



## AB Today – Daily Report October 9, 2019

### Quotation of the day

“The way we translate ‘wai wah’ in Albertan is git er’ done.”

*Premier **Jason Kenney** riffs on a Tsimshian phrase — [meaning](#) “just do it” — used by Eagle Spirit Consortium president **Calvin Helin**.*

### Today in AB

#### On the schedule

The house will convene at 9 a.m.

MLAs are expected to debate **Bill 14**, Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act, at second reading.

Service Alberta Minister **Nate Glubish** is expected to introduce **Bill 15**, Real Estate Amendment Act, which will tweak the province’s oversight of the real estate sector.

#### Monday’s debates and proceedings

Indigenous Relations Minister **Rick Wilson** kicked off the fall session with the introduction of **Bill 14**, Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act. The bill was granted first reading and debated at second reading. (More on the legislation below.)

### New bill will create Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

The Alberta government took the first step Tuesday towards creating a first-of-its-kind Crown corporation that will give loans and loan guarantees to support Indigenous natural resource and infrastructure projects.

Premier **Jason Kenney** and Indigenous Relations Minister **Rick Wilson** made the announcement alongside Indigenous leaders at the site of Leduc #1, where the province's oil industry started.

"For too long, our Indigenous people have not benefited fully from the enormous value of the resources in Alberta," Kenney said, ahead of the tabling of **Bill 14**, Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act.

If passed, **Bill 14** would allow Indigenous groups to apply to the new Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) for access to \$1 billion in loan guarantees, direct lending, equity investment, joint ventures, partnerships and other investment capital. The initial capital will be deployed between 2019 and 2023.

**Bill 14** classifies Indigenous groups as those defined by the federal *Indian Act*, the provincial *Métis Settlements Act*, Métis groups defined in regulation, other entities approved by the minister, and entities fully owned by those groups. That means the Eagle Spirit Consortium, a group in northern B.C. headed by **Calvin Helin**, would be eligible for funding.

While the bill creates the new Crown corporation and defines who can access its funding mechanisms, much of the program's implementation will be done through regulation.

For example, what qualifies as a natural resource project will be determined by forthcoming regulations and, Kenney said, could include hydroelectricity or forestry in addition to oil and gas projects.

Wilson said board membership for the AOIC will be competency-based and have no Indigeneity requirement, but they are hoping to hire representatives from Treaty 6, 7, and 8 and Métis people.

Applications for AIOC board positions close on Friday, and the board is expected to begin its work early next year.

Treaty 8 Grand Chief **Arthur Noskey**, who stood alongside Kenney at the announcement, said some of the nations within Treaty 8 are in favour of oil and gas development, but he will be watching how the government handles the AIOC.

"If it's about us, not without us," Noskey said at the news conference on Tuesday.

Noskey said the new corporation must not conflict with the sovereignty of treaty jurisdiction and the developments it funds must be made with future generations in mind.

“Treaty 8 territory is home to the largest known reservoir of crude bitumen in the world and the largest of three major oilsands projects,” Noskey said. “Many nations are in support of the energy sector, but as stewards of the land and water, we also have obligations. We must look at the sustainable resource development in balance.”

Noskey added his people are not looking for another “[Indian agent](#)” to put barriers on First Nation success.

Indian Resource Council president and CEO **Stephen Buffalo**, Métis Settlements General Council president **Herb Lehr**, Enoch Cree Nation Chief **Billy Morin** and Eagle Spirit Energy Holding Ltd. president **Calvin Helin** also participated in the program’s unveiling.

In August, the UCP announced a \$10-million legal fund for pro-energy First Nations.

## Today’s events

**October 7 at 9 a.m.** — *Edmonton*

The UCP government’s Resources and Sustainable Development committee will meet in the cabinet room of the legislature.

**October 7 at 3 p.m.** — *Edmonton*

The UCP government’s Jobs and Economy committee will meet in the cabinet room of the legislature.

**October 7 at 3:30 p.m.** — *Edmonton*

Service Alberta Minister **Nate Glubish** will hold a news conference on **Bill 15**, Real Estate Amendment Act.

