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## Next Issue

The next issue of *Alberta Scan* will be published in mid-January 2020, as events warrant. Best of the season and happy holidays to all our subscribers! See you in the new year.

Paul McLoughlin

# Alberta Scan

Issue 1124

week ending 13 December 2019

The Legislature may have adjourned for the year, but the Official Opposition has been relentless in its ongoing criticism of the government's policies and programs. Some examples from this week:

*December 11.* NDP leader **Rachel Notley** released a 22-page complaint the Official Opposition filed with the provincial Ethics Commissioner **Marguerite Trussler**. The party request an investigation into whether development or passage of Bill 22, which fired Alberta's Elections Commissioner, by **Jason Kenney** and various UCP caucus members, amounted to a breach of Alberta's *Conflict of Interest Act*.

The complaint, developed with outside legal advice, argues that:

- ▶ the provisions in Bill 22, the *Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions and Government Enterprises Act, 2019*, that fired the Election Commissioner and turned over his investigations to the discretion of the Chief Elections Officers of Elections Alberta, clearly influenced the conduct of those investigations.

- ▶ individuals being investigated by the Election Commissioner and their associates had a private interest in the conduct and outcome of those investigations, separate from their duties as elected officials.

- ▶ as the subject of an active investigation into his role in UCP voter fraud, MLA **Peter Singh** was in a clear conflict of interest.

- ▶ premier **Jason Kenney**, as the victorious leadership candidate and now leader of the UCP, benefited most clearly from the results of the leadership contest being investigated, and, as a director of the UCP, has a private interest in the reputation and financial health of the party.

- ▶ minister **Doug Schweitzer**, as a candidate in the same leadership race as premier **Kenney**, also had a private interest.

- ▶ ministers **Leela Aheer**, **Jason Luan**, **Prasad Panda** and **Josephine Pon**, as well as, UCP MLAs **Joseph Schow** and **Jordan Walker**, and any other members of the UCP interviewed by the Election Commissioner or the RCMP could have had private interests that must be considered. It has been confirmed that these members have all been interviewed by the RCMP about either the 2017 UCP leadership race or the nomination of MLA **Singh**.

- ▶ the material private interests of all UCP Caucus members are affected by the reputational and financial fortunes of the UCP.

**Trussler's** office would not comment on the complaint.

*December 10.* The NDP said November job numbers released last week show that youth and young adult unemployment is on the rise in Alberta, despite promises from premier **Jason Kenney** and the UCP to create jobs by cutting the minimum wage for youth. Youth unemployment in November was at 15.2 per cent, a two point increase from the month before and a five point increase year over year. When the UCP formed government, the rate was 11 per cent. □

## 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](#).

### Economic Development, Trade and Tourism

10 December 2019  
**Signing of CUSMA**  
 Economic development, trade and

tourism minister **Tanya Fir** declared Alberta’s pleasure at the conclusion of negotiations and the trade agreement among Canada, the United States and Mexico (CUSMA).

“This is an encouraging development in the process of modernizing NAFTA,” **Fir** said. I look forward to seeing CUSMA being implemented.”

Her statement is [here](#).

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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
11-Dec-19	Imperial Oil Ltd.	Alberta Counsel	Shayne Saskiw, Jonathon Wescott, Pascal Ryffel, Bronte Valk, Zack Ziolkowski, Jenelle Saskiw	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier’s Office

**Legislation, Regulation or Order in Council: Climate Leadership Plan.** Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the Climate Leadership Plan, specifically those portions of the Climate Leadership Plan that relate to (1) the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, (2) the measurement of performance standards, and (3) the calculation of the carbon levy. Imperial believes the long-term objective of a climate change policy should be to reduce the risk of serious impacts to humanity and ecosystems at minimum societal cost, while recognizing the importance of safe, reliable, affordable and abundant energy for global economic development.

**Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act.** Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the implementation of the *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act*, more specifically (1) the interpretation of the “dependent contractors” provisions in the Alberta Labour Relations Code; (2) the calculation of Compressed Work Weeks (CWW) in the *Employment Standards Code* and (3) potential impacts to “fly-in, fly out” workers in the energy sector. The main goal of these communications is to ensure that Imperial Oil is compliant with the *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act*.

**Legislation, Regulation or Order in Council: Municipal Government Act.** Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* that will affect the calculation of municipal tax rates. More specifically, the effect that the replacement of the “Construction Cost Reporting Guideline” (CCRG), with the “Regulated Industrial Property Assessment Ministers Guidelines” (RIPA), will have on municipal tax rates.

**Guideline or Directive: Consultation Framework.** Discussions with the government of Alberta on the proposed implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). More specifically, Imperial is interested in obtaining clarity on how the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) provisions of the UNDRIP will be applied to Indigenous communities in Alberta.

**Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Order in Council 375/2018 (Curtailement Rules).** Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the implementation of Order in Council 375/2018 (Curtailement Rules). More specifically, the effect of production allocations for crude oil and crude bitumen on the competitiveness of the oil sector.

**Legislation, Regulation or Order in Council: Alberta’s Modernized Royalty Framework.** Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding Alberta’s Modernized Royalty Framework. More specifically, Imperial is interested in ensuring that royalty structure and royalty rates are competitive.

