

Weekly Round Up (November 16 – 22, 2019)

Political Roundup

What was in Alberta's labour news this week (Nov. 18 – 22)

Bill 21 was introduced – members of the Legislative Assembly currently reviewing

This bill establishes the Public Sector Employer Act and allows the government to impose binding bargaining directives on employers. The government can now set:

- the duration of a collective agreement and;
- the fiscal limits within which the employer must operate.

The bill makes these directives confidential, barring Agencies, Boards and Commissions from sharing their mandates with anyone, unless the Minister gives them explicit permission.

Bill 22 was introduced and passed and received Royal Assent today. It serves to:

- Dissolves the Campus Alberta Strategic Directions Committee, which was a brainchild of Lukaszuk's when he was Advanced Ed Minister in 2013.
- Dissolves the Social Care Facilities Review Committee
- Dissolves the Alberta Sports Connection (formerly the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation)
- Dissolves the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
- Dissolves the Alberta Competitiveness council and repeals the *Alberta Competitiveness Act*
- Reduces the maximum number of council members for the Northern Alberta Development Council to 7 and removes a minimum
- Reduces the maximum number of council members for the Board of Travel Alberta and removes a minimum
- Reduces Mental Health Review Panel from 4 to 3 members
- Permits the use of teleconferencing technology for hearings
- Extends the 1st review for people on Community Treatment Orders from 6 to 12 months (red flag for civil liberties here)
- Makes it easier for political parties to merge and transfer assets
- Eliminates the Office of the Election Commissioner
- Dissolves the Alberta Capital Finance Authority, bringing it under the government – this was previously an arms length agency that provided loans to municipalities
- Directs ATB Financial to manage "its business in a commercial and cost-effective manner
- Transfers control of the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund, and the investment funds of WCB and AHS to AIMCo

- Bill 22 cuts the number of AUPE representatives on the LAPP sponsor board from 2 to 1, and the government has a veto over our appointee. We're also losing a seat on the LAPP corporate board. Both AUPE seats are being given to non-union employees.
- Removes ability to review AIMCo's performance after 5 years, and grants them management in perpetuity

More details can be found in the [Bill 22 Member Update](#).

Other Legislation Introduced

Bill 24 Appropriation Act

Bill 26 Farm Freedom and Safety Act

Bill 27 Trespass Statutes (Protecting Law-abiding Property Owners) Amendment Act

Bill 28 Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act

*Information on all bills listed above can be [found here](#).

Justice and Solicitor General Budget Estimates

During estimates, Minister Doug Schweitzer claimed they're not looking at shutting down any prisons but will be looking for efficiencies. In addition, they are hiring 50 crown prosecutors. It was also noted that the Provincial police plan is not accounted for in the budget.

Service Alberta Budget Estimates

Minister Nate Gubish just confirmed in Budget Estimates that 39 FTEs, which he says are currently vacant will not be filled and that 6 other positions will be eliminated through attrition for a total of 45 FTEs lost at Service Alberta. They are in the following areas:

- Consumer Awareness Advocate and Education function has been merged with the Enforcement & Investigations area - 2 vacancies will not be filled
- Finance & Employment Services - 2 vacancies will not be filled; 1 position will be eliminated through attrition - total 3 positions
- Information Management - 32 vacancies will not be filled; 3 positions will be eliminated through attrition - total 35 positions (Minister says this is 3% of that area's workforce)
- Alberta 1st Responders Radio Communications System - 1 position will be eliminated through attrition

Environment and Parks Budget Estimates

Minister Nixon confirmed that 110 FTEs are being abolished in this budget. He was unable to provide a breakdown of where these positions are.

He advised that the entire Climate Change Office has been shut down with remaining staff moved into the policy side of the department.

Road Testing/Driver Examiners

We received a letter from the Public Service Commission requesting a meeting to discuss the Road Test Model.

They opened public consultations on the model here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=661489B376A89-0863-8EC4-05E8DCFEB6AF5462>

Capital Region Housing

A review has been launched: <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=6614692900BC2-0271-35FA-AD4A849AFF21B7E4>

Continuing Care

\$7 million has been given to Sunshine and Hillview Lodges in Drumheller to accommodate 26 new continuing care living spaces.

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=66155CA80F2B8-F2D1-7023-75F27D07E2428017>

Alberta Health Services

Minister Tyler Shandro wrote to every employee outlining his goals. The last one was telling: "looking at ways to expand patient choice within our health system."

Job losses

Between Nov. 16 and Nov. 22 2019, we have been notified of:

University of Calgary

250 positions lost (150 FTEs will be terminated and of these we've been informed approximately 100 will be AUPE members. An additional 100 will be cut through attrition).

Innotech Alberta

125 jobs cut (of these, approximately 60 will be AUPE members).

GOA

Two terminations of temporary positions:

- o 1 GOA, Community and Social Services in Edmonton.
- o 1 GOA Institutional & Patient Support in Red Deer.

Alberta Health Services

1 reduction of permanent FTE, AHS in Wetaskawin.

Wage Rollbacks

Bargaining tables where the employer is or will consider tabling wage rollbacks:

- GoA: -2%
- U of L: -2%
- University of Athabasca: -2%
- AHS / NC: -2%
- AHS / GSS: -2%
- Alberta University of Arts: -2%
- Lethbridge College: -2%
- Carewest NC: -2%

- Carewest GSS: -2%
- Alberta Pensions: -2%
- NAIT: -2%
- Medicine Hat College: -2%

Event Roundup

Events You Don't Want to Miss (Nov. 16-22)

Hands off Our Education rally – Friday, Nov. 29 in Calgary:

Where: **McDougall Centre (455 6 St SW), Calgary Premier's Office**

When: **12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Who: **Public, all AUPE members and our supporters are invited to join during their non-work time**

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2482497711995802/>

Support our Students: Rally for Public Education - Saturday, Nov. 30 in Calgary:

Where: **McDougall Centre (455 6 St SW), Calgary Premier's Office**

When: **12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Who: **Public, all AUPE members and our supporters are invited to join during their non-work time**

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/430211704330996/>

Bargaining Roundup

Go to aupe.org for full updates.

[Bow Valley College](#) reached a tentative agreement. Ratification vote on November 29.

[The Good Samaritan Society](#) bargaining team met with the employer to continue negotiations: FTE reduction issues were addressed.

[Chartwell](#) team met with the employer. The bargaining team is revising their Unfair Labour Practice Complaint to reflect their concerns about the employer's new schedule and is applying for third-party assistance at the ALRB.

[Extendicare Canada](#) continued bargaining and signed off on three articles.

Check Out:

[Bill 22 attacks LAPP and PSPP](#)

[U of C job losses are more broken promises from UCP Government](#)

[Something has to give: Alberta Justice system braces for budget cuts](#)