



AB Today – Daily Report October 4, 2019

Quotation of the day

“Some people call these activists. I call them anti-farming militants. Not protestors, but trespassers and bullies.”

*Premier **Jason Kenney** announces Alberta will increase penalties for trespassing on agricultural land — including possible jail time — to ward off animal rights demonstrators.*

Today in AB

On the schedule

The house reconvenes on Tuesday, October 8.

Premier Watch

After a morning press conference at the Jumbo Valley Hutterite Colony near Fort MacLeod, Premier **Jason Kenney** [attended](#) the opening of a [new \\$430-million](#) Cavendish Farms potato processing plant outside of Lethbridge.

The premier will be in the Greater Toronto Area this weekend, campaigning in the vote-rich suburbs outside Canada’s largest city for federal Conservative Party of Canada Leader **Andrew Scheer**.

Province to ‘lay down the law’ against animal rights protestors

The Alberta government will introduce new legislation this fall to crack down on protests on farms and agricultural land.

By hiking fines for trespassers and introducing jail sentences, Premier **Jason Kenney** said Wednesday that the move will protect farmers from “militant” animal rights activists.

Speaking at the Jumbo Valley Hutterite Colony in Fort Macleod, he announced the measure alongside Agriculture and Forestry Minister **Devin Dreeshen** and Justice Minister **Doug Schweitzer**.

On Labour Day, the colony’s turkey barn was the subject of an animal rights demonstration — those involved called it a [protest](#), a characterization Kenney disagrees with.

“This was an illegal invasion of private property,” he said. “This was a dangerous act of trespassing. This was harassment of law-abiding, hard-working Alberta farmers who are following the laws and following the regulations, living an often challenging life to help feed the rest of society.”

The RCMP has not laid charges in relation to the Labour Day incident, though said it remains under investigation.

The proposed legislative changes will affect three existing laws.

The *Animal Health Act* would be altered so farmers could sue for any potential bio-security breaches caused by protestors. In the event of a bio-security breach, trespassers would be fined \$15,000 for the first offence, and for subsequent offences would be fined \$30,000 and could face imprisonment of up to one year.

The province also plans to bring in fines under the *Petty Trespass Act* of up to \$10,000 for trespassing, and \$25,000 for subsequent offences with the possibility of up to six months imprisonment. Organizations could be fined up to \$200,000.

Finally, the government’s proposals will amend the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act*, increasing the maximum compensation awarded by the court from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

Kenney said people have a right to freedom of speech and to criticize the agriculture industry, but they can’t do it by trespassing.

He also said the government will introduce additional measures for individuals who “misrepresent” themselves in order to get footage of agricultural operators, a reference to a technique occasionally used by animal rights advocates who take jobs at slaughterhouses or other agriculture facilities to expose their practices.

One of the province’s 50 newly hired Crown prosecutors will be dedicated to handling agricultural offences, according to the premier.

Dreeshen said Alberta has the “highest standards” of animal welfare. Dreeshen, himself a farmer, said farms are not only workplaces but also homes.

“Our farmers and the public have made it clear that they expect a stronger culture of enforcement,” Dreeshen said. “It’s not a joke, it’s not a stunt, it’s not entertainment when these out-of-control activists trespass on farms, disrupt people’s lives, damage businesses and put the health of animals at risk.”

Lawyer and Animal Justice executive director **Camille Labchuk** slammed the “ag-gag” law, noting similar legislation has been struck down as unconstitutional in the United States.

“Citizens are rightfully outraged that governments have failed to police animal welfare conditions in the farm industry,” Labchuk said in a news release. “In 2019, animals deserve far better than the fox guarding the hen house. There are no welfare standards, no public inspections, and no meaningful oversight for the tens of millions of animals confined behind closed doors on farms. Instead of this unprecedented crackdown on compassionate citizens, Alberta should create laws to protect farmed animals from abuse and suffering.”

She added trespassing is already an offence, and called the additional fines “astronomical.”

Instead, she called on the province to bring in regulations to set higher welfare standards for confined animals and regulate public inspections of those farms.

Today’s events

October 4 at 10:30 a.m. — *Calgary*

UCP MLA for Calgary—South East **Matt Jones** will speak at the grand opening of the South Health Campus Pediatric Emergency Pod.

October 4 at 11 a.m. — *Edmonton*

Alberta Public Interest Commissioner **Marianne Ryan** and Alberta Auditor General **Doug Wylie** will hold a joint news conference to discuss findings from their [investigations](#) into activities around the International Centre of Regulatory Excellence and the Alberta Energy Regulator.

