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Alberta Scan

Issue 1113

week ending 27 September 2019

Limits...

Speaking to a room of local elected officials worried about funding cuts in the upcoming provincial government budget municipal affairs minister **Kaycee Madu** talked about cuts to red tape instead.

Information about the cuts will have to wait until the provincial budget is introduced on October 24, a date announced this week by premier **Jason Kenney**.

Madu reminded the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association of several regulatory changes the government has made since coming to power that impacted them including:

- ▶ merging the application processes of Designated Industrial Requisition Credit and the Provincial Education Requisition Credit to eliminate the need to submit the same required information twice.
- ▶ increasing the Designated Industrial Property Tax Requisition cancellation threshold, so if a municipality's total requisition is less than \$1,000, they will not need to incur administrative costs and red tape to process small requisition amounts.
- ▶ no longer requiring municipalities to submit a spending plan to receive their 2019 Municipal Sustainability Initiative operating allocation. At the end of the year, municipalities will simply report on how they used the funding.
- ▶ changes that will result in quicker review and approvals of applications, making it easier to administer grant-funded projects that support local engineering and contracting jobs.

Details are [here](#).

Transparency. The Legislature's Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship is inviting individuals and organizations to make oral presentations about the *Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act*.

The presentations are to be made at the committee's next meeting on Friday, October 4, 2019.

Details are [here](#).

Curtailment. Energy minister **Sonia Savage** announced oil production limits will increase by 10,000 barrels per day in November and December, above the October limit.

In August, government announced an enhanced curtailment policy. Under the updated policy, the first 20,000 barrels per day a company produces are generally exempt from production limits, up from 10,000 under the previous policy. As a result, only 15 of more than 300 producers in Alberta are subject to the updated production limits – a decrease from 29 producers under the previous policy.

Details, including monthly production limits since January of 2019 are available online [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](#).

provincial parks. This exception allowed Alberta to restrict grazing permits from being held by persons residing outside Alberta and corporations with majority ownership residing outside of the province. Alberta is amending the policy to foster an open and competitive marketplace. Alberta will maintain our current legislation and policies prohibiting foreign purchases of public and protected lands.

► *guiding and outfitting for wildlife hunting*. The exception allowed the province to restrict permits and licences in this sector to Alberta residents only.

► *power purchase agreements*. Power purchase agreements helped protect

...continued next page

Justice and Solicitor General

26 September 2019

More Public Input Sought on ‘Talking Rural Crime’

Justice minister **Doug Schweitzer** extended his tour on rural crime for another month to include more town halls and an online survey.

The online survey is [here](#).

An initial schedule of town halls includes:

- Monday, Sept. 30: Medicine Hat
 - Tuesday, Oct. 1: Okotoks
 - Wednesday, Oct. 2: Fort Saskatchewan
 - Wednesday, Oct. 9: Camrose
 - Tuesday, Oct. 15: Leduc
 - Tuesday, Oct. 15: Maskwacis
 - Friday, Oct. 25: Rocky Mountain House
 - Tuesday, Oct. 29: St. Paul
- Details are [here](#).

Premier

21 September 2019

Another Bold Step on Free Trade

At a Canadian Chamber of Commerce meeting in New Brunswick, Alberta premier **Jason Kenney** announced the province is doing away with several of its exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA).

The exceptions removed include:

► *limitations on the sale of public lands*. This exception permitted Alberta to restrict ownership of public lands in the province. Alberta’s requirements in these areas continue to be non-discriminatory and apply equally to Canadians anywhere in the country. Alberta will maintain our current legislation and policies prohibiting foreign purchases

of public and protected lands.

► *limitations on the sale of controlled lands*. This exception allowed Alberta to restrict ownership of controlled land in the province. Alberta’s requirements continue to be non-discriminatory and apply equally to Canadians anywhere in the country.

► *dispositions of Crown land, including*

Appointments Scan...

