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## Next Issue

The next issue of *Alberta Scan* will be published in mid-January 2019, as events warrant. Best of the season and happy holidays to all our subscribers! See you in the new year.

Paul McLoughlin

# Alberta Scan

Issue 1084

week ending 14 December 2018

## Right now...

**A**lbertans are angry. Angry about the difficulty of building a pipeline to the west coast. Angry about building a pipeline to the east coast. And angry about the lack of support from the rest of Canada to Alberta's predicament.

At the first ministers' meeting last week in Montreal, Quebec premier **Francois Legault** early in the week questioned the "social acceptability" for a pipeline that would carry "dirty energy" from Alberta through his province. Alberta premier **Rachel Notley** and New Brunswick premier **Blaine Higgs** suggested the Energy East pipeline proposal might be reconsidered to replace foreign oil coming into eastern Canada.

Then the anger became talk of separation on social media. And then into the mainstream media.

Asked if talk of separation in Alberta is a growing sentiment or just louder, the **Notley** did not equivocate.

"I think it is louder and I will say this. When it comes to what we have been hearing out of Quebec, it is very frustrating," the premier said. "There is a high level of hypocrisy that I think most Canadians are growing increasingly frustrated with right now. I would say to the new premier of Quebec that he needs to get off his high horse."

"He needs to look at what is in the ground, and he needs to understand that not only is our product not dirty, but that it actually funds the schools, the hospitals, the roads and potentially even some of the hydroelectricity infrastructure in Quebec."

"So we need there to be a more consistent and less hypocritical approach taken to these matters in this country."

A couple of days later the premier had a mordant response to remarks on Alberta's plight made by prime minister **Justin Trudeau** in the House of Commons.

"Many of you might have heard that yesterday the prime minister got up in Question Period and he said that his sympathy is with Alberta at Christmas because we are going through tough times with what is happening with our energy sector," the premier said as an aside during a December 13 speech to the Northern Leaders Summit in Slave Lake. "Quite the Christmas gift, his sympathy, I thought to myself. All I can really say is that I truly hope that he got a gift receipt with that little Christmas gift because I would like to exchange it for a pipeline. Right now."

Meanwhile United Conservative Party (UCP) leader **Jason Kenney** announced his party received intervenor status from the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, despite the federal government's attempt to block the UCP's application. The Saskatchewan government is in court fighting the federal carbon tax.

"We are stepping up to fight for Albertans since the current Alberta Government refuses to do so," **Kenney** said in a statement, noting that conservative governments in Ontario and New Brunswick are intervening to support Saskatchewan's challenge. □

## Government Scan...

**T**he 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](#).

### Environment and Parks

13 December 2018

#### **Learn More About the Bighorn Country Proposal**

Environment minister **Shannon Phillips** held a December 13 telephone town hall to take questions from Albertans about the Bighorn Country proposal.

In addition to an online survey, the department is hosting a series of public information sessions on the proposal. They include:

- ▶ Monday, Jan. 7, 2019  
Drayton Valley MacKenzie Conference Centre, 5745 45 Ave., 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
  - ▶ Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019  
Red Deer, German-Canadian Club, 38167 Range Road 280  
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
  - ▶ Monday, Jan. 14, 2019  
Sundre, Sundre Community Centre 3, 96 2 Avenue NW, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Background and details are [here](#).

13 December 2018

#### **Collaboration to Protect Boreal Forest**

Environment minister **Shannon Phillips** announced a Biodiversity Stewardship Area (BSA) is to be designated a wildland provincial park.

The designation would conserve natural landscapes and watersheds just south of Wood Buffalo National Park, protecting habitat for caribou, the Ronald Lake bison herd and other wildlife.

Details are [here](#).

### Health

12 December 2018

#### **Midwives to Offer More Services Closer to Home**

Health minister **Sarah Hoffman** announced an expansion of midwifery services in Alberta.

Midwives who complete additional training and are authorized by the College of Midwives of Alberta can now prescribe, dispense and administer a broader range of prescription drugs, contraceptives and contraceptive devices and, in a hospital, benzodiazepines and narcotics.

They can also prescribe and administer vaccines, insert intrauterine contraceptive devices, provide prescription drugs to induce labour and use ultrasounds to determine fetal position.

Currently 133 midwives are practising in Alberta.

Details are [here](#).

7 December 2018

#### **Supporting Paramedics to Protect Albertans**

Health minister **Sarah Hoffman** announced details of a \$29 million spending increase in the 2018 budget on front line paramedics.

The additional emergency medical services (EMS) funds will be used to:

- ▶ hire more paramedics in communities across the province.
- ▶ deploy new ambulances in urban and rural Alberta.
- ▶ improve the transfer of patients from paramedic teams to hospital emergency departments.
- ▶ support ongoing expansion of the Community Paramedic program.
- ▶ invest \$1 million to support the mental health of EMS workers.

Details are [here](#).

### Labour

28 November 2018

#### **New Office to Improve Supports for Injured Workers**

Labour minister **Christina Gray** announced a new Fair Practices Office to provide a single point of access to help injured workers.

The office will:

- ▶ help workers and employers navigate the system.
- ▶ assist and advocate for workers and certain employers through the review and appeals process.
- ▶ be a place for people to raise concerns.
- ▶ monitor trends in the workers' compensation system to ensure that it is working efficiently and effectively.

**Gray** appointed **Harold Robinson** as Alberta's first Fair Practices Commissioner for a three-year term, effective December 1, 2018.

Before his appointment to lead the Fair Practices Office, **Robinson** was Tribunal Secretary for the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal with the department of Indigenous relations with the government of Alberta.

Details are [here](#).

