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# Alberta Scan

Issue 1088

week ending 1 February 2019

## Orphaned...

This week intense pre-election campaigning by the NDP and the UCP continued with a focus on Calgary and region. Overshadowing the activity was a decision by Canada's Supreme Court on wells abandoned by the industry. As the end of the month approached, the government made adjustments to its oil curtailment program.

UCP leader **Jason Kenney**, speaking in Calgary to the Calgary Real Estate Board, called for federal lending policies through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to exempt Alberta. Stress tests currently in place in Alberta are twice the expected rise in interest rates in an Alberta market that has been flat since 2015, **Kenney** said.

"The Alberta NDP has done and said nothing to fight for Albertans hurt by this unfair policy imposed by their **Trudeau** Liberal Government allies," **Kenney** said in a partisan attack on **Rachel Notley's** government. "As soon as the Legislature convenes, we will present a motion calling on the federal government to exempt Alberta from the CMHC stress test, and if elected we will build a coalition with other provinces whose economy has been hurt by this Liberal policy."

*Orphaned wells.* The Supreme Court of Canada ruled January 31 that bankrupt oil companies must clean up their projects before paying other creditors.

The court overruled Alberta lower court decisions that said the insolvent companies could pay other creditors first, in effect leaving the environmental clean up bill for others to pay, allowing the companies to walk away from the responsibility. The Supreme Court decision is [here](#).

Energy minister **Marg McCuaig-Boyd** said Albertans are better protected now from irresponsible operators in the system.

Her news conference reacting to the decision is [here](#).

Alberta's Orphan Well Association (OWA) said it is taking time to understand its impact.

"This decision has potential impacts to not only the OWA but to the regulatory and financial community as well as oil and gas producers and will take time for those involved to determine next steps" the association [said](#).

The Pembina Institute said the decision is welcome for reinforcing the idea that polluters are responsible for their clean up obligations but noted the assets available are often insufficient to cover the full cost.

That usually leaves taxpayers with the bill.

"Over the last five decades Alberta's clean up obligations have steadily grown, and now include over 80,000 inactive oil and gas wells, facilities, and pipelines as well as 1.4 trillion litres in fluid oil sands tailings," Pembina analyst **Jodie McNeill** said. "The government of Alberta officially estimates it will cost \$57 billion to cleanup these sites, though there are ongoing concerns about the accuracy of this figure. Only \$1.2 billion is currently held in securities to protect the public."

The Pembina reaction is [here](#). ▢

## Government Scan...

**T**he 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](#).

### Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC)

25 January 2019

#### Improvements to Alberta's Cannabis Supply Support Additional Retail Licences

AGLC announced it will issue ten additional retail cannabis licences because supply challenges have shown some improvement.

Issuing a limited number of new licences still effectively manages the cannabis supply shortage by ensuring there is sufficient inventory available for current retailers, while allowing some applicants in the queue to open their stores, AGLC said.

The additional licences will be issued to the first 10 applicants that have met all licensing conditions after the decision was made to stop issuing licences. AGLC has maintained a queue of approved retailers on a first-in, first-out basis to ensure an equitable

process.

Details are available [here](#).

### Culture and Tourism

31 January 2019

#### Alberta's First Artist in Residence Revealed

Culture minister **Ricardo Miranda** appointed Edmonton's **Lauren Crazybull** as the province's and Canada's first Artist in Residence.

She will:

- travel to communities across Alberta to promote the importance of artists and the arts.

- attend cultural events like Alberta Culture Days and the Lieutenant Governor's Art Awards.

- create a painted collage of Alberta using portraits and Indigenous languages to highlight Indigenous stories across the province.

Details are [here](#).

26 January 2019

#### New Community Supports Help Combat Racism

Culture minister **Ricardo Miranda** announced 33 organizations will receive anti-racism community grants to create greater awareness and cross-cultural understanding to reduce racism.

The Alberta government is providing more than \$600,000 through two funding streams.

Details are [here](#).

### Energy

30 January 2019

#### *Oil and Gas Conservation Act (section 10); Oil Sands Conservation Act (section 20); Responsible Energy Development Act (section 68).*

Cabinet passed the Curtailment Rules Amendment Regulation. OC 34/2019.

The regulation puts in law changes to the government's limit on oil production.

In response to new storage data, Alberta is increasing production in February and March to 3.63 million barrels per day, which is a 75,000 barrel per day increase from the January limit of 3.56 million barrels per day.

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

...continued next page

## 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
29-Jan-2019	Genstar Development Co	Tom Olsen Public Affairs Inc	Thomas Olsen	Alberta Legislative Assembly
<b>Decision: Setback from landfill site impacting residential development.</b> Arranging a meeting(s) with an MLA to assist client in achieving a variance on the above decision.				
26-Jan-2019	Prosper Petroleum Ltd.	Alberta North Projects Ltd.	Christopher Ghazouly	Alberta Energy
<b>Decision: Order in Council - Rigel Project as recommended by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) submitted to the energy minister on August 15, 2018 for the Order in Council.</b> To proceed with an Order in Council related to the AER decision on <i>Oil Sands Conservation Act</i> application No. 1778538 for the Rigel Project.				
25-Jan-2019	MaXfield	New West Public Affairs	Sonia Kont, Michael Solberg, Monte Solberg	Alberta Energy, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Legislative Assembly

**Program or Policy: Premier's procurement of rail cars to address oil differential and market access issue.** MaXfield is seeking information on an eventual Request for Proposals (RFP) and how the company can be successful in winning that RFP.

# Alberta Scan

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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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## ...government

### Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO)

31 January 2019

#### Canada's Purchase of the Trans Mountain Pipeline – Financial and Economic Considerations

The federal Parliamentary Budget Officer issued a report estimating that the Trans Mountain Pipeline and the Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP) have a value of between \$3.6 billion and \$4.6 billion.

The study also estimates that the peak annual impact on real gross domestic product and employment due to the construction of the TMEP would be 0.11 per cent and 7,900 jobs in 2020; this would decline thereafter.

The study is [here](#).

### Premier

30 January 2019

#### Keeping Thousands of Calgarians Moving

Premier **Rachel Notley** and Calgary mayor **Naheed Nenshi** officially signed an agreement on funding the Green Line LRT project.

The province has promised \$1.7 billion towards the estimated \$3 billion

project, funded through the carbon levy. Leader **Jason Kenney** has promised to eliminate the tax if the UCP is elected.

"The Green Line is made possible through provincial funding raised through the Climate Leadership Plan," **Notley** said in a statement. "Revenue from the plan, including the carbon levy, is reinvested to grow and diversify Alberta's economy and rebated to Albertans. Support for green infrastructure projects, like transit, are included."

Details are [here](#).

### Transportation

29 January 2019

#### Protecting Calgary from Future Floods

Transportation minister **Brian Mason** announced the provincial government acquired 188 hectares (465 acres) of land needed for the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir (SR1).

When completed, the project will work in concert with the Glenmore Reservoir in Calgary to contain the same volume of water that resulted in the 2013 flood.

Discussions are ongoing with landowners, First Nations, including the Tsuut'ina Nation, and Rocky View County. Details are [here](#). □

## Appointments Scan...

**T**he 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](#).

### Workers' Compensation Board (WCB)

18 January 2019

#### New WCB-Alberta President and CEO

The WCB board of directors appointed **Trevor Alexander** as WCB-Alberta's new president and CEO, effective March 18, 2019.

