

People...

Anderson, Rick.....	3
Bray, Tristan	2, 3
Caouette, Melissa	3
Danchilla, Hal	3
Hallman, Alan	2
Kenney's, Jason.....	1
Kenyon, Duncan.....	1
Kont, Sonia.....	2, 3
Koolsbergen, Nick	2
LaGrange, Adriana	3, 4
McColl, Velma	3
Nixon, Jason.....	4
Notley, Rachel.....	1
Painchaud, Sarah	2, 3
Rajoo, Ruven.....	3
Reeder, Darren.....	3
Ryffel, Pascal.....	3
Saskiw, Jenelle.....	3
Saskiw, Shayne.....	3
Savage, Sonya	4
Schilling, Jason.....	1
Solberg, Matt	2, 3
Solberg, Michael.....	2, 3
Solberg, Monte.....	2, 3
Toews, Travis.....	1
Valk, Bronte	3
Wescott, Jonathon	3
Ziolkowski, Zack	3

Alberta Scan

Issue 1117

week ending 25 October 2019

Water gun...

Finance minister **Travis Toews** presented the UCP government's first budget on October 24, with cuts to programs, delays in spending on infrastructure and a warning to government employees there will be no raises over the next four years and fewer of them to deliver services.

"There will be a reduction in the size of the public service. The vast majority of that reduction will occur through attrition...this will save Albertans close to half a billion dollars," **Toews** said.

Reaction was mixed.

Official Opposition leader **Rachel Notley** was not impressed with the budget pointing out that for the first time since 2001, the UCP government is no longer indexing tax brackets.

"What we saw today is Premier **Jason Kenney's** plan to make you pay more and get less," NDP leader **Notley** said. "What he didn't tell us [during the provincial election] was that every single Albertan was going to pay more in income tax."

The economics section of the Royal Bank of Canada praised the UCP budget saying it neither disappointed nor surprised. Its report on the budget pointed out the government made real cuts to spending while continuing with already announced business tax cuts.

"The plan presented by finance minister **Travis Toews** was built on the sober assessment that new realities necessitate forceful action," the report concluded. "Whether this plan will permanently address Alberta's fiscal challenges—especially the significant revenue volatility arising from resource royalties—remains to be seen. But at last, Alberta has a credible plan at hand to make significant inroads."

The Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) warned the budget means there will be larger class sizes and fewer programs for students.

"The student population is expected to grow by 15,000 students and school boards will not receive any more money to support them," said ATA president **Jason Schilling**.

The budget did not go far enough to address the spending issue said the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation (CTF).

"The government is trying to put out the fiscal fire with a water gun," said the CTF

The Pembina institute, a non profit think tank promoting a transition to clean energy, said the Alberta government missed a chance in the budget to position Alberta "as a competitive energy leader in a changing world economy."

"While it is encouraging to see the government increase funding for orphan well abandonment, and maintain funding for technology and innovation, what's missing is a deliberate effort to invest in the new economy," said regional director **Duncan Kenyon**.

