

Alberta Weekly Review

Thursday, May 3, 2018

Session Schedule & Activities

- UCP Founding AGM to be held in Red Deer May 4-6, 2018
- 12 months until expected provincial election

Government News and Announcements

Trans Mountain Remains Top of Mind

This week, the Alberta Government put out a request for proposals for an advertising agency to develop a Canada-wide campaign to promote the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. The government is willing to pay \$2.1 million for the campaign and the bid process closes on May 10. The government will select two proposals and move them to the creative concept stage before awarding the final contract.

Meanwhile, the BC Government has sent draft legislation to the BC Court of Appeals this week asking whether it has the right to enact tougher restrictions on companies transporting heavy oil through the province. The legislation amends the Environmental Management Act, requiring companies to get permits that would come with restrictions from such as spill response plans. Premier Notley said if the regulatory powers BC has requested are granted the Canadian economy will “grind to a halt”. The BC Attorney General has said it is highly unlikely this court case will be settled before the May 31 deadline set by Kinder Morgan.

In contrast, the Trans Mountain Pipeline is receiving support from the Saskatchewan government as they introduced Bill 126, the *Energy Export Act* last Monday in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. If passed, the bill will establish a permitting process for corporations to export outside of Saskatchewan, similar to legislation Notley introduced into the legislature in Alberta.

University of Alberta Honorary Degree Controversy

The announcement by the University of Alberta several weeks ago that environmentalist, activist and author David Suzuki would be given an honorary degree in June continues to be a source of contention for Albertans and a point of discussion for the UCP in the legislature. Suzuki has been a vocal opponent of the oil sands and two month ago at a speaking engagement in Calgary said, “the tar sands have to be shut down”.

The decision has resulted in increasing anger in the oil industry and an alumni letter writing campaign, as well as comments from donors and alumni that they will reconsider or pull future funding. The UCP has also started a petition to protest the decision and the Deans of the School of Business and Faculty of Engineering have both released statements against Suzuki receiving the honor. University President David Turpin

said in the lengthy op-ed last week that the University would not change its decision. The University's senate honorary degrees committee chooses candidates.

Government Promoting Alberta in Arizona, California, China and Singapore

Premier Notley will be in Arizona May 3-6 to co-chair the Summit of North American Governors and Premiers. The mission features officials from the US and Mexico as well as Canada. Notley is scheduled to deliver remarks, participate in a Canada-Arizona NAFTA roundtable, attend formal receptions with fellow Governors and Premiers and meet with several U.S & Mexican Governors.

Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade will be travelling to San Francisco, China and Singapore May 2-15th to promote investment and trade. Yesterday, Bilous, Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson and a delegation of 100 business leaders travelled to San Francisco on the new non-stop flight between the cities. The delegation will meet with industry leaders from various sectors and tour leading research and innovation centers.

Bilous will then travel to China and visit Beijing, Hong Kong and Guahgzhou before travelling to Singapore to promote Alberta's industries. During this trip Bilous will meet with various Chinese officials, meet with industry leaders to promote Alberta, tour business operations with ties to Alberta companies and attend the CNOOC-Nexen Summit with 17 Alberta companies.

Political News

United Conservative Party AGM In Red Deer This Weekend

The UCP will be holding its founding AGM in Red Deer this weekend with over 2200 delegates registered. This will make the AGM the largest political convention in Alberta's history. The number of registered exceed initial space and organizers had to set up an overflow room for the convention to allow space for all delegates. Any UCP member with a current membership as of April 13 who registered before May 2 will be eligible to vote on resolutions and elect the board of directors.

Nearly 800 resolutions were circulated in the party's second policy survey before the AGM, down from 1200 on the first survey. The final list of resolutions for consideration this weekend, approximately 250, will be disclosed when delegates get packages on Friday.

United Conservative Party Chooses Two By-Election Candidates

This week the United Conservative Party held two nomination votes to select the candidates for anticipated by-elections in two constituencies, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake and Devin Dresheen be the candidate in Innisfail-Sylvan Lake after UCP MLA Don MacIntre resigned on February 5 following charges of sexual interference and sexual assault. 30-year-old Dresheen beat out six other challengers.

In Fort McMurray- Conklin Laila Goodridge won the nomination with 52.5 % of the vote

on the second ballot. Goodridge beat out three other challengers to run in the by-election to fill the seat vacated by former Wildrose leader Brian Jean on March 5. Goodridge ran as a Wildrose candidate in Grande Prairie-Wapiti in 2015 and is a veteran of dozens of conservative political campaigns.

By-elections are expected to be called before August 5 which is six months after MacIntyre's resignation as required by law.