



AB Today – Daily Report August 23, 2019

Quotation of the day

“The pause is officially off. We are hitting the play button.”

*Education Minister **Adriana LaGrange** announces a review panel after her ministry paused the implementation of a new curriculum that has been in the works since 2009.*

Today in AB

On the schedule

The House is adjourned for the summer recess.

Education minister announces new advisory panel on curriculum

Education Minister **Adriana LaGrange** announced the appointment of an independent panel of experts to review and “enhance” a new curriculum for schools across Alberta developed under the previous government.

Speaking Thursday at St. Teresa of Calcutta School in Edmonton, LaGrange said the panel will be tasked with drafting an updated ministerial order on student learning with a focus on knowledge, skills and competencies students should have when they finish high school.

The panel will be chaired by **Angus McBeath**, a former Edmonton Public Schools superintendent. **Jen Panteluk**, the former CEO of Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories, will act as vice-chair.

While the panel includes members who previously worked in the kindergarten to Grade 12 system and post-secondary education systems, it does not include any current K-12 teachers.

The panel will report back to government with recommendations by December and, LaGrange said, public dialogue will begin in 2020.

“I am proud to move forward on two important commitments this government made to Albertans to strengthen our education system,” LaGrange said in a news release. “One is to broaden consultation on the curriculum review so that we are certain we get our future curriculum right. And the other is to replace the [current ministerial order](#) on student learning with one that ensures children have a strong foundation of essential skills and knowledge — something we heard loud and clear from parents.”

“We respect the hard work done thus far on Alberta’s K-12 curriculum, and we want to make sure we are taking the right approach for the right reasons for our children. Members of the curriculum advisory panel come to the table with diverse backgrounds and experiences that I believe will enhance the vision and direction for student learning in Alberta.”

The province’s curriculum has been undergoing changes since 2009, when then-education minister **Dave Hancock** announced tweaks including the introduction of “discovery learning.” The former NDP government began updating the curriculum for every primary and secondary school grade in the fall of 2016; a second draft of the new K-4 curriculum was finished in October 2018, but its rollout was put on hold following the provincial election.

Meanwhile, last week the UCP ended the government’s agreement with the Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) on curriculum development.

A memorandum of understanding, which appointed the ATA as the lead on the project for six years, was signed with the former NDP government.

The NDP condemned Thursday’s appointments, stating there is no representation from Indigenous or francophone perspectives on the panel, nor is there a timeline for the new curriculum to hit the classroom.

Janis Irwin, a former school teacher and principal who is now NDP MLA for Edmonton—Highlands—Norwood, said LaGrange has been unable to name a single problem with the new K-4 curriculum.

That new curriculum would have included financial literacy, changes to math and online safety updates.

“Alberta students are being deprived of the education they need to succeed in the modern world while the minister’s panel works through this poorly defined task with no clear objective,” Irwin said in a news release on Thursday.

(The full list of panel members is below.)

Today’s events

August 23 at 10 a.m. – Edmonton

Transportation Minister **Ric Mclver** will speak at the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) memorial sign ceremony on Highway 22, north of the Trans-Canada Highway.

August 23 at 11:30 a.m. – Edmonton

Lieutenant governor **Lois Mitchell**, Indigenous Relations Minister **Rick Wilson**, Edmonton Mayor **Don Iveson** and Treaty 6 Grand Chief **Wilton Littlechild** will hold a flag raising ceremony on Treaty No. 6 Recognition Day outside the Federal Building.

Topics of conversation

- Court documents filed with the Court of Queen’s Bench this week chronicle “kamikaze” UCP leadership candidate **Jeff Callaway**’s campaign went from nearly broke to, 48 hours later, receiving almost \$60,000 stuffed in envelopes that can be traced back to a business called Agropyron, CBC [reports](#).
 - The court documents show that Callaway approached his campaign manager **Jeff Davies**, who said the campaign was low on funds.
 - Davies agreed to meet with his friend and owner of Agropyron **Robyn Lore** in the lobby of Bankers Hall in Calgary outside the Royal Bank, Alberta Election Commissioner **Lorne Gibson** alleges in the documents.
 - Lore wired \$60,000 into Davie’s RBC account; the men then went into the bank branch to withdraw funds.
 - That cash was distributed to straw donors in order to circumvent rules against corporate donations.
 - Davies, Lore and Callaway have all received substantial fines from the election commissioner.

- Lawyers for the government and Alberta Union of Public Employees (AUPE) were in court on Thursday as the province sought a stay on the interim injunction granted against **Bill 9**, the *Public Sector Wage Arbitration Deferral Act*.
 - The judge at the Alberta Court of Appeal offered an expedited process, which all sides agreed to, meaning the appeal will be heard on August 29.

