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Alberta Scan

Issue 1090

week ending 15 February 2019

Desk thumping...

In advance of an election preparedness convention on February 15 to 17, United Conservative Party leader **Jason Kenney** unveiled elements of his election platform. This week **Kenney** promised:

- ▶ a *Recall Act* allowing voters to fire their MLA in between elections if they have lost the public's trust. "We would model our recall law on one that has existed in British Columbia for three decades," **Kenney** said.
- ▶ setting a \$30,000 limit on how much a donor can contribute to political action committees (PACs), and closing a loophole by prohibiting groups affiliated with political parties from running PACs.
- ▶ establishing a fixed election date rather than a fixed election period.
- ▶ allowing free votes for MLAs on everything not deemed a confidence vote or a key platform commitment.
- ▶ stopping floor crossing by requiring that MLAs resign and seek a by-election before they can change parties. This still allows an MLA to leave a party and remain sitting as an independent MLA or to join a party other than the UCP.
- ▶ improving decorum in the Legislature. "Under a United Conservative Government, amendments would be proposed to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly to stop the outdated tradition of desk-thumping," **Kenney** promised.
- ▶ renewing the *Alberta Senatorial Selection Act*, and holding elections for Senatorial nominees in 2021.
- ▶ amending the *Taxpayer Protection Act* to require a referendum before a carbon tax can be introduced in the future.
- ▶ introducing the *End Partisan Government Advertising Act*, making it illegal for governments to advertise in the run up to an election and to use tax dollars at any time, for partisan ads.

Details of **Kenney's** reform proposal, which he labels "Stronger Democracy" are [here](#).

The NDP meanwhile unveiled a new party election website called "The truth about **Jason Kenney**".

"The new site provides a detailed and fact-based account of Mr. **Kenney's** long career as a politician who works against the interests of everyday people, choosing instead to serve anti-abortion activists, anti-LGBTQ groups and other special interests," said NDP transportation minister **Brian Mason**.

"Par for the course for the NDP," **Kenney** said when asked about the NDP website. "Politics of personal destruction, fear and smear, they can't run on their economic record, they can't talk about anything, but the carbon tax, their failure on the economy, so it is going to be the politics of personal destruction from them. But my commitment is not to reciprocate."

The NDP website is [here](#). **Kenney's** response is [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](#).

Justice and Solicitor General

14 February 2019

Court of Queen’s Bench Act (section 8).

Cabinet ordered that the payment of remuneration to Master **James Farrington** change from a per diem basis to a full-time basis to reflect his change to a full-time master in chambers of the Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta. OC 45/2019.

Municipal Affairs

14 February 2019

Municipal Government Act (section 381.2).

Cabinet approved the amendments to The Rivers District Community Revitalization Levy Bylaw, as made by City of Calgary Bylaw Number 2M2019, The Rivers District Community Revitalization Levy Amending Bylaw Number 1, passed on January 15, 2019. OC 38/2019. □

Economic Development and Trade

13 February 2019

Alberta Invests in Innovation to Fuel the Future

Premier **Rachel Notley** announced the province will dispense an initial grant of \$27 million to allow Alberta non-profit Amii to develop a new program that supports companies looking to build their in-house AI capacity, incorporate innovative solutions and drive benefits.

This new investment, along with the federal government’s commitment of \$25 million, will accelerate the positive impact of artificial intelligence and machine learning on the Alberta economy, the government said.

Details are [here](#).

13 February 2019

Expanding Technology Relationship with Mexico

The Alberta government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon to explore opportunities that promote innovation.

The agreement deals with the areas of information and communication technologies, life sciences, environmental technologies and clean energy.

Details are [here](#).

Finance

14 February 2019

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

Cabinet approved the borrowing by The Governors of The University of Alberta of not more than \$8 million

in Canadian funds from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority for a term not to exceed 15 years and at an interest rate not to exceed 5.5 per cent per annum for the implementation of the fourth phase of the Envision energy management program. OC 55/2019.

Cabinet approved the borrowing by The Governors of The University of Alberta of not more than \$75.5 million in Canadian funds from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority for a term not to exceed 30 years and at an interest rate not to exceed 4.5 per cent per annum for the renovation of the Lister Centre Classic Towers. OC 56/2019.

Appointments Scan...

The 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

14 February 2019

Post-secondary Learning Act (sections 44 and 56).

Cabinet reappointed **Charlene Burns** as a member of The Board of Governors of Red Deer College for a term to expire on June 9, 2022. OC 52/2019.

Cabinet appointed **Gayle Burnett** as a member of The Board of Governors of NorQuest College for a term to expire on February 11, 2022. OC 53/2019.

Cabinet appointed **Doreen McCaw** as a member of The Board of Governors of Lakeland College for a term to expire on February 11, 2022. OC 54/2019.

Justice and Solicitor General

14 February 2019

Alberta Human Rights Act (section 18).

Effective February 19, 2019, cabinet appointed **Nancy Henderson** as director of the Alberta Human Rights Commission for a term to expire on February 18, 2024. OC 44/2019.

Energy

14 February 2019

Responsible Energy Development Act (section 5).

Effective July 1, 2019, cabinet appointed **Linda Coady** as a member of the board of directors of the Alberta

...continued next page

...appointments

Energy Regulator (AER) for a term to expire on June 30, 2024. OC 48/2019.

