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# Alberta Scan

Issue 1098

week ending 19 April 2019

## Unmoved...

A number of issue threads have emerged since the **Jason Kenney** UCP were elected the government of Alberta on April 16. The narratives are likely to continue in the weeks and months ahead as the party moves to implement its policy agenda. At the same time, the opposition NDP are likely to continue their questions about the integrity and suitability for office of both **Kenney** and his individual MLAs as the UCP works to undo several elements of NDP policy enacted over the past four years. The narratives include:

*Federal provincial relationships.* **Kenney** will be fighting on three fronts, with British Columbia, with Quebec and with the federal government. All three stand in support of carbon pricing, facing an alliance of provincial Conservative premiers fighting the federal carbon tax.

Like **Kenney** after he won, B.C. premier **John Horgan** was conciliatory in his reaction to the election of the UCP. **Horgan** said in a terse statement that he spoke with **Kenney** after the vote and the two intend to meet in person, likely at the Western Premiers meeting scheduled for Saskatoon from July 9 to 11.

**Horgan's** full reaction is [here](#).

Almost immediately Alberta's relationship with Quebec promises to be troublesome. **Kenney** made an appeal to both Quebec and B.C. on election night.

"Let me say this to all Quebecers and to premier [**François**] **Legault**. At a time when Alberta is hurting, we must work together," **Kenney** said in his election night acceptance speech. "If Quebecers and other provinces want to benefit from massive transfers developed by the hard work and resources of Albertans, then they must be partners with us in developing those resources and getting them to international markets."

Quebec was unmoved. The province responded to **Kenney's** plea by unanimously passing a resolution in its legislative assembly extending congratulations to the new UCP government.

The province then reiterated its commitment to fighting climate change, noting the Energy East pipeline project "was not socially acceptable in Québec".

The resolution also noted that "Québec has full legitimacy to refuse pipeline projects passing through its territory, including a potential relaunch of the Energy East project, regardless of pressure from the rest of Canada."

The full motion is available in the Votes and Proceedings of the Assemblée du Québec for April 17, [here](#).

As for the federal government, prime minister **Justin Trudeau** issued a vanilla statement after **Kenney's** victory, talking about canola and infrastructure.

"I look forward to working with the provincial government to create good, middle class jobs, build infrastructure, and grow the businesses and industries at

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...government

the heart of Alberta's prosperity so the province can remain competitive in our changing economy," **Trudeau** said in the statement.

"Together, we will address issues of importance to Albertans and all Canadians, including supporting canola producers, and taking decisive action on climate change while getting our natural resources to market."

**Trudeau's** full statement is [here](#).

So, cordial to start on all sides but in the short term likely to lead to ongoing friction in the federation.

*Equalization.* **Kenney's** rationale behind the conflict is simple. Quebec will not allow pipelines through its territory. Quebec has received billions of dollars from the federal government so that it can provide roughly equal levels of services to its citizens that are available in other provinces. Because of its one-time strong economy, Alberta has been a significant contributor to the equalization program through its federal income taxes. Therefore Quebec should not benefit from equalization if

it does not allow pipelines.

Former Alberta cabinet minister and **Kenney** advisor **Ted Morton** has argued publicly that based on the 1998 Quebec Secession Reference, if there is a provincial referendum on a proposed constitutional amendment like changes to equalization, Ottawa has a duty to negotiate on the issue. Hence **Kenney's** promise to hold a referendum on changes to the equalization program in the absence of consent for pipelines to get Alberta's oil to tide water.

*The transition to a smaller government.*

The official results of the election will be issued by Elections Alberta on April 26. **Kenney's** new cabinet will be sworn in on April 30. The new premier has promised to act quickly. **Kenny** said he will hold a cabinet meeting the same day and his first order of business will be to proclaim Bill 12, *Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act*. The bill was passed by the Alberta Legislature but not moved into law by the former NDP govern-

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## Recent Lobbyist Registrations

The following organizations recently registered with Alberta's lobby registry.

### Lobbyists (in order of registration)

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
16-Apr-2019	Students' Association of Medicine Hat College (SAMHC)	-	Elizabeth Lewis, Evelyn Schnottner, Shelby Meyer	Alberta Advanced Education

This is an initial registration. SAMHC is registered as an organizational lobbyist.

