

## People...

Carroll, Glenn .....	3
Collins, Michelle .....	4
Dewan, Philip .....	5
Froggatt, Chris.....	4
Funke, Lee .....	3
Hahn, Brian .....	3
Higa, Kimber .....	3
Jarvis, Beverly.....	3
Kenney, Jason .....	6
Kont, Sonia.....	5
Koolsbergen, Nick .....	3
Lagrange, Adriana .....	5
Lavigne, Brad.....	5
Lui, Grace .....	3
Mader, Dan .....	4
Moro, Tim .....	5
Nixon, Jason .....	5, 6
Painchaud, Sarah .....	5
Ruddy, Amber.....	5
Ryffel, Pascal .....	4
Saskiw, Jenelle.....	4
Saskiw, Shayne.....	4
Sigalet, Natalie .....	3
Solberg, Matt .....	5
Solberg, Michael.....	5
Solberg, Monte.....	5
Tumkur, Muktha .....	4
Valk, Bronte .....	4
von Donat, Christian.....	4
Wescott, Jonathon .....	4
Williams, Huw.....	4
Wisniewski, Sheila .....	3, 5
Wolf, Matt .....	3, 5
Ziolkowski, Zack .....	4

### A note to subscribers:

Alberta Scan is taking some time off for the summer. The newsletter will be published as warranted during August. Weekly publication will resume in September.

# Alberta Scan

Issue 1109

week ending 12 July 2019

## Communiqués...

Canada's Premiers met in Saskatoon this week, pledging to work on issues in a number of areas touching interprovincial and federal/provincial relations. Premiers committed to ongoing action on issues that include:

### Health Sustainability

As a starting point, premiers called on the federal government to increase funding by an annual escalator of 5.2 per cent to the Canada Health Transfer, consistent with independent analysis by the Conference Board of Canada of budget pressures.

Premiers 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.

### Pharmacare

Any proposed national program must be designed and implemented in partnership with provinces and territories, as provinces and territories have experience and expertise in delivering pharmacare services to Canadians and are accountable for these services.

Premiers reiterated their support for the principle of asymmetrical federalism and that any jurisdiction that wishes to maintain full control over drug insurance should have the right to opt out unconditionally, with full financial compensation, should the federal government participate financially in the establishment of a national pharmacare plan. Quebec has already indicated its intention to follow that path and all provinces and territories reserve the right to do the same.

### Mental Health and Addiction

To reduce stigma and to learn from each other, premiers agreed to hold a provincial and territorial symposium on mental health and substance use with the aim to further spur innovation and collaboration among governments, ministries and non-governmental organizations.

### Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)

Premiers said over the coming year, provinces and territories will prioritize work to:

- identify and address outstanding impediments to labour mobility.
- align regulatory approaches in a number of priority areas.
- advance further liberalization of trade in alcoholic beverages.
- review party-specific exceptions in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- cooperate on aligning future regulations in emerging areas.

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## ...Canada's premiers

Premiers agreed to an immediate amendment to the CFTA to enable the narrowing or elimination of exceptions and called on the federal government to adopt this amendment. By the end of 2019, each government will conduct a full review of its own specific exceptions, and called on the federal government to do the same.

Premiers prioritized five additional and significant areas of work and committed to completing reconciliation agreements in the following areas by the end of 2019:

- construction codes.
- energy efficiency standards for household appliances.
- aquaculture site marking requirements.
- upholstered and stuffed articles regulation.

### Corporate Registries.

Premiers announced the introduction of a reconciled, integrated system for extra-provincial corporate registration, starting first in western provinces and expanding across the country.

Premiers said progress continues towards incorporating rules for financial services into the CFTA in a manner that offers each province and territory the same or better treatment than that which Canada offers its international trading partners. Premiers directed responsible ministers to reach an Agreement-in-Principle by December 2019. Provinces and territories are also committed to bringing cannabis for non-medical purposes under the agreement. They directed ministers to prioritize this work once all provinces and territories have finalized their regulatory models.

