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# Alberta Scan

Issue 1120

week ending 15 November 2019

## Fundamental...

Premier **Jason Kenney** used a November 9 meeting of a Manning Centre conference to answer the meeting's theme of "What's Next?" for Alberta's future relations with the rest of Canada in an environment of increasing frustration about the state of confederation.

"So here is the fundamental unfairness," **Kenney** said.

"Governments and politicians and in many parts of the rest of the country benefiting from the resources that belong to Albertans, while trying to impair us from developing those same resources."

To address that unfairness, the premier announced a panel to hold public consultations on Alberta's place in the federation and to examine several issues including:

- ▶ establishing a provincial revenue agency to collect provincial taxes directly by ending the Canada-Alberta Tax Collection Agreement, while joining Quebec in seeking an agreement to collect federal taxes within the province.
  - ▶ creating an Alberta Pension Plan by withdrawing from the Canada Pension Plan.
  - ▶ establishing a provincial police force by ending the Alberta Police Service Agreement with the government of Canada.
  - ▶ emulating Quebec's practice of playing a larger role in international relations, in part by seeking Alberta representation in treaty negotiations that effect Alberta's interests.
  - ▶ emulating Quebec's legal requirement that public bodies, including municipalities and school boards, obtain the approval of the provincial government before they can enter into agreements with the federal government.
  - ▶ using the existing provincial power to appoint the Chief Firearms Office for Alberta.
  - ▶ opting out of federal cost share programs with full compensation, such as the federal government's proposed pharmacare program.
  - ▶ seeking an exchange of tax points for federal cash transfers under the Canada Health and Social Transfers.
  - ▶ establishing a formalized provincial constitution.
- In pursuit of fairness, **Kenney** also announced:
- ▶ open offices in Ottawa, Quebec, and British Columbia to defend the province's interests.
  - ▶ strengthen its democratic reform agenda by introducing a *Citizen's Initiative Act* to give Albertans the power to petition for referenda on matters of widespread public concern.
  - ▶ act to fulfill platform commitments (see below) that strengthen Alberta's position within Canada.

The full announcement is [here](#).

A transcript of **Kenney's** speech 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](#).

### Premier

14 November 2019

#### Speech: Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors.

In this speech, premier **Jason Kenney** outlined his government’s accomplishments after six months in government, declaring his ultimate goal is “to become the freest and fastest-moving economy in North America.”

**Kenney** also said his government will be approaching Ottawa to support flow-through shares to accelerate well reclamation, “to create new jobs that generate economic growth while also helping our environment.”

“And we will also be focusing in the next few weeks on doing everything we possibly can to mitigate any of the unintended consequences of the Redwater decision, which has done so much to restrict access to both capital and credit, equity and credit, for this industry,” the premier said.

The speech is [here](#).

9 November 2019

#### Members, Mandate for Fair Deal Panel Announced

As part of the announcement of the government’s Fair Deal Panel, premier **Jason Kenney** outlined several demands and commitments contained in the party’s 2019 election platform. The list essentially lays out **Kenney’s** federal/provincial agenda over the next several years. They include:

- ▶ demand reforms to the equalization formula, in part to exclude non-renewable resource revenues from the calculation, and to impose a hard cap on equalization transfers.

- ▶ hold a referendum on removing equalization from the *Constitution Act* if substantial progress is not made on construction of a coastal pipeline, and if Bill C-69 is not repealed or substantially amended.

- ▶ insist that the Fiscal Stabilization Program cap be lifted retroactively to 2014/15 as a form of equalization rebate for Alberta, following four years of economic decline and stagnation.

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### Advanced Education

7 November 2019

#### More Funding for Skilled Trades Education

Advanced education minister **Demetrius Nicolaidis** announced an additional \$500,000 a year will be given to Skills Canada Alberta each year for the next four years to expand exposure to trades and technology at junior high and high schools, and enable more high school and post-secondary students to compete at regional, provincial and national skilled trades competitions.

The Alberta government also provided Skills Canada Alberta with \$200,000 to support Alberta’s participation in the 2019 WorldSkills international competition, held in Kazan, Russia, in August.

Details are [here](#).

### Energy

14 November 2019

#### Promoting Alberta Natural Gas in Asia

Associate minister of natural gas **Dale Nally** travels to Japan and South Korea November 15 to 23 to promote Alberta’s struggling natural gas industry.

The total estimated cost of economy class airfare, meals and ground transportation for the associate minister, his chief of staff, and associate deputy minister is approximately \$31,000.

Details of **Nally’s** trip, including an itinerary, are [here](#).

### Labour and Immigration

14 November 2019

#### Seeking Albertans’ Input on Employment Rules

The province is seeking online input from Albertans on employment standards to inform potential changes to labour laws.

The online survey on employment standards rules is available until Nov. 28. It includes questions on vacation time, general holiday pay, youth employment rules, hours of work averaging agreements, temporary layoff notices, group terminations, termination pay, administrative penalties, employees’ statements of earnings, and variances and exemptions to employment standards rules.

Details of the survey, which is open until November 28, are [here](#).

### Municipal Affairs

13 November 2019

#### Municipalities to Benefit From New Revenue Stream

Municipal affairs minister **Kaycee Madu** used a meeting of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta to announce cannabis grow facilities in the province will be taxed as non-agricultural businesses beginning in the 2020 tax year.

Before this tax change, cannabis-growing facilities were treated as farm buildings and received a tax exemption as agricultural operations.

There are about 25 Alberta municipalities that will be able to collect the new tax.

Details are [here](#).