The budget documents 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
24-Oct-19	TELUS Corporation	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	Nick Koolsbergen	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Children's Services, Service Alberta, Alberta Community and Social Services, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p>Program or Policy: Discuss opportunities to grow western innovation, support SMEs scale-up. Program support.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Virtual and Digital Health Care. Support enhanced access to virtual healthcare and digital solutions.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Internet, Mobility and Health for Good. To determine possible new and/or next iteration of existing AB Gov/TELUS programming in terms of scope and design to ensure TELUS maximizes its reach to support providing Internet access, mobile phone services and mobile healthcare access to those in need.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Advancing Alberta's Connectivity Agenda. Advancing framework to support identifying and supporting Alberta's connectivity priorities including rural and remote connectivity.</p> <p>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Proposed Legislation. Supporting the introduction of legislation to protect underground infrastructure (e.g. fibre cable) critical to the day-to-day functioning of the Alberta economy and delivery of services from third party damage during construction and other activities.</p> <p>Existing Legislation: Alberta Consumer Protection Act. Advance regulation development that supports business and consumer certainty and choice.</p>				
24-Oct-19	Fort McMurray #468 First Nation	Alan Hallman & Associates Inc.	Alan Hallman	Alberta Indigenous Relations
<p>Decision: Fort McMurray First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement. Establish a Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) for the Fort McMurray First Nation #468.</p>				
23-Oct-19	EQUUS REA LTD.	New West Public Affairs	Monte Solberg, Sonia Kont	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Policies that permit investors in utilities to pass on the cost of acquiring a rural electrification association to consumers. To establish new perimeters around permissible rate increases.</p> <p>Existing Legislation: The Electricity Statutes (Capacity Market Termination) Amendment Act. To understand the province's potential shift on the electricity market system to a capacity market from an energy-only market by 2021.</p> <p>Existing Legislation: Alberta Utilities Commission Act. To establish new perimeters around permissible rate increases.</p>				
23-Oct-19	Credit Union Central Alberta Ltd. (Alberta Central)	New West Public Affairs	Matt Solberg, Sonia Kont, Sarah Painchaud, Tristan Bray, Michael Solberg, Monte Solberg	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Service Alberta, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Executive Council, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Education, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation
<p>Existing Legislation: A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act. The scope of Bill 31: <i>A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act</i> and its regulations should build on the important work of the Alberta government and credit unions to end predatory lending practices that expose Albertans to a vicious cycle of debt, and should not contemplate the conventional and transparent suite of credit products offered by deposit taking, prudentially regulated financial institutions in the definition of 'high-cost credit'.</p> <p>Decision: Single Financial Regulator Initiative. Assist Alberta Central to work with the government of Alberta to improve consistency, competitiveness, transparency, and confidence in the regulation of Alberta's financial sector through the establishment of a single regulator for deposit-taking, provincially regulated financial institutions.</p> <p>Guideline or Directive: ATB Financial's Mandate and Roles Document. Assist Alberta Central request that the government of Alberta update ATB's mandate and roles document, as required in legislation, to improve the competitive neutrality and complementarity between ATB and other provincially regulated deposit-taking financial institutions.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Curriculum Review (Education). Assist Alberta Central to seek improved availability of financial literacy courses for Alberta students.</p> <p>Existing Legislation: Alberta Corporate Tax Act. Assist Alberta Central to seek fair and competitive income tax rates for credit unions to address the competitive and regulatory advantage of federally regulated banks.</p> <p>Existing Legislation: Alberta Credit Union Act. Assist Alberta Central to work with the government of Alberta and legislators to mitigate potential negative business impacts to credit unions as a result of recent amendments to subsection 6.2 of the act. Assist Alberta Central to work with the government of Alberta and legislators to modernize credit union and Alberta Central legislation and/or regulations through government-led Red Tape Reduction initiative/process.</p> <p>Decision: Development of a voluntary market code. Assist Alberta Central to work with the government of Alberta to ensure the voluntary market code for credit unions including acceptable business practices, proactive disclosures and a responsive complaints handling process.</p>				

...continued page three

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](#).

announced permanent standards for the use of seclusion and physical restraint in Alberta schools.

The new standards take effect on November 1.

Guidelines are also available for the use of time-out in schools and school divisions are required to report on their use of seclusion and physical restraint on a regular basis.

Details, including the seclusion standards, are [here](#).

...continued next page

Education

Supporting Safe Schools for Students and Staff

Education minister **Adriana LaGrange**

23 October 2019

23-Oct-19	Alberta Community and Co-operative Association	New West Public Affairs	Matt Solberg, Sonia Kont, Tristan Bray, Sarah Painchaud, Monte Solberg, Michael Solberg	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
<p>Existing Legislation: Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act. Introduce the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association to identified stakeholders and raise the profile of the organization’s work within government. Successfully advocate for maintaining and expanding the Investing in a <i>Diversified Alberta Economy Act</i>.</p> <p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Community Economic Development Corporation Tax Credit. Introduce the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association to identified stakeholders and raise the profile of the organization’s work within government. Successfully advocate for maintaining and expanding the Community Economic Development Corporation Tax Credit.</p>				
21-Oct-19	Shell Canada Limited	Earnscliffe Strategy Group	Velma McColl, Rick Anderson	Executive Council
<p>Program or Policy: Alberta emission reduction policy. Assist the client through discussions with the government of Alberta regarding its emission reduction policy.</p>				
17-Oct-19	Kasian Architecture Interior Design & Planning Ltd.	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Hal Danchilla	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
<p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Procurement and Capital Projects. Providing the client with general advice regarding government policy for procurement and capital projects.</p>				
17-Oct-19	Tourism Industry Association of Alberta (TIAA)	1863373 Alberta Ltd	Darren Reeder	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism
<p>Program or Policy: Overall tourism policy planning framework and government’s goal to develop a new 10-year strategy for the tourism industry. The aim of the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta is to ensure government policy and regulations support a new 10-year economic strategy that could see receipts in Alberta’s tourism industry grow from \$10 billion annually to \$20 billion annually by 2030. It is anticipated meetings regarding long-range economic strategy will take place with senior department officials, including an anticipated meeting with the minister of economic development, trade and tourism during Travel Alberta’s 2019 industry conference.</p>				
17-Oct-19	DynaLIFE	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Hal Danchilla, Melissa Caouette	Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier’s Office
<p>Decision: Laboratory Services Model Decision. Engage in meetings, provide tour support, support analysis, and discuss AB Health proposed options and alternatives for laboratory service delivery as it relates to structure, governance, performance, and ownership.</p>				
17-Oct-19	Metis Settlement General Council	Alberta Counsel	Jonathon Wescott, Bronte Valk, Zack Ziolkowski, Shayne Saskiw, Jenelle Saskiw, Pascal Ryffel, Ruven Rajoo	Alberta Indigenous Relations, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier’s Office
<p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Various grants with Indigenous relations. Exploring available financial grants and funding opportunities that support local priorities and building relationships with political decision makers.</p>				

