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# Alberta Scan

Issue 1107

week ending 28 June 2019

## Communique...

**W**estern premiers meeting in Edmonton on June 27 issued an eight-page communique touching on a number of significant issues of interest to the premiers of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. The issues identified in the communique included:

- *Premiers Committed to Enhancing Competitiveness and Sustainable Development through Economic Corridors.* The premiers called for further discussions on pan-Canadian economic corridors, both east-west and north-south, to increase productivity by distributing energy, communications, and economic potential currently locked in a single province or territory to other jurisdictions.

- *Premiers Committed to Responsible Resource Development and Action on Climate Change.* The premiers agreed that economic stability and energy security for their jurisdictions need to go hand-in-hand with sustained action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They called on the federal government to work with provinces, territories, and international governments to establish a process to recognize the global reduction of greenhouse gases resulting from the use of energy and technologies consistent with Article 6 of the Paris Declaration.

- *Premiers Committed to Improving Internal Trade.* The premiers agreed to prioritize further work on barrier reduction, with a particular focus on increasing consumer choice for alcoholic beverages in a socially responsible way.

- *Premiers Committed to Improved Labour Mobility for Workers.* The premiers declared they are committed to exploring whether there are outstanding barriers to the mobility of licensed professionals, skilled tradespeople, and apprentices in the West. They also discussed the importance of timely, fair, and efficient foreign qualification recognition processes to ensure full participation of foreign trained Canadians and newcomers in Canada's economy.

- *Premiers Committed to Expanding Export Markets.* The premiers discussed the continued importance of international trade to Western and Northern Canada's economy and are united in their goal of attracting investment to create prosperity.

- *Premiers Committed to Strengthening Canada's Position in the Arctic.* The premiers discussed recent international policy papers and statements on the Arctic, and the need for Canada to strengthen its position in the Arctic region.

- *Premiers Committed to Strong Health Services for Canadians.* The premiers called on the federal government to return to a fair and sustainable health funding partnership with provinces and territories, and to ensure evidence-based growth to the Canada Health Transfer going forward. They also called on the federal government to respect provincial constitutional and territorial jurisdiction over health to ensure provinces and territories have the flexibility needed to deal with emerging issues while ensuring federal funding continues to flow.

The full communique, including other commitments, 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)

