



AB Today – Daily Report September 27, 2019

Quotation of the day

“We will all need to share in the recovery before we can share in the prosperity.”

*Municipal Affairs Minister **Kaycee Madu** delivers his first address to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association annual general meeting in Edmonton on Thursday. He said municipalities have been mirroring the province’s fiscal restraint.*

Today in AB

On the schedule

The House is adjourned for summer recess until Tuesday, October 8.

Premier watch

Premier **Jason Kenney** [went for a hike](#) in Banff, before giving a speech to the Banff Global Business Forum on Thursday.

On Friday, Kenney will be back in Edmonton to address the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association for the first time since his swearing-in.

AUMA 2019: Highlights from the bear-pit Q-and-A session with ministers

Mayors, reeves and councillors representing mid-to-large-sized cities in the province grabbed the mic at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association annual general meeting at their first shot to ask questions of the new United Conservative Party cabinet.

AUMA members represent 85 per cent of Alberta's population in cities, towns, villages, summer villages and specialized municipalities.

Here are some highlights:

Sustainable municipal funding and alternative revenue raising

Top of mind for municipalities at AUMA was a continuation, or replacement, for Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding, which municipalities use for infrastructure projects.

Municipal Affairs Minister **Kaycee Madu** said he is currently reviewing taxation levels and recognizes that stable, predictable funding is a priority for municipalities.

One mayor suggested block funding as a way to reduce red tape. Madu said there were no plans to bring in block funding, but he's open to the suggestion.

Another municipal representative said he wants clarification on taxation on for-profit agriculture business.

Madu said the province has reasons why farming is exempt, but did not provide details.

The minister also refused to commit to a review of education taxes, which are currently collected via municipal property taxes on behalf of the province.

Extended Producer Responsibility policy and landfills

Environment and Parks Minister **Jason Nixon** said he is not ready to make an announcement on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), a strategy which factors environmental impact in product pricing, but that a policy is in the works. EPR puts the onus on producers of waste to collect waste and increase the recyclability of products and their components.

When asked whether the province is willing to help support efforts to derive energy from waste (such as biogas), Nixon said experts are looking into regulatory frameworks, but solutions must make economic sense.

Cannabis excise tax revenue

When Finance Minister **Travis Toews** was asked about municipalities getting a share of federal cannabis excise revenue, he said he is working with the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis commission to see whether money can flow to cities to cover their added enforcement costs, but that cannabis sales have not yet generated enough revenue to be doled out.

Driver training requirements

Transportation Minister **Ric McIver** was asked whether he would lift the new requirements for mandatory entry-level requirements (MELT) for Class 1 and Class 2 drivers brought in by the NDP following the deadly bus crash where the Humboldt Broncos team was hit by an Alberta truck driver who ran a stop sign.

McIver said he will not lift MELT requirements on Class 1 drivers since they will soon be mandatory for truck drivers crossing into the United States, but he is open to reviewing requirements for school bus drivers.

Regional Economic Development funding

Economic Development, Trade and Tourism Minister **Tanya Fir** was asked what support there will be for regional economic development.

Fir said the UCP government wants to get out of the way of business.

Today's events

September 27 at 9 a.m. — Edmonton

Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women Minister **Leela Aheer** will speak at Arts Education Day at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

September 27 at 10 a.m. — Edmonton

Premier **Jason Kenney** will give a speech at the AUMA convention at the Edmonton Convention Centre.

September 27 at 11 a.m. — Calgary

The UCP's legislative review committee will meet in the McDougall Centre.

September 27 at noon — Edmonton

Fort McMurray—Wood Buffalo MLA **Tany Yao** will speak at Orange Shirt Day at Edmonton City Hall on behalf of Indigenous Relations Minister **Rick Wilson**.

September 27 at 1 p.m. — St. Albert

Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women Minister **Leela Aheer** will speak at Colours 'n' Canvas Art Studios.

September 27 at 1:30 p.m. — Edmonton

Edmonton's Global Climate Strike march, which will start at Churchill Square, will end with a rally and speeches on the legislature grounds from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Students from the University of Alberta and MacEwan University will march from their respective campuses to the legislature.

September 27 at 5 p.m. — Edmonton

Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women Minister **Leela Aheer** will speak to the African Canadian Professional Network Association at the Clareview Community Recreation Centre.

Weekend events

September 28 — Calgary

Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women Minister **Leela Aheer** will speak at cSPACE, King Edward at 9:30 a.m., Association de la Communaute Haitienne de Calgary at 11 a.m., the Springboard Dance Collective at the Vendome Café at 1 p.m., the Burc Intercultural Centre at 3 p.m., and the Fukienese Association of Calgary board of directors inauguration at Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant at 6 p.m.

