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# Alberta Scan

Issue 1102

week ending 24 May 2019

## No secret...

In response to media questions about this week's Speech from the Throne, premier **Jason Kenney** spoke about his plans for fiscal restraint in the months and years ahead. His comments are below.

"It is no secret we are going to have to go into a period of fiscal responsibility. We campaigned on balancing the budget. But I have always said we want to do it in a thoughtful and prudent way informed by input from Albertans. That's why we started with the **[Janice] MacKinnon** panel, and that will be followed up by wider public consultations on Albertans' priorities."

"My point when I said we are not going to be a government of endless consultation, was we want to hit the ground running, to implement change, that restarts our economy. But in the four years that we are governing, of course there will be many issues, including fiscal policy on which we engage in public consultations."

"...The finances have deteriorated compared to what the NDP presented in its last quarterly update...I have always said that if we get the economy growing again, and better manage our spending, we can get to a balance without deep cuts in front line services. I still believe that to be the case. But there will have to be some tough decisions. Not everybody will be in favour of them. That is the burden of leadership."

"But here is the option. If we don't do those things, if we don't take some tough decisions, and we just keep kicking the deficit can down the road, the debt gets bigger and bigger. You end up spending billions of dollars on interest payments to bankers instead of building schools and hospitals."

"We have seen that movie before in Canada. We don't want to see it again. That is why I said during the campaign, that people in the public sector should realize that debt is their enemy. Debt is what ultimately jeopardizes their ability to do their jobs and deliver those important services. We will not allow Alberta to sink into a sea of red ink where we have to pay that debt back, plus taxes. So yes there will be some tough decisions ahead. There will be protests outside and all the usual interest groups will say all the usual things. We have seen this before. ...but there will have to be spending restraint. We have seen, for example, in the two biggest departments, health and education, spending increases over the past 15 years, that were much faster than growth in the population or the economy. I think we got used to that. We got used to there always been more and more and more money available. Well, as I said in the campaign, we are broke. That's why we have committed to not reducing spending in health and education, but we will no longer be able in the foreseeable future, to have spending increases, that are faster than our economy or bigger than inflation. That means we will have to find more efficient ways of delivering those services. There will have to be some reduction in the overall size of the Alberta public sector, hopefully through attrition."

Details of the Speech from the Throne are [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](#).

After a meeting with Alberta’s six senators and official opposition leader **Rachel Notley**, premier **Jason Kenney** declared the province united in its opposition to two federal bills that would have a negative impact on Alberta’s oil and gas industry.

“In this time of economic adversity, it is essential that we work together, and it is encouraging to see this show of non-partisanship,” the premier said after the meeting. “We are united in speaking for Alberta, as ‘Team Alberta’ in challenging legislation that poses a very real threat to hundreds of thousands of jobs in Alberta and across Canada, and the \$16 trillion in economic potential within Alberta’s oilsands that could be lost if they proceed.”

**Kenney’s** statement is available [here](#). ☐

### Finance

22 May 2019

#### **Carbon Tax Repeal Helps Albertans Get Back to Work**

Premier **Jason Kenney** introduced Bill 1, *An Act to Repeal the Carbon Tax*, as the first order of business of the new government’s spring sitting of the Alberta Legislature.

Scrapping the carbon tax will free up nearly \$1.4 billion of tax burden, create 6,000 jobs, save the average small business \$4,500 annually and

save Alberta families up to \$1,150 a year, the premier said.

“We’re keeping our commitment to eliminate this tax grab to create jobs and put more money back into the pockets of hard-working Albertans,” the premier said.

Details are [here](#).

### Premier

23 May 2019

#### **Alberta United in Opposition to Bills C-48, C-69**

## Recent Consultant Lobbyist Registrations

The following lobbyists recently registered to represent the clients below with Alberta’s lobby [registry](#).

### Lobbyists (in order of registration)

Registered	Client	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Target Departments/Organizations
21-May-2019	Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac)	-	Sam Terao	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Alberta Economic Development and Trade

**This company is** registered as an Organizational Lobbyist.

**Financial Benefit or Grant: Not specific.** Communication regarding Al-Pac’s “Cellulose Nanocrystals” Project, including an update as to the status of the project, as well as a prospective outlook on what resources/funding may be required to scale-up the project in the next few years.

**Program or Policy: Programs related to forestry tenure policies as well as general operational requirements.** To engage in discussions regarding the cumulative impact of policies on the forestry sector, as well as to provide input as to which programs have been beneficial and/or require re-evaluation.

