

People...

Hoffman, Sarah.....	3
Kenney, Jason	1, 2, 3
Khan, David.....	1
Krause, Vivian	3
Lohner, Michael.....	2
Mandel, Stephen	1, 3
Nixon, Jason.....	2
Notley, Rachel.....	2, 3
Painchaud, Denis.....	2

Alberta Scan

Issue 1096

week ending 29 March 2019

"I won't let this happen..."

Policy flourished during the second week of Alberta's election campaign. Parties made promises on issues that included education, health care, skills training, partial elimination of personal income taxes and even government identification cards. Some of the issues raised follow below.

► [March 28] UCP leader **Jason Kenney** promised to cut surgical wait times, make major investments to reverse Alberta's opioid crisis, support mental health, and improve both primary and palliative care for Albertans. The promises were contained in a detailed policy announcement made alongside an attack on the NDP health policies over the past four years the have been government.

The backgrounder is [here](#).

The UCP plan was immediately attacked by the NDP as an assault on public health care. "This election, the future of our public health care system is on the ballot," NDP leader **Rachel Notley** said. "Mr. **Kenney** wants to privatize our health care system meaning less care for more cost. I won't let this happen."

► [March 28] Alberta Liberal leader **David Khan** pledged to eliminate personal income taxes for those making less than \$57,250 per year and lower corporate taxes to ten per cent from the current 12 per cent. He also promised an eight per cent harmonized sales tax.

Details [here](#).

► [March 28] Alberta Party leader **Stephen Mandel** promised to build new lanes on the QE2 highway to create Canada's first corridor for self-driving vehicles as part of a road improvement policy.

"Self-driving vehicles are already in use and more are on the way," **Mandel** said. "We can either get ready for this or get left behind."

The party's roads and autonomous vehicles plan is [here](#).

► [March 27] UCP leader **Jason Kenney** promised more judges, more prosecutors and stronger laws as part of a United Conservative plan to tackle Alberta's growing crime wave. **Kenney** promised he will spend an additional \$10 million to hire 50 new prosecutors and support staff, an additional \$20 million over four years for the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT), who deal with child exploitation, domestic violence, stalking, and gang issues.

Further details, including millions in funding for other programs, are [here](#).

► [March 27] The NDP rebutted the UCP allegations on rural crime, saying rural crime is down by 16 per cent.

Details [here](#).

► [March 27] UCP [attacked](#) the NDP over their broken promises to balance the provincial government budget. In their 2015 election platform, the NDP promised a small surplus for 2018-19, and a \$586 million surplus for 2019-20. Instead, the NDP has delivered record-breaking deficits, including a projected \$7.9 billion deficit for this year.

...continued next page

...election 2019

The party noted the premier claims her \$3 billion in new spending promises in just the first week of the campaign won't result in further deficit spending. "The premier is simply not being honest with Albertans. **Rachel Notley** and the NDP need to come clean on their secret plans to raise taxes before they ask Albertans for their vote," said **Jason Nixon**, United Conservative candidate for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

► [March 27] After a CBC story alleged email addresses attached to UCP members were purchased by anonymous sources in the lead up to the UCP leadership vote, the NDP said **Jason Kenney** has questions to answer if they bought the addresses.

Details [here](#).
 ► [March 26] NDP leader **Rachel Notley** announced a plan to strengthen the public health system by boosting emergency care, cutting wait times for surgeries and getting EMS crews back into the community faster. **Notley** pledged \$90 million per year toward reducing surgical wait times and increasing emergency care for Albertans in need. The NDP leader added new rules will allow a single EMS crew to care for up to three patients needing admission. This policy will help ensure the vast majority of crews return to patrol within 90 minutes, she said.

Details [here](#).
 ► [March 26] UCP leader **Jason Kenney** announced a 12-point job skills platform. His proposals include doubling the number of schools that

CAREERS: Next Generation is currently working with, from 500 to 1,000, quadrupling the number of students placed with participating employers, establishing a new \$1 million Trades Scholarship for 1,000 graduating secondary students who show promise in the trades in high school, and reforming teacher certification to enable qualified tradespeople to teach and bring their skills to the classroom without requiring a full Bachelor of Education.

The plan is [here](#).
 ► [March 26] After controversy surrounding the impact of the UCP education policy on GSAs, the NDP declared leader **Jason Kenney** revealed "his true self".

"**Kenney** said that he's changed. But given his comments yesterday

...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
27-Mar-2019	Baneret Consulting Inc.	AMGAS Services Inc.	Denis Painchaud	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Energy Regulator

Guideline or Directive: Directive 60. To understand the Alberta Energy Regulator's (AER) interpretation of the oil and gas conservation rules as they pertain to the safe and effective handling of gases produced from oil wells, to better understand any intention that the government may have with respect to revising the existing policy or rules and to provide input for consideration.