**Program or Policy: Alternative Energy Framework.** Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the Alternative Energy Framework. Imperial is interested in gaining clarity on the government’s plans with respect to developing alternative energy sources.

**Guideline or Directive: Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Directives 74 and 85, Tailings Management Framework.** Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding the replacement of AER Directive 74 (“Tailings Performance Criteria and Requirements for Oil Sands Mining Schemes”) with AER Directive 85 (“Directive 85: Fluid Tailings Management for Oil Sands Mining Projects”).

**Legislation, Regulation or Order in Council: Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.** Discussions with the government of Alberta about the development of ambient air quality objectives and guidelines under the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (AEPEA). More specifically, Imperial is interested in implementation of equivalency agreements (on air quality) with other jurisdictions.

**Program or Policy: Renewable Fuels Standards.** Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding proposed regulations or planned regulatory changes to low carbon fuel, biodiesel, biofuels and fuel additives standards.

**Legislation, Regulation or Order in Council: Wildlife Act.** Discussions with the government of Alberta regarding plans related to species at risk (such as the “Caribou Protection Plan”) under the *Wildlife Act*.

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**...government**

9 December 2019

**Trade Missions Update**

Economic development, trade and tourism minister **Tanya Fir** issued a statement on her recent trade missions to the United States and Vancouver, describing her activities.

Details of her activities are [here](#).

**Education**

12 December 2019

**Calgary Board of Education Review Underway**

Education minister **Adrianna LaGrange** formally announced an independent, external review to examine the finances and governance of the

Calgary Board of Education (CBE) after the CBE threatened the mid-year layoffs of more than 300 temporary teachers.

The \$125,000 review by Grant Thornton LLP, due by the end of January, will begin immediately.

Details are [here](#).

**Finance**

9 December 2019

**Public Service Act (sections 11 and 14).**

Cabinet amended Order in Council numbered OC 1/2016, the Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials Salary Schedules Order, to extend the expiry date to March 31, 2020. OC 313/2019.

**Health**

12 December 2019

**Biosimilar Drugs to Provide Safe, Effective Treatment**

Health minister **Tyler Shandro** announced that other than pregnant women and pediatric patients, people on an Alberta government-sponsored drug plan who are prescribed a biologic drug will be forced to transition to the biosimilar version through their prescriber over the next six months. The minister predicted the move will save between \$227 million and \$380 million once fully implemented.

Details are [here](#).

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**December Lobbyist Registrations, continued**

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
10-Dec-19	Finning International Inc.	New West Public Affairs	<b>Sarah Painchaud, Michael Solberg, Sonia Kont, Tristan Bray, Monte Solberg, Matt Solberg</b>	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Bill 19: Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Implementation Act.</b> Arranging meeting between Finning International and identified public office holders in order to introduce the company and their contribution to the Canadian and global economy. Additionally, to discuss the impacts of the TIER program as it relates to Finning's Alberta business operations.				
10-Dec-19	Shoppers Drug Mart	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	<b>Nick Koolsbergen, Trisha Rinneard, Rachel Curran</b>	Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<b>Program or Policy: Federal provincial discussions regarding the federal government's recently proposed National Pharmacare program.</b> To share insights based on extensive research, as well as feedback from pharmacists and pharmacy staff, on how to best improve prescription medication access in Alberta				
10-Dec-19	CCG 2026 Feasibility Corporation	Global Public Affairs	<b>Randy Pettipas, Kristin Anderson</b>	Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<b>Decision: CCG 2026 Feasibility.</b> The client is engaged in conversations regarding the feasibility of Alberta hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games				
06-Dec-19	Enriched Academy	8621209 Canada Inc.	<b>Kevin Cochran</b>	Executive Council, Alberta Education, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Advanced Education, Premier's Office
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Enriched Academy.</b> We are looking to partner with the provincial government to provide our financial literacy program for students in Alberta <b>Program or Policy: Enriched Academy.</b> We are looking to partner with the provincial government to provide our financial literacy program for students in Alberta				
06-Dec-19	CBI Health Group	Maple Leaf Strategies	<b>Dimitri Pantazopoulos, Richard Truscott</b>	Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Seniors and Housing, Premier's Office
<b>Program or Policy: Policies related to patient care, transitional care, and home care.</b> Improving patient care and outcomes through more emphasis on a patient-centric funding model, and reducing the need for hospital-based care by introducing new community-based options, transitional care, and/or enhanced home care services.				

**...government**

10 December 2019

**More Surgeries to Reduce Wait Times**

Alberta health minister **Tyler Shandro** announced the Alberta Surgical Wait Times Initiative to provide up to 80,000 more publicly funded surgeries over the next four years to meet wait-time targets and to ensure people receive their care within clinically recommended times.

“This ambitious plan will mean Alberta will have the best wait-time performance in Canada,” **Shandro** said.

The province will expand contracts with non-hospital surgical facilities.

The initiative will include:

- ▶ expanding telephone and electronic advice programs.
- ▶ creating a centralized electronic referral system that triages every person waiting for surgery.

