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Alberta Scan

Issue 1103

week ending 31 May 2019

Deregulation...

Associate minister of red tape reduction **Grant Hunter** [Taber-Warner] introduced a short regulatory reduction bill this week, wetting out some of the expectations of his mandate. Premier **Jason Kenney** followed the table with a press conference declaring the deregulation progress already made. An excerpt from his comments:

“**Grant’s** job is to go into every other minister’s office and ensure that they are keeping pace with our ambitious targets every quarter, every year, through the four years of this mandate, to hit or exceed the one third target. And by the way, he will also be setting up panels, with each major area of industry from oil and gas, tourism, hospitality, agriculture and forestry, manufacturing and construction like right here in PCL [the site of the news conference], small business and non-profits and charities. We are going to have another initiative in the *Right to Care Act* which will be specifically about cutting red tape on non profits and charities, so they are not encumbered by the same rules for big business when they are just trying to help their neighbours.”

“We will also have a special focus on cutting red tape imposed by the provincial government on our municipalities and within the provincial government itself. One thing I can tell you from my experience as a federal minister was a lot of the inefficiency within government is unnecessary rules and procedures imposed by government on itself. So this is not just outward-facing to the private sector, but also inward-facing within the government sector.”

“This is an open invitation to Albertans to help us liberate our economy by cutting red tape. You can go to our website and there is an opportunity to provide input on dumb, job killing regulations. **Grant** will be launching a broader government consultation process where anybody can provide that input.”

“...Let me review some of the red tape we have cut so far, even before this bill was introduced.”

“In the 21 business days since our government took office, we have passed 17 Orders in Council, related to red tape reduction. In fact I think **Grant** has had more floor time in the cabinet than any other minister. That amounts to cutting or reforming almost one regulation per business day.”

“To give you an example, making it easier for charities and non-profits to operate by modernizing banking requirements and offering multiyear rather than just annual funding agreements.”

“Secondly, improving access to financial supports for agri-businesses by cutting unnecessary forms and red tape.”

“Thirdly, simplifying permits for trucks passing over provincial and municipal roads and a whole lot more which you can see in the releases from executive council.”

The bill is [here](#). Details are [here](#) and [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](#).

Agriculture and Forestry

28 May 2019

Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act (section 7).

Cabinet declared the extraordinary losses, damages and costs, including prevention, presuppression, suppression, reclamation, and reforestation costs, resulting from wildfires since April 1, 2019 to be a public emergency for the purpose of section 7 of the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. OC 100/2019.

Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis (AGLC)

30 May 2019

Retail Cannabis Licence Moratorium Lifted

The AGLC announced that due to a steady increase in AGLC’s cannabis supply, the moratorium on accepting new retail licence applications and issuing new retail licences has been lifted.

AGLC said it will continue to monitor supply to ensure retailers continue to receive adequate inventory. To ensure Alberta’s existing and new retailers have a consistent amount of product, AGLC will be issuing five licences on a weekly basis.

Details are [here](#).

Ethics Commissioner

28 May 2019

Ethics Commissioner Releases Report on Allegations Concerning Premier Jason Kenney

After a complaint by NDP MLA **Heather Sweet** that premier Jason Kenney had improperly used his position of

premier to fund raise for the UCP, Ethics Commissioner **Marguerite Trussler** exonerated the premier.

She cautioned however that the practice be avoided because, while not prohibited, it is not considered appropriate to use a government office for a political party.

The report is [here](#).

Health

30 May 2019

AHS Review to Find Savings, Improve Performance

Health minister **Tyler Shandro** announced a request for proposals to review Alberta Health Services (AHS) has been released.

The review will include:

- ▶ a comprehensive examination of AHS’s structure and organization.
- ▶ evaluation of all AHS programs, services and policies to identify ways to reduce costs and improve performance.
- ▶ identification of opportunities to make AHS operations more responsive to the front lines and Albertans.
- ▶ comparisons to other provinces and best practices.

Details are [here](#). The review is [here](#).

