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Alberta Scan

Issue 1119

week ending 8 November 2019

Kenney on the record...

Premier **Jason Kenney** is musing about changing Alberta's relationship with the federal government on a number of fronts. He explained his thinking in an October 29 Facebook session where he answered questions from viewers. Some of his comments are below.

Q. Will you be taking control of Alberta's CPP and creating a provincial pension plan?

"That will be one of the issues studied by the panel that I will be appointing to consult with Albertans on fighting for a fair deal in Canada. I believe that a compelling case can be made for such a shift. We want to listen to Albertans on this first, but let me just say that with the youngest population in Canada we are by far the largest net contributors to CPP."

"The federal government, against our wishes, is imposing higher CPP payroll taxes which will decrease economic growth and kill jobs, even though we, with this young Alberta population, do not need and cannot justify higher premiums."

"So I understand there is about \$40 billion of Albertans' premiums under management by the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. If in principle we could transfer those assets to be managed, securely, by AIMCo, that would also help AIMCo to be a stronger asset manager. They would be able to participate in larger deals and invest in a larger class of assets to diversify their investment portfolio, and improve returns over time."

"So those are some of the arguments I anticipate will be made, in favour of a prospective transfer to an Alberta Pension Plan. But let me underscore the government has not made any decision in this respect, but it is certainly one of the ideas people will be presenting to our [yet to be announced] panel on fairness within the federation."

On employment insurance. "A number of ideas that we are pushing for, is the reform of the unemployment insurance program, because we Albertans are mass net contributors to that."

On federal health transfers to the province. "Another idea is instead of taxing us and giving us back cash transfers through Canada Health Transfer, and so forth, with all sorts of strings attached, we instead are asking for what is called tax points. The federal government would cut taxes, we would occupy that tax space as a provincial government, then we would get to decide how we spend our money, on health care rather than be dictated to by Ottawa."

On pharmacare. "The Trudeau government says we are going to create a multi-billion dollar pharmacare program. We are saying don't intervene in our provincial jurisdiction on health care. If you want to send us money, cash for pharmaceuticals, we will spend it on our priorities in terms of health care." □

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](#).

Education

7 November 2019

Seeking Input on Education Choice

Alberta Education is using an online survey to identify opportunities to protect and enhance education choice.

Input from the survey, open until Dec. 6, will help inform future educa-

tion legislation.

Details are [here](#).

Justice and Solicitor General

6 November 2019

Plan to Combat Rural Crime

Justice and solicitor general minister **Doug Schweitzer** announced several

measures to deter rural crime.

The announcement was made during the ongoing public consultations on rural crime being conducted by the department.

The plan has three elements:

- ▶ *integrating provincial peace officers.* To help reduce response times, the government will create the Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defence Force – the RAPID Force – by expanding the roles and authorities of 400 peace officers in the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch and the traffic arm of the Alberta Sheriffs. Training and related planning is underway, to have the first

...continued page four

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
05-Nov-19	Pekisko Creek Ranch & Cattle Co. Ltd.	Hill+Knowlton Strategies	Sheila Wisniewski, Natalie Sigalet, Tim Moro	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier’s Office
Program or Policy: Hunting policy. Seeking information regarding potential plans, process and changes to Alberta hunting regulations and policies. Discuss how to improve access to hunting opportunities for Albertans.				
04-Nov-19	Ernst & Young LLP	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Melissa Caouette, Hal Danchilla	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Energy, Service Alberta, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Community and Social Services, Alberta Advanced Education
Existing Legislation: Bill 32: The City Charters Fiscal Framework Act. Work with the government on how they intend to redefine the relationship with municipalities, given their announcement in Budget 2019 to repeal the city charters.				
Financial Benefit or Grant: 2019-2020 Capital Plan. Facilitate discussion around capital planning and areas for collaboration on public/private partnerships.				
Existing Legislation: Responsible Energy Development Act (REDA). Collaborate with Alberta Energy on the relationship with the Alberta Energy Regulator.				
Program or Policy: Enterprise Resource Planning Implementation. Work with the government on ways in which Ernst & Young can be a partner on this program.				
Existing Legislation: Post-Secondary Learning Act. Work with the government on how to improve post-secondary education delivery by providing innovative solutions which improve outcomes and cost-savings.				
Existing Legislation: Family and Community Support Services Act. Facilitate discussion around transformation of the social sector as it relates to the act. Provide government with ideas on how they can improve service delivery while identifying cost saving measures.				
04-Nov-19	Greengate Power Corporation	New West Public Affairs	Monte Solberg, Matt Solberg, Michael Solberg	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Alberta Transportation, Premier’s Office
Existing Legislation: Renewable Electricity Act. To familiarize MLAs, members of Executive Council, and officials within several ministries about Greengate Power’s operations in Alberta and its shared commitment with government to create jobs and attract investment into Alberta’s renewable energy market without government subsidies.				

September Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
04-Nov-19	NorthRiver Midstream Inc.	New West Public Affairs	Michael Solberg, Sonia Kont, Monte Solberg, Matt Solberg	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Labour and Immigration, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Executive Council, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Energy Regulator
<p>Existing Legislation: Natural gas acts and regulations. To familiarize MLAs, members of Executive Council, and officials within several ministries about NorthRiver Midstream's Alberta operations and contributions to Alberta's economy and employment. To highlight red tape reduction initiatives that can assist ease of operations for NorthRiver Midstream.</p>				
04-Nov-19	AbbVie Corporation	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Hal Danchilla, Michael Lohner	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly
<p>Program or Policy: Pharmaceuticals and Supplementary Health Benefits (Alberta Drug Plans). Monitor policy and educate officials on policy surrounding biologic medications and biosimilars. Advocate for policy measures in order to enable coexistence of originator and subsequent entry biologics on Alberta's public drug plans.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Life Science Industry Promotion. Monitor policy and educate officials surrounding the innovation benefits of a vibrant originator biologic medicine industry and the benefits to the life science sector of policies enabling the marketing of both originator and biosimilar medicines.</p>				
02-Nov-19	Alberta Innovation Corridor	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Jordan Pinkster, Kristin Anderson, Yonathan Sumamo	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Service Alberta, Alberta Health, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Advanced Education
<p>Existing Legislation: Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Program. Better understand the role of technology and innovation in the program.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Alberta Advantage Immigration Strategy. Better understand the applicability to tech and innovation sectors.</p> <p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Community Economic Development Corporation Tax Credit. Inform government of benefits.</p> <p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax Credit. Inform government of benefits.</p> <p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit. Inform government of benefits.</p> <p>Decision: Removal of tax credit programs cited above. Inform government of benefits of these programs.</p> <p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Capital Investment Tax Credit. Inform government of benefits.</p>				
01-Nov-19	Garda Canada Security Corporation	Tact Intelligence-conseil	Daniel Matte	Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Executive Council, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution; Program or Policy: For the government to allow private security companies to do more tasks in support of police forces.</p> <p>Guideline or Directive: Procurement of non-essential services currently provided by police.</p> <p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Should the government move forward with such policies, it would likely open RFP process. These interventions will aim to demonstrate the relevance of outsourcing nonessential and/or administrative services currently provided by police, fully sworn officers to private security providers in order to allow police officers to concentrate on their core functions. Beyond awarding private security contracts, these interventions also aim to support local governments in their programs to ensure the security of citizens by offering additional services to existing public safety initiatives. The ultimate goal is to ensure the provision of non-essential services to the population while maintaining the quality of the core policing functions with better efficiency and therefore, at a lower cost to taxpayers.</p>				
01-Nov-19	Consulting Engineers of Alberta	Loyalton Strategies Inc.	Brookes Merritt	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Executive Council, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p>Program or Policy: Procurement of professional consulting engineering services. Acclimatize government to the merits of Qualifications-Based Selection and seeking a more formalized adoption of the practice by the government of Alberta for the public procurement of professional consulting engineering services.</p>				

...government

of these officers available to assist rural Albertans by fall 2020.

► *strengthening property rights.* To defend the rights of law-abiding property owners, the government will introduce changes to the *Occupiers' Liability Act*. These changes would eliminate the liability of law-abiding property owners who are protecting their property against trespasses who are, or who are believed to be, in the commission of a criminal act. This provision will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2018.

The government is also planning a number of other legislative changes.

► *community impact statements.* A new program will enable communities to take part in the sentencing of offenders by letting them submit a statement describing how the crime has affected the community as a whole – including the emotional, physical and economic impact, or fears they may have for their own security.

Details are [here](#).

5 November 2019

Proclamation: Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act

Cabinet proclaimed the act in force on the date of issue of the proclamation. OC 228/2019.

5 November 2019

Proclamation: Statutes Amendment Act, 2013

Cabinet proclaimed sections 11 and 12, except section 12(2)(a) and (3), of the act (No. 2) in force on December 16, 2019. OC 229/2019.

The proclamation deals with sections in the *Provincial Court Act* and the *Recording of Evidence Act*.

Mental Health and Addictions

1 November 2019

Addiction Treatment Providers Must Now Be Licensed

Associate minister of mental health and addictions **Jason Luan** announced

residential addiction treatment providers in Alberta must now be licensed in accordance with the *Mental Health Services Protection Act*.