Date Filed	Client	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Target Departments/Organizations
26-Jun-19	Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping	Summa Strategies	Tracey Hubley, Jeremy Bruce, Joanne Dobson	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Premier's Office
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Funding to support Clear Seas continued operations.</b> Secure operational funding.				
26-Jun-19	Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)	Alberta Counsel	Jonathon Wescott, Shayne Saskiw, Pascal Ryffel, Bronte Valk, Zack Ziolkowski, Michelle Collins, Jenelle Saskiw	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Energy, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Service Alberta, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Health, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p><b>Program or Policy: Cannabis Assessment and Taxation.</b> Request the government of Alberta to amend appropriate legislation and regulations to clearly enable municipalities to assess and tax cannabis grow operations at fair market value.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Sustainable Support for Local Registry Agents.</b> Request that the government of Alberta recognize the vital role and positive impact that Alberta Registry Agents have in Alberta communities, and request that the province partner with the Alberta Registry Agents and local municipalities by protecting local Registry Agent revenue streams by limiting additional future government encroachment above and beyond online fine payments, and negotiating the fee structure within the Registry Agent Product Catalogue to recognize inflationary increases.</p> <p><b>Decision: Red Deer Regional Hospital Prioritization.</b> Urge government of Alberta to consider reinstating the Red Deer Regional Hospital to the capital priorities list as identified in the 2015 Capital Submission for the purpose of ensuring timely and accessible health service equity for the citizens of the Central Zone.</p> <p><b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Funding.</b> Negotiate a new funding model to ensure predictable and long-term funding for infrastructure projects within municipalities.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Consultation and Communication Protocol with Municipalities.</b> Advocate for the Government of Alberta to engage municipalities in establishing and implementing a consultation and communication protocol, which recognizes and acknowledges the legislated significance of municipal elected officials.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Policy Number TCE-TS 509: Who Pays for Highway Improvements Caused by Single Developments, Multiple Developments, or in Support of New Developments Identified by the Department as Future Work.</b> Urge the government of Alberta to consider review and amendment of Policy Number TCE-TS 509 in order to produce a policy that is more equitable to all municipalities, taking into consideration their size and proximity to a provincial highway.</p> <p><b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Bilateral Funding Agreements.</b> Advocate to the federal and provincial government to participate in the development of these important bilateral agreements for the federal infrastructure fund.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Broadband Internet</b> Request that the provincial government include municipalities as a key stakeholder in the development of broadband infrastructure policies and programs. Request that the provincial government provide direct funding and support to municipalities in ensuring affordable access to, or the development of, high speed (100 mb/s and faster) community network infrastructure in priority employment and other urban areas.</p> <p><b>Decision: Alberta Transportation Warrant System.</b> Urge the province of Alberta to review the Transportation Warrant System and allow municipalities the opportunity to provide input.</p> <p><b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Funding for trail linkages.</b> Gain support and funding to complete non-motorized trail linkages between Urban Municipalities.</p> <p><b>Decision: Clean Coal Technologies.</b> Urge the province of Alberta to allow continued operation of coal fired power plants while allowing industry to explore and develop methods of clean coal burning and alternate markets for coal.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Species at Risk and the need for an overall Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.</b> Request that the government of Alberta complete an overall Socio-Economic Impact Assessment based on all the species at risk recovery and retention plans currently affecting the operations of all industries in the province, including but not limited to oil and gas, forestry, agricultural, tourism and mineral exploration. Urge the Government of Alberta to not develop, implement or enforce range plans without the consent of the forest industrial partners affected within the range plan.</p> <p><b>Existing Legislation: Municipal Government Act.</b> Request that the government of Alberta amend the <i>Municipal Government Act</i> to enable municipalities to cover the value of the requisition as they see fit, rather than requiring them to carry out a prescribed requisition process.</p>				
24-Jun-19	Calgary Arts Academy	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Brookes Merrit, Jordan Pinkster	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Education, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p><b>Program or Policy: Charter School policies.</b> Obtain approval to increase the enrollment cap for the school, and to explore opportunities and solicit support for future growth, and to inform provincial budgetary planning in order to maintain or increase student funding, and maintain the unique value of the learning environment offered at the Calgary Arts Academy.</p>				