**Alexander** has 32 years of workers' compensation experience, most

recently as the senior vice-president, operations, of WorkSafeBC.

"I believe strongly that WCB-Alberta is on a service journey to a more worker-centric approach to the system," said **Alexander**. "I'm excited about leading this journey to serve the workers and employers of this province, while maintaining a financially sustainable system."

Details are [here](#). □

# THE IMPACT REPORT

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## EYES ON CALGARY

**Premier Notley** and the NDP spent an intensive week rallying support for their cause. The all-Calgary blitz shows the party has every intention of trying to compete in the conservative stronghold.

On January 19, the political arm of Alberta's government launched *RachelNotley.ca* – which will be the undoubted home of the NDP public relations effort during the coming election campaign. The NDP logo features smallish, in the top right corner. Bolder on the site is a new colour for the party: blue.

The NDP orange remains – but for political watchers, the new addition is notable. It's softer than the all-business navy hue adopted by conservative parties in the past. But it's blue, and a not-so-subtle nod to the party's efforts to court soft conservative voters.

Following the launch of the website, which deliberately trades on Notley's personal popularity rather than that of her party, recent events suggest the party's efforts to court with Calgarians in particular.

The first was the NDP cabinet retreat, which took place in the city over Monday and Tuesday. Ministers emerged with attack-style messaging that featured prominently this week in stump-style speeches and media interviews offered by Notley and members of cabinet. A retreat-style event for the larger caucus were also held in Calgary.

Tuesday's announcement is of a major step forward in a reservoir to protect Calgarians from floods demonstrates the party's focus on the urban centre. It's also a well-timed wedge and not-so-subtle message about "protecting Calgary"

– literally and politically.

The flood mitigation project has been a politically sensitive issue and one that is opposed by many in the upstream watershed of Calgary's two main rivers. While rural landowners have been lobbying MLAs to oppose it, constituents in Calgary's inner-city ridings are urging their representatives to support the project, lest major areas of the city continue to be exposed to the decimating flood risk.

On Wednesday, Premier Notley joined **Finance Minister Joe Ceci** and **Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi** to pump up Calgary's Green Line. It's a \$3 billion major transit initiative that the NDP have tied to carbon tax revenue. Again, the timing was strategic – demonstrating the tangible benefits of the carbon tax with the vocal mayor at her side.

Events came to a crescendo Thursday, when Notley delivered a speech to a gathering of party supporters. "Fighting for Calgary" was the title of the event, which plays into the broader "fighting" theme of Notley's pending provincial campaign.

Recent polling shows gains from 2015 risk having gone stale. It's no surprise to see the party redoubling the efforts as all roads back to a majority for the NDP will lead through Alberta's major urban centers. The question now is whether **Jason Kenney** and the UCP counter with an Edmonton blitz of their own.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Premier Rachel Notley** announced plans in partnership with the City of Leduc and the Edmonton International Airport to build a new interchange to connect 65 Avenue with the airport's Perimeter Road. The \$600 million project is said to generate roughly 4,000 new construction jobs and contribute to 4,300 permanent, multi-sector jobs.

Notley also announced details of government's commitment to the Calgary Green Line. It intends to move 60,000 Calgarians between areas north of the downtown core and the southeast of that city. The agreement between the Government of Alberta and City of Calgary locks in \$3 billion in funding, with equal portions from the provincial and federal governments. The funding will flow over eight years to support Stage 1 of the Green Line.

On the curtailment front, as oil storage levels draw down and the value of Alberta's oil increases, Notley announced the province is increasing the limit on oil production in February and March to 3.63 million barrels per day, which is a 75,000-barrel per day increase from the January limit of 3.56 million barrels per day.

**Culture and Tourism Minister Ricardo Miranda** has named Lauren Crazybull as the province's and Canada's first Artist in Residence. Crazybull is a Blackfoot Dene painter, illustrator and documentarian. Recently, her focus has been working with youth through art. Crazybull's work is informed by several years of justice- and Indigenous-related advocacy. Miranda also announced \$600,000 in grants to 33 organizations to help combat racism. The grants are a key recommendation of the government's Taking Action Against Racism report.

**Environment and Parks Minister Shannon Phillips** has rescheduled previously canceled public information sessions over the Bighorn Park. They are now scheduled for Drayton Valley, Edmonton, Red Deer and Sundre, between today and early next week. Participants will have the opportunity to talk to program staff, view maps, and submit feedback directly at more than 30 information stations.

## MONTHLY MINISTERS' OFFICE EXPENSES

Ministry	Expenses (Dec/18)	Fiscal Year to Date
Innovation and Advanced Education	\$4,400	\$23,800
Agriculture and Forestry	\$3,200	\$39,300
Childrens Services	\$2,100	\$35,000
Community and Social Services	\$3,900	\$48,000
Culture and Tourism	\$3,800	\$49,200
Economic Development and Trade	\$2,900	\$89,300
Education	\$6,900	\$45,100
Energy	\$6,200	\$39,700
Environment and Parks	\$7,500	\$54,900
Health	\$3,300	\$56,100
Indigenous Relations	\$1,200	\$46,300
Infrastructure	\$3,800	\$35,700
Justice and Solicitor General	\$13,900	\$32,800
Labour	\$3,600	\$22,800
Municipal Affairs	\$2,500	\$32,900
Office of the Premier	\$52,000	\$295,600
Seniors and Housing	\$2,900	\$22,700
Service Alberta	\$6,200	\$28,400
Status of Women	-\$1,000	\$3,400
Transportation	\$3,100	\$35,300
Treasury Board and Finance	\$6,900	\$27,600

## 2019 ELECTION

The next election will be called in the spring of 2019. Below is a list of nominated candidates (coloured) and those vying for nominations Information current as of January 31.

### Total candidate nominations to date:

Alberta Party: 62/87

Liberal Party: 14/87

New Democratic Party: 46/87

United Conservative Party: 79/87

Riding	Party	Nominee/ Candidate(s)
Airdrie-Cochrane	NDP	Steven Durrell
	UCP	Peter Guthrie
Airdrie-East	AP	Alex Luterbach
	UCP	Angela Pitt
Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock	NDP	Colin Piquette
	UCP	Glenn van Dijken
Banff-Kananaskis	AP	Brenda Stanton
	NDP	Cameron Westhead
	UCP	Miranda Rosin
Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul	AP	Glenn Anderson
	NDP	Kari Whan
	UCP	David Hanson
Brooks-Medicine Hat	AP	Jim Black
	UCP	Michaela Glasgo
Calgary-Acadia	AP	Lana Bentley
	LIB	Lorissa Good
	UCP	Tyler Shandro
Calgary-Beddington	AP	Karen McPherson
	NDP	Amanda Chapman Heather Erlen
	UCP	Randy Kerr
Calgary-Bow	AP	Paul Godard
	NDP	Deborah Drever
	UCP	Demetrios Nicolaides
Calgary-Buffalo	AP	Omar Masood
	NDP	Joe Ceci
	UCP	Tom Olsen
Calgary-Cross	LIB	Naser Al-Kukhun
	NDP	Ricardo Miranda
	UCP	Mickey Amery

