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Alberta Scan

Issue 1091

week ending 22 February 2019

Performance...

In the first of what may be several election platform health announcements United Conservative Party leader **Jason Kenney** tried to pre-empt criticism of his party's health care policy by pledging to maintain or increase health spending, and maintain the universally accessible, publicly funded system.

However, the opposition leader did not rule out significant change to the system.

"We shall be looking for efficiencies," **Kenney** said. "Under the NDP, our costs are up but so are our wait-times. That's got to change: The Canadian Institute for Health Information reports that on a per capita basis, we have the highest age adjusted health-care costs in Canada. By that metric we're spending 38 per cent more than B.C., but our wait times on key procedures such as knee and hip replacements are longer than ever: It used to be a 113 day wait for knee surgery. Now it's 143 days. We need to find out why and fix that."

For the UCP the solution likely lies in allowing more private delivery of health services in the system, at least to the extent allowed in British Columbia and Quebec, something **Kenney** has said in the past.

Kenney said his first step, should the UCP be elected, would be to launch a performance review of Alberta Health Services within 30 days to be completed by the end of 2019, "to reallocate capital significantly away from administration, to delivery of front-line services".

At the news conference announcing his pledge, **Kenney** also said performance reviews will be done of other government departments to reallocate resources to front line services.

The UCP health promise was immediately attacked.

The Alberta Federation of Labour said Alberta's health care administration costs are the lowest in Canada.

Friends of Medicare said **Kenney's** assertion that he will explore "choice" and "competition" as a way to find and cut costs, are "well-worn euphemisms for privatization".

The Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA) warned a freeze "could blow a \$1.2 billion hole in health spending over two years" if his pledge to freeze spending does include the NDP plan to increase health spending by three per cent in each of the next two years.

"This was a classic performance from a political actor, full of hypocrisy, denial and dodges," said HSAA president **Mike Parker**.

Leasing. After premier **Rachel Notley** announced a \$3.7 deal with Canadian Pacific Railway and Canadian National Railway to lease rail cars for bitumen shipments, the UCP leader wrote to the companies to warn if the UCP is elected government, he will seek to cancel the contracts. **Notley** characterized his declaration as "arrogant", a criticism she is likely to repeat throughout the election. □

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](#).

Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA)

19 February 2018

Videos in Indigenous Languages to Improve Service Accessibility

Child and Youth Advocate **Del Graff** announced his office has released two videos in the Blackfoot and Cree languages that discuss services offered by the organization.

The videos, which include information about what a young person can expect when they call the OCYA and how the office can help advocate on their behalf, are intended to engage youth and other stakeholders.

Details are [here](#).

Culture and Tourism

21 February 2019

Grants Now Available for Alberta Culture Days

The department called on organizations to host Alberta Culture Days events to showcase their arts, heritage, diversity and community spirit.

Grants are open to cultural organizations, non-profit groups, venues and facilities, school and community groups, First Nation and Métis settlements, and post-secondary institutions.

The deadline to apply is April 4.

- ▶ up to \$10,000 for three days of programming as a Feature Celebration Site.
- ▶ up to \$5,000 for two days of programming as a Host Celebration Site.
- ▶ up to \$1,000 for one day of programming as a Pop Up Celebration Site.

Details are [here](#).

Environment and Parks

15 February 2019

Alberta-based Solar Power on the Rise

Environment minister **Shannon Phillips** announced the province awarded a 20-year contract to supply government properties with solar power from three facilities located between Medicine Hat and Calgary.

She said the new contract will supply approximately 55 per cent of the government’s annual electricity needs, saving \$3.9 million per year compared to the expiring contracts.

Details are [here](#).

Premier

20 February 2019

Premier’s Plan Unlocks \$2-billion Energy Investment

Premier **Rachel Notley** announced \$80 million in support for a methanol plant south of Grande Prairie.

She said the support, in the form of future royalty credits, will allow Nauticol Energy to develop a \$2-billion methanol plant expected to create approximately 3,000 direct and indirect jobs, including 1,000 direct construction jobs and over 200 direct permanent jobs.

Construction of the first phase is expected to begin in 2020, with a commercial operational date set for 2022.

Details are [here](#).

