

People...

Bevan, j'Amey.....	4
Bjornson, Tyler.....	3
Boutin, Blaine.....	4
Champagne, François-Philippe.....	4
Chiasson, Cindy.....	4
Clayton, Jill.....	2
Daniels, Judy.....	4
Dewan, Philip.....	3
Ennis, Jason.....	3
Feehan, Richard.....	2
Froggatt, Chris.....	3
Jolicoeur, Jordan.....	4
Kenney, Jason.....	1, 2
Kont, Sonia.....	3
Lamoureux, Eric.....	3
Lavigne, Brad.....	3
MacDonald, Elan.....	3
Mader, Dan.....	3
McCann, Tyler.....	3
McNaughtan, Elizabeth.....	4
Niznick, Noah.....	3
Notley, Rachel.....	1, 4
Painchaud, Sarah.....	3
Pettipas, Randy.....	3
Phillips, Shannon.....	2
Price, Sandra.....	3
Reese, Simone.....	4
Sabir, Irfan.....	2
Senio, Brian.....	3
Solberg, Michael.....	3
Solberg, Monte.....	3
Sumamo, Yonathan.....	3
Zaitlin, Brian.....	4

Alberta Scan

Issue 1094

week ending 15 March 2019

Unrelenting...

United Conservative Party (UCP) leader **Jason Kenney** continued to release detailed election platform in a variety of areas this week. For their part, premier **Rachel Notley** and the NDP continued their unrelenting daily announcements and re-announcements of government spending and programs around the province (*see inside*).

The UCP policy announcements this week included:

► introduce the *Alberta Trails Act* to protect trails under a 13 point conservation plan (14 March), increase funding for the Alberta Land Trust Grant Program by 50 per cent to further help establish and administer conservation projects, while also preserving other priority policies and programs, such as the Alberta Wetland Policy and Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program, at existing funding levels. The platform includes a number of fee increases for the use of Alberta's recreational areas.

Details are [here](#).

► launch comprehensive consultations (12 March) with farmers, ranchers, agriculture workers and others on how best to balance the unique economic pressures of farming with the need for a common sense, flexible farm safety regime. A *Farm Freedom and Safety Act* will be passed into law in 2019. Its measures will include the repeal of Bill 6, the 2015 *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act*, requiring employers to maintain workplace insurance for farm workers, but allow employers to choose whether to purchase insurance from the market or from the WCB as long as basic standards of coverage are met and exempt small farms from employment legislation. Details are [here](#).

► stop the NDP's plan to waste \$590 million (11 March) on a new "superlab" to replace services that are already being performed efficiently at existing facilities. The UCP will also reverse a \$50 million NDP buyout of a private company designed to further nationalize lab services. Details are [here](#).

► allow AHS the option to contract out laundry services (13 March) rather than spend hundreds of millions on new laundry machines. **Kenney** predicted it could save the government \$200 million. Details are [here](#).

► introduce a suite of property rights measures (10 March) including proposing an amendment to the Constitution to enshrine property rights, using the Section 43 amendment formula. This would require a referendum of Albertans to comply with the *Alberta Constitutional Referendum Act*, to be held along with municipal elections and senate nominee elections in the fall of 2021. The UCP would also create a Property and Farmer's Rights Advocate Office out of the existing two offices to reduce duplication of roles and operations. Details are [here](#).

► commit \$5 million in new funding (8 March), of which \$3.5 million will be directed to the sexual assault service centres that provide counseling, support, and advocacy for those who most need it.

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](#).

Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC)

11 March 2019

Modernized Public Event Liquor Policies Will Have People Raising Their Glasses

More Albertans will be able to apply for a public resale Special Event Licence (SEL) thanks to changes that streamline and modernize the application process.

Following feedback from stakeholders, notable amendments include simplifying food and security requirements.

Previously, some groups may not have been able to obtain a public resale SEL due to narrow categorization.

Further details are [here](#).

Community and Social Services

14 March 2019

New Red Deer Homeless Shelter

Community and social services minister **Irfan Sabir** announced a \$7 million grant to help construct a 120-bed homeless shelter.

This funding represents a first step to getting a 24-7 shelter built for Red Deer. Additional provincial funding needs will be assessed as this project moves forward.

