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# Alberta Scan

Issue 1101

week ending 17 May 2019

## Big policy changes...

**P**remier **Jason Kenney** followed through on a campaign promise by declaring the third bill to be considered when the Legislature resumes next week will begin reducing Alberta's General Business Tax Rate from 12 per cent to eight per cent.

He said his government plans to lower the corporate tax rate to 11 per cent on July 1, and will continue to drop one per cent every Jan. 1 until 2022.

**Kenney** said if the move spurs the economy sufficiently in the early years, he will consider lowering the tax more quickly.

This is expected to create 55,000 jobs, boost provincial GDP by nearly \$13 billion and help attract new business investment, the premier said.

He added it will reverse the flow of investment and jobs to the U.S. since the tax cuts there in 2017.

"Alberta business taxes are currently higher than the vast majority of U.S. states, but by 2022 the province will have lower rates than 44 states", the premier said.

**Kenney** said the tax cuts had a "phenomenal" response when he spoke about them in a speech to the Canadian Club earlier this month.

"I will be going back to Toronto to meet with Bay Street and investors on May 24, to continue to attract investment to Alberta as a result of these big policy changes," **Kenney** said.

Details are [here](#).

**WestJet acquisition:** On May 13, premier **Jason Kenney** applauded the proposed \$5 billion acquisition by Onex Corporation of Alberta-based WestJet.

"I am hopeful that today's proposed acquisition by Onex Corporation will lead to a stronger future for WestJet as a growing, Alberta-based carrier," **Kenney** said. "I appreciate Onex's commitment to retain WestJet's headquarters in Calgary, and maintain WestJet's 14,000-person workforce.

Details are [here](#).

**Infrastructure.** "Infrastructure is not off the table," **Kenney** told reporters this week. "Built into our platform fiscal plan is a very robust infrastructure budget of five going down to \$3.6 billion in the out years on capital spending. ...I would just add this caveat. All of this is qualified on the advice that we get from the **Janice MacKinnon** panel. If they say that the province's fiscal health has deteriorated significantly, we may need to look at attenuating the capital spending plan somewhat. But it will still be a multi-billion dollar spending plan."

"In the long run, we think the way we can get more job creating infrastructure to make Alberta's economy more efficient, is through more public/private partnerships (p3s). ...We are going to be very aggressive about pursuing p3s." □

## 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](#).

### Environment and Parks

16 May 2019

#### Liquor Ban Quashed and Rules Relaxed

Premier **Jason Kenney** and environ-

ment and parks minister **Jason Nixon** announced. Beginning this May long weekend, the liquor ban imposed on eight remaining provincial parks will be lifted.

“It’s time to lift prohibition-era restrictions around liquor consumption in Alberta and give responsible adults the freedom to act responsibly,” **Kenney** said.

Details 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
15-May-19	Carpe Diem Sports	New West Public Affairs	<b>Monte Solberg, Matt Solberg, Michael Solberg, Sonia Kont, Sarah Painchaud</b>	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Executive Council
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Alberta Media Fund - Alberta Production Grant (legacy program prior to the new Screen Based Production Grant program).</b> Immediate payment of “Alberta Media Fund stated to have been approved” grants to Carpe Diem Sports.				
15-May-19	Town of Westlock	Alberta Counsel	<b>Jonathon Wescott</b>	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier’s Office
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Alberta Community Resilience Program.</b> Securing funding under this program to support the community. <b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) Funding.</b> Secure funding to improve the storm water system.				
15-May-19	Sysco Canada	New West Public Affairs	<b>Monte Solberg</b>	Alberta Labour, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier’s Office
<b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Bill 2, the <i>Open for Business Act</i>.</b> Seeking fairness for contractors impacted by section 1.1 of the Labor Relations Code				
15-May-19	ACM BC LNG Limited Partnership	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	<b>Nick Koolsbergen</b>	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier’s Office
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Seeking the Alberta government’s financial support for a proposed LNG project.</b> Getting the Alberta government to agree to support a proposed LNG project.				
15-May-19	Edmonton Minor Soccer Association	Alberta Counsel	<b>Shayne Saskiw, Pascal Ryffel, Jonathon Wescott</b>	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Culture and Tourism, Community and Social Services, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier’s Office
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Infrastructure funding for recreational facilities.</b> Exploring what grants / funding may be available for an indoor sports facility in northwest Edmonton.				
14-May-19	Canadian Payroll Association (CPA)	Rubicon Strategy Inc.	<b>Kory Teneycke</b>	Executive Council, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier’s Office
<b>Program or Policy: WCB and taxation payroll remittance.</b> Assist CPA to convince the Alberta government to allow the Canada Revenue Agency to collect Alberta workers compensation premiums and remit them back to the province in order to simplify payroll collection. And assist the CPA to convince the Alberta government to create a CPA-Alberta Department of Finance agreement for a formalized committee to resolve technical payroll issues (modelled on the CPA’s committee’s with the province of Quebec and the federal government).				
13-May-2019	Canadian Pacific Railway Limited	New West Public Affairs	<b>Matt Solberg, Michael Solberg, Monte Solberg</b>	Alberta Energy, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Transportation, Premier’s Office
<b>Decision: Oil by rail government contracts.</b> Exploring and engaging with the government regarding taxation levels, forms, applicability, exemptions and economic impacts.				