The 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](#).

Energy

26 September 2019

Mines and Minerals Act (sections 5 and 36).

Cabinet passed the Ammonite Shell (Expiry Date Extension) Amendment Regulation. OC 170/2019.

Cabinet passed the Oil Sands Tenure Regulation, 2010 (Expiry Date Extension) Amendment Regulation. OC 171/2019.

Justice and Solicitor General

26 September 2019

Family Law Act (section 55.8).

Cabinet passed the Child Support Recalculation Program Amendment Regulation. OC 173/2019.

26 September 2019

Fatality Inquiries Act (section 55).

Cabinet passed the Fatality Inquiries (Expiry Date Extension) Amendment Regulation. OC 174/2019.

26 September 2019

Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act (section 8).

Cabinet passed the Reciprocating Jurisdictions Amendment Regulation. OC 175/2019.

Municipal Affairs

26 September 2019

Municipal Government Act (section 602.02).

Cabinet passed the Athabasca Regional Waste Management Services Commission Amendment Regulation, adding the summer village of Sunset Beach to the Commission. OC 165/2019.

Cabinet passed the Bonnyville Regional Water Services Commission Amendment Regulation, specifying the Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87, the Town of Bonnyville, and the Cold Lake First Nations are members of the Commission. OC 166/2019.

Cabinet passed the Oldman River Regional Services Commission Amendment Regulation adding the Village of Duchess to the Commission. OC 167/2019. □

...government

privately owned Alberta power companies from government subsidized competitors in other jurisdictions.
 ► *retaliation in the alcoholic beverages sector.* Alberta is eager to work cooperatively with its CFTA partners to open liquor markets to Alberta's liquor products, rather than resort to retaliatory measures. This exception has

never been used and Alberta will retain the ability to bring legal and trade challenges against other parties in violation of the constitution or the CFTA.
 ► *renewable energy.* Though it was originally introduced to expand renewable energy development in Alberta, protectionist policies are not necessary for Alberta to develop successful renewable energy programs and projects.
 ► *retaliation in the energy sector.* This exception provided a mechanism to

deal with jurisdictions that inhibit trade in the energy sector. Alberta will use advocacy, negotiation and the CFTA dispute resolution guidelines to convince other governments to open their energy sectors, rather than relying on retaliatory actions. This exception has never been used and does not negate Alberta's ability to use Bill 12 to maximize the value of our natural resources.
 Details 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
26-Sep-19	Enlighten Innovations Inc., and its division Field Upgrading	CSG Canadian Strategy Group Inc. (also operating as Crestview Strategy (Alberta))	Hal Danchilla, Melissa Caouette, Marina Banister	Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
Financial Benefit or Grant: Government Funding. Seeking funding for Field Upgrading's sulphur removal DSU upgrading technology.				
25-Sep-19	Kineticor	New West Public Affairs	Monte Solberg, Matt Solberg, Michael Solberg, Sarah Painchaud, Sonia Kont, Tristan Bray	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Energy, Executive Council, Alberta Legislative Assembly, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office, Alberta Investment and Management Corporation (AIMCo).
Financial Benefit or Grant: AIMCo. Successfully lobby for funding from AIMCo to support the construction of Kineticor's Three Creeks Power Plant project. Additionally, establish relationships and raise Kineticor and the Three Creeks Power Plant project's profile with the government.				
24-Sep-19	SHAD Canada	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	Nick Koolsbergen	Alberta Education
Financial Benefit or Grant: Grant Request for SHAD Canada. Seek funding from the government of Alberta to help recruit and financially support Alberta students in the SHAD Program.				
24-Sep-19	Western Canadian Road Side Safety Association	Safe Roads Highway Products Alberta Inc.	Jason Bakalech, Danita Harty	Alberta Transportation
Guideline or Directive: Roadside Design Guide. Our intention is to inform and educate ministry on the advances in roadside safety, with the ultimate goal to encourage review of current guidelines, thus improving roadside safety standards, practices, and enforcement.				
24-Sep-19	Esper Regulatory Technologies Inc	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	Nick Koolsbergen, Trisha Rinneard, Lauren Klammer	Service Alberta, Executive Council, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
Program or Policy: Red Tape Reduction. Esper is seeking to demonstrate its regulatory reform software to the Alberta government, and potentially then enter into an agreement to assist the Alberta Government in its red tape reduction mandate.				
24-Sep-19	The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company	Wellington Advocacy Inc.	Nick Koolsbergen	Executive Council, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Premier's Office
Existing Legislation: Insurance Act. To discuss amendments to financial services legislation & regulations under the <i>Insurance Act</i> . Specifically, amendments to define the term premium in the context of life insurance contracts and harmonize with the law in other provinces.				
20-Sep-19	BHE Canada L.P.	Riddell Consulting Inc.	Scott Riddell	Alberta Energy
Program or Policy: Government of Alberta priorities related to energy and infrastructure. We are discussing the government of Alberta's priorities with regard to energy resources, markets, infrastructure development and investment.				