September 29 at 1:30 p.m. — Sylvan Lake

Aheer will continue a packed weekend with an address at the Sylvan Lake Municipal Library.

Topics of conversation

- Founder and former Reform Party leader **Preston Manning** [warns](#) Western separatism, particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta, is on the rise and federal leaders should not ignore the populist movement.
 - Speaking to the Canadian Club of Calgary on Wednesday, Manning said alienation is growing over a lack of pipelines and that the anger could worsen if federal leaders dismiss it.
- The average wage in Alberta shrank by 0.7 per cent in July, the second month in a row of contraction after a 1.7 per cent reduction in average wages in June. But year-over-year wages are up 0.5 per cent compared to July 2018, according to Statistics Canada.
- The province is again increasing its oil production curtailment cap, this time by 20,000 barrels per day over two months. The energy ministry is lifting the limit from 3.79 million barrels per day in October to 3.8 million barrels per day in November and 3.81 million barrels per day in December.
 - In August, the government announced it was changing its curtailment policy to exempt producers on the first 20,000 barrels per day they produce, double the previous limit. Now only 15 producers in Alberta are subject to the curtailment, down from 29.
 - Meanwhile, the province is working out a deal to allow companies who increase takeaway capacity by rail to be exempt from curtailment limits.

- The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees says there is a list of 1,600 workers in private health-care facilities looking to unionize, and the Alberta Labour Relations Board just confirmed nursing care staff at AgeCare’s SkyPointe seniors’ facility in Calgary successfully voted to join the union.
 - “There are 17 other private facilities in Alberta where a total of nearly 1,600 members have turned to AUPE in the last 18 months and are seeking a first contract,” **Karen Weiers**, vice-president of AUPE, said in a news release.
 - “The core issues are always the same. These workers love their residents and want to be able to provide quality care, but operators, whether in for-profit or non-profit facilities, are often operating short of staff and make decisions based on their bottom lines rather than care. They offer no accountability for their decisions or how they spend the money they get from the government to care for our seniors.”

News briefs — Governmental

Ministry of Justice

Justice Minister and Solicitor General **Doug Schweitzer** announced additional dates on his rural crime tour, which has been extended for a month.

Back by “popular demand,” Schweitzer added eight dates and locations and the ministry said it is likely more will follow.

Since September 5, Schweitzer has been criss-crossing the province for a series of rural crime town hall meetings with residents, business owners, rural crime watch groups and officials.

The province also has an [online survey](#) for residents to provide feedback until October 31.

Appointments and employments

Alberta Health Services

- Former PC health minister and former Alberta Party leader **Stephen Mandel** was named to Alberta Health Services’ new board.
 - Sundre-based business owner **Heidi Overguard** was also appointed to the board.

Alberta Human Rights Commission

- **David Findlay** and **Patrizia C. Valle** were appointed members of the Alberta Human Rights Commission for a term set to expire on September 24, 2022.

Labour Relations Board

- **Jeremy Schick** has been appointed board member and vice-chair of the Labour Relations Board until September 24, 2022, while **Nancy Schlesinger** is now designated as commissioner and was re-appointed as vice-chair until September 16, 2024.

Ministry of Advanced Education

- **A. Stewart Hanlon, Spilios Kousinioris and Ashif Merani** were appointed to the board of governors of the Alberta University of the Arts until September 24, 2022. Three previous appointments have been rescinded.
- **Michael Marcotte** has been appointed chair of Lethbridge College until September 24, 2022. Marcotte will also be on the college's board.

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 September 20, 2019 – September 26, 2019

- **Scott Riddell**, Riddell Consulting Inc.
 - **Clients:** BHE Canada L.P.
- **Monte Solberg**, New West Public Affairs
 - **Clients:** Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance, Kinetitor
- **Philip Dewan**, Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
 - **Clients:** Adapt Pharma Canada Ltd.
- **Nick Koolsbergen**, Wellington Advocacy Inc.
 - **Clients:** Esper Regulatory Technologies Inc., SHAD Canada, The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company
- **Lee Funke**, Torque Communications
 - **Clients:** Oil Sands Community Alliance
- **Jason Bakalech**, Safe Roads Highway Products Alberta Inc.
 - **Clients:** Western Canadian Road Side Safety Association

Organizations that registered in-house lobbyists from September 20, 2019 – September 26, 2019

- Sundial Growers Inc.
- ConocoPhillips Canada Resources Corp.
- USD Terminals Canada II ULC
- The Students' Union, The University of Calgary
- Servier Canada Inc.
- LaFarge Canada Inc.

- Aviva Canada
- West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd.
- Syncrude Canada Ltd.
- Alberta Federation of Labour
- Sheet Metal Workers International Association Local #8