19 February 2019

Alberta Takes Decisive Action to Get More Oil to Market

Premier **Rachel Notley** announced a \$3.7 billion deal with Canadian Pacific Railway and Canadian National Railway to lease rail cars to transport Alberta bitumen to the United States

over the next three years.

She estimated about 4,400 rail cars will move 120,000 barrels per day by 2020 thereby propping up the price of Alberta’s Western Canada Select oil.

“With the anticipated commercial revenue and increased royalty and tax revenues, the province anticipates generating approximately \$5.9 billion over the next three years,” **Notley** said.

Details are [here](#).

Transportation

21 February 2019

Photo Radar Must Focus on Safety

Transportation minister **Brian Mason** announced changes to provincial guidelines governing the use of photo radar to “enhance transparency, increase oversight and enshrine the principle that photo radar can be used only to improve road safety”.

Mason said the goal is to eliminate photo radar as a tool for revenue generation.

The new guidelines are intended to:

- ▶ improve accountability by clarifying roles and responsibilities for photo radar programs.
- ▶ require municipal Traffic Safety Plans to use collision data to ensure photo radar programs are directly tied to safety. The plans will be audited by the provincial government to ensure compliance.
- ▶ require police services and/or municipalities to post and update photo radar locations and their rationale on municipal/police websites every month (links will be provided on Alberta.ca/photoradar).
- ▶ prohibit the use of photo radar in transition zones (i.e. adjacent to speed limit signs where speed limits change).
- ▶ prohibit the use of photo radar on high-speed multi-lane roadways, unless there is a documented traffic safety issue.
- ▶ require annual reporting and evaluation of how photo radar programs are achieving traffic safety outcomes.

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
19-Feb-2019	Rundle College Society	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Brookes Merritt	Executive Council, Alberta Education, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
Financial Benefit or Grant: Alberta Private School Funding Model. Increasing awareness with MLAs and government officials about Rundle College and its value to students and Alberta's broader education community, and increasing awareness about the value of choice in education, and the independent education funding model.				
19-Feb-2019	1882870 Alberta Ltd.	Torque Communications	Lee Funke	Alberta Environment and Parks
Program or Policy: Dispositions on Public Lands. To secure discussions with the government of Alberta which will ensure the ecological integrity of the Bow Valley's environmentally sensitive Park and Crown lands. This step is integral to a ranch starting to provide services and programming for at-risk youth with a vision to create leaders in environmental conservation and protection.				
19-Feb-2019	Submetering Council of Alberta	Barry R. Campbell Strategies Inc.	Barry Campbell, Christopher Holz, Kevin Powers	Alberta Energy, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
Existing Legislation: Electricity Utilities Act; Code of Conduct Regulation 58/2015. Enforcement of the <i>Electricity Utilities Act</i> , including but not exclusively section 105, as well as the Code of Conduct Regulation (58/2015) which ensures that Albertans can benefit from choice, competition and lower utility costs. In particular, we seek to ensure Alberta's existing marketplace for sub-metering services is maintained so that the province's commercial and multi-residential developers have the option to choose their utility meter provider, bundle services if they choose, and the option to negotiate agreements that can yield lower costs to building occupants.				
19-Feb-2019	Total E&P Canada Ltd.	Longview Communications Inc.	Hugh McFadyen, Maeghan Dewar, Jasmine Ighneski, Evan Legate	Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
Existing Legislation: Oil and Gas Conservation Act, Oil Sands Conservation Act, Responsible Energy Development Act, Curtailment Rules (Alberta Regulation 214/2018) and Ministerial Orders made thereunder. Highlight the impacts of the existing curtailment policy on Total E&P Canada Ltd. and, in particular, the negative impact on the company and, more broadly, the investment climate. Discuss alternative approaches to achieving the government's goal of improving oil and gas economics and investment.				
14-Feb-2019	Wapahki Energy Ltd	Alar Strategy Group Inc	Richard Maksymetz, Laura Young	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
Financial Benefit or Grant: Provincial grant or loan. Wapahki Energy is seeking a provincial loan or grant for an equity stake in a joint venture commercial energy pilot project. The pilot project seeks to create safer rail transport for hydrocarbons.				
13-Feb-2019	Cisco Systems Canada Co.	1689986 ALBERTA LIMITED carrying on business as Navigator	Jason Hatcher, Sally Housser, Brent Kossey	Service Alberta, Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Health Services
Program or Policy: Connect Care. Develop and execute an engagement plan to support efforts with the government regarding the use of Cisco solutions and technologies for "Connect Care" CIS Initiative and any other related health initiatives. Program or Policy: Edge Computing. Position Analytics at the Edge with GOA for efficiencies through data integration to capture actionable insights for improved outcomes in "edge computing," enables analytics knowledge generation and immediate decision-making at the source of the data. Program or Policy: Service Modernization. Position Cisco in Service Modernization at Service Alberta with offers in Collaboration, ERP, Security, focused on improved citizen services and operational efficiencies.				
13-Feb-2019	Banff Center for the Arts and Creativity	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Yonathan Sumamo, Sean Casey, Tara Mazurk, Jason Ennis	Alberta Legislative Assembly
Program or Policy: Alberta Arts Policy. Increase awareness of the Banff Centre with MLAs and the work of the post-secondary institute in supporting the education of Alberta artists and showcasing their work that has a cultural, educational and economic impact on the community.				