Cabinet appointed **Edward Whittingham** as a member of the board of directors of the AER for a term to expire on February 11, 2024. OC 49/2019.

Environment and Parks

14 February 2019
Energy Efficiency Alberta Act (section 4).

Cabinet appointed **Carissa Browning** as a member of the board of directors of Energy Efficiency Alberta for a term to expire on April 30, 2022. OC 50/2019.

14 February 2019
Natural Resources Conservation Board Act (section 16).

Cabinet nominated **Walter Ceroici** as one of the persons from among whom acting members of the Natural Resources Conservation Board may be selected for a term to expire on December 31, 2021, or the completion of the Board's review mandate for

the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir project, whichever occurs first. OC 51/2019.

Labour

14 February 2019
Labour Relations Code (section 8). Cabinet appointed **Ayla Akgungor** as a member and cabinet designated her as a vice-chair of the Labour Relations Board for a term to expire on February 11, 2022. OC 47/2019.

...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
12-Feb-2019	Book Publishers Association of Alberta	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Yonathan Sumamo	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Education, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office, Alberta Advanced Education
Guideline or Directive: Alberta Culture Policy. Increase awareness of the Book Publishers Association of Alberta with MLAs and the work of the association in supporting local publishers and their contributions to promoting Alberta stories on a global scale. Financial Benefit or Grant: Alberta Book Publishers Fund (Alberta Culture and Tourism). Seek government financial support for the Alberta Book Publishers Fund (under Alberta Culture and Tourism). Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Alberta Book Day. Seek support for the creation of an annual Alberta Book Day.				
12-Feb-2019	Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Canada	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Candice Laws	Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly
Program or Policy: Bio pharmaceutical policy. To introduce MTP-CA as a new entrant in the Canadian bio pharmaceutical sector and build relationships with key government officials.				
11-Feb-2019	Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC)	Impact Public Affairs	Huw Williams, Kyle Larkin	Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Premier's Office
Program or Policy: First Patent Program. IPIC is looking for Alberta to adopt a First Patent Program which will allow innovative companies to seek their first patent with government support, which will increase patent adoption in the province and greater protect innovations.				
10-Feb-2019	Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)	CWell Consulting Inc.	Ramiro Mora	Alberta Legislative Assembly
Program or Policy: Insurance. To have introductory meetings and discuss the insurance industry with members of the Legislative Assembly. In particular how the IBC works on a number of fronts to increase public understanding of home, car and business insurance.				
09-Feb-2019	Arts Habitat Edmonton	Sandie Price	Sandra Price	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Seniors and Housing, Premier's Office
Financial Benefit or Grant: Capital Funding. To secure capital from the government of Alberta and the federal government (via the government of Alberta) for the Artists Quarters project in Edmonton.				
08-Feb-2019	Westmoreland Coal Company	Torque Communications	Lee Funke	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Premier's Office
Financial Benefit or Grant: Compensation for coal mining operations which need to close due to the elimination of coal fired electricity generation in the province. Meet with elected officials and senior government administrators to present information to treat Westmoreland fairly compared to other participants in the electricity sector. Program or Policy: Alberta Innovate BioEnergy. Pursue funding to support biosolids green energy projects on reclaimed coal mine sites in rural Alberta.				

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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...appointments

Legislative Assembly

14 February 2019

New Clerk of Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Legislature Speaker **Bob Wanner** announced the appointment of former

Alberta Auditor General **Merwan Saher** as the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, effective February 14, 2019.

The Clerk is the chief executive officer of the Legislative Assembly with responsibility equivalent to that of a deputy minister of a government department.

Details are [here](#). □

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](#).

Agriculture and Forestry

14 February 2019

Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (section 23).

Cabinet passed the Potato Growers of Alberta Plan Amendment Regulation. OC 43/2019.

The amendments clarify the meaning of “auditor” under the regulation, repeal a couple of sections and extend the life of the regulation to March 31, 2024.

These amendments make extensive technical changes to the City of Calgary Charter, 2018 Regulation (AR 40/2018) and the City of Edmonton Charter, 2018 Regulation (AR 39/2018).

14 February 2019

Safety Codes Act (section 65).

Cabinet passed the Building Code Amendment Regulation. OC 39/2019.

The amendment replaces reference to the *National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2011* with the *National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2017*, and repeals transitional and consequential amendments in the regulation.

Cabinet passed the Fire Code Amendment Regulation. OC 40/2019.

This amendment replaces a reference in the regulation to the *Alberta Fire Code 2014* with a reference to the *National Fire Code - 2019 Alberta Edition*.

Cabinet passed the Permit Amendment Regulation. OC 41/2019.

These amendments update the *Fire Code* references as above clarifies where building permits are required.

Cabinet passed the Plumbing Code Amendment Regulation. OC 42/2019.

This amendment declares the *National Plumbing Code of Canada 2015* in force and makes other technical changes to the Code.

All the above amendments come into force on April 1, 2019. □

Justice and Solicitor General

14 February 2019

Judicature Act (section 28.1).

Cabinet passed the Alberta Rules of Court Amendment Regulation. OC 46/2019.

The amendment changes forms FL-45 and FL-46 under Schedule A, Division 2.

Municipal Affairs

14 February 2019

Municipal Government Act (section 141.3).

Cabinet passed the City of Calgary Charter, 2018 Amendment Regulation. OC 36/2019.

Cabinet passed the City of Edmonton Charter, 2018 Amendment Regulation. OC 37/2019.