Calgary-Currie	AP	Lindsay Luhnau
	LIB	Joshua Codd
	NDP	Brian Malkinson
	UCP	Nicholas Milliken
Calgary-East	AP	Gar Gar
	UCP	Peter Singh
Calgary-Edgemont	AP	Joanne Gui
	NDP	Julia Hayter
	UCP	Prasad Panda
Calgary-Elbow	AP	Greg Clark
	NDP	Janet Eremenko
	UCP	Doug Schweitzer
Calgary-Falconridge	LIB	Deepak Sharma
	NDP	Parmmeet Singh
	UCP	Devinder Toor
Calgary-Fish Creek	NDP	Gurmit Bhachu
	UCP	Richard Gotfried
Calgary-Foothills	AP	Jennifer Wyness
	NDP	Sameena Arif
	UCP	Jason Luan
Calgary-Glenmore	AP	Scott Appleby
	NDP	Jordan Stein
	UCP	Whitney Issik
Calgary-Hays	AP	Chris Nowell
	NDP	Tory Tomblin
	UCP	Ric McIver
Calgary-Klein	AP	Kara Levis
	NDP	Craig Coolahan
	UCP	Jeremy Nixon
Calgary-Lougheed	AP	Rachel Timmermans
	UCP	Jason Kenney
Calgary-McCall	NDP	Irfan Sabir
	UCP	Jasraj Singh Hallan
Calgary-Mountain View	AP	Angela Kokott
	LIB	David Khan
	NDP	Kathleen Ganley
	UCP	Caylan Ford
Calgary-North	AP	Gary Arora
	LIB	Saliha Haq
	NDP	Kelly Mandryk
	UCP	Devin Green Tanis Fiss Paul Frank Jun Lin Tommy Low Manpreet Sidhu Muhammad Yaseen

Calgary-North East	AP	Nate Pike
	LIB	Gul Khan
	NDP	Gurbachan Brar
	UCP	Rajan Sawhney
Calgary-North West	AP	Andrew Bradley
	UCP	Sonya Savage
Calgary-Peigan	AP	Ron Reinhold
	NDP	Joseph Pimlott
	UCP	Tanya Fir
Calgary-Shaw	AP	Bronson Ha
	NDP	Graham Sucha
	UCP	Rebecca Schulz
Calgary-South East	AP	Rick Fraser
	UCP	Eva Kiryakos
Calgary-Varsity	AP	Beth Barberree
	NDP	Anne McGrath
	UCP	Jason Copping
Calgary-West	AP	Frank Penkala
	UCP	Mike Ellis
Camrose	AP	Kevin Smook
	NDP	Morgan Bamford
	UCP	Jackie Lovely
Cardston-Siksika	UCP	Joseph Schow
Central Peace-Notley	NDP	Marg McCuaig-Boyd
	UCP	Todd Loewen
Chestermere-Strathmore	FCP	Derek Fildebrandt
	UCP	Leela Aheer
Cypress-Medicine Hat	NDP	Peter Mueller
	UCP	Drew Barnes
Drayton Valley-Devon	LIB	Ronald Brochu
	NDP	Kieran Quirke
	UCP	Mark Smith
Drumheller-Stettler	AP	Mark Nikota
	UCP	Nathan Horner
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	AP	Jeffery Walters
	NDP	Deron Bilous
	UCP	David Egan

Edmonton-Castle Downs	AP	Mohamad Rahall
	NDP	Nicole Goehring
	UCP	Ed Ammar
Edmonton-City Centre	AP	Robert Philp
	NDP	David Shepherd
	UCP	Lily Le
Edmonton-Decore	AP	Ali Haymour
	NDP	Chris Nielson
	UCP	Karen Principe
Edmonton-Ellerslie	AP	Richard Corbin Todd Ross
	NDP	Rod Loyola
	UCP	Sherry Adams Faton Bislami Sanjay Patel
Edmonton-Glenora	AP	Glen Tickner
	NDP	Sarah Hoffman
	UCP	Marjorie Newman
Edmonton-Gold Bar	AP	Diana Ly
	NDP	Marlin Schmidt
	UCP	David Dorward
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	AP	Tish Prouse
	NDP	Janice Irwin
	UCP	Michael Kalyn George Lam Atul Ranade Del Shupenia
Edmonton-Manning	AP	Manwar Kahn
	NDP	Heather Sweet
	UCP	Harjinder Grewal
Edmonton-Meadows	AP	Amrit Matharu
	NDP	Chand Gul Denise Woollard
	UCP	Joel Mullan Arundeeep Sandhu Sant Sharma
Edmonton-McClung	AP	Stephen Mandel
	NDP	Lorne Dach
	UCP	Laurie Mozeson

Edmonton-Mill Woods	AP	Anju Sharma
	LIB	Abdi Bakal
	NDP	Christina Gray
	UCP	Muhammad Afzal David Fletcher Sophia Kahn Nazia Naqvi Baljit Singh Heather Sworin
Edmonton-Northwest	AP	Judy Kim-Meneen
	LIB	Brandon Teixeira
	NDP	David Eggen
	UCP	Ali Eltayeb
Edmonton-Riverview	AP	Katherine O'Neill
	NDP	Lori Sigurdson
	UCP	Kara Barker
Edmonton-Rutherford	AP	Aisha Rauf
	NDP	Richard Feehan
	UCP	Hannah Presakarchuk
Edmonton-South	AP	Pramod Kumar
	NDP	Thomas Dang
	UCP	Tunde Obasan
Edmonton-South West	AP	Mo Elsalhy
	NDP	John Archer
	UCP	Kaycee Madu
Edmonton-Strathcona	NDP	Rachel Notley
	UCP	Jovita Mendita
Edmonton-West Heday	AP	Winston Leung
	LIB	Leah McRorie
	NDP	Jon Carson
	UCP	Nicole Williams
Edmonton-Whitemud	AP	Jonathan Dai
	NDP	Rakhi Pancholi
	UCP	Elizabeth Hughes
Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche	UCP	Laila Goodridge

Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	UCP	Tany Yao
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	AP	Marvin Olsen
	NDP	Jessica Littlewood
	UCP	Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk
Grande Prairie	AP	Grant Berg
	UCP	Tracy Allard
Grande Prairie-Wapiti	AP	Jason Jones
	UCP	Travis Toews
Highwood	NDP	Erik Overland
	UCP	Richard Sigurdson
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	UCP	Devin Dreshen
Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland	AP	Don McCargar
	NDP	Oneil Carlier
	UCP	Shane Getson
Lacombe-Panoka	AP	Myles Chykerda
	UCP	Ron Orr
Leduc-Beaumont	AP	Robb Connelly
	NDP	Shaye Anderson
	UCP	Brad Rutherford
Lethbridge-East	NDP	Maria Fitzpatrick
	UCP	Bryan Litchfield Robin James Kimberly Lyall Nathan Neudorf
Lethbridge-West	LIB	Patricia Chizek
	NDP	Shannon Phillips
	UCP	Karri Flatla
Lesser Slave Lake	NDP	Danielle Larivee
	UCP	Pat Rehn
Livingstone-Macleod	AP	Tim Meech
	LIB	Dylin Hauser
	UCP	Roger Reid
Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin	NDP	Bruce Hinkley
	UCP	Richard Wilson