### Premier

11 December 2018

#### **Premier Seeking Industry Interest in Oil Refining**

Premier **Rachel Notley** issued a Request for Expression of Interest to determine business cases for investing in a new refinery in Alberta or tied to Alberta production.

Projects must have a strong return on investment for Albertans. Any proposed facility will consume Alberta-produced oil feedstock and produce marketable refined products.

The government will consider interest in new greenfield investments or an expansion of facilities at an existing brownfield site. Submissions will be accepted until Feb. 8, 2019, with the results helping inform next steps that may include issuing a Request for Proposals to construct a new refinery.

Companies will be required to

...continued next page

*...government*

submit their engineering design and technical feasibility, project timing and execution plan, plans for sales points and transportation to market, participation of Indigenous communities, expected environmental performance, financing to complete the project, and identification and estimates of revenues to benefit Albertans.

Details are [here](#).

Seniors and Housing

Regulations Scan...

**T**he provincial cabinet passed the following regulations this week. Copies of the cabinet decisions

12 December 2018

**New Innisfail Seniors Lodge on the Way**

Seniors minister **Lori Sigurdson** announced a new Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail.

Sixty new lodge units and 30 self-contained apartments will provide flexible housing options that mean members of the community will be able to stay close to home as they grow older.

Details are [here](#). □

are regulated,

Cabinet passed the Tuition and Fees Regulation. OC 393/2018.

This regulation implements the government's previously **announced** tuition policy.

Community and Social Services

12 December 2018

**Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act (section 12).**

Cabinet passed the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped General Amendment Regulation. OC 387/2018.

This amendment sets out the terms and conditions under which AISH benefits are indexed each January 1.

12 December 2018

**Income and Employment Supports Act (section 18).**

Cabinet passed the Income Support, Training and Health Benefits Amendment Regulation. OC 388/2018.

This amendment sets out the terms and conditions under which certain income support, training and health benefits are indexed each January 1.

Municipal Affairs

Advanced Education

12 December 2018

**Post-secondary Learning Act (sections 33, 34 and 35).**

Cabinet passed the Athabasca University Amendment Regulation. OC 391/2018.

This amendment makes certain technical changes to the regulation.

institutions to the Independent Academic Institutions sector of the publicly funded post-secondary system:

- ▶ Ambrose University.
- ▶ Burman University.
- ▶ Concordia University of Edmonton.
- ▶ The King's University.
- ▶ St. Mary's University.

It also repeals the Campus Alberta Sector Regulation (AR 239/2008).

12 December 2018

**Post-secondary Learning Act (section 102.2).**

Cabinet passed the Independent Academic Institutions Sector Regulation. OC 390/2018.

Effective February 1, 2019, this regulation assigns the following publicly funded private post-secondary

12 December 2018

**Post-secondary Learning Act (section 124).**

Cabinet passed the Programs of Study Amendment Regulation. OC 392/2018.

These amendments make several technical changes to the terms and conditions under which programs of study

12 December 2018

**Local Authorities Election Act (section 160).**

Cabinet passed the Local Authorities Election Act Regulations Repeal Regulation. OC 386/2018.

Effective January 1, 2019, this regulation repeals the following existing regulations:

*...continued next 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
09-Dec-2018	WinSport	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.	Philip Dewan, Brad Lavigne	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

**Financial Benefit or Grant: Funding for the Canada Olympic Park.** Secure funding to maintain and expand training and educational facilities at Canada Olympic Park.

# 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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Publisher

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## ...regulations

- ▶ Calgary Election Regulation (AR 293/2009).
- ▶ Edmonton Election Regulation (AR 92/2001).
- ▶ Modified Voting Procedure Regulation (AR 5/2007).
- ▶ Red Deer Election Regulation (AR 162/2004).

## Seniors and Housing

12 December 2018

### **Seniors Benefit Act (section 6).**

Cabinet passed the Seniors Benefit Act General Amendment Regulation. OC 389/2018.

This amendment defines certain terms under the act and sets out the terms and conditions under which benefits are indexed. □

## Appointments Scan...

**T**he provincial government made the following appointments this week. Cabinet appointments are

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

## Advanced Education

13 December 2018

### **SAIT Has a New Board Chair**

Advanced education minister **Marlin Schmidt** announced the appointment of Calgary lawyer **Melinda Park** as the new chair of the Board of Governors at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

She is currently a partner at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) and has more than 20 years of experience practising corporate law with a focus on securities, finance and commercial transactions.

Details are [here](#).

the healthcare system and inform how AHS supports employees who identify and work with these communities.

Details are [here](#).

## Energy

10 December 2018

### **Fighting for Full Value of Alberta's Natural Gas**

Energy minister **Margaret McCuaig-Boyd** appointed a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Investment Team.

It was one of the recommendations from Alberta's Natural Gas Advisory Panel, which provides advice to the minister on short- and medium-term actions Alberta can take to address persistently undervalued natural gas and extreme price volatility due to transmission, storage and market access challenges.

On the investment team are:

- ▶ **Greg Stringham** of GS3 Strategies.
- ▶ **John Carruthers** of the University of Calgary School of Public Policy.

They will be meeting one-on-one with industry leaders to understand their needs and advise government on steps to advance final investment decisions on LNG projects. They will report back to **McCuaig-Boyd** in early 2019.

Details, including the report from the advisory panel, are [here](#). □

## Alberta Health Services (AHS)

13 December 2018

### **New Advisory Council to Focus on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression**

AHS is seeking applicants to volunteer on a provincial advisory committee (PAC) to help improve the healthcare experience for sexual and gender minorities in Alberta.

The PAC is intended to create a safer and more welcoming healthcare environment for LGBTQ2S+ patients and families. The PAC will also advise on strategies to address stigma within