**October 7 at 7 p.m.** — *Camrose*

Justice Minister **Doug Schweitzer** will speak on the rural crime tour at the Norseman Inn.

## Topics of conversation

- NDP Opposition Leader **Rachel Notley** told reporters on Tuesday her party is seeking legal opinion on the UCP’s proposed modifications to the standing orders that would limit debate and allow the government to call a final vote on bills at the end of a legislative session, regardless of what stage they are at — a proposal teased by Government House Leader **Jason Nixon** Monday.

- “We think that these standing orders, when taken together, amount to the most undemocratic rules governing any legislature in the country,” Notley said.
- The standing order change Nixon described is not yet on the order paper.
- The office of Environment and Parks Minister **Jason Nixon** confirmed the government’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45 megatonnes will be based off the federal government’s 2016 Environment and Climate Change forecast. The UCP said the reduction would be achieved by 2030.
  - The government’s plan to reduce GHGs was announced in conjunction with plans for legislation to create the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction fund.
  - Those numbers do not account for any reduction in GHGs as a result of selling Alberta-made green technology to other jurisdictions, which Premier **Jason Kenney** has said will be a part of the program.
- Advanced Education Minister **Demetrios Nicolaides** told reporters ahead of question period that post-secondary students are looking for predictability in tuition costs. When asked whether there would be a cap on tuition increases, he said details will be forthcoming in the budget.
- Clad in a custom-made “Orders of the Day/Ordres du jours” t-shirt, Speaker **Nathan Cooper** posted an [explanatory video](#) breaking down the order paper and announced he will be tweeting the order paper each day.

## **New briefs — Non-governmental**

### **NDP slams appointment of Peter Singh to Alberta Heritage Trust Fund committee**

The NDP is crying foul over the appointment of UCP MLA **Peter Singh** (Calgary—East) to the Alberta Heritage Trust Fund committee, which oversees the province’s savings account from non-renewable resource revenue.

The NDP’s Democracy and Ethics critic **Heather Sweet** noted that Singh is being investigated for fraud and bribery by Elections Commissioner **Lorne Gibson** over claims he gave out gifts to voters during his nomination race. Singh’s Calgary auto body shop was also raided in April as part of the RCMP’s ongoing investigation of the 2017 UCP leadership race.

“If this is who the UCP have chosen to put in charge of diversifying our economy and funding services that Albertans rely on, we should all be very concerned,” Sweet said in a news release. “Was there honestly nobody else they could appoint? Maybe an MLA that isn’t under investigation for fraud and bribery? This is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.”

Singh has previously denied any wrongdoing.

## Question Period

NDP MLAs spent the first day of the fall session grilling the UCP government on jobs and the economy, with a series of questions on the recent corporate tax cut, which they say blew a \$4.5-billion hole in the budget.

### NDP kickoff

- NDP Opposition Leader **Rachel Notley** kicked off question period by asking the premier to admit the corporate tax cut isn't creating jobs.
  - She followed up by saying there were 13,000 jobs lost in the oil and gas sector and Albertans signed up for jobs to be created now — not 10 years from now.
  - “When will the premier admit that his plan was only ever about lining the pockets of wealthy shareholders?”
- Premier **Jason Kenney** quoted economists who endorsed the tax plan and said his government was given the largest electoral mandate in the province's history.
  - “Is it any wonder that with anti-business, class warfare, socialist rhetoric like that that the NDP drove tens of billions of dollars of business investment out of this province and with it created a jobs crisis unprecedented since the 1930s?” Kenney responded.

### Other NDP questions

- Opposition MLAs also asked about layoffs at a private care facility, wage rollbacks to health-care providers, lack of clarity on education funding, cuts to municipal funding, downloading of costs of policing onto rural municipalities, what recommendations will be implemented first from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report, and the status of grant funding for tech companies.

### UCP friendly questions

- UCP backbencher MLAs asked ministers softball questions about the natural gas industry, parental rights for choice in education, why Alberta hasn't saved as much as Norway from its natural resources, and what the government is doing to stop “eco-terrorism.”