Morinville-St. Albert	AP	Neil Korotash
	NDP	Shawna Gawreluck
	UCP	Dale Nally
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	AP	Chase Brown
	UCP	Nathan Cooper
Peace River	UCP	Dan Williams
Red Deer North	AP	Paul Hardy
	NDP	Kim Schreiner
	UCP	Adriana LaGrange
Red Deer South	AP	Ryan McDougall
	NDP	Barb Miller
	UCP	Bruce Buruma Adele Poratto Jason Stephan Norman Wiebe
Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre	FCP	Joe Anglin
	UCP	Jason Nixon
St. Albert	NDP	Marie Renaud
	UCP	Jeff Wedman
Sherwood Park	AP	Sue Timanson
	NDP	Annie McKittrick
	UCP	Jordan Walker
Spruce Grove-Stony Plain	AP	Ivan Boles
	NDP	Erin Babcock
	UCP	Searle Turton
Strathcona-Sherwood Park	AP	Dave Quest
	UCP	Nate Glubish
Taber-Warner	UCP	Grant Hunter
Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright	UCP	Garth Roswell
West Yellowhead	AP	Kirstie Gomuwka
	LIB	Zack Seizmagraff
	NDP	Eric Rosendahl
	UCP	Martin Long

## CONSULTATIONS

- [Budget 2019 consultations](#) are online until Feb. 10, 2019
- [Fostering an inclusive Alberta](#): Soliciting input on the government's next steps to combat racism. Ongoing.
- [Caribou Range Planning](#): Albertans are invited to share feedback on the draft caribou range plan.
- [Glenora building](#): Soliciting comments on future uses for the former Royal Alberta Museum building.

## ON THE AGENDA

**February 2:** Edmonton Chamber of Commerce Chamber Ball (Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton).

**February 4-5:** Alberta & Saskatchewan Renewable Energy Finance Summit (Westin Hotel, Calgary)

**February 8:** Deadline for expressions of interest to determine private sector interest in building or expanding a refinery in Alberta to use more Alberta heavy oil.

**February 22:** NEB TMX review deadline.

**End of February:** 3rd quarter fiscal update

**March 10-12:** IPPSA Conference (Banff)

**March 18:** Alberta Throne Speech

### THE IMPACT REPORT

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Ric Dolphin's

# Insight

into Government

Alberta's independent newsletter on government & politics

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK

**Pg. 3:** The UCP raises twice as much in donations as the NDP

**Pg. 4:** The proposed Big Country park will cover 3,800 sq km.

**Pg. 5:** People: Trussler given another five years as Ethics chief

**Pg. 6:** Poll shows Alberta & Québec as separate solitudes

## REFINED POLITICS

# SEEDING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WITH CASH

Taking a page from the playbook of previous premiers, Notley prepares for the election ahead with handouts purported to diversify the energy economy and create jobs and prosperity. But what worked for Tories may not be enough to save the NDP

**W**hat to do when you're down in the polls, an election is imminent, and the major economic development project you'd been promising has failed to materialize? Well, a proven strategy is to throw money. That's what Premier **Peter Lougheed** did after the National Energy Program and falling world oil prices had combined to send Alberta into a recession worse than our recent one (the provincial economy contracted by 5% in 1982). That's what Lougheed's successor, **Don Getty**, did in 1986-87 when the economy tanked again. And that's what **Rachel Notley** seems to be attempting in the run-up to the spring election.

The last couple of months have seen a flurry of gov't re-announcements of projects and programs already budgeted—schools, road projects, the Calgary cancer centre—but Notley has lately upped the ante, with recent announcements of assistance programs for petroleum refining and upgrading initiatives.

Compared to Lougheed's pre-election 1982 goodies—a 35% increase in capital spending, \$5.4B (\$15B in 2019 \$) in incentives to stimulate the oil and gas sector, and a \$1B (\$2.6B 2019) mortgage and loan subsidy program (plucked from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund)—Notley's largesse is relatively modest. But her NDP gov't has already racked up considerable debt—expected to exceed \$70B this year—over its three and a half years of throwing money at the recession and is facing a strong opponent whose main platform plank will be fiscal probity.

Lougheed was only just introducing this Keynesian approach (and projecting a deficit of \$757M, the first since 1969). And despite the recent rise of separatism and a byelection win by a West-

Continued on next page...

## POLITICAL PULSE

### BIGHORN EFFECT

## STOMPSKY INTRODUCES THE 'NASTY' CAMPAIGN

**W**e shall always think of Environment and Parks minister **Shannon Phillips** as "Stompsky." That's the surname she used as a Lethbridge roller derby queen prior to her election in 2015—"Gnome Stompsky," to use the full monicker, a homage to her leftist hero **Norm Chomsky**, the linguist, environmental activist, and social critic, along with a wink to her diminutive stature.

And given her own past as an environmental activist (she edited and co-wrote the foreword for **Mike Hudema's** 2004 environmentalist handbook *An Action a Day Keeps Global Capitalism Away*) and as an anti-pipeline mouthpiece for the Alberta Federation of Labour. And given her most recent incarnation as the scrappy minister who gives as good as she gets when the Opposition tries to make something of her radical past, the Stompsky monicker seems as apt as ever.

With the election coming up and this 43-year-old divorced mother of two boys seemingly the only NDP candidate south of Calgary with a chance of winning back her seat (Lethbridge-West), she has come out of the gate early with her elbows up.

Speaking to the Southern Alberta Council of Public Affairs, a fairly friendly group, in Lethbridge a week and a half ago, Phillips gave a taste of the tone that might be anticipated for the upcoming election campaign, which we expect will begin in mid-March.

It will, she said, "probably be one of the nastiest and most divisive campaigns in history."

She went on to list the familiar NDP boasts about infrastructure spending on schools and hospitals, economic diversification in the form of renewable energy industries and the new Cavendish french fry plant in Lethbridge, health care initiatives like the opioid treatment facilities, and environmental stewardship measures such as the nearby Castle Wildlands Parks and of course the Climate Leadership plan that, she says, has reduced emissions.

But then she turned her guns on **Jason Kenney** and all those kitten-stomping fascists of the UCP (we paraphrase).

"So while we were working on all of those things," said Phillips, her voice rising in timbre and tinged with the sneer we are used to hearing in the Legislature, "what was Jason Kenney and his team up to? They were focused on themselves; they were focused on internal bickering; they were focused on allegations of fraud and ballot-stuffing in the nomination process. They were showing Albertans the worst elements of PC entitlement that everyone got sick of and showed them the door because of. And they put that together with the worst extremist elements of the Wildrose.

"And that has resulted in an offer to Albertans that goes something like this: tax cuts for millionaires and healthcare cuts for the rest of us. Minimum wage increases for working moms is a bad thing. Debates on women's choice aren't even worth showing up to work for. Rural crime is bad, but spending money on RCMP to fight rural crime, they voted against that.

"White supremacists make great campaign-

Turn to Political Pulse on pg. 4...

ern Canada Concept MLA **Gordon Kesler**, who accused Lougheed of “buying Albertans with their own money,” the Tories faced no serious competition in the fall election. Adopting the informal slogan, “Free Enterprise that Cares,” the PCs won 75 of 79 seats with 62.3% of the popular vote. (The NDP, by the way, increased its seat count from one to two, with Rachel’s dad **Grant Notley** winning his seat by 188 votes, and MLA **Ray Martin** winning his by 76 votes. The other two non-Tory seats went to independents.)