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09-May-19	Alberta Cannabis Council Ltd.	Registered as an organizational lobbyist.	<b>Michelle Russell</b>	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Premier's Office, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC)
<p><b>Existing Legislation: Alberta Cannabis Framework and Legislation.</b> We will be educating our new government on the cannabis sector, the economic opportunity, and provide guidance and sector specific information to help make better decisions to create jobs, and maintain Alberta's market leader position in both Canada and around the world. We will specifically be speaking and lobbying around the retail moratorium, licensing, online AGLC sales, supply, and phase two of legalization coming in October for edibles and concentrates.</p>				
09-May-19	Viking Air	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	<b>Nick Koolsbergen</b>	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p><b>Financial Benefit or Grant.</b> Client is requesting \$40,000,000 in a repayable loan to build water bomber planes in Alberta. Secure approval for a \$40,000,000 repayable loan.</p>				
09-May-19	Leafly	Hill+Knowlton Strategies	<b>Sheila Wisniewski, Natalie Sigalet, Vivek Prabhu</b>	Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission
<p><b>Existing Legislation: Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act.</b> Leafly is seeking meetings with government officials to inform and build awareness around the Leafly.ca cannabis information platform.</p>				
08-May-19	Obsidian Energy Ltd.	Registered as an organizational lobbyist.	<b>Andrew Sweerts, Derek Warren, Aaron Smith, Michael Faust, Cliff Swadling, Jay McGilvary</b>	Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Premier's Office, Surface Rights Board, Alberta Utilities Commission, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, Alberta Energy Regulator, Municipal Government Board
<p><b>Existing Legislation: Oil Production Curtailment.</b> Provide feedback and advice on the oil curtailment legislation.  <b>Program or Policy: Oil Production Curtailment.</b> Provide feedback and advice on the oil curtailment policy.</p>				
08-May-19	Alberta Professional Planners Institute	Registered as an organizational lobbyist.	<b>Maryjane Alanko</b>	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Municipal Affairs
<p><b>Program or Policy: Provincial Planning.</b> For Government to recognize the value of registered provincial planners.</p>				
08-May-19	Big Marble Farms Inc.	Registered as an organizational lobbyist.	<b>Ryan Cramer, David Hoekstra</b>	Alberta Labour, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Executive Council, Premier's Office
<p><b>Existing Legislation: Employment Standards Code.</b> That greenhouse production once again fall under the definition of agricultural production and no longer require a Ministerial Order outlining a variance under the Employment Standards Code (see Ministerial Order No. 2018-11).  <b>Existing Legislation: Farming and Ranching Exemption Regulation AR 27/95.</b> Ensuring that the operation of greenhouses once again fall under the Farming and Ranching Exemption Regulation by removing AR 27/95 Section 2, subsection (2), as introduced in Section 6 of the <i>Enhanced Protection for Farm Workers Act</i>.  <b>Program or Policy: Ministerial Orders No. 2018-11, 2018-36.</b> As an interim measure, requesting the extension of Ministerial Order 2018-11 until corresponding legislation and regulations include the operation of greenhouses in the definition of primary agriculture.</p>				
08-May-19	Canadian Geothermal Energy Association (CanGEA)	Registered as an organizational lobbyist.	<b>Zach Harmer</b>	Alberta Energy, Alberta Utilities Commission
<p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Alberta's Transition to a Capacity Market.</b> CanGEA participated in stakeholder engagement sessions and provided input on how the geothermal energy sector would be affected by the transition. The goal was to ensure that our member's interests were adequately represented in the sessions. CanGEA's participation was limited to the stakeholder questionnaires that were provided prior to the sessions and listening in to the stakeholder sessions. There was no contact with any MLA during this period.</p>				
06-May-19	Reconciliation Inc.	New West Public Affairs	<b>Sonia Kont, Monte Solberg, Matt Solberg, Michael Solberg</b>	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p><b>Decision: Trans Mountain (TMX) Decision.</b> Outreach efforts pre-TMX decision and additional outreach post-TMX decision with premier's, provincial minister's offices and opposition in Alberta.</p>				
06-May-19	ALUS Canada	New West Public Affairs	<b>Sonia Kont, Monte Solberg, Matt Solberg, Michael Solberg</b>	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p><b>Program or Policy: Wetland Mitigation Policy.</b> Fix the Wetland Mitigation Policy implementation to unlock banked dollars for ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) projects in the communities where development is occurring.  <b>Program or Policy: Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program.</b> Maintain or grow the Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program established by the Alberta Conservative Government after the Calgary flood.</p>				