Alberta Scan

Alberta Scan is an electronic newsletter in Adobe Acrobat format. *Scan* is published weekly when the Alberta Legislature is in session and when events warrant between sittings by:

Word of Mouth Communications,
Box 51056, Highlands Post Office,
6525 118 Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta,
T5W 1G0

GST Registration Number
R136164241RT0001

Subscriptions

Subscriptions to *Alberta Scan* are \$250 plus GST (\$12.50) for one year. Information on bulk subscriptions is available on request. Please make cheques payable to Word of Mouth Communications.

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 e-mail 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 e-mail for further information.

Feedback

If you have suggestions to improve *Alberta Scan*, please contact:

Paul McLoughlin
Publisher

(780) 421-9077

womcom@shaw.ca

...government

18 October 2019

Class Size Reduction Funding Not Effective

Education minister **Adriana LaGrange** released a report showing that funding to reduce class sizes, in particular kindergarten to Grade 3, did not deliver results.

The report found over the last 15 years, Alberta has invested more than \$3.4 billion in the Class Size Initiative. Despite this significant investment, kindergarten to Grade 3 class sizes have only decreased on average by 1.4 students since 2003-04.

It recommended the dollars should be included instead with base instruction funding so that jurisdictions have flexibility to use funds to best support their unique needs.

The report also found that there are many variables in a classroom – besides the number of students – that affect student success.

Budget 2019 announced that a new funding model for basic education will be in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

► Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes averaged 20.4 students in the 2018-19 school year, compared to 21.8 in 2003-04 (the last year before the Class Size Initiative) and 19.7 in 2004-05 (the first year of the initiative).

► annual school year funding allocations to the Class Size Initiative started at \$90 million in 2004-05, growing to \$291 million in 2018-19.

► targeted class size funding accounts for about four per cent of overall funding provided to school boards.

► the report is based on reviews of school board plans for spending the funding grant, interviews with school board and school leadership staff, a comparison of student and board-level outcome data against class size funding allocations, and a literature review of studies on class size impact on student success.

Details are [here](#).

Energy

23 October 2019

Attracting Investment in Petrochemicals

Energy minister **Sonya Savage** confirmed the UCP government will continue the \$1.1 billion Petrochemicals Diversification Program introduced by the previous NDP government.

The program supports privately funded large-scale projects by providing royalty credits to companies that build facilities to turn ethane, methane and propane feedstocks into products such as plastics, fabrics and fertilizers. Royalty credits are issued once projects become operational.

Round 2 of the program was originally announced in 2018. Of the \$1.1 billion committed, only \$150 million has been confirmed to date, with decisions on other applications on hold. By confirming this commitment, government will now resume its consideration of current submitted applications.

Savage said the province is discontinuing the Petrochemicals Feedstock Infrastructure Program and the Partial Upgrading Program. These programs rely on grants and loan guarantees, and carry a higher financial risk to government – and ultimately, to Albertans, she said.

Details are [here](#).

Environment and Parks

22 October 2019

Bat Week Takes Flight In Alberta

Environment minister **Jason Nixon** announced the province's promotional "Bat Week" runs from October 24 to 31.

To celebrate, **Nixon** announced a colouring and drawing contest for young Albertans.

Details are [here](#). □