**Program or Policy: Programs related to species at risk and conservation.** Provided input on caribou range planning, protected areas/conservation areas 1) our collaborative gap analysis project and 2) the Biodiversity Stewardship Area that eventually became a new wild-land park, wood bison research and monitoring, as well as conservation offsets.

**Program or Policy: Protected Areas Gap Analysis.** Discussion on Protected Area Gap Analysis and Caribou. Attend meetings to provide input on Al-Pac’s work in relation to these topics and the involvement of Aboriginal communities that may be affected.

**Guideline or Directive: Draft First Nation and Métis Consultation and Guidelines.** Attended meetings with technical staff to provide Al-Pac’s input and recommendations on the proposed policy and guidelines.

**Decision: Potential outcome of the Ecojustice lawsuit re: boreal caribou.** To engage in discussions regarding the potential implications of the Ecojustice boreal lawsuit, and to potentially provide “evidence” as to activities Al-Pac has engaged in to contribute to establishing effective protection.

21-May-2019	STARS Air Ambulance	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Hal Danchilla, Michael Lohner, Melissa Caouette	Alberta Health, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
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**Financial Benefit or Grant: 2019 Budget.** Advocate for secure and predictable operating cost funding as well as inform on capital plan to replace fleet.

...continued next page

## Recent Consultant Lobbyist Registrations, continued

### Lobbyists (in order of registration)

Registered	Client	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Target Departments/Organizations
21-May-2019	Canadian Electrical Stewardship Association	Revolver Strategic Inc.	Blaise Boehmer	Alberta Environment and Parks
<b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Potential Extended Producer Responsibility legislation and regulations.</b> Participation in consultations, information sharing of extended producer responsibility programs throughout Canada.				
21-May-2019	EDF Renewables Development Inc.	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Michael Lohner	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Alberta Economic Development and Trade
<b>Program or Policy: Renewable Electricity.</b> On an ongoing basis, provide input into the development and design of policy to ensure a fair and competitive procurement program to award lowest costs renewable facilities and deliver reliable, affordable energy to Alberta ratepayers.				
<b>Program or Policy: Climate Change.</b> Advocate for the development of a climate change program that allows for the purchase of offsets / credits from renewable electricity generators.				
<b>Program or Policy: Capacity Market.</b> Advocate for a market design where wind generation, solar generation and battery storage is eligible to participate in the market and earn a fair return on investment via the energy market; and, design a capacity market that supports the energy market, so that the energy market remains the primary source of revenue for existing and new renewable generation facilities.				
21-May-2019	Cherokee Canada Inc.	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Hal Danchilla, Melissa Caouette	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services
<b>Decision: Release of Ministerial Order/decisions on Environmental Appeals Board report and recommendations for Domtar site.</b> Address concerns raised by Government about public health perceptions of the former Domtar site. Work with the government to develop a better process for dispute resolution on issues of a similar nature.				
21-May-2019	MasterCard	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Michael Lohner	Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
<b>Existing Legislation: ATB Financial Act.</b> Strengthen relationship between Mastercard and the Government of Alberta because of ATB's relationship with Mastercard.				
<b>Existing Legislation: Alberta Treasury Branches Regulation.</b> Strengthen relationship between Mastercard and the Government of Alberta because of ATB's relationship with Mastercard.				
21-May-2019	Pure North	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Hal Danchilla	Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services
<b>Program or Policy: Primary Healthcare.</b> To lobby in favour of alternative forms of preventative medicine.				
21-May-2019	Homes by Avi	Gordon Olsen Associates Inc. (GOA Inc.)	Gordon Olsen	Alberta Transportation
<b>Decision: Calgary Stony/Tsuu T'ina Trail Ring Road project.</b> To effect small adjustment to a connector roadway, 1 Ave. SW. and 101 St SW., (West Valley Road SW.) during design phase of project.				
16-May-2019	Postmedia Network Inc	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	Nick Koolsbergen	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<b>Program or Policy: Energy War Room.</b> To discuss ways Postmedia could be involved in the government's energy war room.				
16-May-2019	Motion Picture Association-Canada (MPA-Canada)	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	Nick Koolsbergen	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Development of Film Tax Credit.</b> Ensure the MPA-Canada has a voice in the development of a film tax credit.				

# Alberta Scan

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## Photocopying

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## 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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Publisher

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## All-Party Legislature Committees...

