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Alberta Scan

Issue 1112

week ending 20 September 2019

Micro...

Alberta is riddled with rumours of hundreds of millions of possible cuts brought to the provincial government by the United Conservative Party. Much of the focus has been on this fiscal year (2019-2020) which is almost over. But in the midst of this uncertainty, the province has been announcing new micro funding for government programs.

One example is additional funding for Women Building Futures, a non-profit that provides industry recognized training and affordable housing for women looking to enter the construction, maintenance and driving industries.

This week, advanced education minister **Demetrios Nicolaides** announced the province will provide \$2.5 million a year over the next four years to help support the organization.

Details are [here](#).

Meanwhile, health minister **Tyler Shandro** announced \$3 million in government funds will be used to add as many as 30 new nurse practitioners in Alberta's health care system.

Nurse practitioners are experienced registered nurses with advanced education. They can see and diagnose patients in the community, can provide annual checkups, order tests and prescribe medications.

Shandro said they will work with patients from under served populations, increasing access to care for Indigenous people, adolescents with mental health needs and for people with chronic conditions, such as diabetes or cardiac disease. Some will also be hired to work on weekends and evenings, when medical clinics are traditionally closed.

The nurse practitioners fit the model of using least cost alternatives to deliver government services as advocated by the **MacKinnon** report. Rather than fee-for-service, the nurse practitioners are paid by salary, reducing the cost of services usually delivered by doctors.

Some facts provided by the health department:

- ▶ there are about 600 nurse practitioners registered in Alberta.
- ▶ about 73 per cent – or around 445 nurse practitioners – work in hospitals, acute care facilities or specialty out-patient clinics.
- ▶ about 50 nurse practitioners currently work in Primary Care Networks, collaborating with health-care teams of physicians and other health-care professionals, such as pharmacists, dieticians, psychologists and social workers.
- ▶ with new government funding for the Primary Care Network Nurse Practitioner Support Program, 30 additional full-time nurse practitioners will be working in primary care settings.
- ▶ there are 41 Primary Care Networks in Alberta.

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

potential size and locations of the three reservoir options, the scope of the conceptual assessment and project time lines.

Details and dates are [here](#).

Finance

13 September 2019

Public Service Act (sections 11 and 14).

Cabinet amended Order in Council numbered OC 1/2016, the Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials Salary Schedules Order, by striking out and substituting the Appendix, including extending the expiry date to December 31, 2019. OC 162/2019.

The amendment freezes deputy minister salaries to the end of 2019.

It also sets the following salary ranges for senior officials to December 31, 2019:

► Salary Range A [Minimum \$213,476 - Maximum \$286,977]; associate deputy minister of intergovernmental relations, associate deputy minister, natural gas; associate deputy minister, solicitor general.

► Salary Range B [Minimum \$156,257 - Maximum \$217,589]; chief advisor on negotiations, controller, deputy clerk of executive council and deputy secretary to cabinet, managing director, communications and public engagement office.

Government House Leader

13 September 2019

Government Seeks to Reconvene the Legislature on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019 to Continue Fulfilling Promises to Albertans.

Government house leader **Jason Nixon** announced the Legislature will reconvene for its fall sitting earlier than previously announced.

Nixon said moving up the date from October 22 to October 8 will allow the UCP "to fulfil government's ambitious legislative agenda."

The announcement is [here](#). The fall

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Child and Youth Advocate of Alberta

9 September 2019

Child and Youth Advocate Releases Special Report on Pepper Spray and Segregation in Alberta's Young Offender Centres

Del Graff, Alberta's Child and Youth Advocate, released a report on the use of pepper spray and segregation in the province's young offender centres, making four recommendations on reducing the spray's use and increasing accountability in the centres.

The recommendations are:

- pepper spray should only be used in exceptional circumstances, if there is an imminent risk of serious physical harm to a young person or others.
- the Young Offender Branch should review and update their policies and standards to reduce the number of hours a young person can be segregated, ensure that they receive appropriate programming and supports, and improve conditions within segregation.
- the Young Offender Branch should develop an impartial complaints and review process for young people. An impartial multi-disciplinary committee that includes external stakeholders should hear complaints and reviews, and young people should have access to a supportive adult.
- the Young Offender Branch should monitor and publicly report all incidents of pepper spray use and segregation annually.

Details are [here](#).

Energy

17 September 2019

Minister Savage to Meet With Energy Council

Energy minister **Sonya Savage** is attending the quarterly meeting of The Energy Council in Anchorage, Alaska, Sept. 19-21.

The Council is an organization of elected legislators from 13 energy-producing U.S. states and two Canadian provinces.

The total cost of the three member delegation is about \$13,300.

Details are [here](#).

Environment and Parks

19 September 2019

Engaging With Saskatchewan on Common Issues

Alberta environment and parks minister **Jason Nixon** met with Saskatchewan environment minister **Dustin Duncan** in Edmonton.