Despite Notley’s repeated invocations of **Peter Lougheed**, hers is a vastly different political situation, and her refinery assistance program, yet to be fully defined, sounds more like Getty’s attempts to goose the economy than Lougheed’s. Starting in 1986, Getty provided hundreds of millions of dollars in gov’t loans, loan guarantees, and infrastructure spending to support the forestry and energy sectors, including more than \$400M (\$916M today) towards Husky Oil Ltd.’s Lloydminster heavy oil upgrader, most of which would be written off in the 1990s. Getty called the gov’t outlay, “diversification at its best.”

In mid-December, as the third prong of her “three-pronged” approach to dealing with the price differential between Alberta crude and the American price—a situation exacerbated by the delay in building the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion—Notley announced that her gov’t would be inviting industry to pitch a brand new refinery or an expansion of an existing one and she would be providing provide assistance. (The first prong was production curtailment; the second is the planned purchase of railcars to transport oil.)

Expressions of interest are being accepted until Feb. 9, the gov’t continues to run a TV ads touting the initiative, and Notley claims to have received many enquiries. Some industry experts and energy economists, however, point out that pipeline capacity is still required to get the refined product to market. Existing refineries already meet Alberta’s gasoline and jet fuel needs, and the long-delayed Sturgeon Refinery, backstopped by previous gov’ts, will take care of any shortfall in diesel production when it finally starts producing later this year.

The \$9.7B Sturgeon Refinery is the only refinery built in Alberta in the past 35 years. The Stelmach gov’t, emerging from the 2008 recession, backed it with an agreement to provide feedstock through the Bitumen Royalty in Kind

**Sébastien Rioux**, a professor at the University of Calgary’s School of Public Policy, told the *Globe and Mail* North America is awash with refined oil and any new Canadian refineries, which typically take ten years to build, and would be far from potential customers in Asia (where refineries cost half as much to build).

“All these big companies in downtown Calgary haven’t built a new refinery in decades,” said Rioux “It just isn’t worth the investment for them. The whole thing is a huge hill to climb. It’s hard to comprehend who would stick their necks out in the current environment.”

United Conservative Party energy critic **Drew Barnes** (Cypress-Medicine Hat) characterized Notley’s announcement as political puffery. “Albertans will recognize today’s non-announcement from the NDP for what it is — the latest ploy from a tired, broke, and increasingly desperate government quickly approaching the 2019 election.”

Last Tuesday, Notley announced the province had agreed to provide a \$440M loan guarantee—“subject to reaching a final agreement”—to Value Creation Inc. (VCI) of Calgary to build a bitumen partial upgrader near Fort Saskatchewan. The loan guarantee is part of the gov’t’s Getty-esque Energy Diversification Program, which will provide up to \$3B over three years in loans, loan guarantees, and royalty credits for value-added oil and gas refining, including petrochemical processing and upgrading.

(Inter Pipeline’s \$3.5B Heartland Petrochemical Complex, which will turn propane into polypropylene [plastic] pellets and will receive up to \$200M in royalty credits, is currently under construction near Fort Saskatchewan and due for completion by early 2022. A second plant in the same area, proposed by the Pembina Pipeline Corp and promised \$300M in gov’t royalty credits, was supposed to go ahead last year, but has delayed making a final decision due to an inability to secure long-term contracts to buy its plastic pellets.)

Partial upgrading—a complicated chemical process that has yet to be used commercially—turns bitumen into a lighter oil that can flow through pipelines without the need for diluent, thus eliminating the need to buy imported diluent and also increasing the amount of pure oil in pipelines (diluent typically accounts for 30% of the output.)

Value Creation, which has no existing producing or processing operations, still has to raise \$2B before a final deal is signed later this year. That’s unlikely to happen (or not happen) before the election, which will allow the NDP to tout the promise of the partial upgrader as an example of diversification at its best.

But unlike past Tory gov’ts that faced little opposition in past elections and would likely have won without the pre-writ largesse, the Dippers have

been behind in the polls for more than two years and their prospects do not seem to be improving.

A Mainstreet Poll released last Tuesday showed that a **Jason Kenney**-led UCP had 48% support to the Notley-led NDP’s 25%. It may take more than money for new refineries to turn the situation around.

### If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for?

(all voters)

	All	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Calgary	Edmonton	Rest of Alberta
NDP led by Rachel Notley	25.1%	21.4%	28.8%	25.1%	19.7%	24.5%	35.2%	26.3%	34.1%	14.8%
UCP led by Jason Kenney	48%	60.6%	35.5%	42.2%	57.6%	51%	38.7%	45.2%	37.8%	61.8%
Liberals led by David Khan	4.9%	2.5%	7.3%	5.7%	2.6%	5.9%	5.8%	5.4%	6.5%	2.8%
Freedom Conservative led by Derek Fildebrandt	1.6%	1.9%	1.4%	2.3%	1.5%	1.1%	1%	1.9%	1.1%	1.7%
Alberta Party led by Stephen Mandel	6.1%	5%	7.2%	7.2%	6%	4.1%	7.4%	5.9%	7.7%	4.9%
Alberta Green Party led by Cheryl Chagnon-Greyeyes	2.8%	1.1%	4.4%	4%	2.1%	3.1%	0.9%	3.2%	2.4%	2.6%
Another Party	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%	0.3%	1.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.3%	1.2%	0.6%

Mainstreet Research poll conducted by automated telephone survey of 893 adults on Jan 15 & 16

(BRIK) program, largely because of the project’s green component: the accompanying carbon dioxide pipeline that is supposed to take emissions from the refinery and other emitters in the area for use in enhanced oil recovery in central Alberta—a pipeline that has yet to be built.

At the time of Notley’s refinery announcement, **Jean-**

# DATA Bank ...

## POLITICAL WAR CHEST TALLIES CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CALENDAR 2018

Predictably, the United Conservative Party kicked butt in its 2018 fundraising, doubling the New Democratic Party's total for the year, and making more in the fourth quarter than the Dips made all year—although the latter did raise twice the amount than in 2017. The Unicons also derived a larger proportion of their rather beastly total from donations of less than \$250 (35%), suggesting a broader base of support than that of the NDP (22%). The Alberta Party, perhaps helped by the connections of leader Stephen Mandel and fundraising VP Brian Heidecker (both developers), better than trebled its 2017 total, while the poor old Liberals continued to fade. And although we're comparing acorns to acorns, it might be noted that Derek Fildebrandt's Freedom Conservatives (FCP) raised twice as much in their half year of existence than the Green's made all year. (The Alberta Advantage Party [AAP] only became a party in November.) All totals include donations made to constituencies as well as to the parties generally, and that election spending is limited to \$2M by the parties, and \$50K for each constituency. It is also worth mentioning that the cost of fund-raising (paid telephonists, etc) typically amounts to around 40% of the total take. On the third-party advertising (aka PAC) front, the "political" advertising contributions were cut off Dec. 1, which was when the "election" advertiser contributions began.