### Reconciling Regulation

Premiers instruct all responsible ministers to prioritize and follow through on the implementation of regulatory reconciliation efforts. In addition to addressing existing regulations, premiers directed the responsible ministers to ensure regulatory coopera-

tion continues in emerging areas such as autonomous vehicles and mandatory entry-level training for truck drivers.

### Commercial Vehicle Safety

The premiers noted several jurisdictions have already made changes to improve transportation safety by implementing ambitious mandatory entry-level training for those seeking Class 1 licences.

A new minimum standard for commercial drivers will strengthen commercial vehicle safety on roads across Canada through the application of a consistent and reasonable approach. Premiers committed to exploring online programming options for the in-class portion of the training with the goal of making training more accessible for those seeking a Class 1 commercial license.

### Occupational Qualifications

Premiers tasked provincial and territorial labour market ministers to work toward mutual recognition of occupational qualifications. Premiers directed provincial and territorial ministers responsible for apprenticeship to continue pursuing apprenticeship mobility and identify other opportunities to encourage full participation in existing pan-Canadian initiatives.

Newcomers and foreign-trained Canadians must be able to get timely and fair assessments of their qualifications in order to find good well-paying jobs and participate fully in Canada's economy. Existing work on foreign qualifications recognition has provided meaningful progress on enhancing the timeliness and fairness of foreign qualification recognition processes. Premiers directed labour market ministers to develop a strategic plan that will enhance collaboration, and seek opportunities to improve timeliness, fairness and transparency of assessment processes for newcomers.

### Expanding International Trade and Relationships

Two proposed Council of the Federation led international missions

are under consideration. The first is a mission to key markets in the European Union to support further ratification of CETA and build on existing trade relationships. Premiers will also explore the opportunity to participate in next year's National Governors Association Winter Meeting.

### Economic Competitiveness and Responsible Resource Development

Premiers were unanimous in renewing their call for full implementation of the principle of "one project, one assessment." They again urged the federal government to employ transparent, predictable and consistent decision-making criteria that:

- respect the jurisdiction of provinces and territories, including exclusive jurisdiction for resource development, the robust regulatory capacity of jurisdictions, and cumulative impacts on provincial and territorial lands.
- balance consideration of direct project impacts.
- include clear engagement requirements throughout all phases of the impact assessment process, with particular recognition paid to engagements involving Indigenous peoples.
- provide details on expectations and operations of each phase of the assessment process.
- respect the role of joint management regimes relating to the offshore in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.
- adhere to rigorously managed time lines so that major projects stay on track and are not jeopardized due to unnecessary and costly delays.

Premiers emphasized the importance of directly involving provincial and territorial governments in the development of regulations and policies for the implementation of environmental assessment legislation so as to ensure certainty for all parties in the regulatory process.

The formal communiqués from the premiers 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-Jul-19	Mixcor Aggregates Inc.	Torque Communications	Lee Funke	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Executive Council, Alberta Transportation, Premier's Office

**Guideline or Directive: Guidelines for pits and surface materials.** Provide input to the government on its surface-material extraction program and policies to ensure appropriate regulatory practices are being applied to allow continued mining of sand and gravel resources. Guidelines should also take into consideration the need for approvals to be processed in a reasonable time frame. The full registration is [here](#).

10-Jul-19	This is an organizational lobbyist.	BILD Calgary Region Association	Brian Hahn, Grace Lui, Glenn Carroll, Beverly Jarvis, Kimber Higa	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, Service Alberta, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Seniors and Housing
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**Existing Legislation: Various.** Dialogue with Government will be on a variety of Legislation impacting the development, home building, construction, trades and building materials supplier industries. Lobbying activities may also focus on the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, Alberta Building Codes, the *Municipal Government Act* and mortgage rules for Alberta regulated financial institutions. Clear, transparent, efficient, effective consistent application of government policy toward a competitive development and building environment for Albertans.