Nixon said in a statement the meeting topics ranged from fish and wildlife management to ways in which the two provinces can work together to negotiate a fairer deal with Ottawa on environmental issues.

The statement is [here](#).

19 September 2019

Assessing Bow Basin Water Management Options

The provincial environment department is hosting a series of information sessions on its work to assess three potential flood and drought storage projects on the Bow River upstream of Calgary.

Project details presented at the information sessions will include the

...government

sessional calendar is [here](#).

Premier

13 September 2019

Premier Heads to U.S. to Boost Investment and Jobs

Premier **Jason Kenney** was in the United States and New Brunswick

this week, promoting investment in Alberta.

Kenney spoke to international investors promoting Alberta as a place that's open for business. He said he introduced Alberta's Job Creation Tax Cut to the global investment community to emphasize that Alberta is the lowest-taxed jurisdiction in Canada, and will be more competitive than 44 U.S. states by 2023. He also highlighted

the government's efforts to reduce red tape and regulatory burdens to speed up approvals and make Alberta "a key global investment destination."

Audio of an hour-long mid-trip news conference is [here](#).

In New Brunswick, **Kenney** will deliver a keynote address on the future of Canada's energy industry and Alberta's leadership in eliminating unnecessary barriers to free trade within

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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
17-Sep-2019	Wal-Mart Canada Corp.	FleishmanHillard HighRoad Corp.	Angela Carmichael, Jessica Faddegon	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Health, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
<p>Program or Policy: Invest Alberta. Discuss Walmart Canada's assets in Alberta and opportunities for further investment. Program or Policy: Red Tape Reduction. Discuss the implications of this policy initiative and its anticipated impact vis-a-vis retailers. Program or Policy: The Local Food Council. Discuss Walmart Canada's interest in supporting the local food industry. Program or Policy: The Pharmacy Funding Framework. To learn more about the framework in relation to Walmart Canada's pharmacy operations in Alberta. Program or Policy: Minimum Wage Expert Panel. To offer Walmart Canada's expertise as a resource should it be helpful to the Panel. Program or Policy: Energy Efficiency Alberta. Review opportunities to promote energy efficiency in Walmart Canada's Alberta operations as part of a broader strategy to reduce Walmart Canada's carbon footprint.</p>				
13-Sep-19	Sun Life Financial	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Michael Lohner, Melissa Caouette	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Health, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Health Services, InnoTech Alberta Inc., Alberta Innovates
<p>Program or Policy: Retirement and Pensions. Engage with public office holders regarding Alberta's financial services sector, including retirement planning, public and registered savings and pension plans, and annuities. Program or Policy: Healthcare. Engage with public office holders regarding Alberta's financial services and healthcare sectors, including insurance sector regulation, prescription drug affordability and accessibility, and health innovation. We also seek to educate public office holders about Sun Life Financial's operations in Canada, including philanthropic activities.</p>				
12-Sep-19	Telesat Canada	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Michael Lohner, Melissa Caouette	Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Service Alberta, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
<p>Program or Policy: Internet Connectivity, Broadband, Rural Connectivity. Work with government to promote and support Canada's digital economy, specifically in regards to advancing rural broadband.</p>				
11-Sep-19	Lyft, Inc.	2139107 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Crestview Strategy (West))	Michael Lohner, Melissa Caouette, Marina Banister	Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
<p>Program or Policy: Ride-sharing. To open discussions with MLAs, cabinet ministers and staff to discuss what an appropriate transportation regulatory regime needs to be to effectively manage, encourage and monitor ride-sharing within the broader sharing economy.</p>				
09-Sep-19	Scleroderma Society of Ontario	Temple Scott Associates Inc.	Ian Anderson, Scott Munnoch	Executive Council, Premier's Office
<p>Guideline or Directive: Society Awareness. To raise awareness of the Society within government ranks and will actively be looking to meet with ministers and senior staff in Premier's Office, Health, Long Term Care, Children, Community and Social Services.</p>				

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...government

Canada at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's annual general meeting and convention.

The estimated cost of the trip for the premier, four political staff, one public servant and a security detail is \$46,000.

Details of the trip, including the itinerary, are [here](#).

12 September 2019

Amnesty International: Statement from Premier Kenney

Premier **Jason Kenney** released a letter sent to **Alex Neve**, secretary general of Amnesty International Canada after the secretary general was critical of Alberta's war room in an open letter.

"Honestly, it can't be easy being the long-time head of Amnesty Interna-

tional Canada (AI), stuck in annoyingly free and peaceful Canada, having to work yourself up into high dudgeon to denounce a democratically-elected government peacefully standing up for its citizens," the letter begins, getting even more sarcastic as it goes on.

The original Amnesty International letter is [here](#).

Kenney's letter is [here](#).