**Program or Policy: Campus Alberta Open Educational Resources (OERs) Initiative.** Providing additional funding and incentives for creating OERs. Standardization of introductory course learning outcomes. A new program to replace and expand the capacity of the Campus Alberta Open Educational Resource Initiative.

**Guideline or Directive: UCP to make Student Association Fees Optional for Students.** To have the UCP reconsider this. If it is implemented, for it to be opt-out, not opt-in.

**Existing Legislation: Post-secondary Learning Act (PSLA) Tuition Funding.** Sustainable and predictable tuition for students.

**Program or Policy: Mental Health Supports.** The government of Alberta extend the mental health funding beyond the initial three year commitment and make it a permanent program. The government of Alberta provide a portion of the mental health funding provided to the institution to the Students' Association for mental health supports.

**Program or Policy: Sexual Violence Policy.** Medicine Hat College was the first Alberta post-secondary to implement a campus-wide sexual violence policy. The SAMHC would like to see this be implemented province-wide at all institutions.

12-Apr-2019	PETRONAS Energy Canada Limited	-	Mark Fitzgerald, Brendan Galloway	Alberta Energy, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Premier's Office
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This is an initial registration. PETRONAS is registered as an organizational lobbyist.

**Program or Policy: Petrochemical Diversification Program (PDP) or any future energy diversification program.** Our primary goal is to stay current on the purpose and requirements for the PDP program and understand future changes, if any, that the government may propose to the PDP program.

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ment. B.C. challenged the bill, but the challenge was not upheld because the law was not proclaimed into law. Known as the “turn off the taps” law, B.C. attorney general **David Eby** has already promised to go back to court if the bill is proclaimed.

**Kenney** has had a transition team in place for several months to make sure the transition happens quickly.

“I want us to develop a very robust detailed transition plan which presents us with a week-by-week plan for the first six months of government,” **Kenney** said in 2018.

“I will do everything we can to

avoid process paralysis, endless consultation, political bureaucracy and indecision,” **Kenney** said in 2018.

His deregulation plans have implications about how Albertans are governed. He wants regulatory agencies to work at the “speed of business”, not the speed of government”.

The intent of his platform is to show business around the world that under a UCP government, Alberta is indeed “open for business”. That’s not a new slogan, Conservative governments across the country have been using it for years. □.

...government

## Recent Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
08-Apr-2019	Calgary Hotel Association	Alberta Counsel	<b>Jonathan Wescott, Bronte Valk, Shayne Saskiw, Pascal Ryffel, Jenelle Saskiw, Zack Ziolkowski, Cam MacKay</b>	Alberta Labour, Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p>This is an initial registration. Alberta Counsel is a consultant lobbyist.</p> <p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Minimum Wage.</b> Participate in discussions around finding ways to offset cost pressures in the hotel industry related to the minimum wage increase.</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation: Innkeepers Act.</b> Launch a comprehensive consultation process around short-term rentals in Alberta in order to update existing legislation to reflect the new realities of the sharing economy.</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation: City Charters.</b> Supporting and calling for a continuation of a industry-led and executed Destination Marketing Fee (DMF) that is not mandatory nor administered by the City of Calgary.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Investment in tourism initiatives.</b> Advocating for long-term sustainable funding to attract tourism to Alberta and support the tourism industry in Alberta.</p>				
05-Apr-2019	Cashco Financial Inc.	-	<b>Tim Latimer, Courtney Johnston-Naumann</b>	Service Alberta, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p>This is an initial registration. Cashco is registered as an organizational lobbyist.</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation: Existing Legislation: An Act to End Predatory Lending.</b> Ensuring the <i>Act to End Predatory Lending</i> and Payday Loans Regulations do not unduly impact lenders that focus on short-term and flexible loans and impact their ability to operate in a sustainable fashion. Advocating about the importance of available short-term and flexible loans to accommodate for the fluctuations in income of some Albertans, especially the working poor (seasonal work, etc.).</p>				
04-Apr-2019	BASF Canada Inc.	-	<b>Marcelo Lu, Amy Sandhu, Jonathan Sweat, Irene Yang, Wayne Barton, Nicole McAuley</b>	Agricultural Operation Practices Act Policy Advisory Group Committee, Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, Alberta Economic Development Authority
<p>This is an initial registration. BASF is registered as an organizational lobbyist.</p> <p><b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund.</b> Seeking a financial grant from the Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund (OCIF).</p> <p><b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Ministry of Agriculture for agricultural products research and development (AP R&amp;D).</b> Seeking government grants and incentives from the Alberta Agriculture for AP R&amp;D and jobs related subsidies.</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation: Clean Fuel Standard.</b> Advocating about the need for the government to revisit the design for this legislation at the federal level. BASF likely have conversations about this topic with provincial-level stakeholders as well as the how the legislation may have implications for BASF business in Alberta. <i>Alberta's Agriculture Operations Practice Act (AOPA); Fertilizers Act</i> (federal act but BASF will discuss with provincial counterparts); fertilizer product registration; Nitrous Oxide Emission Reduction Protocol (NERP).</p>				

