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# Alberta Scan

Issue 1105

week ending 14 June 2019

## Egregious...

**A**fter introducing legislation to delay the arbitration process in a number of public sector dependent union contracts, finance minister **Travis Toews** claimed the UCP provincial government has not made a decision on wage arbitration.

He said the proposed legislation would temporarily postpone wage arbitration hearings until after October 31, 2019.

The government's action to stall NDP negotiated contracts with clauses to reopen wage negotiations this year may presage a rocky relationship with public sector unions over the term of the UCP government.

"This will give us the time required to fully understand Alberta's economic situation and take into consideration the advice from the **Janice MacKinnon** panel, as we work to balance the budget by 2022-23," **Toews** said.

"We owe it to Albertans, and all public sector workers, to come to the table with information on the state of our economy and the impact it will have on our finances, so we can make responsible and informed decisions. We will continue to work together with our union stakeholders in good faith. Negotiating without this information would be fiscally irresponsible and we are seeking the time to make the right decisions for all Albertans."

The bill affects 24 collective agreements, covering about 180,000 public sector employees.

Several unions dependent on public sector funding were at the Legislature to protest the bill's introduction. Unions who participated included:

- ▶ Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL).
- ▶ Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE).
- ▶ United Nurses of Alberta (UNA).
- ▶ Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA).
- ▶ Canadian Union of Public Employees, Alberta Division (CUPE AB).
- ▶ Alberta Teachers Association (ATA).
- ▶ Unifor.
- ▶ Alberta Fire Fighters Association (AFFA).
- ▶ Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA).
- ▶ University of Alberta Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA).

In a news release the NDP Official Opposition redistributed quotes from several of the union leaders who spoke to the media after the bill was introduced.

The Alberta unions are not happy.

"This is not about postponing process... This is a bully bill. They are using the power of their majority in government to break legally-binding contracts. It's unfair, inappropriate and illegal," said **Gil McGowan**, president, Alberta Federation of Labour.

"This is an egregious attack on workers rights and legally-binding collective

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**...deferral**

agreements...This is authoritarian, this is ideological, and it does nothing but create labour unrest... Albertans should be very concerned when a new government uses the power and authority of the state to crush basic rights," said **Guy Smith**, president, AUPE.

"I'm not terribly surprised but I'm very, very disappointed... Even **Ralph Klein** in the depths and darkness of the 90s didn't use legislation to reach in and violate worker's contracts. This is

incredibly unprecedented and incredibly disappointing...It is the biggest betrayal by a government I have ever seen," said **Heather Smith**, president, United Nurses of Alberta.

"This action by our government is an affront to the teachers of Alberta... There was hope for this arbitration and to pull that hope away from Alberta's teachers, especially at this time of year, is tragic," said **Greg Jeffrey**, past-president, Alberta Teachers Association.

The bill is [here](#). The government announcement is [here](#). ☐

**Energy**

12 June 2019

**Bill C-69: Statement From Energy Ministers**

Alberta minister of energy **Sonya Savage**, Ontario minister of energy, mines and northern development **Greg Rickford**, and Saskatchewan minister of energy and resources **Bronwyn Eyre** declared the federal decision to proceed with only part of the amended bill governing major projects as "unacceptable and very disappointing."

"These amendments were put forward by provincial and territorial governments – including the province of Quebec – job creators, industry, First Nations and the Senate committee in order to protect the economic prosperity of our country," the ministers said in a joint statement.

The ministers repeated the calls for the federal government to accept all 187 of the proposed amendments for the bill.

The federal government accepted some of the proposed changes but plans to pass the amended bill.

Details are [here](#).

**Environment**

13 June 2019

**Federal Carbon Tax on Alberta**

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**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](#).

**Alberta Health Services (AHS)**

11 June 2019

**Online Directory Provides Continuing Care Facility Information**

AHS announced an online database with information about Alberta's 345 publicly-funded continuing care facilities.

Directory information will be updated every six months.

In the directory, each continuing

care facility has its own page, detailing information specific to that location, including:

- ▶ services and available amenities.
- ▶ accommodation charges.
- ▶ information about quality and standards, such as resident and family experience survey and audit outcomes.
- ▶ photos, maps and contact information to help with the decision process.

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
11-Jun-19	The Association of Counselling Therapy of Alberta	Impact Public Affairs	Huw Williams, Emily Gale	Alberta Legislative Assembly
11-Jun-19	Progressive Waste Solutions	Alan Hallman & Associates Inc.	Alan Hallman	Alberta Environment and Parks, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Transportation, Premier's Office

**Existing Legislation: The Mental Health Services Protection Act.** To ensure the College of Counselling Therapists is established as per the *Mental Health Services Protection Act*.