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September Lobbyist Registrations, continued

Registered	Organization	Lobby Firm	Lobbyists	Government Targets
09-Sep-19	Sanofi Pasteur Limited	The Capital Hill Group	David Angus, Lucas Veiga	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Executive Council, Alberta Health, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Seniors and Housing
Program or Policy: Pharmaceuticals and Supplementary Health. Improved access to pharmaceuticals, the impact of health policy on life sciences, research, investment and economic development, increased awareness of the value of pharmaceuticals in improved patient outcomes and overall savings to the healthcare system.				
06-Sep-19	Siksika Nation	Alan Hallman & Associates Inc.	Alan Hallman	Alberta Labour and Immigration, Premier's Office
Existing Legislation: Labour Relations Code. Review of the <i>Labour Relations Code</i> to see if there is any area we can either delete, amend or provide additional legislation to allow First Nations to deliver quality and affordable health care in Alberta.				
05-Sep-19	Dow Chemical Canada ULC	Longview Communications Inc.	Hugh McFadyen, Evan Legate	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Premier's Office
Program or Policy: Alberta Natural Gas Production and Storage Policy. Highlight the impact of the government's policies - or policy options - with respect to natural gas production and storage on Alberta's petrochemical industry and investment decisions by that industry.				
04-Sep-19	Zurich Canada	Tactix Government Relations and Public Affairs Inc.	Alan Young	Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
Program or Policy: Energy Policy. Zurich will engage government on policy matters affecting Alberta's insurance market, and with regard to Zurich's updated policy on offering insurance coverage for Alberta's energy industry.				
03-Sep-19	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	HLJ Consulting Services	Heather Jones	Alberta Environment and Parks
Program or Policy: Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER). Achieve a policy that is fair and reasonable for our oil and gas industry				
03-Sep-19	The Association of Mountain Parks Protection & Enjoyment	Global Public Affairs	Randy Pettipas, Kristin Anderson	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
Program or Policy: Red Tape Reduction - Tourism and Hospitality. Participating in Industry sector round tables (Tourism and Hospitality) red tape reduction initiative. Engaging with government to support and enhance tourism within Alberta mountain parks.				
02-Sep-19	AMGAS Services Inc.	Prairie Sky Enterprises Ltd. (Prairie Sky Consulting)	Jeff Sterzuk	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Energy Regulator
Program or Policy: Oil and Gas Conservation Rules. To understand the Alberta Government's interpretation of the oil and gas conservation rules as they pertain to the safe and effective handling of gases produced from oil wells, to better understand any intention that the government may have with respect to revising the existing policy or rules and to provide input for consideration.				
Guideline or Directive: Directive 60. To understand the Alberta Energy Regulator's (AER) interpretation of the oil and gas conservation rules as they pertain to the safe and effective handling of gases produced from oil wells, to better understand any intention that the government may have with respect to revising the existing policy or rules and to provide input for consideration.				
Guideline or Directive: Directive 60. AER approval of the use of AMGAS' new technology for controlling gas emissions.				

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

Transportation

12 September 2019

Taking Action to Reduce Road Test

Wait Times

Transportation minister **Ric McIver** announced the government is seeking applications for qualified individuals from outside of government to be licensed to deliver road tests.

Details are [here](#). ☐

Regulations Scan...

The provincial cabinet passed the following regulations this week. Copies of the cabinet decisions

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

Finance

13 September 2019

Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions Compensation Act (sections 5 and 23).

Cabinet passed the Salary Restraint Amendment Regulation. OC 163/2019.

Cabinet extended the date under which the Salary Restraint Regulation (AR6/2018) applies to December 31, 2019 from September 30, 2019.

► to accept the recommendation that the professional allowance for Provincial Court Judges and Masters be increased from \$3,750 per year to \$4,500 per year, effective April 1, 2017.

Cabinet said it rejected the annual salary increases recommended by the Commission because:

► the 2017 Commission failed to adequately consider certain drastic negative economic changes since the date of the previous commission’s report.

► the 2017 Commission failed to give proper weight to certain expert economic evidence and thus in reaching its conclusions significantly understated the severity and duration of the negative effects of the recent recession.

► the 2017 Commission failed to give proper weight to the level of increases or decreases provided to other programs and persons funded by the government.

► the 2017 Commission reached an unsupported conclusion that maintaining the current judicial salary would endanger the financial security of judges.

► the 2017 Commission did not consider evidence of relative tax burden when comparing total judicial compensation between provinces.

► new economic and fiscal evidence available since the release of the 2017 Commission Report justifies a departure from the 2017 Commission salary recommendation.

The Order in Council is [here](#). ☐

Justice and Solicitor General

13 September 2019

Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers 2017 Compensation Commission Regulation (AR 62/2017) (section 8).

Cabinet passed the Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Compensation Order. OC 161/2019.

Under the Order, cabinet made the follow decisions:

► to reject the recommendation that the annual salary for Provincial Court Judges and Court of Queen’s Bench Masters be increased, for the reasons set out in the Schedule.

► to accept the recommendation that the age of eligibility for part-time service be changed to 55 from the current eligibility age of 60.

► to accept the recommendation that it is unnecessary for the Government to pass a regulation containing the provisions of the judicial indemnity.