Justice and Solicitor General

30 May 2019

Alberta Crown Prosecution Service Statement

Sarah Langley, acting head of the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service (ACPS), announced the appointment of an out-of-province Crown prosecutor for the investigation into allegations in the 2017 United Conservative Party leadership election and vote

irregularities:

“Going forward, an independent extra-provincial prosecutor will be responsible for providing advice to the police at their request. Prosecutors do not oversee investigations,” **Langley** said in the statement.

“The ACPS will not be involved in this matter.”

Details are [here](#).

Labour

27 May 2019

Employment Standards Code (section 138).

Cabinet passed the Employment Standards (Minimum Wage) Amendment Regulation.

The regulation creates a minimum wage for youth under 18 of \$13 per hour. OC 99/2019.

Municipal Affairs

28 May 2019

Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act (section 7).

Cabinet declared the extraordinary losses and damages and emergency response costs resulting from wildfires in May, 2019 in Northwest Alberta to be a disaster for the purpose of section 7 of the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. OC 101/2019.

Premier

24 May 2019

B.C. Appeal Court Ruling

A B.C. Court of Appeal issued a unanimous judgement against the B.C. government’s appeal on jurisdiction over shipments of heavy oil through British Columbia.

“The time for obstruction of the TMX pipeline is now over,” **Jason Kenney** said in a statement.

The B.C. government said it would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Kenney’s statement is [here](#). The B.C. government announcement is [here](#). The judgement is [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
29-May-19	TransCanada Pipelines Limited	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Michael Lohner, Zoe Addington, Hal Danchilla	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
<p>Program or Policy: Power. Influencing decision making regarding the evolution of the power market, including market design, coal shut-down, co-generation and power markets in Alberta.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Energy and Pipelines. To advocate for market access for pipelines (oil and gas) in Alberta and North America as well as value-added industries in Alberta.</p> <p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Keystone XL Pipeline. To discuss challenges facing the permitting and approval of the Keystone XL pipeline.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Natural Gas. Providing input to Alberta Energy on strategic natural gas initiatives. Advocating for increased support for gas market access, with the focus of maintaining and growing market access for Alberta and North American gas production.</p>				
29-May-19	Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Ltd.	Longview Communications Inc.	Hugh McFadyen, Evan Legate	Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Premier's Office
<p>Program or Policy: Economic Development. The company wishes to engage with the government of Alberta to support and encourage policies that foster investment in power and midstream oil and gas businesses and assets and has engaged the consultant lobbyist to assist with introductions to public office holders.</p>				
28-May-19	Nauticol Energy Ltd	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	Nick Koolsbergen	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Energy, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Financial Support/Funding. Nauticol is pursuing discussions with the Government of Alberta regarding financial support and funding of future petrochemical development projects.</p>				
28-May-19	CARUS Community Centre Property Trust	Work On That STRUCTURE Inc.	Benoit Trudeau	Alberta Indigenous Relations, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Community and Social Services, Alberta Status of Women, Alberta Seniors and Housing, Premier's Office, ATB Financial, Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness, ATB Investment Management Inc., Alberta Social Housing Corporation
<p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Funding for the Women Recovery Centre within Carus. Getting annual funding for the women taken care of at the centre.</p> <p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Capital Financing. To build a new live-in recovery center, family services and large affordable housing units. Getting capital funds for the project.</p>				
28-May-19	Onex Corporation	Longview Communications Inc.	Hugh McFadyen, Phil Harwood, Evan Legate	Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Transportation, Premier's Office
<p>Decision: Federal review of proposed acquisition of West Jet. The company wishes to engage the provincial government with the goal of supporting its acquisition of WestJet, which is subject to federal review under the <i>Competition Act</i> and <i>Canada Transportation Act</i>.</p>				
28-May-19	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	HSE Analytics Inc.	Troy Jones	Alberta Energy Regulator
<p>Guideline or Directive: Alberta Energy Regulator Directives 001, 006, 011, 013, 020, 024, 050, 058, 067, 068, 075, 079. Influence the modeling of abandonment and reclamation costs associated with wells, facilities and pipelines.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Liability Management. Influence the modeling of abandonment and reclamation costs associated with wells, facilities and pipelines.</p>				
27-May-19	Salesforce.com	Temple Scott Associates Inc.	Ian S. Anderson, Scott Munnoch	Executive Council, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p>Program or Policy: Government procurement. Reviewing developments in relation to developing a government cloud computing policy. Seeking opportunities to work with the government to improve efficiencies, cost savings and increased productivity.</p>				