PARTY:	NDP	UCP	ALBERTA PARTY	LIB	FCP	GREEN	AAP
Donations: Q4	\$1.53M	\$3.92M	\$359.55K	\$112.78K	\$36.83K	\$12.71K	q\$5.14K
Donations: Q1-Q4	\$3.39M	\$6.66M	\$594.18K	\$196.46K	\$39.78K	\$20.33K	\$5.14K
Donations <\$250: Q1-Q4	\$749.34K	\$2.33M	\$116.23K	\$28.26K	\$5.83K	\$2.96K	\$2.14K
Donations >\$250: Q1-Q4	\$2.64M	\$4.33M	\$477.95K	\$84.52K	\$5.83K	\$9.75K	\$3K
Donations 2017: Q4	\$335.63K	\$339.95K	\$90.74K	\$31.32K	\$33.95K	\$4.77K	n/a
Donations 2017: Q1-Q4	\$1.70M	\$737.50K (Aug-Dec)	\$171.13K	\$162.89K	n/a	\$14.55K	n/a
Top contributors: Q1-Q4 (NOTE: Alberta's annual limit on all political donations is \$4K per annum, but people do circumvent this rule by having family members, employees, or union comrades make donations on their behalf. And, as can be seen, a number of donors to the three leading parties have exceeded their limits. The parties, who should have known better, will be asked by Elections Alberta to refund the overages.)	Harry Williams, \$4.6K; Doug O'Halloran, \$4.4K; Walters Hossli, \$4.4K; Brad Zumwalt, \$4.4K; Katherine Williams, \$4.4K; Garrett Spellicy, \$4.2K; Richard Dettbarn, \$4.2K; Kristin Ailsby, \$4.1K	Dennis Mozak, \$9K; Glen Rumpel, \$9K; Larry Thompson, \$7.5K; Leo Farrell, \$6.5K; Harold Parfett, \$6.5K; Ray Mills, \$6K; Hanh Nguyen, \$5.5K; James F. Burns, \$5.5K; Lorraine Bodnarek, \$5.3K	Robert Teskey, \$4.5K; John Mitchell, \$4.4K; Paulette Winter, \$4.2K; Irving Kipnes, \$4K; Dianne Kipnes, \$4K; Harry Kipnes, \$4K; Marc de la Bruyere, \$4K; Clarice Siebens, \$4K; Rhondha Siebens, \$4;	Ian Cartright, \$4K; Patricia Cartright, \$4K; Jerry Leasak, \$4K; Ahmed Khan, \$4K; Karen Secik, \$3.1K; Yusuf Khan, \$3K; Leah McRorie, \$3K; Aleksandar Samardzija, \$3K; Gwyneth Midgley, \$2.7K	Larry Shoren, \$4K; Joanne Shoren, \$4K; Glen Dundas, \$4K; Trevor McMurtrie, \$4K; Elaine Klemmensen, \$4K; Keith Klemmensen, \$2K; Ronda Klemmensen, \$2K	Richard Willott, \$3.3K; Coral Bliss Taylor, \$2.5K; Peter LaBastide, \$2K; David Crowe, \$1.5K; Sandra Willott, \$1K; Maryanne Donovan, \$830	Dale Emery, \$1K; Shannon Gunn Emery, \$1K; Guildo Poitras, \$1K

FRINGE PARTY 2018 TOTALS: Communist Party: \$300; Progressive Conservatives: \$2.5K; Reform Party of Alberta: \$5.8K; Wildrose Party: \$1.83K

## THIRD PARTY POLITICAL ADVERTISER CONTRIBUTIONS

FUND	AA FUND	Shaping Alberta's Future	ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR	Public Interest Alberta Society
Affiliation	UCP	UCP	NDP	NDP
Donations 2018	\$915.65K (Q1-Q3)	\$380.49K	\$254.52K	\$101.64K
Top contributors	Matco Investments, \$75K; Stanley Milner, \$63.8K; Belatrix Exploration, \$50K; Mike Rose, \$50K;	MTE Logistix Management, \$50K; CMP Automotive Ltd, \$30K; Stanley Milner, \$25K; Tara Oilfield Services, \$20K;	United Nurses of Alberta, \$58.23K; UFCW Local 41, \$56.24K; Health Sciences Association of Alberta, \$49.32K;	Alberta Teachers' Assoc., \$18K; Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, \$18K; Health Sciences Assoc. of Alta., \$18K;

## THIRD PARTY ELECTION ADVERTISER CONTRIBUTIONS

FUND	Shaping Alberta's Future	Alberta Teachers Association	The Alberta Chambers of Commerce	Public Interest Alberta Society
Affiliation	UCP	NDP (?)	None	NDP
Donations Dec. 1-Jan. 17	\$277K	\$270K	\$26.25K	\$10K
Top Contributors	Surge Energy, \$75K; Michael Rose, \$50K; Crew Energy, \$30K; Stanley Milner, \$25K	Alberta Teachers Association, \$270K	The Alberta Chambers of Commerce, \$26.25K	Public Interest Alberta Society, \$10K

## POLITICAL PULSE ... from Page 1

ers, and racists make good candidates. LGBT people don't matter and certainly not the kids who want to support each other and end bullying. Ontario, according to **Jason Kenney**, is the heart of Canada's economy and we should finish **Doug Ford's** sentences.

"Twenty-five-dollar-a-day daycare is a waste of money. Drug addiction is the police's fault because they don't work hard enough. And it's a-okay to make backroom deals with used car salesman in exchange for bags of cash. That is their Alberta..."

"So the choice in 2019 will be clear: you can choose to help people, you can choose to protect and create jobs, to build hospitals and schools, or you can go back to the old way, where you pay to play."

So there, in over-the-top Stompsky style is the election campaign.

**Of course, when Phillips gave this speech, she** was still seething over having been called a liar by the Uni-cons over her handling of the Bighorn Country consultation.

The previous week she had cancelled the public hearings into the proposed Bighorn park, wildland, and recreation project over "security concerns."

This sprawling Kananaskis-style project, covering 3,800 sq. km. of the North Saskatchewan headwater region east of Banff and Jasper National Parks, will combine three conventional provincial parks, four public recreation use areas, and a more restrictive "wildland" provincial park on western edge to protect "at risk" species such as the grizzly bear, harlequin duck, and the bull trout. Existing forestry, petroleum, and coal mining operations will continue, but developments on new land will not be permitted.

It all seems perfectly reasonable, but the proposal has upset a small but vocal minority of quad jockeys who don't like the idea of their free-ranging motorized excursions being curtailed. (ATV use will be restricted to designated trails and there will be enforcement by conservation officers.)

**Jason Nixon** (Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre), who lives and hunts in the area, has championed the cause of these malcontents and was a thorn in Phillips' side during last fall's Legislative session, following the govt's announcement of the proposed boundaries and uses (see map) and the \$40M that will be spent over five years building trails, bridges, and campgrounds. (Full details and a link to the online survey can be found at: <https://talkaep.alberta.ca/bighorn-country>)

The Bighorn has been under consideration for decades, and has been under active development as a protected area since the 2009 passage of the *Land Stewardship Act*, sponsored by then Sustainable Resources Minister Ted Morton, which set the groundwork for the regional land use plans, including the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan of which the Bighorn is part.

But Nixon and other UCP MLAs complained that the consultations had been inadequate and there were a number of relevant interested parties who had not been consulted.

Phillips had originally planned a series of private consultations with municipal, recreational, and environmental groups, as well as some telephone townhalls and an on-line survey. But the badgering from the opposition, and concerns from a couple of municipalities worried about losing their industrial tax base, persuaded her to schedule a half dozen public information sessions in different towns in December and January.

But the first two meetings proved boisterous, with much heckling from the ATV freedom riders, and apparently a "shoving" incident. Nothing worse than might occur in a roller derby setting, one might suppose, but it was enough to convince Hon. Stompsky to cancel the remaining four public sessions and revert to the more controllable telephone townhalls (where callers can ask a question, but are not allowed a follow-ups or any further conversation with the minister).