**Program or Policy: Various.** Dialogue with Government maybe on a variety of policies and programs impacting the development, home building, construction, trades and building materials supplier industries. Lobbying activities may also focus on any policies or programs related to or affecting the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, Alberta Building Codes, the *Municipal Government Act* and/or mortgage rules for or mortgages provided by Alberta regulated financial institutions. Clear, transparent, efficient, effective consistent application of government policy toward a competitive development and building environment for Albertans.

**Guideline or Directive: Various.** Dialogue with Government may be on a variety of guidelines or directives impacting the development, home building, construction, trades and building materials supplier industries. Lobbying activities may also focus on any guideline or directive related to or affecting the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, Alberta Building Codes, the *Municipal Government Act* and/or mortgage rules for or mortgages provided by Alberta regulated financial institutions. Clear, transparent, efficient, effective consistent application of government policy toward a competitive development and building environment for Albertans

**Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Various.** Dialogue with Government will be on any proposed legislation which may impact the development, home building, construction, trades and building materials supplier industries. Lobbying activities may also focus on the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, Alberta Building Codes, the *Municipal Government Act* and mortgage rules for Alberta regulated financial institutions. Clear, transparent, efficient, effective consistent application of government policy toward a competitive development and building environment for Albertans.

The full registration is [here](#).

10-Jul-19	CSA Group	Hill+Knowlton Strategies	Sheila Wisniewski, Matt Wolf, Natalie Sigalet	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Premier's Office
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**Program or Policy: Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER).** With the government consulting stakeholders on the proposed TIER system, the goal is to speak of CSA Group's experience in greenhouse gas emissions tracking. The full registration is [here](#).

10-Jul-19	City of Edmonton	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	Nick Koolsbergen	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Community and Social Services, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Seniors and Housing, Premier's Office
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**Financial Benefit or Grant: Affordable Housing.** Securing provincial government support for affordable housing projects in Edmonton. The full registration is [here](#).