Details are [here](#).

Environment and Parks

14 March 2019

Municipalities Score with Rec Centre Retrofits

Environment minister **Shannon Phillips** announced a new \$9 million program under the Climate Leadership Plan to help municipalities cut energy

costs and emissions by upgrading their recreation facilities with energy-efficient technology.

The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre also is offering \$4.6 million to help municipalities transition to electric vehicles.

Details are [here](#).

12 March 2019

Clean Tech Innovation Cuts Emissions, Creates Jobs

After UCP leader **Jason Kenney** pledged to kill the carbon tax funded Energy Efficiency Alberta, environment minister **Shannon Phillips** came to its defence.

“Alberta’s Climate Leadership Plan is helping major industries reduce emissions and create jobs while cutting costs and becoming more competitive,” **Phillips** said. “Emissions Reduction Alberta is funding more than a dozen new clean technology projects across the province, while Energy Efficiency Alberta is supporting small and medium-sized oil and gas companies to reduce methane emissions through upgrades.”

Details of her media event are [here](#).

8 March 2019

Provincial Parks Act (section 6).

Cabinet designated certain land as a wildland provincial park to be known as Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland. OC 79/2019.

The wildland will preserve more than 160,000 hectares of land just south of Wood Buffalo National Park, protecting the Peace-Athabasca watershed and increasing ecological integrity and habitat for species at risk such as woodland caribou and the Ronald Lake Bison herd. Kitaskino Nuwenënë means “our land” in both Cree and Dene.

By voluntarily relinquishing oil sands and mining leases in response to Indigenous Peoples’ concerns, industry champions Teck, Cenovus Energy and Imperial played a vital role in securing the land base for the new wildland.

Details are [here](#).

Indigenous Relations

14 March 2019

Dene Tha’ First Nation on Course for Clean Water

Indigenous relations minister **Richard Feehan** announced a \$2.1-million project will connect the Dene Tha’ First Nation in Bushe River to the Town of High Level water treatment plant by waterline.

Construction of the waterline will begin once the design phase is completed. The project is expected to be in place by 2020.

Details are [here](#).

Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC)

12 March 2019

OIPC Releases Investigation into Management of GoA Emails

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) released an investigation report that looked into the management and storage of email at four government of Alberta (GoA) departments – Service Alberta, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Education and Executive Council after allegations of improper email deletions.

“The Official Opposition’s allegations were unsubstantiated by this investigation. However, the access requests and subsequent public interest helped to initiate internal reviews with the aim to improve the use of email in the context of the government of Alberta’s records management program,” said commissioner **Jill Clayton**.

Details are [here](#).

