

People...

Angus, David	2
Caouette, Melissa	2
Crognali, Jenessa	2
Danchilla, Hal	2
Grimsrud, Karen	3
Hatcher, Jason.....	2
Hinshaw, Deena.....	3
Hoffman, Sarah.....	3
Keirstead, Zoe.....	2
Kenney, Jason	1
Kossey, Brent	2
Lohner, Michael.....	2
MacKay, Cam	2
Notley, Rachel.....	1, 2
Phillips, Shannon	2
Reid, Angus	1
Ryffel, Pascal.....	2
Saskiw, Jenelle.....	2
Saskiw, Shayne.....	2
Tetreault, Kevin.....	2
Valk, Bronte	2
Van Soelen, Mike	2
Wescott, Jon	2
Ziokoski, Zack.....	2

Alberta Scan

Issue 1089

week ending 8 February 2019

Dissatisfaction...

It was another back and forth week of challenges and accusations between the NDP and the UCP. Premier **Rachel Notley** called on the UCP to be unequivocal in condemning an act of hatred against Muslims in Edmonton. The UCP alleged the NDP were using tax dollars for thinly disguised campaign advertisements.

On February 1, UCP leader **Jason Kenney** demanded the NDP to call an election immediately, and to stop campaigning with tax dollars.

Kenney unveiled what he called his party's first election platform commitment, a law to ban the provincial government from using tax dollars for partisan advertisements at any time. He plans to pass an *End Partisan Government Advertising Act* that will:

- ▶ empower the Auditor General to prohibit at any time government advertisements deemed to be partisan; and
- ▶ amend the *Elections Act* to extend the current blackout on non-essential government advertising during the election to include the "election advertising period" as defined by the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, which begins on December 1st before an election year.

Later this week **Kenney** demanded to know how much the provincial government is spending on its "Made in Alberta" advertising campaign which the UCP claims is partisan.

The NDP meanwhile suggested the UCP has been soft on anti-Muslim sentiment, calling on **Jason Kenney** to unequivocally condemn a hate letter.

"I strongly condemn the acts of racism and Islamophobia we've seen recently directed at our Muslim friends and neighbours here in Alberta," premier **Notley** said in a statement after a hate letter was left at the Markaz Ul Islam mosque in Edmonton supposedly from a UCP supporter. "In the interests of pushing back against the presence of hate in our province, Mr. **Kenney** has an elected obligation to personally condemn these values and to also take concrete actions to evict these factions from the UCP."

In a Facebook post, **Kenney** condemned the action against the mosque.

"Let me be perfectly clear: this hatred and bigotry has no place in our Alberta. All Albertans must be free to practice their faith in peace," he said in the post.

"To the ignorant fool who sent this letter, you'd best look at my long-standing and ongoing work in pluralistic outreach, including all races, religions and creeds. I have no intention of changing that work."

Western dissatisfaction. Pollster **Angus Reid** released a poll this week adding to the perception of renewed western alienation, and possible separation in Alberta.

The poll is available [here](#). **Reid** himself wrote a long *opinion* piece on the state of alienation later in the week. □

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](#).

Environment and Parks

6 February 2019

Innovation Fund Cuts Emissions, Boosts Investment

Environment minister **Shannon Phillips** announced details of a \$70 million program under the Alberta Climate Leadership Plan.

She said the money is leveraging more than \$200 million in private investment in 11 Alberta projects worth a combined value of \$276 million.

Projects were selected and funded through Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA), an organization that accelerates the development and demonstration of emissions-reducing technologies. Launched in March 2018, the challenge was designed to implement leading

...continued next page

Education

7 February 2019

New Filipino Language Curriculum Being Developed

At a roundtable with Filipino community leaders, premier **Rachel Notley** announced the government will expand learning opportunities for students by developing a Filipino language and culture curriculum.

There are about 170,000 people of

Filipino heritage in Alberta. This new curriculum will help these children and youth connect with their heritage and culture.

Expanding Filipino language and culture programming to students in kindergarten to Grade 12 follows community requests to improve Filipino language offerings in schools.