**Guideline or Directive: Waste policy monitoring and advocacy related to waste collection, waste storage and waste disposal policy.** Discussing financial impacts of possible regulatory changes to policy.

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Lobbyists (continued)				
Registered	Client	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Target Departments/Organizations
11-Jun-19	Enterprise Rent a Car Canada Company	BA Capital Inc (operating as BA Capital - Strategic Advisors)	Art Agolli	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Executive Council, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p><b>Guideline or Directive:</b> Transport department directive as to which companies are considered transportation companies. Add rental companies in the list of eligible transportation companies.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Alberta Regulation 122/2001 - Insurance Agents and Adjusters Regulation and <i>Alberta Insurance Act</i>. Amend the Ministerial Order, as it pertains to classes or types of insurance for the purposes of section 454 of the <i>Alberta Insurance Act</i>, to add "Rented Vehicle Personal Accident" and "Rented Vehicle Personal Effects" as types of insurance that may be sold by a restricted insurance agent.</p>				
11-Jun-19	Green Drop Lawns	Alan Hallman & Associates Inc.	Alan Hallman	Alberta Environment and Parks, Premier's Office
<p><b>Guideline or Directive:</b> Water Policy in the South Saskatchewan River Basin. Monitor water policy and maintain existing licenses in the basin</p>				
10-Jun-19	Shoppers Drug Mart	Enterprise Canada Inc.	Barbara Fox, Peter Csillag, Kaie Heelis, Jason Lietaer	Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission
<p><b>Program or Policy:</b> Federal provincial discussions regarding the federal government's recently proposed National Pharmacare program. 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.</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation:</b> <i>Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act</i>. To discuss Alberta's cannabis framework as it pertains to medical cannabis and the ability of pharmacists to dispense medical cannabis.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy:</b> Prescription medication policies. To develop programs and policies in the pharmacy sector regarding the responsible prescribing of medications to reduce and minimize risk for Albertans.</p>				
10-Jun-19	Labatt Brewing Company Limited	Navigator	Jason Hatcher, Brent Kossey, Zoe Keirstead	Executive Council, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission
<p><b>Program or Policy:</b> Beer Taxation. To provide information to the government regarding the merits of maintaining the current regime for the taxation of beer in Alberta.</p>				
10-Jun-19	Gibson Energy ULC	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Doug Noble, Mike Peters, Danielle Cruz	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Alberta Legislative Assembly
<p><b>Program or Policy:</b> Crude by rail. Seek further understanding of the government's intentions regarding crude by rail contracts and provide input as required.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy:</b> Economic development/market access. Meetings with government officials to introduce Gibson's operations in Alberta, how storage plays a key role in supporting market access, and expansion plans.</p>				
07-Jun-19	Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce Association	This is an organizational lobbyist.	Sherri Buckle	Alberta Energy, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Municipal Government Board
<p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution:</b> Pipeline Curtailment. Letter to former premier Rachel Notley, and former energy minister Margaret McCuaig-Boyd and Alberta's Energy Regulator Production Curtailment Issues Panel urging the reconsideration of the existing curtailment formula and return to the previous formula.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Pipeline Curtailment. Urging the provincial government to return to the previous formula with regards to curtailment.</p> <p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution:</b> Anything that will be detrimental to small business. To have a business friendly atmosphere in our province.</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation:</b> Downtown Parking Municipal Bylaw. Provided ideas and input on the parking restrictions within the City. Particularly in the downtown core and the lake shore development. The Land use bylaw has been changed to allow for fairness to all small business looking for permit approvals and change of use permits.</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation:</b> Enforcement of City Business License Policy. To have Bylaw officers enforce the business license policy on a complaint driven basis with regards to home based business operating without proper permits and licenses.</p>				