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Recent Consultant Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Lobbyists (in order of registration)

Registered	Client	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Target Departments/Organizations
24-May-19	Alberta Craft Distillers Association	Mike McNeil	Mike McNeil	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p>Guideline or Directive: Reducing Red Tape. Consult with the government to reduce red tape for small business.</p> <p>Guideline or Directive: Inter-provincial Trade. Consult with the government to reduce inter-provincial trade barriers.</p>				
24-May-19	Oil Sands Community Alliance	Torque Communications	Lee Funke	Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p>Existing Legislation: Municipal Government Act (MGA). Address issues arising from the implementation of the new MGA and potential impacts on the economic competitiveness of Alberta's oil sands operators.</p>				
24-May-19	Alberta Craft Distillers Association	Mike McNeil	Mike McNeil	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission
<p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Joint funding for Alberta craft producers associations. Continuation of funding.</p> <p>Program or Policy: Alberta small brewers markup. To consult with the government on potential changes to program.</p> <p>Guideline or Directive: Red tape. To provide the industry's perspective on any potential changes to Alberta's liquor manufacturing and distribution model as part of the government's cutting red tape initiative.</p> <p>Guideline or Directive: Interprovincial trade. To encourage the government to open trade between provinces.</p>				
24-May-19	This company is registered as an Organizational Lobbyist.	Alberta Small Brewers Association	Mike McNeil	Executive Council, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission
<p>Program or Policy: Small Brewers policies. Engage MLAs regarding the brewery operations in Alberta and the importance of the current regulatory environment for craft and small brewing operations in Alberta.</p>				
23-May-19	Canadian Consumer Finance Association	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Hal Danchilla	Service Alberta, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
<p>Existing Legislation: An Act to End Predatory Lending. Advocate to balance consumer protection legislation while maintaining access to credit.</p> <p>Existing Legislation: A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act. Advocate to balance consumer protection legislation while maintaining access to credit.</p> <p>Existing Legislation: The Consumer Protection Act. Advocate to balance consumer protection legislation while maintaining access to credit.</p>				
23-May-19	Concordia University of Edmonton	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Michael Lohner, Melissa Caouette, Hal Danchilla	Executive Council, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Advanced Education, Premier's Office
<p>Financial Benefit or Grant: Access to capital funding. Lobby the government to allow Concordia University to have access to consistent and predictable capital funding as a private post-secondary institution.</p>				
23-May-19	Minhas Brewery and Distillery	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Elan MacDonald, Brookes Merrit, Yonathan Sumamo, Brian Senio	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Executive Council, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission
<p>Program or Policy: Small Brewers policies. Engage MLAs regarding the brewery operations in Alberta and the importance of the current regulatory environment for craft and small brewing operations in Alberta.</p>				

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Recent Consultant Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Lobbyists (in order of registration)