Alberta Scan

Alberta Scan is an electronic newsletter in Adobe Acrobat format. *Scan* is published weekly when the Alberta Legislature is in session and when events warrant between sittings by:

Word of Mouth Communications,
Box 51056, Highlands Post Office,
6525 118 Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta,
T5W 1G0

GST Registration Number
R136164241RT0001

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Subscriptions to *Alberta Scan* are \$250 plus GST (\$12.50) for one year. Information on bulk subscriptions is available on request. Please make cheques payable to Word of Mouth Communications.

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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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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](#).

Advanced Education

26 September 2019

Post-secondary Learning Act (sections 16, 32.3 and 56).

Cabinet appointed **Stewart Hanlon**, **Spilios Kousinioris** and **Ashif Merani** as members of The Board of Governors of Alberta University of the Arts, each for a term to expire on September 24, 2022.

Cabinet rescinded the appointments of **Kay Dholoo**, **Sondra Musa**, and **Dale Turri** as members of The Board of Governors of Alberta University of the Arts. OC 168/2019.

26 September 2019

Post-secondary Learning Act (sections 44 and 56).

Cabinet appointed **Michael Marcotte** as a member and designated him as chair of The Board of Governors of Lethbridge College for a term to expire on September 24, 2022. OC 169/2019.

Health

26 September 2019

Two Members Added to Alberta Health Services Board

Health minister Tyler Shandro announced the appointment of **Stephen Mandel** and **Heidi Overguard** to board of directors of the Alberta Health Services board.

Mandel is a former mayor of Edmonton, Alberta minister of health and leader of the Alberta Party in the 2019 provincial election.

Overguard is an independent

businesswoman and community leader. Her appointment is intended to bring a rural community perspective to the board.

The AHS board now includes six women and six men. **Mandel** and **Overguard** will serve three-year terms.

Details are [here](#).

Justice and Solicitor General

26 September 2019

Alberta Human Rights Act (section 15).

Cabinet appointed **David Findlay**, and **Patrizia Valle** as members of the Alberta Human Rights Commission, each for a term to expire on September 24, 2022. OC 172/2019.

Labour and Immigration

26 September 2019

Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act (section 14); Labour Relations Code (sections 8 and 95.3).

Cabinet appointed **Jeremy Schick** as a member and cabinet designated him as a vice-chair of the Labour Relations Board for a term to expire on September 24, 2022.

Cabinet designated **Nancy Schlesinger** as Commissioner, reappointed her as a member and designated her as a vice-chair of the Labour Relations Board for a term to expire on September 16, 2024.

Cabinet rescinded the appointment of **Gwen Gray** as a member of the Labour Relations Board, rescinded her designation as a vice-chair of the Labour Relations Board and rescinded her designation as Commissioner. □