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**Lobbyists (continued)**

Registered	Client	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Target Departments/Organizations
07-Jun-19	GNL Quebec Ltd	Navigator	Jason Hatcher, Brent Kossey	Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<b>Decision: Alberta Government's support for the Energie Saguenay Project, a LNG complex project in Quebec that will source natural gas from Alberta.</b> Alberta Government's support for the Energie Saguenay Project, a LNG complex project in Quebec that will source natural gas from Alberta.				
06-Jun-19	Calgary Economic Development	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Candice Laws, Kristin Anderson, Jordan Pinkster	Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Advanced Education, Premier's Office
<b>Program or Policy: Economic development Introductory meetings with specific ministries regarding economic development in Calgary.</b> Exploring where Calgary Economic Development and the government share common priorities and understand where there are opportunities for partnership.				
06-Jun-19	Future of Infrastructure Group	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Brookes Merritt, Candice Laws, John Allen, Elan Macdonald	Alberta Infrastructure, Executive Council, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Education, Alberta Health, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Advanced Education, Premier's Office
<b>Program or Policy: Infrastructure funding and capital planning.</b> Meeting with government to gain understanding of project and policy priorities of the new Alberta government and provide input into long-term planning, innovation, and alternative delivery methods.				
06-Jun-19	Landscape Alberta Nursery Trade Association	Alberta Counsel	Jonathon Wescott, Shayne Saskiw, Bronte Valk, Jenelle Saskiw, Zack Ziolkowski, Pascal Ryffel, Michelle Collins, Cam MacKay	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Municipal Affairs
<p><b>Existing Legislation: The Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act.</b> To obtain farm status for the nursery/sod industry under the employment standards. To obtain farm status in regards to the occupational health and safety code for nursery/sod farms.</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation: Building Code.</b> Have municipal affairs update the building code to allow farm/retail (market gardens) continue operation. As written, farms face being able to have the public on site or face massive costs to upgrade farm buildings to city level codes.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program.</b> Expansion of the program to allow for lower skilled workers to obtain permanent residence. Labour shortages in the primary production side of the industry are a big concern and we are looking for changes in policy that would help all parties (employer, employee, government).</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation: The Fair and Family Friendly Workplaces Act.</b> Status for nurseries/sod farms as primary agriculture or ministerial variation on overtime limits for the sector to adjust for banking of hours changes.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Agriculture definition by Alberta Labour.</b> Education on how horticulture is primary agriculture and requires same treatment under employment standards.</p> <p><b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Living green projects.</b> To allocate funds towards living green infrastructure projects. We believe as an industry that we have solutions to the impacts of climate change and would like to see more living green be part of the solution.</p>				
06-Jun-19	Alberta Bottle Depot Association	Alberta Counsel	Shayne Saskiw, Michelle Collins, Jon Wescott, Pascal Ryffel, Jenelle Saskiw, Bronte Valk, Zack Ziolkowski, Cam MacKay	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p><b>Decision: Cannabis Packaging.</b> Recycling the expansion of Alberta's deposit refund system to include cannabis-related packaging. A decision to introduce a deposit on this packaging now, while the industry is small, responsive and highly adaptable. It would take relatively little effort to bring this packaging material stream into the Alberta's deposit refund system so that it could be effectively managed at depots. An unintended consequence of introducing the cannabis supply chain to Alberta has been the introduction of a massive amount of new, small plastic packaging containers. While this packaging is technically recyclable, it is too small to be sorted effectively at municipal recycling facilities and it ends up in the waste stream at municipalities' cost. Public awareness is creating a call to action to better manage this waste stream.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Recycling Programs.</b> The expansion of recycling programs that include bottle depots in Alberta.</p>				