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## Recent Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
22-Jun-19	Cadotte Lake Metis	Alan Hallman & Associates Inc.	Alan Hallman	Alberta Indigenous Relations, Executive Council, Premier's Office
<b>Guideline or Directive: First Nations and Metis recognition.</b> To have recognized the Cadotte Metis as a community in order to obtain services and create a stable and prospering community.				
21-Jun-19	Alberta Network of Public Housing Agencies	Sandie Price	Sandra Price	Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Seniors and Housing, Premier's Office
<b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Provincial Housing Strategy.</b> Desire to have <i>Housing Act</i> and Regulations updated to reflect current realities and gaps. Attention on affordable housing being delivered and managed by non-profit entities. Sharing of feedback from our membership, housing providers, to advocate for improvements in the system. Ensure our Association is involved and consulted in all housing matters.				
<b>Program or Policy: Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation.</b> Review and reconsider improving property tax exemptions on affordable housing properties. Provide some direction for municipalities to move toward providing property tax relief in some form to non-profit and public affordable housing providers, not just to government owned seniors lodges.				
<b>Existing Legislation: Municipal Government Act.</b> Review and reconsider improving property tax exemptions on affordable housing properties. Give some direction for municipalities to move toward property tax relief in some form to non-profit and public affordable housing providers, not just to government owned seniors lodges.				
21-Jun-19	Ermeskin Cree Nation	Alan Hallman & Associates Inc.	Alan Hallman	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Premier's Office
<b>Guideline or Directive: Extension of an existing regional water system to the First Nation.</b> Extension of a water pipeline to provide fresh water to the Ermeskin Cree Nation and another three First Nations in the area.				
20-Jun-19	Bow River Property Management and Leasing	Gordon Olsen Associates Inc. (GOA Inc.)	Gordon Olsen	Alberta Health, Alberta Seniors and Housing
<b>Program or Policy: Affordable Supportive Living Initiative (ASLI).</b> Bow Valley Management will urge government to return to using the Affordable Supportive Living Initiative to develop long term care beds.				
20-Jun-19	Campaign for a Smoke Free Alberta	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Candice Laws, Jordan Pinkster, Danielle Cruz	Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly
<b>Program or Policy: Tobacco use and regulation.</b> Arrange meetings to raise awareness about the impact of tobacco use on Albertans and advocate for stricter government policies to reduce and prevent commercial tobacco use and vaping among youth.				
20-Jun-19	Portage College	Course Consulting Ltd.	Jeff Johnson	Alberta Advanced Education
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: annual operating grants, apprenticeship spaces and capital grants.</b> Ensure fair consideration of college capital plans and resources needed for quality program.				
<b>Program or Policy: general policy development relative to post-secondary education and to skills development.</b> Ensure consultation and input from Portage College is considered.				
20-Jun-19	Y r Plans Inc.	Tom Olsen Public Affairs Inc	Tom Olsen	Alberta Advanced Education
<b>Guideline or Directive: Finastra.</b> Y r Plans Inc. has created a platform that helps employers offer student loan repayment as part of their benefits plan. Finastra manages a student-loan database on behalf of the government of Alberta. Y r Plans is asking to have access to this data to help manage loan repayment plans with employers and perspective employees.				
19-Jun-19	Bethany Care Society	Course Consulting Ltd.	Jeff Johnson	Alberta Health, Alberta Seniors and Housing, Alberta Health Services (AHS)
<b>Program or Policy: general policies pertaining to seniors programs, affordable housing and continuing care provisions.</b> To ensure open dialogue and consultation from the government of Alberta and AHS on any policy impacting continuing care, seniors and affordable housing.				
<b>Financial Benefit or Grant: capital grants for seniors housing (ASLI) and operating grants from AHS for continuing care.</b> To ensure fair consideration of the factors contributing to quality of care.				
19-Jun-19	BluEarth Renewables	Course Consulting Ltd.	Jeff Johnson, Diana McQueen	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Electric System Operator
<b>Program or Policy: general policy development on renewable energy.</b> Ensure fair and reasonable policy and open dialogue /consultation happens to inform policy.				

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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](#).

process that Alberta dubbed the “no more pipelines law.”

“The passage of these two bills not only undermines Canada’s economy, but also the Canadian federation. Their passage brings us closer to moving forward with a referendum on a constitutional amendment to eliminate equalization from the Canadian constitution,” **Kenney** said. “If Albertans cannot develop our resources within the federation, then we should not be expected to pay the bills in the federation.”

His full response is [here](#).

### Justice

26 June 2019

#### **Returning Accountability to the Senate**

Premier **Jason Kenney** and justice and solicitor general minister **Doug Schweitzer** announced Bill 13, the *Alberta Senate Election Act*, which establishes an electoral nomination process for Alberta senators.

Details are [here](#).

Details are [here](#).

### Municipal Affairs

27 June 2019

#### **Municipal Government Act (section 126)**

Cabinet ordered the annexation of certain land from Rocky View County to the Town of Cochrane. OC 115/2019.

### Premier

21 June 2019

#### **Bills C-48, C-69: Statement from Premier Kenney**

Premier **Jason Kenney** expressed profound disappointment that the federal government passed C-48 and C-69.

“The passage of Bill C-48 is an unconstitutional violation of Canada’s economic union, and our government will challenge it in court,” the premier declared.