Program or Policy: Oil and Gas Conservation Rules. To understand the Alberta government's interpretation of the oil and gas conservation rules as they pertain to the safe and effective handling of gases produced from oil wells, to better understand any intention that the government may have with respect to revising the existing policy or rules and to provide input for consideration.

Guideline or Directive: Alberta Energy Regulator Directive 60. AER approval of the use of AMGAS' new technology for controlling gas emissions.

26-Mar-2019	Baneret Consulting Inc.	Fractal Systems Inc.	Denis Painchaud	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission, Alberta Innovates, Alberta Energy Regulator
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Financial Benefit or Grant: Funding for operations and research and development of partial upgrading technology. To secure funding to support operations and research and development.

Guideline or Directive: Advocating for consideration of a tax credit or other incentives to encourage exploration and production companies to utilize partial upgrading technology for bitumen. For the government to adopt a tax credit or other incentives for exploration and production companies to adopt partial upgrading technologies for bitumen.

Existing Legislation: Climate Change and Emissions Management Act - Specified Gas Emitters Regulation. To advocate for the environmental benefits of partial upgrading of bitumen and for the benefit to be factored in for these facilities.

Decision: Approval of new technology and facilities. Advocate for the timely approval of new partial upgrading technology for bitumen and the approval of partial upgrading facilities in Alberta.

25-Mar-2019	Motion LP	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Michael Lohner	Alberta Health
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Program or Policy: Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL). Discuss a variety of issues surrounding reimbursement for services and equipment provided by Motion LP to clients of AADL.

Alberta Scan

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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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...election 2019

about GSAs, the question is: “Has **Jason Kenney** really changed?”, the NDP asked.

Details [here](#).

► [March 25] UCP leader **Jason Kenney** announced a 13-point plan to reform Alberta’s education system. His plan includes reducing administration costs and “pushing resources to front line teachers”, continuing to build new schools, end the focus on “discovery” or “inquiry” learning, pause the NDP’s curriculum review, reform student assessment, proclaim the *Education Act (2014)*, and affirm parental choice through a *Choice in Education Act*. The NDP and other critics pounced on the policy characterizing it as retrograde with respect to gay-straight alliance (GSA) clubs in schools.

The Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) **condemned** the policy, saying “instead of addressing the real issues of growing class sizes and a lack of adequate supports for students with special needs, the platform proposes new high-stakes testing for six-, seven- and eight-year-old children and for all teachers.” The next day the ATA said taking **principals** out of the Alberta Teachers’ Association would destroy Alberta’s advantage in education.

The UCP plan is [here](#).

► [March 25] The NDP slammed the UCP education platform because it did not commit to funding 15,000 new students expected to attend Alberta schools this fall.

“Our kids futures don’t rise and fall with the price of oil,” said **Sarah Hoffman**, the NDP candidate in Edmonton-Glenora. “There will be 15,000 more kids in our schools next year — and 15,000 more the year after that. Under **Jason Kenney’s** education plan, those students would not be met by a single new teacher.”

Details [here](#).

► [March 25] NDP leader **Rachel Notley** announced a plan to cap child care

fees at \$25-a-day and promised to add 13,000 more spaces across Alberta. She said the expansion of \$25-a-day child care in Alberta would increase employment and add \$5.95 billion a year to Alberta’s GDP.

Details [here](#).

► [March 24] Alberta Party leader **Stephen Mandel** said if elected, his party will introduce one provincial identification card for government services.

Details [here](#).

► [March 23] In a Red Deer speech, UCP leader **Jason Kenney** outlined how a United Conservative government would position the province “to provide Alberta with more control over its own destiny within Canada.” The 9-point plan includes measures from equalization reform, converting the Canada Health Transfer and Canada Social Transfer to tax points for the provinces, a Canadian Charter of Economic Rights, and creating an Alberta Parole Board.

The plan is [here](#).

► [March 22] UCP leader **Jason Kenney** said if elected, his party will take immediate steps to stand up to the foreign influences working to harm Alberta’s petroleum industry. **Kenney** said through the work of **Vivian Krause** Albertans now have proof that provincial interests are being challenged by well-funded foreign actors who have been waging a decade-long campaign to land lock Alberta’s oil. **Kenney** unveiled a 12-point plan outlining what he would do as part of his “fight back” strategy.

The plan is [here](#).

► [March 22]. NDP leader **Rachel Notley** announced if re-elected, her government will invest \$1 billion from Alberta’s Climate Leadership Plan to build new upstream flood mitigation infrastructure on the Bow River.

“Combined with Springbank, the new reservoir will ensure Calgary’s downtown core is fully protected from flooding on the scale of 2013,” **Notley** said.

Details [here](#). ☐