



## **BRIEFING NOTE**

### **GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

***February 25, 2020***

The UCP Government laid out its' legislative priorities for the second session of the 30<sup>th</sup> Alberta Legislature with the [Speech from the Throne](#) delivered by Her Honour, Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, at 3pm on February 25, 2020 .

Following the speech, the government introduced Bill 1, *Critical Infrastructure Defence Act*, which would impose stiff penalties for rioting on, or blocking, rail and roadways, pipelines and related infrastructure, oil and gas production and refinery sites, other utilities, telecommunications equipment and mines.

In the Throne speech, it was noted that, the Government will:

- Introduce bills to make it easier, faster and less expensive for business, community groups and governments to deliver services and create jobs.
- Support the growing efforts of major Alberta energy producers to achieve the goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

#### **Theme 1 – Getting Alberta back to work**

- Introducing a comprehensive, long-term Blueprint for Jobs and continue the Skills for Jobs Agenda.
- Through the 2020 Capital Plan, commits \$6.4 billion for infrastructure projects. Details will be released with Budget 2020, February 27, 2020.
- Building on the first session, the government will bring forward the Fairness for Newcomers Action Plan to provide [faster credential recognition](#); the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program to attract entrepreneurs to start new businesses and invest in the province, and; continue work on interprovincial trade and labour mobility barriers.
- Use dollars identified in Budget 2019 to expand Alberta's profile in key capital markets – through a new investment promotion agency.

#### **Theme 2 – Making life better for Albertans**

- The government continues to talk about maintaining or increasing budgets for health care, education and social services – in the face of conflicting information being presented by non-government agencies including health care professionals, school boards, the teachers union and social service and civil society agencies.

- Implementing health care reforms, including ones to reduce wait times and improve health outcomes, and renewed mental health and addictions programs.
- Increased penalties for impaired driving. changes to legislation regarding vaping, take action to [end human trafficking in Alberta](#), and prevent convicted sexual offenders from legally changing their names.
- Introduce *Choice in Education Act* to re-affirm parent's primary responsibility for their children's education, and implement curriculum review recommendations.
- Update election rules to allow for:
  - a Senate election in conjunction with the 2021 municipal elections;
  - citizen-led referendum;
  - a recall act covering MLAs, municipal councillors, mayors, and school board trustees;
  - setting fixed dates for provincial elections and provincial budgets;
  - introducing donor contribution limits to political action committees (PACs); banning foreign money for third party advertisers; and
  - the legislated requirement for a referendum before a consumer carbon tax can be imposed.

### **Theme 3 – Standing up for Albertans**

- Address illegal blockages by increasing penalties for blocking roads, railways and other critical infrastructure
- Clarify the referendum process and allow holding referendums not related to constitutional issues – including the requirement for a referendum before implementing a consumer carbon tax
- Replace the federal parole board with a provincial parole board in charge of parole eligibility and terms for provincial inmates.
- Address the recommendations of the [Fair Deal Panel](#), following its final report