



## Alberta Weekly Review

Thursday, October 26, 2017

### Session Schedule & Activities

- United Conservative Party (UCP) leadership vote on will be held on October 28.
- Fall legislative session is scheduled to begin October 30.

### Government News and Announcements

#### *Additional Craft Brewing Supports Announced*

Hon. Ricardo Miranda, Minister of Culture and Tourism announced the 'Alberta Beer' grant to the Alberta Small Brewers Association (ASBA) aimed to help establish craft brewing as a must-visit experience in Alberta. The \$60,000 grant will help with the development of a digital platform to promote local touring and staycations and the creation of industry-focused education programs.

#### *Joint Provincial-Federal Universal Pharmacare Study Approved*

Canada's Provincial and Territorial Health Ministers announced late last week that the federal government will support the study of the feasibility of a national universal pharmacare program for prescription drugs. The announcement follows direction from Canada's Premiers at this summer's Council of Federation meetings that asked health ministers to study the universal pharmacare concept.

### Political News

#### *Progressive Conservative Associations Deregistered*

In mid-October the interim joint board of the United Conservative Party (UCP), which administers the UCP, PCAA and Wildrose parties voted to deregister all PC constituency associations as of this past Monday. The move was made after a July letter sent PC constituency association presidents and financial agents asking for their help to settle outstanding party debt was met with mixed response.

Only 38 Associations handed over funds to the party reducing the debt from \$684,000 to \$217,000 while several associations decided to either give funds to charity or volunteer appreciation. With the deregistration, PC constituency associations who have not yet dealt with funds can only pay off any outstanding debts of their own and then all remaining funds must go to the PC Party. It is estimated the remaining associations have approximately \$350,000 which will cover most of the remaining debt.

## *AUPE Adopts Resolution For The Public Sale Of Marijuana*

The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) adopted a resolution over the weekend that “all cannabis retail outlets be publicly owned and operated by the Government of Alberta or one of its regulated agencies”. This resolution was made on the final day of the AUPE Annual Convention and became an item of discussion as result of the government proposed cannabis framework that identified the point of sale as one area still to be determined.

## *UCP Leadership Race Nears Conclusion*

Voting in the UCP leadership race opened today and continues online and by phone until 5:00 pm MST on this Saturday. The winner will be announced at a celebration in Calgary shortly after voting closes.

In the final week, all three candidates rolled out high profile endorsements, the Schweitzer campaign received the support of businessman, media personality and former Conservative Party of Canada Leadership candidate Kevin O'Leary; Brian Jean received the endorsement of Theo Fleury, former NHL hockey player and victims' rights advocate; and Jason Kenney announced the endorsement of 23 Alberta Conservative MPs.

## *Municipal News*

### *Amazon To Open A Facility in Calgary Area*

Amazon announced today that it will be opening a “fulfilment centre” in Balzac, just outside the city limits in Calgary that will create 750 jobs. Currently Amazon runs six distribution centers in Canada with four in the Toronto area and two in the Vancouver area. Both Edmonton and Calgary were among the 238 cities that submitted proposals for the second corporate Amazon headquarters in North America, HQ2. Once the location is chosen Amazon expects to spend \$5 billion USD and create 50,000 jobs at HQ2.

## *Federal News*

### *Conservative Elected in Alberta By-Election*

Conservative Party of Canada candidate Dane Lloyd will be the next Member of Parliament for Sturgeon River-Parkland following Monday's by-election. Lloyd will be replacing long MP and former Conservative Party of Canada interim leader Hon. Rona Ambrose. He is 26 years old and an officer in the Canadian Forcers reserves.

Lloyd faced candidates from the Christian Heritage Party, New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party of Canada. Over the weekend Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a stop in the constituency in support of Liberal candidate Brian Gold.