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Lobbyists (continued)				
Registered	Client	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Target Departments/Organizations
06-Jun-19	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	New West Public Affairs	Monte Solberg, Sonia Kont, Michael Solberg, Matt Solberg	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Labour and Immigration, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Legislative Amendments Affecting Employers and Workplaces.</b> Discuss and engage the government on the Legislative Amendments Affecting Employers and Workplaces.</p> <p><b>Guideline or Directive: Assessment Year Modifiers (AYM's).</b> Discuss and engage the minister and premier's office on Assessment Year Modifiers.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Safety Codes Jurisdiction for Oil and Gas Facilities.</b> Discuss and engage with the minister and premier's office on the Safety Codes Jurisdiction for Oil and Gas Facilities.</p> <p><b>Decision: Schedule C Depreciation for the Purpose of Regulated Well Property Assessment.</b> Discuss and engage with the minister and premier's office on the Schedule C Depreciation for the Purpose of Regulated Well Property Assessment.</p> <p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Municipal Tax Framework.</b> Discuss and engage with the minister and premier's office on the Municipal Tax Framework.</p> <p><b>Decision: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's (RMWB) Proposed Camp Moratorium.</b> Discuss and engage with the minister and premier's office on the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Proposed Camp Moratorium.</p> <p><b>Guideline or Directive: AER and ACO Harmonization.</b> Discuss and engage with the government on AER and ACO Harmonization.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Western Regulators Forum Pipeline.</b> Discuss and engage the government on the Western Regulators Forum Pipeline.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Liability Management.</b> Engage and discuss with the government on liability management in the oil sands.</p> <p><b>Guideline or Directive: Bill C-48 Readiness.</b> Engage with the government on the impacts of Bill C-48.</p> <p><b>Guideline or Directive: Modernization of Directive 056.</b> Discuss with the government on Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Orphan Site Management.</b> Engage and discuss issues around the orphan site management.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Oil Sands Lease Tenure.</b> Engage and discuss issues around the oil sands lease tenure.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Alberta Pipeline Rules Efficiency Project.</b> Discuss and the engage the government on the Alberta Pipeline Rules Efficiency Project.</p> <p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Curtailment.</b> Discuss the new government's approach on oil curtailment in Alberta.</p> <p><b>Decision: Expedited Regulatory Approval Decisions (PNOA).</b> Discuss the decision making process and engage the government on regulatory approval decisions.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Alberta Pipeline Rules Efficiency Project.</b> Discuss and engage the government on the Alberta Pipeline Rules Efficiency Project.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Well Assurance Program.</b> Engage and discuss the well assurance program with the government.</p> <p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Carbon Levy.</b> Discuss and engage the government on the carbon levy.</p> <p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation (CCIR).</b> Discuss and engage the government on the Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Moose Lake Access Management Plan (MLAMP).</b> Discuss and engage the government on the Moose Lake Access Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: In Situ Sulphur Removal.</b> Discuss and engage with the government on the in Situ Sulphur Removal process under the Alberta Energy Regulator.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Disposition Holder Consent for Oil and Gas Public Lands Act Application.</b> Discuss and engage with the government on the Disposition Holder Consent for Oil and Gas Public Lands Act Application.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Clean Fuel Standards.</b> Discuss and engage the government on the Clean Fuel Standards.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Reuse of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Sources.</b> Discuss and engage with the government on the reuse of municipal and industrial wastewater sources.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Inter-basin Water Transfer.</b> Discuss and engage with the government on the Inter-basin Water Transfer.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Oil Sands Mine Water Treatment and Release.</b> Discuss and engage with Oil Sands Mine Water Treatment and Release.</p> <p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Caribou Recovery Action Plan.</b> Discuss the Caribou Recovery Action plan with the current government.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Survey Plan Requirements for Crown Disposition Renewals.</b> Discuss and engage with the government on the Survey Plan Requirements for Crown Disposition Renewals.</p> <p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Methane Regulations.</b> Discuss the cost effective methanols regulations with the current government.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Historical Resource Assessment Requirements for Oil Sands.</b> Discuss and engage the minister on the Historical Resource Assessment Requirements for Oil Sands Taxes and Finance Alberta Treasury Board and Finance.</p> <p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Alberta's Corporate Tax Competitiveness.</b> Discuss and engage the minister on Alberta's Corporate Tax Competitiveness.</p>				

# Alberta Scan

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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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## ...government

Federal environment minister **Catherine McKenna** announced the federal government has notified Alberta that Ottawa will introduce a carbon tax in the province as of January 1, 2020.

Alberta premier **Jason Kenney** announced on social media that Alberta “will launch an immediate constitutional challenge of this federal tax grab through a judicial reference to the Alberta Court of Appeal.”

## Health

12 June 2019

### The Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare Recommends Canada Implement Universal, Single-Payer Public Pharmacare.

An advisory committee to the federal government has recommended that Canada implement universal, single-payer, public pharmacare.

The Council recommended the federal government work in partnership with provincial and territorial governments to establish a universal, single-payer public system of prescription drug coverage in Canada to ensure everyone has access to the drugs they need to maintain their physical and mental health.

The Council also recommended the establishment of a Canadian drug agency, which would be responsible for developing a national list of prescription drugs, beginning with an initial formulary of common or so-called essential medicines by January 1, 2022.

Universal, single-payer public pharmacare will result in better value for money and substantial savings for governments, businesses, and individual Canadians.

Details are [here](#).

## Intergovernmental Affairs

10 June 2019

### Premiers Issue Joint Letter to Prime Minister

The premiers of Ontario, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories released a letter they sent to prime minister **Justin Trudeau** expressing their opposition to Bills C-69 and C-48.

Bill C-69 would reform the federal environmental review process for major projects including pipelines. Bill C-48 would formalize an existing ban on crude oil tankers in the waters from Vancouver Island to Alaska, in effect making it more difficult for Alberta to ship oil to new markets.

The letter is [here](#).

## Premier

12 June 2019

### Bill C-69: Statement from Premier Kenney

Premier **Jason Kenney** warned against the federal Liberals' intention to pass Bill C-69 with only some of the amendments recommended by the Senate, warning its passage may undermine national unity.

“Without substantial amendments, the bill clearly interferes in areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction and undermines the future of Canada's energy sector, investor confidence and national unity,” the premier said in a statement. “My message to prime minister **Justin Trudeau** is simple: this is not a partisan issue – it is a matter of restoring international confidence in Canada at a time when our reputation as a place to invest is at risk. Without the Senate's amendments, this bill will drive away more jobs and investment from Canada.”

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

11 June 2019

### Premier Kenney Headed East to Attract Investment

Premier **Jason Kenney** travelled to Quebec and Atlantic Canada to meet with potential Alberta investors and provincial premiers of Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

Details of the trip are [here](#). □