael Lohner	Alberta Environment and Parks, Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly
<p>Program or Policy: <i>Castle Management Plan: Castle Provincial Park and Caste Wildland Provincial Park</i>. Provide background and information to government of Alberta and elected officials on the impact of the Castle Management Plan on users of Off Highway Vehicles.</p>				
04-Dec-2018	Source Energy Services	Strategic Results Consulting Inc	Larry Charach	Alberta Energy
<p>Program or Policy: <i>increasing capacity for Crude-by-Rail</i>. Determine potential for Source Energy to support Crude-by-Rail and create awareness by Alberta Government of such potential.</p> <p>Financial Benefit or Grant: <i>Financial Support or Grant for using Company's facilities to support increased shipment of Crude-by-Rail</i>. Determine potential for Source Energy to support Crude-by-Rail and create awareness by Alberta Government of such potential.</p>				
28-Nov-2018	My Viva Inc.	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Candice Laws, Steve Long, Kristy Thomson, Brent Korte	Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Health
<p>Program or Policy: <i>E-health</i>. Discussion of e-health policy initiatives to support wellness and initiatives to support development of e-health platforms.</p>				
28-Nov-2018	Association of Alberta Child Care Operators (AACCO)	Alberta Counsel	Jonathon Wescott, Shayne Saskiw, Pascal Ryffel, Bronte Valk, Jenelle Saskiw, Cam MacKay, Keith Pridgen	Alberta Children's Services, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Status of Women, Premier's Office
<p>Program or Policy: <i>Affordable Child Care Program</i>. AACCO seeks to build a productive relationship with the government of Alberta and opposition parties to ensure the inclusion of private for-profit day care operators in the expansion of the \$25 per day affordable child care program, or in any other programs aimed at making child care more accessible and affordable in Alberta.</p>				

Alberta Scan

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Photocopying

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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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...government

OC 381/2018.

Cabinet ordered that the transaction under which Peace River Logging Corporation, as general partner of Peace River Logging Limited Partnership, acquires an interest in certain land for the purpose of constructing and operating a shop, and a log storage and processing yard is excluded from the operation of the Foreign Ownership of Land Regulations, except for sections 22 and 25. OC 382/2018.

Premier

6 December 2018

Alberta's Message: We Have to Keep Canada Working

As part of its ongoing campaign to draw attention to the impact of Alberta's lack of access to tidewater for its energy industry, the province spent over \$84,000 in Montreal during the first minister's meeting.

The spending included:

- ▶ print ads in *Le Devoir*, *The Montreal Gazette* and *Star Metro Montreal*.
- ▶ extensive home page presences on those newspapers' websites.
- ▶ projections onto the sides of almost 20 buildings in central Montreal.

Appointments Scan...

The provincial government made the following appointments this week. Cabinet appointments are

Related information
▶ Keep Canada Working ads.
Details are [here](#).

2 December 2018

Premier Acts to Protect Value of Alberta's Resources

Premier **Rachel Notley** told industry the province is reducing the availability of raw crude oil and bitumen by 325,000 barrels per day to address the storage glut, representing an 8.7 per cent reduction.

Alberta is currently producing 190,000 raw crude oil and bitumen barrels per day more than can be shipped by any means.

After excess storage is drawn down, the reduction will drop to an estimated average of 95,000 barrels a day until Dec. 31, 2019 when the rules supporting this action end.

The government mandated curtailment is projected to reduce volatility, narrow the differential by at least \$4 per barrel and add an estimated \$1.1 billion of government revenue in 2019-20.

The action was supported by the United Conservative Party, the Alberta Party and the Alberta Liberals.

Details of the announcement are [here](#). □

followed by the Order in Council (OC) number of the decision. The full OCs are available online [here](#).

Agriculture and Forestry

7 December 2018

Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (section 3).

Cabinet reappointed **Malorie Aubé**, **Ben Campbell**, **Lynn Jacobson** and **Doug Sawyer** as members of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, each for a term to expire on March 20, 2022. OC 376/2018.

Finance

7 December 2018

Insurance Act (section 498); Insurance Councils Regulation (section 2).

Cabinet appointed **Hilary Rose** as a member of the Alberta Insurance Council for a term to expire on December 3, 2021. OC 379/2018. □