C-48 bans bitumen tanker traffic from BC’s northwest coast. C-69 establishes a new environmental assessment

### Zurich Insurance Group

25 June 2019

#### **Zurich Signs Up to UN Business Pledge to Limit Global Temperature Rise.**

The Zurich Insurance Group announced it will use only renewable energy by 2022.

The company also announced over the next two years, it will proactively engage with clients and investee companies with the aim to assist them in adopting plans to reduce their exposure to thermal coal, oil sands and oil shales.

Zurich has committed to use 100 per cent renewable power in all global operations by the end of 2022.

The full announcement is [here](#). □

25 January 2019

#### **Alberta Stands with Saskatchewan Against Federal Carbon Tax**

Justice minister **Doug Schweitzer** announced Alberta has filed a Notice of Intervention in Saskatchewan’s federal carbon tax appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

“The split decision at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal was not a broad victory and raised significant questions about federal overreach into provincial jurisdiction,” **Schweitzer** said announcing the intervention.

## Recent Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
19-Jun-19	Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta (NPAA)	Alberta Counsel	<b>Shayne Saskiw, Jonathon Wescott, Michelle Collins, Jenelle Saskiw, Zack Ziolkowski</b>	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Premier's Office, Labour Relations Board
<b>Existing Legislation: <i>Labour Relations Code</i>.</b> Enhance language in the labour relations code to protect the integrity and independence of the nurse practitioner profession.				
19-Jun-19	Engie Development Canada LP	Prairie Sky Enterprises Ltd. (Prairie Sky Consulting)	<b>Jeff Sterzuk, Marnie Dawson</b>	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)
<b>Decision: Future AESO Transmission Design.</b> To understand and provide input into the AESO’s plans for Transmission grid design in the future.				
<b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Fund Legislation.</b> To understand the government’s plans with respect to the legislation and to advocate for the appropriate design of the legislation.				

# Alberta Scan

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### Feedback

If you have suggestions to improve *Alberta Scan*, please contact:

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## Appointments Scan...

**T**he 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](#).

### Premier

27 June 2019

#### Government Organization Act (Schedule 9, section 1(3))

Effective July 1, 2019, cabinet appointed **Frank Bosscha** as deputy attorney general. OC 114/2019.

23 June 2019

#### Empowering the Francophonie in Alberta

Premier **Jason Kenney** appointed **Laila Goodridge**, UCP back bench MLA for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche, as Parliamentary Secretary for the Francophonie.

**Goodridge** will help connect government and the francophone community to enhance services in French, as well as explore opportunities to obtain funding from the federal government in Official Languages funding streams.

Details [here](#). ☐

## Regulations Scan...

**T**he provincial cabinet passed the following regulations this week. Copies of the cabinet decisions

(called Orders in Council or “OCs”) are available online [here](#).

### Justice and Solicitor General

27 June 2019

#### Lobbyists Act (section 20)

Cabinet passed the Lobbyists Act General Regulation (Expiry Date Extension) Amendment Regulation.

The amendment extends the life of the regulation to September 30, 2020 from September 30, 2019. OC 116/2019.

been delayed to January 1, 2020 for review.

**Glubish** said multiple stakeholders identified the regulations as adding to government red tape because they add administration burdens on condominium boards and managers.

Details are available [here](#).

### Treasury Board and Finance

24 June 2019

#### Website to Report Needless Red Tape Launches

Associate minister of red tape reduction **Grant Hunter** announced a website seeking suggestions for unnecessary red tape to be eliminated.

The website shows where red tape has already been cut and keep people apprised on the commitment to reduce the regulatory burden by a third.

Details are [here](#). ☐

### Service Alberta

27 June 2019

#### Condominium Regulations Paused for Red Tape Review

Service Alberta minister **Nate Glubish** announced a six month pause in the implementation of condominium regulations which were to come into force on July 1, 2019. They have now