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 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](#).

Justice and Solicitor General

19 February 2019

Provincial Court Act (section 9.1).

Cabinet appointed **Kristin Ailsby** as a judge of The Provincial Court of Alberta. OC 57/2019.

Ailsby spent much of her legal career practising in a variety of fields before establishing her own firm, Clarity Law, in 2016. There she focused on family law, estate planning, estate administration and residential real estate transactions. Prior to her appointment, she served as an adjunct professor at the University of Lethbridge. She is the chair of the board of governors of Lethbridge College.

Cabinet appointed **Gay Benns** as a judge of The Provincial Court of Alberta. OC 58/2019.

In 2002, **Benns** joined Laurie Allen and Associates, where she practised exclusively in the area of family law. She continued her focus on family law as a partner with Moe Hannah LLP. She has a strong background in mediation and arbitration and has worked as a Dispute Resolution Officer since 2009. She is a long-time volunteer with the Calgary Legal Guidance Clinic and a facilitator with the Alberta government's Parenting After Separation program.

Cabinet appointed **Susan Pepper** as a judge of The Provincial Court of Alberta. OC 59/2019.

Pepper spent the entirety of her legal career as a Crown Prosecutor in Calgary and became Assistant Chief Crown Prosecutor in 2008. Besides handling several high-profile prosecutions, many involving violence against children and youth, she was the Calgary Crown Prosecutor's project lead in the development of the electronic file management system. She is the past president of the Calgary Bar Association and an instruc-

tor with the Legal Education Society of Alberta, where she coaches junior lawyers to better advocacy.

Cabinet appointed **Gregory Rice** as a judge of The Provincial Court of Alberta. OC 60/2019.

In 1998, he became a prosecutor in the Wetaskiwin and Edmonton offices of the Attorney General of Alberta. He has held various positions with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada since joining as a counsel in 2001, including leader of the Organized Crime Unit, Associate Chief Federal Prosecutor in the Edmonton office, and General Counsel.

Cabinet appointed **Gregory Stirling** as a judge of The Provincial Court of Alberta. OC 61/2019.

During his 30 years in the legal profession, **Stirling** handled a wide variety of civil litigation matters and developed a particular specialty in construction litigation. He is a director of the Alberta Law Foundation and a member of the Law Society of Alberta's Audit and Finance Committee.

Cabinet appointed **Rhonda Tibbitt** as a judge of The Provincial Court of Alberta. OC 62/2019.

Starting in 1998, **Tibbitt** worked as a prosecutor in Saskatchewan and Alberta and handled a full range of cases before developing a special interest in economic crime. In 2014, she became the director of the Civil Forfeiture Office, where she has been involved with reviewing and revising legislation and representing Alberta on national committees dealing with proceeds of crime and money laundering.

Justice minister **Kathleen Ganley** noted of the 33 provincial court judges the Government of Alberta has appointed since 2015, two-thirds (22) are women.

Details are [here](#). □