October 4 at 11:15 a.m. — *Calgary*

Indigenous Relations Minister **Rick Wilson** and Lieutenant Governor **Lois Mitchell** will attend the 15th annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil and March at Stephen Avenue Mall. Wilson will also attend a Sisters in Spirit vigil in Edmonton Friday evening; UCP MLA for West Yellowhead **Martin Long** will attend a similar vigil in Hinton.

October 4 at noon — *Lethbridge*

The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees will hold an information picket at the University of Lethbridge in protest of potential cuts to public services.

October 4 at 12:45 p.m. — Red Deer

Education Minister **Adriana LaGrange** will speak at the grand opening of Westpark Middle School.

Weekend events

October 5 at 1: 30 p.m. — Claresholm

Livingstone—Macleod UCP MLA **Roger Reid** will speak at the grand opening of the Claresholm Museum's Louise McKinney exhibit.

October 5 at 4 p.m. — Edmonton

Service Alberta Minister **Nate Glubish** will speak at a celebration for Guinea Independence Day at the North Glenora Community Hall.

Topics of conversation

- The Calgary-based Manning Centre, headed up by former Reform Party leader **Preston Manning**, donated \$312,450 to a group of third-party advertisers operating under the Canada Proud and Strong organization, according to Elections Canada filings [reported](#) by the *Canadian Press*.
 - Alberta Proud is an affiliate of the organization, which spreads its political message through social media posts on Instagram and Facebook.
- Finance Minister **Travis Toews** announced the province [will hold](#) two telephone town halls on the upcoming fall budget. Bucking the trend of provincewide consultations, the UCP government will hold a telephone town hall for northern Alberta on October 7 and another on October 9 for southern Alberta.
 - The government is also taking feedback online until October 11.
 - The province will deliver the budget on October 24.
- Justice Minister and Solicitor General **Doug Schweitzer** [will be](#) formally requesting the Alberta Review Board add victim input statements to its release hearings.
 - Schweitzer's comments follow a [report from CBC](#) on the review board's decision to allow **Matthew de Grood** out of the Alberta Hospital in Edmonton for community visits.
 - De Grood, who was found not-criminally responsible for the stabbing deaths of five people at a 2014 Calgary house party, will be able to travel within the province for up to a week at a time as long as he is accompanied by a

responsible adult. He will also be authorized for unsupervised outings within the city and, if supervised, he could spend up to three days in Edmonton.

- Schweitzer also wrote he'll be advocating for Ottawa to review its standards of release policy.
- The NDP held the last of its town hall budget consultations in Calgary on Thursday evening in preparation for a shadow budget the party will release in the fall.
- Interprovincial migration to Alberta is trending upwards for the first time since the 2015 downturn, according to Statistics Canada. *The Calgary Herald* [has the details](#).
- More than halfway through Canada's federal election campaign, it has become clear the leaders of the four major parties are [steering clear of Conservative-friendly Alberta](#).
 - Liberal Leader **Justin Trudeau** made one stop in Edmonton during the first week of the campaign; CPC Leader **Andrew Scheer** made sole stops to Calgary and Edmonton; Green Party Leader **Elizabeth May** showed face in Calgary during a September climate rally; and NDP Leader **Jagmeet Singh** has not visited at all.
 - Many pollsters projecting the province will go entirely blue on October 21.

Funding announcements

Ministry of Environment and Parks

- Alberta Environment and Parks is providing operational in-kind support for a [water monitoring project](#) on the North Saskatchewan River. The project will receive \$1 million in annual funding until 2021 from Epcor.

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 27, 2019 – October 3, 2019

- **Randy Pettipas**, Global Public Affairs
 - **Clients:** Caregivers Alberta, Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, Amazon.com, Inc.
- **Truman Severson**, Content Consulting, Inc.
 - **Clients:** Chinatown Multi-Level Care Foundation

- **Philip Dewan**, Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
 - **Clients:** Canopy Growth Corporation

- **Brent Korte**, Korte Consulting
 - **Clients:** Adapt Pharma Canada Ltd.

Organizations that registered in-house lobbyists from September 27, 2019 – October 3, 2019

- Sharp Insurance
- Council of Alberta University Students Executive
- Husky Energy Inc.
- Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors
- Retail Council of Canada
- CNOOC Petroleum North America ULC
- NOVA Chemicals Corporation
- TransCanada PipeLines Limited
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
- Book Publishers Association of Alberta
- NAIT Students' Association
- Chevron Canada Limited
- Petroleum Services Association of Canada
- Motor Dealers' Association of Alberta
- The Association of Architects
- The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company
- Gibson Energy Inc.