



AB Today – Daily Report October 22, 2019

Quotation of the day

“I have heard your frustration.”

*Re-elected Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** addresses voters in Alberta and Saskatchewan, who overwhelmingly voted Conservative.*

Today in AB

On the schedule

The house will reconvene at 1:30 p.m on Tuesday, when Premier **Jason Kenney** is expected to make a statement on the federal election results.

Bill 16, Public Lands Modernization (Grazing Leases and Obsolete Provisions) Amendment Act, will be debated at third reading, per the order paper.

MLAs could also debate **Bill 18**, Electricity Statutes (Capacity Market Termination) Amendment Act, at second reading. The bill cancels the NDP-era plan to move to a capacity electricity market.

Bill 17, Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence (Clare’s Law) Act, could also be called at committee stage.

Monday’s debates and proceedings

During private members’ business, NDP MLA **Richard Feehan**’s legislation, **Bill 203**, An Act To Protect Public Health Care, was called.

The bill was first introduced in June, and since then the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommended against it receiving any further consideration.

UCP members of the house voted to concur with the committee's report (Ayes 37; Nays 12), and the bill was dropped from the order paper.

When it was introduced, Feehan said his bill would strengthen the government's ability to "defend Albertans from American-style health care creeping into our province" by addressing issues associated with fee-based private health clinics.

UCP MLA **Mike Ellis** had better luck with his PMB: **Bill 202**, Child, Youth and Family Enhancement (Protecting Alberta's Children) Amendment Act, passed committee stage and was debated at third reading.

MLAs also debated a motion from NDP MLA **Marie Renaud** calling on the government to conduct a thorough review of abortion access and to ensure services are equitable across the province.

The motion was defeated by the UCP (Ayes 11; Nays 43).

In the legislature

Maryview Elementary School choir sang the national anthem, the first group in a [new initiative](#) to bring new singers and choirs into the legislature on Mondays.

Premier Watch

On Monday, Premier **Jason Kenney** posted a video outside his polling station in Calgary. He missed question period but returned to the house to vote against Renaud's private member's motion to review access to reproductive health services.

Conservatives take back all but one seat in Alberta

Alberta is bluer this morning after the Conservative Party of Canada wiped out the Liberals in Calgary, including defeating Alberta's only Liberal cabinet minister.

The Conservatives won 33 of the province's 34 seats and 70 per cent of the popular vote.

Edmonton—Strathcona — won by the NDP's **Heather McPherson** — is now the only riding in the province not held by the CPC. McPherson's campaign was buoyed by endorsements from provincial NDP Leader **Rachel Notley** and federal Green Party challenger **Michael Kalmanovitch** — who dropped out days before Monday's vote to buttress the New Democrats.

The four seats where Liberal candidates were elected in 2015 all went to the CPC.

Nationally, it remains unclear what a Liberal minority government will mean for Alberta and for the province's United Conservative Party government. Premier **Jason Kenney** has issued stark warnings that tensions in the province could be inflamed by another Liberal government in Ottawa.

Notable ridings:

- Liberal incumbent for Edmonton—Centre **Randy Boissonnault**, who served as the special advisor to the prime minister on LGBTQ2 Issues, lost his seat on Monday to Conservative Party of Canada candidate **James Cumming**.
- **Amarjeet Sohi** lost his re-match in Edmonton—Mill Woods. Sohi, who was the Liberal's natural resources minister, was defeated by **Tim Uppal**, who served as minister of state under **Stephen Harper**.
- The Liberals were also wiped out in Calgary: Calgary—Centre Liberal MP **Kent Hehr** was toppled by Conservative candidate **Greg McLean**, and new Liberal candidate **Nirmala Naidoo** lost to the CPC's **Jagdeep Sahota** in Calgary—Skyview.

In Saskatchewan, all 14 ridings went blue, along with 64 per cent of the popular vote.

Today's events

October 22 at 9 a.m. — Edmonton

Education Minister **Adriana LaGrange** will speak at the WE Day Alberta Educational Partners Breakfast at Studio 99 in Rogers Place.

October 22 at 10 a.m. — Edmonton

The United Conservative Party caucus will meet in the Windsor room of the Federal Building.

October 22 at 6 p.m. — Edmonton

The UCP cabinet will meet in the cabinet room of the legislature.

Topics of conversation

- Alberta's consumer price index was up 1.3 per cent year over year in September 2019, lower than the national average of 1.9 per cent.
 - The average cost of energy products dropped by 10.9 per cent year-over-year, as did transportation costs, which were 0.3 per cent lower than last year.
 - Meanwhile, food costs rose by 3.9 per cent.

- A portrait of Swedish climate activist **Greta Thunberg** that popped up on Edmonton's graffiti "free wall" following her visit was defaced. The words "Stop the lies!" and "This is oil country" were spray-painted on her image, as well as a gendered slur in French. Thunberg's eyes and mouth were also blacked out.
 - The man who wrote "This is oil country" [defended his vandalism to CBC](#), saying "This is Alberta ... We don't need foreigners coming in and telling us how to run our business, support our families, put food on our tables."

Question Period

NDP kickoff

- NDP Leader **Rachel Notley** threw the first pitch in question period, asking about looming cuts to post-secondary funding, something she said the UCP government did not campaign on. She cited a memo from Mount Royal University that said the institution is expecting a 25 per cent funding cut across the board.
 - "Why did folks over there choose to mislead students and their families in the last election?," she asked.
 - The NDP leader followed up by accusing the UCP of misrepresenting a promise to maintain operating spending at current levels.
 - "It's election day, should Canadians from coast to coast expect the same demonstration of dishonesty from your pal **Andrew Scheer** in Ottawa?" Notley asked.
- Advanced Education Minister **Demetrios Nicolaides** said in the past decade there has been a 106 per cent increase to post-secondary funding, which outstrips inflation.
 - "We're working very closely with our institutions to ensure that we can get the most bang for our buck when it comes to post-secondary delivery," Nicolaides said.

Other NDP questions

- Opposition MLAs also asked about Mandatory Entry Level Testing driver requirements, whether Ontario Premier **Doug Ford**-style cuts to education will be reflected in the UCP's fall budget, funding structures for rural policing, government response to climate activist **Greta Thunberg**'s visit, whether *The Rebel* media will be allowed to attend government news conferences, and transparency over third-party vendor contracts procured by the Canadian Energy Centre.

UCP friendly questions

- UCP backbench MLAs asked about lengthy hospital drive times for rural Albertans, whether municipalities will get predictable funding, support for the agriculture industry,

farming safety legislation consultations, red tape reduction, and what the government is doing to bolster the tourism industry.