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Alberta Scan

Issue 1095

week ending 22 March 2019

Works for everyone...

Premier **Rachel Notley** called the long anticipated provincial election for Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

For voters who are away during voting days, a mail-in Special Ballot is available beginning March 19.

Candidate nominations end at 2:00 p.m. on March 29, 2019.

Advance Polls run Tuesday, April 9, 2019 to Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Canadian citizens who reside in Alberta and are at least 18 years of age or older on Election Day are eligible to vote in the provincial general election.

New electoral boundaries are now in effect and will be reflected on the personalized Where-to-Vote cards mailed out to each registered elector prior to the advance polls.

Political parties wasted no time in campaigning, while working to define the nature of their opponents. Some issues raised this week:

► [March 21] UCP leader **Jason Kenney** said campaigning in Calgary he will challenge prime minister **Justin Trudeau's** unwarranted intrusion into provincial jurisdiction and fight Bill C-69 with every legal tool available. If Bill C-69 becomes law, Kenney said he would direct Alberta's Attorney General to immediately file a constitutional challenge.

► [March 21] NDP leader **Rachel Notley** campaigning in Lethbridge announced she will build 2,000 more long-term care beds to meet growing demand. She said the announcement builds on a promise from the 2015 election to build more than 2,100 long term care and dementia beds. The UCP immediately criticized the announcement saying "the only reason the NDP met their 2015 target of 2,000 beds was by counting at least 1,758 beds from a PC government era program relying on private firms."

The promise was also criticized by the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees whose members staff many of the existing facilities.

"While more long-term care beds are sorely needed in Alberta, they can't continue to be funded by taxpayer dollars and delivered by private, for-profit providers more focused on revenues than providing quality care," said Alberta Union of Provincial Employees vice-president **Susan Slade**. "Unfortunately, the private long-term care experiments have continued since 2015 and today we're seeing 'public' completely removed from the NDP's 2,000 long-term care beds promise."

► [March 21] After Statistics Canada released information on the number of Albertans receiving federal employment insurance climbed 4.3 per cent in January from December. The party issued a statement blaming the NDP for policies that "discouraged job creation and investment".

► [March 21] Alberta Party leader **Stephen Mandel** said his party would double the number of educational assistants in Alberta's K-12 classrooms with a major

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...campaign

boost in funding for inclusive education.

“While continuing efforts to reduce class sizes, we will expand funding to double the number of educational assistants to provide more support to students, more help for teachers, and ultimately make it easier for kids to learn,” **Mandel** said.

► [March 20] NDP leader **Rachel Notley** announced in Edmonton she will double Alberta’s petrochemical diversification incentive program to \$7 billion from its current level of about \$3.5 billion.

► [March 20] The UCP challenged the NDP record on diversification. Since the start of 2015 to the end of 2018, investment has fallen not only by 54 per cent in the mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction sector, the party said, it has also fallen in non-energy and non-mining sectors, including construction, wholesale and retail trade, utilities, transportation and warehousing. “If this is somehow proof of NDP “success” in diversifying the economy, Albertans must wonder what failure would look like,” the UCP said.

► [March 20] NDP candidate **Sarah Hoffman** announced in Edmonton a TV ad attacking UCP leader **Jason Kenney** showing when he was a student in San Francisco, he campaigned “to deny partners of dying AIDS patients from hospital visits.” The ad is [here](#).

► [March 20] The UCP disputed an NDP email assertion that the UCP Job Creation Tax Cut “will blow a \$21 billion hole in Alberta’s revenue”. “The reality is that Alberta corporate tax revenues are actually \$8.8 billion lower now than what the NDP promised in their 2015 platform.”

► [March 20] Alberta Party leader **Stephen Mandel** said his party will pursue the most ambitious plan for early learning and child care in the history of Alberta.

“The Children First plan includes a major investment of direct financial support to lower and middle income

families to cover the costs of licensed day care and out-of-school care programs, a caregiver tax credit, and the creation of more affordable, high-quality child care spaces throughout the province,” **Mandel** said.