As of 1 November, 15 service providers representing 31 locations have

received licences. Alberta Health is working with the remaining applicants to ensure all requirements are met prior to issuing a licence.

Details are [here](#). □

Regulations Scan...

The provincial cabinet passed the following regulations this week. Copies of the cabinet decisions

(called Orders in Council or “OCs”) are available online [here](#).

Environment and Parks

5 November 2019

Public Lands Act (sections 8 and 108).

Cabinet passed the Public Lands Ad-

ministration Amendment Regulation. OC 227/2019.

Several sections of the regulation were repealed. A clarification of the definition of “corporate holder” of grazing leases was added. □

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](#).

Economic Development

5 November 2019

Northern Alberta Development Council Act (section 4).

Cabinet appointed UCP MLA **Tracy Allard** as a member and designated her as chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council for a term to expire on November 4, 2021. OC 226/2019.

energy. There are five board members, including the chair. It was established in 1999 to help manage the transition from a fully regulated market structure to a competitive electricity industry.

Details are [here](#).

Environment and Parks

4 November 2019

Fresh Perspectives for Caribou Recovery Planning

Environment and parks minister **Jason Nixon** appointed three task forces to examine options for a new Alberta policy that will support “both a working landscape and caribou recovery.”

The 42 members of the three task forces, include representatives of municipalities, Indigenous communities, industry, recreational users and environmental non-government organizations.

Chairs of the three task forces are UCP MLAs **David Hanson** [Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul], **Dan Williams**

Energy

7 November 2019

New Balancing Pool Chair Appointed

Energy minister **Sonya Savage** announced the appointment of former Alberta Party leader and MLA **Greg Clark** as chair of the Balancing Pool board of directors.

Clark, who will serve a three-year term, replaces **Robert Bhatia**.

The Balancing Pool is a non-profit statutory corporation, with a board of directors appointed by the minister of

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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 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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...appointments

[Peace River], and **Martin Long** [West Yellowhead].

Details are [here](#).

Finance

5 November 2019

Alberta Investment Management Corporation Act (section 4); Alberta Investment Management Corporation Regulation (section 2).

Cabinet appointed **Roger Renaud** as a member of the board of directors of the Alberta Investment Management Corporation for a term to expire on November 4, 2022. OC 230/2019.

5 November 2019

Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act (section 9).

Cabinet appointed **Vincent Vavrek, Angela Tu Weissenberger** and **Tongjie Zhang** as members of the board of the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission, each for a term to expire on November 4, 2022.

Cabinet rescinded the appointments of **Craig Corbett** and **Gerard Curran** as members of the board of the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission. OC 231/2019.

Mental Health and Addictions

4 November 2019

Mental Health and Addiction Council Appointed

Associate minister of mental health and addictions **Jason Luan** created a new Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council to develop a strategy for mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services.

A final report is due by June 30, 2020.

The Council replaces the Minister's Opioid Emergency Response Commission, established under the former NDP government in 2017.

Appointed to the committee are:

Addiction co-chair: **Pat Nixon**, found-

er, Mustard Seed.

► **Stacey Petersen**, executive director, Fresh Start Recovery Centre.

► **Jacen Abrey**, Blood Tribe Fire and EMS director, councillor for Town of Coaldale.

► **Andy Crooks**, lawyer/lived experience.

► **Nick Mitchell**, senior medical director, AHS.

► **Rob Davidson**, Calgary Police Service.

► **Benny Xu**, traditional Chinese medicine doctor.

► **Bruce Edgelow**, founder and managing partner, Edgemark Capital/lived experience.

► **Brad Cardinal**, executive director, Poundmakers Lodge.

► **Ray Baker**, addiction medicine expert.

Mental health co-chair: **Laureen MacNeil**, executive director, Canadian Mental Health Association – Calgary Region.

► police chief **Dale McFee**, Edmonton Police Service.

► **Xin-Min Li**, professor and chair, Department of Psychiatry, University of Alberta.

► **Allison Bichel**, senior provincial director, AHS.

► **Curtis Stange**, president and CEO, ATB Financial.

► **Karen Gosbee**, mental health advocate.

► **Sally Zhao**, CEO, the Immigrant Education Society.

► **Whitney Issik**, UCP MLA, Calgary-Glenmore.

Ex-Officio

► **Deena Hinshaw**, chief medical officer of health.

► **John Cabral**, ADM, mental health and addiction.

► **Sherri Wilson**, ADM, public health and compliance/opioid crisis.

► **Bill Sweeney**, ADM, public safety.

► **Peter MacKinnon**, ADM, population, public and Indigenous health.

Details are [here](#). □