"I have become increasingly concerned about the inflamed rhetoric and inaccurate statements made by some organizations and individuals on social media," Phillips said in a press release. "This has led to significant misinformation on the status and substance of the proposal for Bighorn County and, more recently, allegations of bullying, abuse, and concerns over personal safety."

In a teleconference with media she said that threats to department staff were so serious that the RCMP had opened at least two investigations. But when later contacted, the

Mounties said that although they had been contacted by the public about some "concerning social media interactions" they had not in fact opened any investigations.

A bit later still, Stompsky tweeted: "Earlier today, I misspoke in a media interview regarding the work of the RCMP..."

"Mispoke" is generally taken as political talk for "lied" and Nixon and fellow UCP MLA Mike Ellis (Calgary-West), a former Calgary cop, were quick to jump on this.

"Sadly, this minister chose to politicize our law enforcement, mislead Albertans, and slandered countless concerned Albertans as behaving in a way that warranted exceptional RCMP intervention," said Ellis at a specially called press conference.

Nixon tweeted: "The minister has torched any possible remaining credibility on the Bighorn file. Nobody will trust a single word she says. The minister should resign entirely for misleading on the RCMP."

For a few days, the term "lying minister" remained in usage by hostile pundits and opposition MLAs.

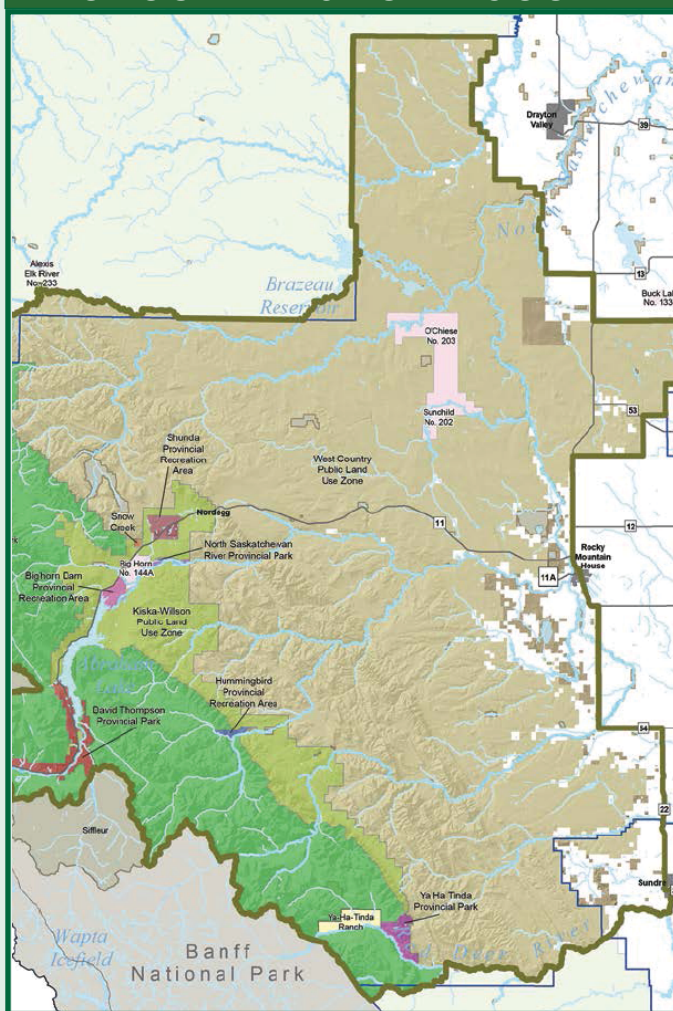
Phillips rescheduled the remaining public sessions as telephone townhalls, and remained mum on the issue while it blew over.

But when she spoke in Lethbridge, and started sounding off about the UCP and its white supremacists and racists, it was obvious the attacks had left a mark.

We listened to a couple of the later telephone townhalls, and were struck by the general lack of rancor from those who called in.

We doubt that the election campaign, at least where Stompsky and Nixon are involved, will be quite so civil.

## PROPOSED BIGHORN COUNTRY



## People ...

### Appointments...

● **Marguerite J. Trussler**, Q.C., to a second five-year term as Alberta's Ethics Commissioner. Trussler, 71, was first appointed in the spring of 2014, having served for seven years as chairwoman of the Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission, and was previously a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, Edmonton family division.

● **Darryl Aarbo**, Q.C., a Calgary lawyer and gay rights activist, **Rita Aggarwala**, a Calgary lawyer and consultant, **Roxanne Davis**, a Calgary lawyer and president of the Association of Women Lawyers (Calgary), **Laura Mensch**, a Calgary labour and employment lawyer, **Sharon Sproule**, a Lethbridge lawyer specialized in business and administration law, and **Nazrina Umarji**, an Edmonton lawyer for the Workers Compensation Board, as members of the Alberta Human Rights Commission, each for a three-year term.

● **Cassandra Haraba**, an Edmonton lawyer specializing in community development matters, as a public member to the council of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists for a three-year term.

● **Nancy Hack**, an Edmonton family mediator, **Patricia Hull**, operations manager of a Calgary retirement community, **John Lindsay**, a Calgary property assessment consultant, and **Debi Piecowye**, an Edmonton lawyer and member of the Municipal Government Board, to the list of public members for the purpose of establishing complaint review committees and hearing tribunals of the College of Alberta Professional Foresters and the College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists, each for a three-year term.

● **Ross Plecash**, manager of engineering governance at Enbridge Liquids in Edmonton, as a public member to the Council of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association for a three-year term.

● **Keith Serrcale**, an engineering manager with China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) in Calgary (formerly Nexen), **Ross Hansen**, a health & safety representative with the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, **Jane Sustrik**, a vice president with the United Nurses of Alberta in Edmonton, and **Dave Rebbitt**, an Edmonton health & safety consultant, as members of the board of directors of the Workers' Compensation Board, each for a three-year term.

● **Carmen Wyton**, of St. Albert, CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) Alberta, as a public member to the council of the Alberta College of Pharmacy for a three-year term.

● **Linda Tymchuk**, executive director of accreditation and quality & patient safety education for Alberta Health Services in Edmonton, as chairwoman of the Health Professions Advisory Board for an unspecified term.

● **Michael A. Phair**, former Edmonton councillor and gay rights activist, to a second three-year term as chairman of the board of governors of the University of Alberta.

● **Nancy Foster**, VP of human & corporate resources at Husky Energy in Calgary, and **Fauzia Lalani**, a senior portfolio director with Suncor Energy in Calgary, as members of the board of governors of the University of Calgary, each for a three-year term.

● **Stanford Blade**, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Life, & Environment Sciences at the UofA and founding CEO (2008-2014) of the Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions

Corporation (since rolled into the single Innovates agency), as a member of the Council of the Alberta Order of Excellence for a three-year term.

### Latest lobbyist action...

● **Randy Pettipas** of Global Public Affairs is lobbying the ministries of Advanced Education, Economic Development & Trade, and Service Alberta on behalf of Amazon Web Services (a division of Amazon.com), which wants to promote its cloud-based services, ensure "the availability of a high-skilled tech workforce," and discuss the "development of a digital procurement strategy and promote cloud-based solutions and related support services in procurement."

● **Noah Niznick** of Public Affairs Advisors Inc. is lobbying the ministries of Justice and Finance, and the Premier's Office on behalf of the Canadian Online Gaming Association (Toronto) in relation to the request for proposals by the Alberta Gaming Liquor & Cannabis Commission for an "Online gambling service provider."