- Because AUPE won an injunction against **Bill 9**, which would have put off arbitration until after October 31, [arbitration went ahead](#) on the scheduled dates of August 7 to 9 and 12.
 - The arbitrator is currently reviewing agreements between the Government of Alberta its employees represented by AUPE, as well as Alberta Health Services.
 - The arbitrator will make the decision on whether employees should receive a wage increase. But, if the government is successful in the stay application before the arbitrator makes a decision, the process would be put on hold.
 - If the courts side against the government, the arbitrator will be able to announce the decision.
- Minister of Justice and Solicitor General **Doug Schweitzer** says he will take action after a report on the Edmonton Remand Centre’s workplace culture describes the environment as “like high school.”
 - In a [statement](#) to the *Edmonton Journal*, Schweitzer said he has directed his department to take “immediate action” to remedy the “serious problems” highlighted in the report.
 - The report was ordered by the previous NDP government in 2018. The new remand centre, which holds accused awaiting trial, opened in 2013 with an increase in staff from 300 to 806.
 - The report includes 60 recommendations.
- The *Globe and Mail* [published](#) a scathing editorial calling the UCP government’s two recently appointed panels — one on minimum wage and the other on supervised consumption sites — “political cover.”
 - “With a large majority in the legislature, Mr. [**Jason**] **Kenney** does not need to convene outside inquiries before enacting new laws and policies — except if he’s seeking political cover for controversial decisions,” the editorial states.
- The Alberta Federation of Labour is calling on the federal government to reject industry lobbying that would water down proposed protections to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.
 - The Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities proposed changes to the program that would shift from employer-specific permits to occupation-specific permits.
 - The AFL said the change would correct a power imbalance that exposes workers to abuse.
 - The AFL also warned groups like the Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association have lobbied the federal government to maintain the employer-specific permits.
 - “The employer-specific permits are popular with employers who want to maintain their access to low-wage labour,” said AFL president **Gil McGowan** in a news release. “The Temporary Foreign Worker Program should not be a subsidy program for these employers.”

- The president and CEO of the Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association was recently named to the province's sub committee on red tape reduction.

Funding announcements

Ministry of Environment and Parks

- The province announced \$7.6 million to the Cooperative Stormwater Management Initiative in Rocky View County to mitigate flooding. The funding was provided through the Alberta Community Resilience Program. The federal government also pitched in \$2 million for the project.

Appointments and Employments

Ministry of Education

- The province announced a new curriculum advisory panel to draft a ministerial order on student learning. The following members have been appointed to the board:
 - Chair **Angus McBeath**, former superintendent, Edmonton Public Schools;
 - Vice-chair **Jen Panteluk**, former president and CEO, Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories;
 - **Sharon Carry**, former president and CEO, Bow Valley College;
 - **Glenn Feltham**, president and CEO, NAIT;
 - **Paulette Hanna**, associate vice-president academic, Red Deer College, and former superintendent, Red Deer Catholic School Division;
 - **Keray Henke**, former deputy minister, Alberta Education;
 - **Martin Mrazik**, professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta;
 - **Andy Neigel**, CEO, Careers: the Next Generation;
 - **Miles Smit**, co-founder, Petrarch Institute;
 - **Amy von Heyking**, associate professor, Faculty of Education, University of Lethbridge;
 - **Nhung Tran-Davies**, founder, Children of Vietnam Benevolent Foundation, family doctor; and
 - **Ashley Berner**, deputy director, Institute for Education Policy John Hopkins School of Education.

Lobbyist registrations

If you are looking for further information on any lobbying registry, it is all public and easily searchable [here](#).

Consultants who registered as lobbyists from August 16, 2019 – August 22, 2019

- **Michael Solberg, Tristan Bray**, New West Public Affairs
 - **Clients:** Alberta Blockchain Consortium
- **Joanne Dobson, Jeremy Bruce**, Summa Strategies
 - **Clients:** Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping
- **Jonathon Wescott, Shayne Saskiw, Keith Pridgen, Rob Reynolds**, Alberta Counsel
 - **Clients:** Woodland Cree First Nation
- **Dimitri Pantazopoulos**, Maple Leaf Strategies
 - **Clients:** NBCUniversal Media LLC
- **Candice Laws, Rachel Wenger, Conor Mahoney**, Global Public Affairs
 - **Clients:** My Viva Inc.
- **Glenn Monteith, Conor Mahoney, Candice Laws**, Global Public Affairs
 - **Clients:** Edwards Lifesciences (Canada) Inc
- **Brian Senio, Elan Macdonald, Jason Ennis, Jordan Pinkster**, Global Public Affairs
 - **Clients:** Prince Rupert Port Authority
- **Rose Carter**, Bennett Jones LLP
 - **Clients:** AZERA Quality Surgical Solutions Inc.
- **Trisha Rinneard, Lauren Klammer, Nick Koolsbergen**, Wellington Advocacy Inc.
 - **Clients:** Motion Picture Association-Canada
- **Kevin McCarthy**, Exhort 3.13 Inc.
 - **Clients:** Enriched Academy
- **Kenneth Boessenkool**, KTG Public Affairs
 - **Clients:** Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists
- **Chris McCluskey**, Proof Inc.
 - **Clients:** eBay Canada Ltd.
- **Luke Ouellette**, 352654 Alberta Ltd.
 - **Clients:** Fire & Flood Emergency Services Ltd
- **Lisa Samson, Garry Keller**, StrategyCorp Inc
 - **Clients:** Imperial Oil Ltd.
- **Patricia Sibal**, Crestview Strategy
 - **Clients:** Canadian Urban Transit Research & Innovation Consortium

- **Amber Ruddy, Bradley Lavigne**, Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
 - **Clients:** Adapt Pharma Canada Ltd.

Organizations that registered in-house lobbyists from August 16, 2019 – August 22, 2019

- Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce
- AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)
- University of Alberta Students' Union
- Keyera Corp.
- Economic Development Lethbridge
- Gibson Energy Inc.
- Psychologists' Association of Alberta
- Business Council of Alberta
- Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd
- Alberta Students' Executive Council
- College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta
- Petroleum Tank Management Association of Alberta
- Construction Labour Relations - An Alberta Association
- Westmoreland Mining Holdings LLC
- The Co-operators Group Ltd.
- GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
- Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors
- Enbridge Inc.
- Eli Lilly Canada Inc.