Infrastructure

13 March 2019

...continued 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
13-Mar-2019	MacEwan University	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Brian Senio, Jason Ennis, Elan MacDonald, Yonathan Sumamo	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Advanced Education, Premier's Office
Financial Benefit or Grant: Resources for Post-secondary Institutions. Connect regularly with the government of Alberta to raise the profile and awareness of MacEwan University's contributions as a vibrant, inclusive and diverse learning environment and seek support for its training and education programs. This is an initial registration.				
13-Mar-2019	Alberta Federation of Rural Electricity Associations	Sandie Price	Sandra Price	Alberta Energy, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Service Alberta, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly
Existing Legislation: Hydro and Electricity Energy Act. To update this act and any other related legislation, with amendments that will support the sustainability and viability of Rural Electrification Associations. This is an initial registration.				
12-Mar-2019	Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.	Philip Dewan, Brad Lavigne	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Executive Council, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Health, Alberta Climate Change Office, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Proposal - Addition to Reserve. Intermediary activities on behalf of client including arranging meetings with public office holders to discuss the Addition to Reserve for the use and benefit of the client. Program or Policy: Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA), Water Act. Ensure enforcement of provincial government laws and regulations regarding the protection of treaty lands, at risk wildlife and rivers in proximity to the proposed Frontier Project near Wood Buffalo National Park. This is a notice of registration change.				
12-Mar-2019	All Seniors Care Living Centres Ltd.	Loyalist Public Affairs	Chris Froggatt, Dan Mader	Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
Program or Policy: Transitional Care. Discuss innovative solutions for improving healthcare and ending hallway medicine, including how retirement homes can play a role in freeing up hospital beds. This is an initial registration.				
12-Mar-2019	Christenson Group of Companies	Sandie Price	Sandra Price	Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Seniors and Housing, Alberta Health Services
Program or Policy: Home Care Administration. Secure site-based home care funding for Christenson Communities. This is a notice of registration change.				
11-Mar-2019	JBS Food Canada ULC	T. Bjornson & Associates Consulting Inc.	Tyler Bjornson, Tyler McCann	Alberta Labour, Alberta Environment and Parks, Executive Council, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Climate Change Office, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
Financial Benefit or Grant: Climate Change Programs. Attain funding for emission reduction projects. Financial Benefit or Grant: Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Attain funding for value added food processing projects. Program or Policy: Alberta Immigration Nominee Program. Program directives to allow for successful integration of foreign workers into our work force through acceptable parameters for income threshold requirements, education equivalency requirements for various partner countries, and official language competency requirements. This is a notice of registration change.				
11-Mar-2019	Xplornet Communications Inc.	PAA Public Affairs Advisors Inc.	Eric Lamoureux, Noah Niznick	Service Alberta, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
Program or Policy: Rural Broadband Initiatives. Engagement with officials concerning policies in respect of broadband internet, particular with respect to issues related specifically to rural broadband infrastructure and network access. This is a notice of registration change.				
08-Mar-2019	Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (EPAC)	New West Public Affairs	Michael Solberg, Sarah Painchaud, Monte Solberg, Sonia Kont	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Transportation, Premier's Office
Existing Legislation: Climate Leadership Implementation Act. Profile raising activities to ensure that EPAC is properly consulted by the government of the day on any future or possible changes to policies and legislation pertinent to EPACs members. This is an initial registration.				

Alberta Scan

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Research

Thanks to staff at the Legislature Library for their ongoing help with researching items in this newsletter.

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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

Protecting Southern Alberta from Future Flooding

François-Philippe Champagne, federal minister of infrastructure and communities, announced funding for the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir project.

This project is currently undergoing a federal environmental assessment process led by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. The Aboriginal consultation process is also underway. Construction will not start until the minister of environment and Climate Change Canada has issued a decision statement and until Canada is satisfied that the legal duty to consult Aboriginal peoples has been met.

Details are [here](#).

Premier

8 March 2019

Made-in-Alberta Plan Attracts New

Appointments Scan...

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

Jobs, Investment

Premier **Rachel Notley** announced her government will provide \$70 million in future royalty credits for a new petrochemical upgrading facility east of Edmonton.

If the plan is finalized, Inter Pipeline Ltd. would invest about \$600 million in a new petrochemical upgrading facility that would produce more valuable consumer products derived from propane, including acrylic acid that is used in many everyday consumer products.

Details are [here](#).

8 March 2019

Proclamation.

Cabinet prorogued, effective March 17, 2019, the Fourth Session of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of Alberta, and convened the Fifth Session of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of Alberta on March 18, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. OC 78/2019.

Details are [here](#). ☐

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

Advanced Education

8 March 2019

Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act (sections 2 and 5).

Cabinet appointed **Jordan Jolicoeur** as a member of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board for a term to expire on March 7, 2022.

Cabinet reappointed **J'Amey Bevan** as chair of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board for a term to expire on May 26, 2022.

Cabinet reappointed **Blaine Boutin** as a member of the Board for a term to expire on May 26, 2022.

Effective June 12, 2019, cabinet appointed **Simone Reese** as a member of the Board for a term to expire on June 11, 2022. OC 80/2019.

Energy

8 March 2019

Responsible Energy Development Act (section 11).

Cabinet reappointed **Cindy Chiasson** to the roster of hearing commissioners of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) for a term to expire on June 30, 2024. OC 76/2019.

Cabinet appointed **Elizabeth McNaughtan** to the roster of hearing commissioners of the AER for a term to expire on March 7, 2024.

Cabinet reappointed **Judy Daniels** and **Brian Zaitlin** to the roster of hearing commissioners of the AER, each for a term to expire on June 30, 2024. OC 77/2019. ☐