● **Steven de Eyre**, senior manager of public policy for Amazon Canada Fulfillment Services is lobbying the ministries of Economic Development & Trade, Transportation, and Municipal Affairs, in relation to Amazon's Alberta distribution warehouses, online sales, and transportation.

● **Ed Whittingham** of Whit & Ham (Canmore) is lobbying the ministries of Infrastructure, Energy, Environment & Parks, and Municipal Affairs on behalf of Greengate Power Corp. of Calgary, which wants \$10M from Emissions Reduction Alberta to help pay for a solar power array near Hanna.

## Insight into Government

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## Talk ... ... in the Corridors

### Amity & enmity within Confederation...

● Guess what? Alberta and Saskatchewan lead the country in feeling they are thwarted or ignored by other provinces, especially by Québec.

This revelation comes out of the latest of a series of polls by Angus Reid on the “nature and dynamics of Western Canadian identity.”

Asked which provinces they felt “are especially close or friendly towards your province,” only 10% of Albertans and 3% of Saskatchewanians cited Québec, putting *la belle province* at the bottom of their dance cards.

The feeling is more than mutual, with just 1% of Québeckers believing Alberta is a friend and 2% feeling that way towards Saskatchewan. But then Québeckers didn't feel much love from any of the provinces. Their highest ranked friends were neighbours New Brunswick, which 13% considered a friend, and Ontario at 12%.

Ontario, meanwhile, felt much warmer towards Québec (44%) than it did towards Alberta (14%) or Saskatchewan (12%), while 28% of Albertans and 19% of Saskatchewanians believed Ontario to be a friend (the highest percentages among the provinces).

Not surprisingly, the most mutually affectionate provinces were Saskatchewan and Alberta: 75% of Saskatchewanians and 77% of Albertans felt the other to be their pal—a friendliness quotient even higher than that between the Atlantic provinces.

As for British Columbia, 19% of its respondents believed Alberta was a friend, which was lower than the number who cited Saskatchewan (23%) but higher than Ontario (18%). Meanwhile, 31% of Albertans felt BC liked them, but only 19% of Saskatchewanians felt the love from the coast.

Asked which provinces they felt were most unfriendly towards their own, Alberta topped the list for Ontario (42%), British Columbia (57%), and Québec (81%). As for Alberta's perceived enemies, Québec was number one (51%), followed by BC (47%), and Ontario (31%).

### The Kenney habitation question ...

● The latest terrier attack to the ankles of UCP Leader **Jason Kenney**—accusations of misrepresenting his primary residence while a federal cabinet minister—foreshadows a theme that will doubtlessly be built upon by the NDP in the election ahead: i.e. Jason's not true Albertan, but an opportunist from Ottawa who sees the premiership as a step on his path to the Prime Minister's office.



The revelation that Kenney was claiming his mother's Calgary retirement bungalow as a primary residence when he was a federal cabinet minister, came in a tweet from **Kyle Morrow**, 27, (shown) a Ponoka-born Toronto lawyer and gay activist who ran unsuccessfully for the provincial Liberals in Lacombe-Ponoka in 2012 (he placed fifth of five candidates with 5% of the vote.)

Morrow, who had previously gone after Jason for anti-gay marriage positions espoused 13 years ago, posted copies of parliamentary expense records that showed Kenney claimed \$11K a year for his secondary residence, a condo he bought in Ottawa, while listing his mother's retirement home as his primary residence—even though during one of those years, Kenney only visited to Calgary four times.

The story generated a censorious posting on the NDP website, a spoof piece in the satirical *Beaverton* news site

featuring an interview with Kenney disguised as his mother (pictured), and an immediate response from Kenney.

“I was in Ottawa, I think, about 140 nights a year,” he said in an interview with the CBC. “I was on the road or in Alberta the rest of the time. I was living a lot of the year, frankly, in hotels. I used to joke where people would say, ‘Where do you live?’ and I would say, ‘On an airplane.’”



He claimed he rented out part of his widowed mother's home in the retirement village at the time to be near to her and to help her out when he could.

While the story faded after a couple of days, it did provide Premier **Rachel Notley** with laugh-line during her speech to the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce on Thursday.

“I don't think we Edmontonians say it enough,” she said, “but we all know it to be true: we're incredibly, truly lucky to live here (pause). In fact, this city, you know, is my primary residence.”

This got a big laugh and a rousing round of applause from the Edmonton business audience. An encouraging sign, perhaps, that Rachel's positioning of herself as the Alberta girl—cue the photos of her on horseback near her childhood home in Dunvegan—as compared to the carpet-bagger from Ontario will be of use in the campaign ahead.

## The week ahead ...

**Jan. 29**—The Alberta Party's fundraiser on behalf of its Calgary-North East candidate **Nate Pike** and featuring leader **Stephen Mandel** takes place at the Pacini restaurant, 123 Freeport Blvd. NE, 7-9 pm. \$150 tickets still available for the VIP Dinner: [https://www.albertaparty.ca/blue\\_green\\_and\\_gold\\_event\\_with\\_stephen\\_mandel](https://www.albertaparty.ca/blue_green_and_gold_event_with_stephen_mandel)

**Jan. 31**—It might be called “Fighting for her political life,” but **Rachel Notley**'s pep rally in Cowtown is titled “Fighting for Calgary,” which recognizes that Calgary will be the main battleground in the upcoming election (April 15, perhaps). This week the NDP cabinet and caucus will be holding its meetings in Calgary at the McDougall Centre. The rally takes place in the noon hour at Royal Canadian legion #1, 116 7 Ave SW. Free admission, RSVP at <https://act.albertandp.ca/fightingforcalgary>

**Jan. 31** —This week's big NDP fundraiser is for the single remaining incumbent “ML-Gay” running for reelection: recently hitched (*Insight* Dec. 10) Culture & Tourism Minister **Ricardo Miranda**, whose \$250-a-head event promises “an amazing show case of the skill, artistry and beauty of the Alberta Ballet School” at the Alberta Ballet Creative Offices, 141 18 Ave SW, Calgary; tickets at: <https://act.albertandp.ca/backstagepass2019>

**Jan. 31** —The UCP's fundraising dinner of the week, with a keynote speech by leader **Jason Kenney** (fresh back from his “Strong & Free” tour of the north), takes place in Calgary in support of Airdrie-Cochrane candidate **Peter Guthrie**. Former Calgary Flames broadcaster **Roger Millions**, who lost the nomination in neighbouring Airdrie-East to incumbent **Angela Pitt**, will emcee the event. 5:30-11 pm at the Gleneagles Golf Clubhouse, 100 Gleneagles Dr., Calgary. Tickets \$150 at [https://unitedconservative.ca/Event?name=ac\\_dinner2019](https://unitedconservative.ca/Event?name=ac_dinner2019)

**Jan. 31**—Happy birthday to Seniors & Housing Minister **Lori Sigurdson** born 57 years ago in Winnipeg.

**Feb. 1-3** —A super Saturday & Sunday for last-minute NDP nominations (all expected to be acclamations). **Saturday**: Camrose, Calgary-Hays, & Calgary-Edgemont. **Sunday**: Calgary-Beddington, Calgary-Foothills, Calgary-Glenmore, & Grande Prairie. For times and locations go to: <https://act.albertandp.ca/events>