# Alberta Scan

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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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## Election 2019 Largest Margins

	ED Name	% of Vote	Won	MLA	Margin
1	Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre	81.6%	UCP	Jason Nixon	18,286
2	Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	78.6%	UCP	Nathan Cooper	17,457
3	Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	74.6%	UCP	Devin Dreesen	15,595
4	Drumheller-Stettler	76.8%	UCP	Nate Horner	15,574
5	Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright	77.7%	UCP	Garth Rowswell	14,717
6	Grande Prairie-Wapiti	74.8%	UCP	Travis Toews	14,223
7	Highwood	73.3%	UCP	RJ Sigurdson	14,197
8	Lacombe-Ponoka	71.2%	UCP	Ron Orr	13,637
9	Drayton Valley-Devon	70.2%	UCP	Mark Smith	13,345
10	Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul	73.1%	UCP	Dave Hanson	12,895
11	Livingstone-Macleod	70.4%	UCP	Roger Reid	12,316
12	Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock	68.8%	UCP	Glenn van Dijken	12,117
13	Taber-Warner	78.2%	UCP	Grant Hunter	11,967
14	Chestermere-Strathmore	68.0%	UCP	Leela Aheer	11,830
15	Airdrie-East	67.2%	UCP	Angela Pitt	11,768
16	Airdrie-Cochrane	66.1%	UCP	Peter Guthrie	11,656
17	West Yellowhead	68.3%	UCP	Martin Long	11,416
18	Edmonton-Strathcona	72.1%	NDP	Rachel Notley	11,254
19	Camrose	65.3%	UCP	Jackie Lovely	11,198
20	Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland	65.7%	UCP	Shane Getson	10,178

## Election 2019 Smallest Margins

	ED Name	% of Vote	Won	MLA	Margin
1	Calgary-Falconridge	45.6%	UCP	Devinder Toor	102
2	Lethbridge-West	45.2%	NDP	Shannon Phillips	225
3	Calgary-Currie	44.3%	UCP	Nicholas Milliken	392
4	Edmonton-West Henday	43.9%	NDP	Jon Carson	490
5	Calgary-Varsity	46.1%	UCP	Jason Copping	624
6	Edmonton-South West	45.0%	UCP	Kaycee Madu	712
7	Edmonton-South	46.6%	NDP	Thomas Dang	774
8	Sherwood Park	44.3%	UCP	Jordan Walker	906
9	Edmonton-Decore	47.4%	NDP	Chris Nielson	1,357
10	Edmonton-McClung	43.6%	NDP	Lorne Dach	1,440
11	St. Albert	46.2%	NDP	Marie Renaud	1,652
12	Calgary-Klein	47.6%	UCP	Jeremy Nixon	1,687
13	Calgary-McCall	52.1%	NDP	Irfan Sabir	1,702
14	Calgary-North East	48.8%	UCP	Rajan Sawhney	1,884
15	Banff-Kananaskis	51.2%	UCP	Miranda Rosin	1,926
16	Calgary-East	47.6%	UCP	Peter Singh	2,017
17	Edmonton-Castle Downs	45.8%	NDP	Nicole Goehring	2,028
18	Calgary-Buffalo	48.7%	NDP	Joe Ceci	2,150
19	Lesser Slave Lake	57.7%	UCP	Pat Rehn	2,212
20	Edmonton-Whitemud	49.2%	NDP	Rakhi Pancholi	2,269