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## Recent Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
10-Jul-19	Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science	Impact Public Affairs	Huw Williams, Christian von Donat	Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p><b>Program or Policy: Medical Laboratory Services for Albertans.</b> To discuss with relevant stakeholders the recent changes to the future of Alberta's laboratory environment and proposed actions that would support patient care. The full registration is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>				
09-Jul-19	Alberta Irrigation Districts Association (AIDA)	Alberta Counsel	Jonathon Wescott, Pascal Ryffel, Bronte Valk, Zack Ziolkowski, Michelle Collins, Shayne Saskiw, Jenelle Saskiw	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p><b>Program or Policy: Support for Irrigation Projects in Alberta.</b> Educate relevant decision makers about the economic and environmental value of irrigation in Alberta  <b>Existing Legislation: Water Act.</b> Reducing regulatory and administrative burdens currently in existence in this legislation  <b>Existing Legislation: Irrigation Districts Act.</b> Reducing regulatory and administrative burdens currently in existence in this legislation.                      The full registration is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>				
08-Jul-19	Pfizer Canada Inc.	Loyalist Public Affairs	Chris Froggatt, Dan Mader	Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p><b>Program or Policy: Drug Benefit program.</b> Our focus is on increasing awareness of the value of innovative medicines, vaccines and biosimilars on the entire health care system, as well as contributions and positive impacts of the pharmaceutical industry in Alberta. In addition, we would like to support policies aimed at improving patients' access to Pfizer medications and vaccines. The full registration is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>				
08-Jul-19	This is an organizational lobbyist.	Canadian Council of Independent Laboratories	Muktha Tumkur	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Advanced Education
<p><b>Existing Legislation: Legislation which supports an Organization such as InnoTech Alberta.</b> We would like to collaborate with the Treasury Board and finance on how the province can better focus on research and development and innovation and not use tax payer dollars to compete with the private sector. There are also opportunities which can be considered to privatize InnoTech Alberta.  <b>Guideline or Directive: Guidelines and directives by government of Alberta which support an organization such as InnoTech Alberta, who receives government funding and competes with the private sector.</b> We would like to collaborate with the Treasury Board and finance on how the province can better focus on research and development and innovation and not use tax payer dollars to compete with the private sector. There are also opportunities which can be considered to privatize InnoTech Alberta.  <b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Financial benefit for an organization such as InnoTech Alberta, who receives government funding and competes with the private sector.</b> We would like to collaborate with the Treasury Board and finance on how the province can better focus on research and development and innovation and not use tax payer dollars to compete with the private sector. There are also opportunities which can be considered to privatize InnoTech Alberta.  <b>Program or Policy: Programs and policies which support an organization such as InnoTech Alberta, who receives government funding and competes with the private sector.</b> We would like to collaborate with the Treasury Board and finance on how the province can better focus on research and development and innovation and not use tax payer dollars to compete with the private sector. There are also opportunities which can be considered to privatize InnoTech Alberta.  <b>Decision: Decision by government of Alberta which support an organization such as InnoTech Alberta, who receives government funding and competes with the private sector.</b> We would like to collaborate with the Treasury Board and finance on how the province can better focus on research and development and innovation and not use tax payer dollars to compete with the private sector. There are also opportunities which can be considered to privatize InnoTech Alberta.  <b>Financial Benefit or Grant: Organization such as InnoTech Alberta is receiving public support and they are delving into private sector routine testing.</b> We would like to collaborate with the ministry of economic development, trade and tourism, and advanced education on how tax payer dollars could be better spent when Alberta focuses on research and development and innovation and does not undertake routine testing which competes with the private sector.  <b>Program or Policy: Policy with supports the InnoTech Alberta.</b> We would like to collaborate with the ministry of economic development, trade and tourism, and advanced education on how tax payer dollars could be better spent when Alberta focuses on research and development and innovation and does not undertake routine testing which competes with the private sector.                      The full registration is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>				

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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](#).

### Education

11 July 2019

#### Private Early Education Provider Being Shut Down

Education minister **Adriana Lagrange** announced Big Plans for Little Kids Ltd., an Early Childhood Services (ECS) operator in Calgary, will no longer be funded by the Alberta government following an external review.

The ECS operator was in breach of sections of the Education Grants regulation and requirements of the Funding Manual for School Authorities by misusing government grant funds.

Details are [here](#).

### Environment and Parks

9 July 2019

#### Seeking Industry Input on Technol-

#### ogy, Innovation

Environment minister **Jason Nixon** announced the provincial government will introduce a new regulatory regime for large industrial emissions that will reduce the threshold for penalties and reduce the charges to \$20 per tonne from \$30 per tonne.

The new scheme, called Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER), is slated to begin on January 1, 2020.

“This system is the centrepiece of our government’s new provincial climate strategy, to be released this fall, which will focus on innovative and practical solutions,” **Nixon** said.