**...government**

- ▶ hold a referendum on an amendment to the Constitution to entrench property rights
- ▶ hold elections for Alberta's nominees to the Senate of Canada, further to the recently renewed *Senate Election Act*.

- ▶ call for the appointment of **Mike Shaikh** (nominated in the 2012 Alberta Senate election) to the next Alberta Senate vacancy.
- ▶ press for a Charter of Economic Rights to strengthen the economic union by eliminating interprovincial trade barriers, and strengthening fed-

- eral paramouncy over interprovincial infrastructure, such as pipelines.
- ▶ pass legislation to create an Alberta Parole Board to take over responsibility for provincial inmates from the Parole Board of Canada.
- ▶ demand reforms to the Employment

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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
13-Nov-19	Alberta Group	New West Public Affairs	<b>Monte Solberg, Sarah Painchaud, Tristan Bray, Michael Solberg, Matt Solberg, Sonia Kont</b>	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<b>Program or Policy: Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program.</b> Work with the government of Alberta to establish a rural and urban immigrant investor /entrepreneurship program in Alberta, which would be managed by Alberta Group. The program would assist motivated immigrants establish businesses and relocate their families to Alberta.				
12-Nov-19	H&R Block Canada	Hill+Knowlton Strategies	<b>Sheila Wisniewski, Jessica Conlin, Natalie Sigalet</b>	Service Alberta, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<b>Program or Policy: Personal Income Tax.</b> Speaking with government about personal income taxes and policies surrounding providing income tax advice to Albertans.				
11-Nov-19	National Smokeless Tobacco Company Ltd.	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	<b>Trisha Rinneard, Nick Koolsbergen, Rachel Curran</b>	Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<b>Legislation, Regulation or Order in Council: Alberta Tax Policy.</b> Advocate for changes to Alberta's tax policy to make a distinction of, and new category for, smokeless tobacco products.				
10-Nov-19	Greenwave Innovations Inc.	Prairie Sky Enterprises Ltd. (Prairie Sky Strategy)	<b>Jeff Sterzuk, Marnie Dawson</b>	Alberta Environment and Parks, Energy Efficiency Alberta
<b>Program or Policy: Business Energy Savings Program.</b> To engage with Energy Efficiency Alberta and Alberta Environment and Parks to better understand the future of any programs designed to encourage energy efficiency and to provide input into the design of potential new programs.				
08-Nov-19	The Alberta Paramedic Association	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.	<b>Philip Dewan, Amber Ruddy, Art Agolli</b>	Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Advanced Education
<b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Paramedics Profession Regulation under the Health Professions Act.</b> Government relations activities specific to the operations of the Alberta Paramedics Association.				
<b>Program or Policy: Post-secondary training programs for paramedics in Alberta.</b> Communication regarding desired changes to paramedic training programs and requirements.				
07-Nov-19	Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	<b>Michael Lohner, Melissa Caouette</b>	Alberta Health, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Current investments.</b> The Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP) holds investments in the province of Alberta, and wishes to have introductory meetings about its operations and investments.				
07-Nov-19	Vaping Industry Trade Alliance	One Persuasion Inc.	<b>Terrance Oakey</b>	Alberta Health
<b>Legislation, Regulation or Order in Council; Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act.</b> To promote an evidence-based regulation of the vaping industry.				

# 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,  
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GST Registration Number  
R136164241RT0001

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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 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

Insurance program to make it more fair to Alberta workers, who continue to subsidize unemployed beneficiaries in other parts of Canada, even though Alberta's unemployment rate has been above the national average for four

years.

► continue advocating for the federal government to convert the Canada Health and Social Transfers to tax points to give Alberta more control over how revenue is raised and spent within areas of provincial jurisdiction.

Details are [here](#). ☐

## Appointments Scan...

**T**he 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](#).

### Health

8 November 2019

#### *Alberta Health Act* (section 3).

Cabinet appointed **Janice Harrington** as the Health Advocate for a term to expire on November 7, 2021. OC 232/2019.

**Harrington** is a former executive director of the United Conservative Party.

8 November 2019

#### *Mental Health Act* (section 45).

Cabinet appointed **Janice Harrington** as the Mental Health Patient Advocate for a term to expire on November 7, 2021. OC 233/2019.

### Premier

9 November 2019

#### Members of Fair Deal Panel Announced

Premier **Jason Kenney** appointed several members of his "Fair Deal Panel" to conduct public consultations on a number of federal provincial issues and report back by the end of March 2020.

The Fair Deal Panel is made up of the following members:

► **Preston Manning**, Reform Party founder, MP from 1993-2002 and federal Official Opposition leader from 1997 to 2000.

► **Stephen Lougheed**, president and CEO of Alberta Innovates.

► **Oryssia Lennie**, provincial bureaucrat for 25 years, federal deputy minister of Western Economic Diversification Canada.

► **Jason Goodstriker**, Alberta Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations and a member and former Band Councillor of the Blood Tribe of the Blackfoot people.

► **Donna Kennedy-Glans**, former Progressive Conservative MLA and associate minister of electricity and renewable energy.

► **Moin Yahya**, professor at the University of Alberta faculty of law.

► **Drew Barnes**, UCP MLA.

► **Miranda Rosin**, UCP MLA.

► **Tany Yao**, UCP MLA.

Details are [here](#).

### Service Alberta

8 November 2019

#### Administrator Appointed to Real Estate Regulator

Service Alberta minister **Nate Glubish** appointed **Duane Monea** to assume governance responsibilities at the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA), effective immediately.

**Monea** is a former vice-president of MEG Energy Corp.

The appointment is an interim measure until a new governance model is established following further amendments to the *Real Estate Act* planned for spring 2020.

Details are [here](#). ☐