# Alberta Scan

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Thanks to staff at the Legislature Library for their ongoing help with researching items in this newsletter.

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### 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:

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## Opposition Scan...

The following items represent issues the NDP Official Opposition deemed important enough to

warrant a press release and sometimes a news conference. They don't always result in news.

### Community and Social Services

16 May 2019

#### Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities Act (section 4).

Cabinet rescinded the appointment of NDP MLA **Marie Renaud** as a member and deputy chair of the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. OC 97/2019.

### Energy

16 May 2019

#### Senate Discussion on Bill C-48, C-69

The NDP issued a statement declaring

at a time when Alberta is curtailing oil production while waiting for a federal decision on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion--losing millions of dollars a day in value for Canadian resources--we will not stand for flawed legislation (Bill C-69) that undermines our energy industry.

"We are also pleased the Senate Committee has recommended against proceeding with Bill C-48, which I personally spoke against at last month's hearings," Official Opposition leader **Rachel Notley** said.

NDP caucus news releases are available online [here](#). □

*Below are the Official Opposition critic portfolios and Legislature responsibilities of the NDP caucus.*

<b>Deron Bilous</b>	Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, House Leader
<b>Jon Carson</b>	Service Alberta
<b>Joe Ceci</b>	Municipal Affairs, Caucus Chair
<b>Lorne Dach</b>	Agriculture and Forestry
<b>Thomas Dang</b>	Infrastructure
<b>Jasvir Deol</b>	Multiculturalism
<b>David Eggen</b>	Advanced Education, Whip
<b>Richard Feehan</b>	Indigenous Relations
<b>Kathleen Ganley</b>	Justice
<b>Nicole Goehring</b>	Culture, Military Liaison
<b>Christina Gray</b>	Labour and Immigration
<b>Sarah Hoffman</b>	Deputy Leader, Education
<b>Janis Irwin</b>	Women, LGBTQ issues, Deputy Whip
<b>Rod Loyola</b>	Transportation
<b>Chris Nielsen</b>	Red Tape Reduction
<b>Rakhi Pancholi</b>	Children's Services
<b>Shannon Phillips</b>	Finance, Caucus Vice-Chair
<b>Marie Renaud</b>	Community & Social Services, Francophone issues
<b>Irfan Sabir</b>	Energy, Natural Gas
<b>Marlin Schmidt</b>	Environment
<b>David Shepherd</b>	Health
<b>Lori Sigurdson</b>	Seniors and Housing
<b>Heather Sweet</b>	Democracy and Ethics, Mental Health and Addictions, Deputy House Leader