Ministerial roundtables will be held over three days with representatives

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## Recent Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
05-Jul-19	Calgary Downtown Association	Hill+Knowlton Strategies	Sheila Wisniewski, Tim Moro, Matt Wolf	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p><b>Program or Policy: Economic policies.</b> The Downtown Calgary Association is seeking to work with government to understand its economic policies, particularly on taxation. The full registration is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>				
05-Jul-19	College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA)	New West Public Affairs	Monte Solberg, Michael Solberg, Matt Solberg, Sonia Kont, Sarah Painchaud	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p><b>Existing Legislation: Health Professions Act.</b> Support the CPSA's role in future consultation around the <i>Health Professions Act</i> as well as general profile raising activities.  <b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Bill 11, the Fair Registration Practices Act.</b> Support the CPSA's role in future consultation around Bill 11.                      The full registration is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>				
05-Jul-19	Bellatrix Exploration Ltd.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.	Philip Dewan, Amber Ruddy, Brad Lavigne	Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Energy Regulator
<p><b>Program or Policy: Red Tape Reduction.</b> To engage in discussions improving regulatory approval times and to recommend ways to increase certainty in application processes. Engagement will include discussions with the associate minister for red tape reduction.  <b>Legislative Proposal, Bill or Resolution: Explore Ways to Free Up Capital.</b> To engage in discussions examining opportunities to unlock capital in the natural gas sector, freeing up funding for exploration and job creation. Engagement will include discussions with the associate minister for natural gas.                      The full registration is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>				
05-Jul-19	Husky Oil Operations Limited	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.	Philip Dewan, Amber Ruddy, Brad Lavigne	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Energy Regulator
<p><b>Program or Policy: Curtailment.</b> To ease away from this policy and return to a free market position.  <b>Program or Policy: Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Fund.</b> To ensure it is designed in a way that meets the needs of industry including seeking equivalency under federal policy.  <b>Program or Policy: Red Tape Reduction.</b> To streamline processes and procedures and improve approval times for various projects and initiatives. The full registration is <a href="#">here</a>.</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

from the oil and gas, electricity, chemicals, fertilizers, minerals and metals, forest products, coal mines, landfills, food processors, agro-industry and distilling sectors. Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout July, including workshop sessions, webinars and one-on-one meetings.

Details are available [here](#).

9 July 2019

### Rewarding Responsible Ranchers with Longer Leases

Environment minister **Jason Nixon** announced ranchers who demonstrate exemplary care for public lands will be granted extended grazing leases for as long as 20 years under a new government policy.

Extended tenure for a high level of stewardship will come into effect in late fall 2019, and will be granted to ranchers who show exemplary care for Alberta's water, land and air resources.

In the coming months, government will release guidelines outlining what is considered exemplary stewardship, so all leaseholders will know what is expected.

Details are [here](#).

## Premier

10 July 2019

### Alberta Takes Bold Step to Increase Free Trade in Canada

While attending the meeting of Canada's Premiers in Saskatoon, Alberta premier **Jason Kenney** announced his province will unilaterally drop half of its exceptions to the 2017 Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). The exceptions are related to procurement including:

- ▶ procurement by the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Assembly Office and the Legislative Offices.
- ▶ procurement by Alberta Innovates.
- ▶ procurement by the Alberta Energy Regulator.
- ▶ procurement by the Alberta Electric System Operator.

▶ procurement by the Alberta Utilities Commission.

▶ procurement of goods purchased for representational or promotional purposes, and services and construction purchased for representational or promotional purposes outside of Alberta.

▶ procurement of local food under the Supporting Alberta's *Local Food Sector Act*.

▶ procurement of waste water treatment facilities.

▶ procurement for the production, transmission and distribution of renewable energy, other than hydroelectricity.

▶ the right to accord a preference in infrastructure procurements to bids that provide benefits to Alberta.

▶ procurement under exceptional circumstances for regional economic development purposes.

▶ notice of intention to create a Crown corporation which would be responsible for all infrastructure procurement by the provincial government and which would be subject to the Crown corporation procurement thresholds.

▶ the right to adopt or maintain any measure that is part of a framework of regional economic development.

**Kenney** made the move to show leadership on the need to reduce red tape and eliminate trade barriers under the CFTA.

Details are [here](#).

5 July 2019

### Spring Session Abounds with Benefits for Albertans

At the end of the Legislature's Spring Sitting, premier **Jason Kenney's** office released a list of the government's accomplishments during the seven-week session.

**Kenney** also noted Albertans' interest in the government's new red tape reduction website which is seeking ideas for deregulation.

"[It] has already been visited more than 10,000 times and led to nearly 1,800 ideas from Albertans on ways to improve government services and cut red tape," the statement said.

Details are [here](#). ☐