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# Alberta Scan

Issue 1108

week ending 5 July 2019

## Russia...

**P**remier **Jason Kenney** announced a year long \$2.5 million public inquiry into allegations of foreign-funded anti-Alberta energy campaigns. The UCP government believes that foreign special interests have secretly spent tens of millions of dollars to thwart Alberta's economic development by landlocking Alberta's energy resources.

**Steve Allan**, a Calgary forensic and restructuring accountant, was appointed commissioner for the inquiry. He will submit a final report to government by July 2, 2020. The final report is to be made public within 90 days of its receipt by the government.

The inquiry will consist of two phases. The commissioner will first conduct an information review, interview witnesses and complete additional research. Based on the information gathered during Phase 1, the commissioner will then hold a public hearing if deemed necessary.

The commissioner was given power to determine who may have standing at the inquiry.

**Kenney** said the inquiry will look at anti-Alberta energy campaigns that are supported, in whole or in part, by foreign organizations, and in doing so shall inquire into matters including, but not limited to:

- ▶ whether any foreign organization that has evinced an intent harmful or injurious to the Alberta oil and gas industry has provided financial assistance to a Canadian organization that has disseminated misleading or false information about the Alberta oil and gas industry.
- ▶ whether any Canadian organization referred to in the clause above has also received grants or other discretionary funding from the government of Alberta, from municipal, provincial or territorial governments in Canada or from the Government of Canada.
- ▶ whether any Canadian organization referred to in the clause above has charitable status in Canada.

As part of the inquiry, the commissioner shall examine the work completed by other investigations in other jurisdictions into similar activities or alleged activities, including but not limited to:

- ▶ the 2017 report by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence of the United States of America, entitled *Background to 'Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U.S. Elections: The Analytic Process and Cyber Incident Attribution*.
- ▶ the 2018 United States House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space and Technology Majority Staff Report, entitled *Russian Attempts to Influence U.S. Domestic Energy Markets by Exploiting Social Media*.

The inquiry was authorized by Order in Council 125/2019.

The terms of reference of the commission are [here](#).

Details of the announcement are [here](#).

Video of the announcement is [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](#).

Panel’s Roadmap to Recovery report. Details are [here](#).

### Premier

28 June 2019

#### Ontario Carbon Tax Ruling

A disappointed premier **Jason Kenney** issued a statement reacting to the decision by the Ontario Court of Appeal upholding the federal carbon tax.

“We are reviewing the decision, but our initial reaction is that this second split decision, following the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal’s split decision in May, has again rejected the federal government’s bid for a sweeping power to regulate GHG emissions in the provinces,” **Kenney** said.

The court rejected Ontario’s appeal by a 4-1 decision.

**Kenney** noted the province will be participating in court action asserting Alberta’s jurisdiction to the Supreme Court of Canada and the Alberta Court of Appeal in its own reference case this fall.

His full statement is [here](#).

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### Agriculture and Forestry

2 July 2019

#### Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (section 25).

Cabinet approved the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council arranging the conduct of a plebiscite of lamb producers as to whether the Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Regulation should be amended. OC 121/2019.

ers will receive more than \$23 million in total provincial government tax relief.

While property taxes go to municipalities, the assessment model for linear property such as pipelines is determined by the province. The model has not been updated since 2005, despite significant changes in the natural gas sector.

- ▶ about 65,000 wells qualify.
- ▶ the wells are predominantly found in 15 municipalities.
- ▶ municipalities will continue to collect the remainder of property taxes from shallow gas companies, which go directly into their local budgets.
- ▶ the policy addresses fixed costs as referenced in the Natural Gas Advisory

### Municipal Affairs

2 July 2019

#### Tax Relief for Industry and Municipalities

Municipal affairs minister **Kaycee Madu** announced shallow gas produc-

## 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
03-Jul-19	Organization Lobbyist	Connect First Credit Union Ltd.	<b>Paul Kelly</b>	Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation
<b>Existing Legislation: Credit Union Act.</b> More business powers for credit unions. The ability to market insurance in branches was passed as part of the revisions to the <i>Credit Union Act</i> in 2016 but the regulations have yet to come into effect.				
02-Jul-19	BNSF Railway Company	T. Bjornson & Associates Consulting Inc.	<b>Tyler Bjornson</b>	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Executive Council, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier’s Office
<b>Program or Policy: Energy Transportation Infrastructure.</b> Make government aware of company’s importance and Alberta shippers’ opportunity to access the U.S. marketplace.				
<b>Program or Policy: Rail Transportation and Infrastructure.</b> Highlight opportunity for Alberta shippers’ to access BNSF network and issues that may frustrate that access.				
01-Jul-19	Canadian Urban Transit Association	Enterprise Canada Inc.	<b>Barbara Fox, Peter Csillag</b>	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Executive Council, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier’s Office
<b>Program or Policy: Public Transit Policy.</b> To work with the new government and the opposition to raise awareness of the need for predictable and dedicated funding for transit infrastructure and operations that are essential to maintaining efficient and reliable public transportation options for Albertans in their communities. This includes the development of new transit infrastructure projects in Alberta, and on the partnering with the government in identifying mobility solutions for rural Albertans.				

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...government

Seniors and Housing

28 June 2019

Less Paperwork for Seniors with Disabilities

Seniors and housing minister **Josephine Pon** announced AISH recipients will be automatically enrolled in Alberta's seniors financial assistance programs once they turn 65, ensuring

uninterrupted benefits.