### Special Standing Committee on Members' Services (11 Members)

Speaker **Nathan Cooper** [Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills], Chair  
NDP MLA **Jasvir Deol** [Edmonton-Meadows]  
UCP MLA **Martin Long** [West Yellowhead]  
UCP MLA **Mike Ellis** [Calgary-West], Deputy Chair  
NDP MLA **Nicole Goehring** [Edmonton-Castle Downs]  
NDP MLA **Heather Sweet** [Edmonton-Manning]  
UCP MLA **Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk** [Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville]  
UCP MLA **Laila Goodridge** [Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche]  
UCP MLA **Dan Williams** [Peace River]  
NDP MLA **Thomas Dang** [Edmonton-South]  
UCP MLA **Richard Gotfried** [Calgary-Fish Creek]

### Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future (15 Members)

UCP MLA **Glenn van Dijken** [Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock], Chair  
NDP MLA **Lorne Dach** [Edmonton-McClung]  
UCP MLA **Matt Jones** [Calgary-South East]  
NDP MLA **Nicole Goehring** [Edmonton-Castle Downs], Deputy Chair  
NDP MLA **Thomas Dang** [Edmonton-South]  
UCP MLA **Roger Reid** [Livingstone-Macleod]  
UCP MLA **Tracy Allard** [Grande Prairie]  
NDP MLA **Christina Gray** [Edmonton-Mill Woods]  
UCP MLA **Garth Rowswell** [Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright]  
UCP MLA **Drew Barnes** [Cypress-Medicine Hat]  
UCP MLA **Nate Horner** [Drumheller-Stettler]  
UCP MLA **Jason Stephan** [Red Deer-South]  
NDP MLA **Deron Bilous** [Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview]  
UCP MLA **Whitney Issik** [Calgary-Glenmore]  
UCP MLA **Devinder Toor** [Calgary-Falconridge]

### Standing Committee on Families and Communities (15 Members)

UCP MLA **Laila Goodridge** [Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche], Chair  
UCP MLA **Michaela Glasgo** [Brooks-Medicine Hat]  
UCP MLA **Jeremy Nixon** [Calgary-Klein]  
NDP MLA **Lori Sigurdson** [Edmonton-Riverview], Deputy Chair  
UCP MLA **Pete Guthrie** [Airdrie-Cochrane]  
NDP MLA **Rakhi Pancholi** [Edmonton-Whitemud]  
UCP MLA **Mickey Amery** [Calgary-Cross]

NDP MLA **Janis Irwin** [Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood]  
UCP MLA **Brad Rutherford** [Leduc-Beaumont]  
NDP MLA **Jon Carson** [Edmonton-West Henday]  
UCP MLA **Garth Rowswell** [Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright]  
UCP MLA **Martin Long** [West Yellowhead]  
UCP MLA **Jordan Walker** [Sherwood Park]  
NDP MLA **Kathleen Ganley** [Calgary-Mountain View]  
UCP MLA **Nathan Neudorf** [Lethbridge-East]  
UCP MLA **Tany Yao** [Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo]

### Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship (15 Members)

UCP MLA **David Hanson** [Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul], Chair  
NDP MLA **Rod Loyola** [Edmonton-Ellerslie]  
UCP MLA **R.J. Sigurdson** [Highwood]  
NDP MLA **Joe Ceci** [Calgary-Buffalo], Deputy Chair  
UCP MLA **Pat Rehn** [Lesser Slave Lake]  
UCP MLA **Peter Singh** [Calgary-East]  
UCP MLA **Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk** [Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville]  
UCP MLA **Miranda Rosin** [Banff-Kananaskis]  
UCP MLA **Mark Smith** [Drayton Valley-Devon]  
NDP MLA **Richard Feehan** [Edmonton-Rutherford]  
NDP MLA **Irfan Sabir** [Calgary-McCall]  
UCP MLA **Searle Turton** [Spruce Grove-Stony Plain]  
UCP MLA **Shane Getson** [Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland]  
NDP MLA **Marlin Schmidt** [Edmonton-Gold Bar]  
UCP MLA **Muhammad Yaseen** [Calgary-North]

### Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund (9 Members)

UCP MLA **Richard Gotfried** [Calgary-Fish Creek], Chair  
NDP MLA **David Eggen** [Edmonton-North West]  
NDP MLA **Janis Irwin** [Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood]  
UCP MLA **Ronald Orr** [Lacombe-Ponoka], Deputy Chair  
UCP MLA **Shane Getson** [Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland]  
UCP MLA **Matt Jones** [Calgary-South East]  
UCP MLA **Tracy Allard** [Grande Prairie]  
UCP MLA **Michaela Glasgo** [Brooks-Medicine Hat]  
NDP MLA **Chris Nielsen** [Edmonton-Decore]