Details are [here](#).

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
06-Feb-2019	Falun Dafa Association of Calgary	Alberta Counsel	Shayne Saskiw, Jon Wescott, Pascal Ryffel, Jenelle Saskiw, Bronte Valk, Zack Ziokoski, Cam MacKay	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier’s Office
Program or Policy: Supporting basic knowledge and understanding of Falun Dafa. To inform and educate public office holders about Falun Dafa and the cultural practises associated with the organization.				
01-Feb-2019	Fidelity Investments Canada ULC	1689986 ALBERTA LIMITED carrying on business as Navigator	Jason Hatcher, Jenessa Crog-nali, Mike Van Soelen, Zoe Keirstead, Brent Kossey	Alberta Legislative Assembly
Program or Policy: Canadian Securities Administrators (CSAs) Proposed Policy Changes to Embedded Commissions and Client Focused Reforms. Fidelity wishes to discuss the CSA’s proposed regulations of the financial services industry and specifically components around increasing investor protection and preserving consumer choice.				
31-Jan-2019	NetApp	The Capital Hill Group	David Angus, Kevin Tetreault	Service Alberta, Executive Council, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier’s Office
Financial Benefit or Grant: Government Contracts. To raise awareness of NetApp’s offerings and brand amongst public sector officials in the province. NetApp is a cloud data services company.				
30-Jan-2019	Tilray	Canadian Strategy Group	Hal Danchilla, Michael Lohner, Melissa Caou-ette	Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier’s Office, Alberta Health Services
Existing Legislation: Pharmacy and Drug Act. Discuss whether pharmacists may be permitted to dispense medical cannabis in Alberta pharmacies if and when the government of Canada should add medical cannabis to the Prescription Drug List. Discussion about regulations respecting the designation of drugs other than drugs described in section 31(1)(a) or (b) as Schedule 1, 2 or 3 drugs.				

Alberta Scan

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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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...government

technologies in oil and gas, chemicals and fertilizers, cement and concrete, forestry and agriculture, electricity and manufacturing.

Details are [here](#).

Finance

6 February 2019

Post-secondary Learning Act (section 73); Financial Administration Act (section 81).

Cabinet approved the refinancing of borrowing by the Board of Governors of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology of \$111,000,000 in Canadian funds from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority, which had been approved by OC 160/2014, for a term not to exceed 30 years and at an interest rate not to exceed 4.5 per cent per annum, for the construction of the Productivity and Innovation Centre and the acquisition of property. OC 35/2019.

Health

6 February 2018

Appointments Scan...

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

Dialysis and Deliveries Coming to High Prairie

Health minister **Sarah Hoffman** toured a new obstetrics program in the High Prairie Health Complex to highlight government spending in the region.

Hoffman also noted the government is spending \$5.2 million to build a new, permanent dialysis clinic in the hospital.

Details are [here](#).

Service Alberta

5 February 2018

Q3 Sole-source Service Contracts Disclosed

The government published service contracts awarded outside a formal competition process during the third quarter of fiscal 2018.

The database, which can be downloaded into a spreadsheet, provides information on sole-source contracts of \$10,000 or more for services required by Alberta government departments and includes the disclosure of 345 contracts.

The total value of all contracts during the third quarter was \$58.7 million.

Details are [here](#). □

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

Health

1 February 2019

New Chief Medical Officer of Health

Health minister **Sarah Hoffman** appointed **Dr. Deena Hinshaw** as Alberta's chief medical officer of health after **Dr. Karen Grimsrud** retired.

Hinshaw has been acting chief medical officer of health over the past several months.

Dr. Hinshaw has been the deputy chief medical officer of health since 2017. Since 2010, she has worked in various public health roles in Alberta,

including Central Zone lead medical officer of health and lead medical officer of health for public health surveillance and infrastructure. She is also an associate clinical professor at the University of Alberta and a clinical assistant professor at the University of Calgary.

The chief medical officer of health is responsible for providing public health expertise to support health surveillance, population health and disease control initiatives on issues of public health importance.

Details are [here](#). □