Registered	Client	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Target Departments/Organizations
23-May-19	Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association	Santis Health Inc.	Dan Carbin, Ian Chesney, Peter Cleary	Executive Council, Alberta Health, Premier's Office
Existing Legislation: <i>Voluntary Blood Donations Act (2017)</i>. Overturning the legislation. The legislation (passed in 2017) bans the use of compensated donation of whole blood and plasma in Alberta.				
23-May-19	Hopewell Residential	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Hal Danchilla	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Municipal Affairs
Existing Legislation: <i>Water Act</i>. Municipal land use processes with regards to wetland construction design plans. Existing Legislation: <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i>. Municipal land use processes with regards to wetland construction design plans. Existing Legislation: <i>Public Lands Act</i>. Municipal land use processes with regards to wetland construction design plans.				
23-May-19	Alberta Charitable Casino Operators	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Hal Danchilla, Melissa Caouette	Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission
Guideline or Directive: <i>Charitable gaming review</i>. To lobby on the distribution of charitable gaming proceeds from charitable casino events				
23-May-19	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Michael Lohner, Hal Danchilla, Melissa Caouette	Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services
Program or Policy: <i>National Pharmaceutical Program</i>. Informing on impacts to Alberta should the government of Canada implement the proposed misinterpretations program and agency. Program or Policy: <i>Patented Medicine Prices Review Board</i>. Informing on impacts to Alberta should the government of Canada change the guidelines to the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board				
23-May-19	Melcor Developments LTD	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Michael Lohner, Hal Danchilla, Melissa Caouette	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Municipal Affairs
Existing Legislation: <i>Public Lands Act</i>. Sora Public Lands Act Disposition Application approval process. Existing Legislation: <i>Water Act</i>. Sora Public Lands Act Disposition Application approval process. Existing Legislation: <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i>. Sora Public Lands Act Disposition Application approval process. Guideline or Directive: <i>Alberta Wetland Policy</i>. Sora Public Lands Act Disposition Application approval process. Existing Legislation: <i>Public Lands Administration Regulation</i>. Sora Public Lands Act Disposition Application approval process.				
22-May-19	EDP Renewables Canada	Hill+Knowlton Strategies	Sheila Wisniewski, Natalie Sigalet, Tim Moro, Matt Wolf	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
Program or Policy: <i>Electricity Market</i>. EDP is seeking to understand the future of Alberta's electricity market and the role of renewables and will provide information on its experiences with these matters in other jurisdictions				
22-May-19	Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS)	Hill+Knowlton Strategies	Sheila Wisniewski, Natalie Sigalet, Tim Moro, Matt Wolf	Alberta Health, Premier's Office
Decision: <i>Lab Services</i>. As a retirement savings plan, OMERS wants to discuss investments it has made in lab services in the province.				

Alberta Scan

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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.

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Word of Mouth Communications provides *Alberta Political Monitor*, a service about ongoing policy developments. Call or email for further information.

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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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Opposition Scan...

The following items represent issues the opposition parties in the Legislature deemed important

enough to warrant a press release and usually a new conference. They result in news only sometimes.

Education

29 May 2019

UCP Must Stop Making Parents Cut Their Own Kids' Education

NDP education critic **Sarah Hoffman** called on the UCP to stop forcing parents to choose how to cut their own kids' education..

She released a letter from William Reid School in Calgary that asks parents to choose between slashing their school's music program, or picking which elementary class sizes should

go up.

Details are [here](#).

Finance

28 May 2018

The Official Opposition claims Jason Kenney's campaign promise to balance the provincial budget by 2022 appears to be in shambles after finance minister Travis Toews would only say his goal was to get to a balanced budget "in our first term."

Details are [here](#). ☐

Appointments Scan...

The 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](#).

Advanced Education

29 May 2019

Glenn Feltham Retirement

Advanced education minister **Demetrios Nicolaidis** noted the retirement of president and CEO of NAIT, Dr. **Glenn Feltham**.

Feltham became NAIT's sixth president and CEO in 2011.

He was chair of Polytechnics Canada, a national organization which works to elevate the place of polytechnic education and applied research in Canada, and advance our country's skills agenda. He also chaired the Council of Post-secondary Presidents of Alberta.

Details are [here](#).

Legislature

23 May 2019

New Clerk of Legislative Assembly

of Alberta Appointed

Legislature Speaker **Nathan Cooper** appointed **Shannon Dean** to serve as the 9th Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, effective immediately.

The Clerk is the chief executive officer of the Legislative Assembly and has authority and responsibility equivalent to that of a deputy minister of a government department.

Dean began her service to the Legislature as Parliamentary Counsel with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in 1996 and became Senior Parliamentary Counsel in 2000. In 2011, **Dean** was named Director of House Services in addition to Senior Parliamentary Counsel and in 2016 she became what is now known as Law Clerk and Executive Director of House Services for the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

She replaces **Merwan Saher** who was appointed on February 14, 2019.

Details are [here](#). ☐