More details will be part of the spring 2020 budget.

The announcement is [here](#).

**Justice and Solicitor General**

9 December 2019

**Criminal Code (Canada) (section 722.2).**

Cabinet designated the Victims Services program in the department of justice and solicitor general as a program for the purpose of establishing procedures respecting the preparation of statements referred to in subsection 722.2(1) of the *Criminal Code (Canada)*. OC 311/2019.

9 December 2019

**Criminal Code (Canada) (section 739.4).**

Cabinet designated the person holding the position of director of recoveries in the department of justice and solicitor general as a public authority for the purpose of subsection 739.4(1) of the *Criminal Code (Canada)*. OC 312/2019.

**Mental Health and Addictions**

6 December 2019

**Helping More Albertans Overcome Opioid Addiction**

Associate minister of mental health and addictions **Jason Luan** announced \$8 million in new funding to help people recovering from opioid addiction.

The Alberta government will increase patient access to supports like addiction counsellors and therapists at opioid dependency clinics.

Details are [here](#).

**Premier**

6 December 2019

**Regulations Scan...**

**T**he provincial cabinet passed the following regulations this week. Copies of the cabinet decisions

**Standing Up for Alberta in Ottawa**

A delegation of Alberta cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and political staff travelled with premier **Jason Kenney** to Ottawa to press the federal government for changes to help the province grow its economy.

**Kenney** spoke to the Canadian Club of Ottawa and met with prime minister **Justin Trudeau** while his ministers lobbied their counterparts in Canada's capital.

“We are simply asking for a fair deal for Alberta within Canada,” **Kenney** said.

Details of the trip are [here](#). □

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

**Advanced Education**

6 December 2019

**Post-secondary Learning Act (section 124).**

Cabinet passed the Tuition and Fees Amendment Regulation. OC 301/2019.

**Agriculture and Forestry**

6 December 2019

**Agricultural Operation Practices Act (section 1.4).**

Cabinet passed the Agricultural Operations, Part 0.1 and Part 1 Matters Regulation. OC 295/2019.

6 December 2019

**Animal Health Act (section 69).**

Cabinet passed the Biosecurity Regulation. OC 296/2019.

**Community and Social Services**

6 December 2019

**Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act (section 12).**

Cabinet passed the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped General Amendment Regulation (No. 2). OC 302/2019.

**Economic Development, Trade and Tourism**

6 December 2019

**Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act (section 55).**

Cabinet passed the Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act (Budget Implementation) Amendment Regulation. OC 297/2019.

**Finance**

9 December 2019

**Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions Compensation Act (sections 5 and 23).**

Cabinet passed the Salary Restraint Amendment Regulation. OC 314/2019.

6 December 2019

**Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (section 37); Forests**

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# Alberta Scan

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### 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:

### Paul McLoughlin

Publisher

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## ...regulations

**Act (section 4).**  
Cabinet passed the Forest Resources Improvement Amendment Regulation. OC 308/2019.

6 December 2019  
**Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (sections 86 and 146).**

Cabinet passed the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (Budget Implementation) Amendment Regulation. OC 309/2019.

## Health

6 December 2019  
**Alberta Health Care Insurance Act (section 16).**

Cabinet passed the Alberta Health Care Insurance Amendment Regulation (No. 2). OC 304/2019.

6 December 2019  
**Alberta Health Care Insurance Act (section 41).**

Cabinet passed the Blue Cross Agreement Amendment Regulation. OC 305/2019.

6 December 2019  
**Health Insurance Premiums Act (section 2).**

Cabinet passed the Health Insurance Premiums Amendment Regulation. OC 306/2019.

6 December 2019  
**Hospitals Act (section 43).**

Cabinet passed the Hospitalization Benefits Amendment Regulation. OC 307/2019.

## Justice and Solicitor General

6 December 2019  
**Provincial Offences Procedure Act (section 42).**

Cabinet passed the Procedures (Fine Retention) Amendment Regulation. OC 303/2019.

## Labour and Immigration

6 December 2019  
**Employment Standards Code (section 138).**

Cabinet passed the Employment Standards (Budget Implementation) Amendment Regulation. OC 292/2019.

6 December 2019  
**Farm Freedom and Safety Act (section 4); Various Acts.**

Cabinet passed the Farm Freedom and Safety Regulations Amendment Regulation. OC 293/2019.

6 December 2019  
**Public Service Employee Relations Act (section 12).**

Cabinet passed the Public Service Employee Relations Regulation. OC 294/2019.

## Municipal Affairs

9 December 2019  
**Safety Codes Act (section 65).**  
Cabinet passed the Amusement Rides Standards Amendment Regulation. OC 310/2019.

6 December 2019  
**Municipal Government Act (section 141.3).**  
Cabinet passed the City Charters, 2018 (Calgary and Edmonton) Amendment Regulation. OC 298/2019.

6 December 2019  
**Municipal Government Act (section 708.52).**  
Cabinet passed the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Repeal Regulation. OC 299/2019.

## Transportation

6 December 2019  
**Public Transit and Green Infrastructure Project Act (sections 5 and 6).**  
Cabinet passed the General Regulation. OC 300/2019. □