► [March 19] In his first response to the call of the election, UCP leader **Jason Kenney** asked Albertans if they are better off today than they were four years ago when the NDP were first elected. “For the vast majority of Albertans, the answer is ‘no.’”, he said. “I can tell you one thing Albertans hate: unemployment, and the corrosive effect it has on people’s lives. That’s why a United Conservative government will be obsessed with creating good jobs,” said **Kenney**.

► [March 19] NDP leader **Rachel Notley** called the provincial election. **Notley** said her campaign will fight for good jobs, strong hospitals, good schools, and an economy that works for all Albertans. She vowed to continue fighting for pipelines and more refining and upgrading, following through on the largest economic diversification effort since the days of premier **Peter Lougheed**.

“**Jason Kenney** isn’t working for you. He wants two Albertas—one for

the wealthy and one for the rest of us. He wants two Albertas, divided over people’s rights” said **Notley**. “I want to build one Alberta. I say we stick together through this final stage—from adversity to recovery to shared prosperity—that we take care of each other. Let’s keep fighting for a province that works for everyone.”

► [March 16] Three days in advance of the election call, UCP leader **Jason Kenney** announced in Edmonton if elected his government will contribute up to \$10 million over two years for the creation of Big Island Provincial Park to help protect the North Saskatchewan River Valley from industrial development.

A UCP government would work with the City of Edmonton, other Capital Region municipalities, Enoch First Nation and the federal government to permanently conserve the valley.

Kenney also said a United Conservative government will earmark \$300,000 annually for park maintenance and development which is comparable to the operating costs of Calgary’s Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Alberta Party election news is [here](#).

NDP election news is [here](#).

UCP election news 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](#).

Energy

18 March 2019

Province Increases Oil Production Limits

Alberta increased the amount of oil production allowed. Limits are based on monitoring a number of indicators and recognizing that less diluent is needed in warmer weather for bitumen to flow in pipelines, meaning

more capacity.

Production limits in May will increase by 25,000 barrels a day and 25,000 more in June – a 50,000 increase in total to 3.71 million barrels per day allowed, effective June 1. This represents a total increase of 150,000 barrels a day since the start of the production limit policy on January 1, 2019.

Details are [here](#).

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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
20-Mar-2019	Global Public Affairs	Kindred Partners Inc.	Randy Pettipas, Jordan Pinkster, Alanna Sokic	Alberta Legislative Assembly

This is an initial registration.

Program or Policy: Retail cannabis. Kindred, a subsidiary of Breakthru Beverage Group, provides brokerage services for dedicated cannabis sales across Canada. Kindred will be providing feedback to Legislative Assembly staff on the development of the legal cannabis sector in Alberta, specifically around retail sales and efforts in the recreational space.

20-Mar-2019	Imperial Oil Ltd.	StrategyCorp Inc.	John Matheson, Lisa Samson, Garry Keller	Alberta Labour, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Executive Council, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Alberta Climate Change Office, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
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This is an initial registration.

Existing Legislation: Climate Leadership Plan. Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the Climate Leadership Plan, specifically those portions of the Climate Leadership Plan that relate to (1) the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, (2) the measurement of performance standards, and (3) the calculation of the carbon levy. Imperial believes the long-term objective of a climate change policy should be to reduce the risk of serious impacts to humanity and ecosystems at minimum societal cost, while recognizing the importance of safe, reliable, affordable and abundant energy for global economic development.

Existing Legislation: Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act. Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the implementation of the *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act*, more specifically (1) the interpretation of the "dependent contractors" provisions in the *Alberta Labour Relations Code*; (2) the calculation of Compressed Work Weeks (CWW) in the *Employment Standards Code* and (3) potential impacts to "fly-in, fly out" workers in the energy sector. The main goal of these communications is to ensure that Imperial Oil is compliant with the *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act*.

Existing Legislation: Municipal Government Act. Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* that will affect the calculation of municipal tax rates. More specifically, the effect that the replacement of the "Construction Cost Reporting Guideline" (CCRG), with the "Regulated Industrial Property Assessment Ministers Guidelines" (RIPA), will have on municipal tax rates.

Guideline or Directive: Consultation Framework. Discussions with the government of Alberta on the proposed implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). More specifically, Imperial is interested in obtaining clarity on how the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) provisions of the UNDRIP will be applied to indigenous communities in Alberta.

Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Order in Council 375/2019. Curtailment rules discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the implementation of Order in Council 375/2018 (Curtailement Rules). More specifically, the effect of production allocations for crude oil and crude bitumen on the competitiveness of the oil sector.

Existing Legislation: Alberta's Modernized Royalty Framework. Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding Alberta's Modernized Royalty Framework. More specifically, Imperial is interested in ensuring that royalty structure and royalty rates are competitive.

Program or Policy: Alternative Energy Framework. Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the Alternative Energy Framework. Imperial is interested in gaining clarity on the government's plans with respect to developing alternative energy sources.

Existing Legislation: Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. Discussions with the government of Alberta about the development of ambient air quality objectives and guidelines under the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (AEPEA). More specifically, Imperial is interested in implementation of equivalency agreements (on air quality) with other jurisdictions.

Guideline or Directive: AER Directives 74 and 85, Tailings Management Framework. Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the replacement of AER Directive 74 ("Tailings Performance Criteria and Requirements for Oil Sands Mining Schemes") with AER Directive 85 ("Directive 085: Fluid Tailings Management for Oil Sands Mining Projects").

Program or Policy: Renewable Fuels Standards. Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding proposed regulations or planned regulatory changes to low carbon fuel, biodiesel, biofuels and fuel additives standards.

Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Order in Council 375/2018 (Curtailement Rules). Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the implementation of Order in Council 375/2018 (Curtailement Rules). More specifically, the effect of production allocations for crude oil and crude bitumen on the competitiveness of the oil sector.

Existing Legislation: Wildlife Act. Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding plans related to species at risk (such as the "Caribou Protection Plan") under the *Wildlife Act*.

15-Mar-2019	Alberta Distillers Limited	T. Bjornson & Associates Consulting Inc.	Tyler Bjornson, Tyler McCann	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
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This is an initial registration.

Financial Benefit or Grant: Canadian Agriculture Partnership Program. Obtain funding for agri-food value added processing investments and energy efficiency investments.

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

Health

16 March 2019

Alberta Launches MyHealth Records

Health minister **Sarah Hoffman** announced a new online tool to provide greater access to personal health records for individuals.

MyHealth Records is accessible through any computer, tablet or smartphone. After getting a secure digital ID, Albertans will be able to:

- ▶ view medications dispensed from community pharmacies.
- ▶ view immunizations administered in Alberta.
- ▶ view the results of 59 common lab tests.
- ▶ keep journals to track mood, sleep, weight and fitness goals.
- ▶ upload and track information from personal health devices, including supported blood pressure monitors, blood glucose meters and fitness trackers.
- ▶ print reports from MyHealth Records to share with health-care providers.

Details are [here](#).

Labour

17 March 2019

Updated Guidelines for Scattering Cremated Ashes

Labour minister **Christina Gray** announced new guidelines governing the scattering of cremated ashes on

provincial lands for families honouring the last wishes of a loved one or following cultural and religious traditions will be released later this spring.

Cremated ashes may be scattered on unoccupied provincial government-owned Crown land or water, including provincial parks.

The new Alberta guidelines are similar to policies already in place in Manitoba and Ontario.

Details are [here](#).

Premier

19 March 2019

Proclamation

Cabinet declared the Twenty-ninth Legislature of Alberta to be dissolved and the Members of the Legislative Assembly discharged from further meetings and attendance. OC 82/2019.

19 March 2019

Election Act (section 39)

Cabinet called for a general election to be held on April 16, 2019. OC 83/2019.

18 March 2019

Workers and Families Focus of 2019 Throne Speech

Premier **Rachel Notley** outlined her party's election priorities in the Speech from the Throne at the Alberta Legislature.

The speech is [here](#). The highlights are [here](#). □

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](#).

Finance

15 March 2019

Teachers' Pension Plans Act (section 5); Teachers' Pension Plans (Legislative Provisions) Regulation (section

2).

Cabinet appointed **Greg Francis** as a member of the Teachers' Pension Plans Board of Trustees for a term to expire on October 18, 2020. OC 81/2019. □