Previously, AISH recipients had to submit a separate application for provincial seniors benefits.

Auto-enrolment will eliminate an unnecessary application process and ensure AISH recipients will not miss out on provincial financial assistance they may be eligible for as they reach age 65.

There are 64,000 AISH recipients and 44 per cent are age 50 or older.

Around 125 older adults receiving AISH turn 65 each month and will benefit from the streamlined process.

Details are [here](#).

Treasury Board and Finance

28 June 2019

2018 Government of Alberta Annual Report

Finance minister **Travis Toews** released the government's 2018-19 annual

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Recent Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
28-Jun-19	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	Sproule Management Consulting Ltd.	<b>Greig Sproule</b>	Alberta Energy
<p><b>Program or Policy: Nova Gas Transmission Limited (NGTL) Pipeline System Optimization.</b> To advocate for increased efficiency of the NovaGas Transmission Limited (NGTL) pipeline system for the summer of 2019 due to the increased outage schedule.</p> <p><b>Program or Policy: Market Access.</b> Advocating for support in maintaining and developing new market access and growth opportunities for natural gas products and for crude oil products in Canada, North America and internationally, including providing grass roots advocates with tools to engage and influence public office holders.</p>				
28-Jun-19	Metis Nation of Alberta Association Fort McMurray Local Council 1935	Alberta Counsel	<b>Jonathon Wescott, Shayne Saskiw, Michelle Collins</b>	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p><b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Various.</b> Building networks with the new UCP Government and creating awareness of local infrastructure priorities.</p>				
27-Jun-19	Junior Achievement Southern Alberta	21 39107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	<b>Michael Lohner, Melissa Caouette</b>	Alberta Education, Premier's Office
<p><b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Education Amendment Act.</b> Encourage the government to include financial and business literacy as part of the curriculum so that students may better develop an understanding of personal and business finances, and develop entrepreneurial skills.</p>				
27-Jun-19	JUUL Labs	New West Public Affairs	<b>Monte Solberg, Matt Solberg, Sonia Kont, Sarah Painchaud, Michael Solberg</b>	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly
<p><b>Existing Legislation: Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act.</b> Providing briefings for Alberta government officials on amendments to existing laws and regulations regarding vaping, technology and Juul's entry into Alberta and Canada, as well as to provide details about activities and programming focused on youth prevention.</p>				
27-Jun-19	College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS)	Course Consulting Ltd.	<b>Jeff Johnson</b>	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Education
<p><b>Program or Policy: Education Policy.</b> General discussion and communication on education (K-12) policy and how it affects CASS members as well as ensuring they get fair consideration and some input so that the government of Alberta (GoA) is making well informed decisions and policy.</p> <p><b>Financial Benefit or Grant: general education funding models and envelope amounts.</b> To ensure the Association has input into GoA funding decisions</p>				
27-Jun-19	Stuart Olson	Course Consulting Ltd.	<b>Jeff Johnson</b>	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services
<p><b>Program or Policy: general procurement policy and capital planning.</b> To ensure communication and a good understanding of market place offerings in the construction industry and that GoA has good information to make well informed and fair policy on procurement as well as capital planning</p>				

# 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.

## 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

report.

The report shows:

- ▶ actual deficit in 2018-19 was \$6.7 billion.
- ▶ overall spending \$2.1 billion better than budget.
- ▶ revenue was \$1.7 billion better than budget because of personal income taxes and oil and gas revenue.

**Toews** warned the NDP government's "irresponsible spending" shows

the need for strong fiscal management.

"This level of debt is unsustainable and we will be taking every measure possible to ensure this is brought under control to get Alberta on a path to balance," the minister said. "Albertans can be confident that we will fulfil our promise to balance the budget by 2022-23."

**Toews'** statement is [here](#). The Alberta annual report and the annual report of individual departments are [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](#).

### Agriculture and Forestry

2 July 2019

#### **Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (section 23).**

Cabinet passed the Alberta Barley Plan Amendment Regulation, making several technical changes. OC 117/2019.

Cabinet passed the Alberta Milk Plan Amendment Regulation, mak-

ing several technical changes. OC 118/2019.

Cabinet passed the Alberta Pulse Growers Marketing Plan Amendment Regulation, making several technical changes. OC 119/2019.

Cabinet passed the Sugar Beet Marketing Plan Amendment Regulation, making several technical changes. OC 120/2019. □

## 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](#).

### Agriculture and Forestry

2 July 2019

#### **Regulations Act (section 7).**

Cabinet appointed **James Charlton** as Acting Registrar of Regulations, and cabinet appointed **Sherina Dhala** and **Rebecca Veinott** as Acting Deputy Registrars of Regulations. OC 124/2019.

### Justice and Solicitor General

2 July 2019

#### **Provincial Court Act (section 9.1).**

Cabinet designated Judge **Raymond Bodnarek** as Assistant Chief Judge of the Edmonton Criminal Division of The Provincial Court of Alberta for a term to expire on July 1, 2024. OC 122/2019.

Cabinet designated Judge **Gary Cornfield** as Assistant Chief Judge of the Calgary Family and Youth Division of The Provincial Court of Alberta for a term to expire on July 1, 2024. OC 123/2019. □