

A Pattern of Behaviour

A 2018 letter from the Motor Dealers' Association of Alberta to its members affirmed Kenney's promise to address the MDA's concerns if elected. Dealers subsequently donated over \$800,000 to a UCP-aligned political action committee.

On July 4, 2019, Steve Allan was named commissioner—at a salary of \$290,000—of the “Public Inquiry Into Funding of Anti-Alberta Energy Campaigns.” Eleven days later Allan awarded a \$905,000 sole-source contract to a Calgary law firm, Dentons, in which his son is a partner. Until April 2019, Doug Schweitzer, who appointed Allan, was also a partner at Dentons.

On July 8 the UCP government paid for three western premiers and their wives to fly to Saskatoon following a Stampede pancake breakfast. Of the charter flight's 16 passengers, only five were Government of Alberta employees. The flight cost the public \$16,764.

The UCP government stacked public boards in August with aligned members, ignoring the open-hiring process.

In October the UCP government announced that its “war room” would not be subject to freedom of information laws—an exception that Sean Holman, a FOI law expert at Mount Royal University, called “absolutely outrageous.”

In October Kenney donated to the defence of a rural property owner being sued by a trespasser he'd shot, raising concerns about judicial fairness and government giving cover to reckless gun use. “The last thing we want is people feeling emboldened toward the edge of vigilantism,” wrote Journal columnist Keith Gerein.

In October Kenney appointed Peter Singh to the Heritage Fund standing committee. Singh, UCP MLA for Calgary-East, was under investigation by the election commissioner for fraud and bribery allegations re his nomination, and his business was searched by the RCMP just before the 2019 election.

In November the UCP government brought in legislation to fire election commissioner Lorne Gibson. Alberta's Ethics Commissioner said any UCP MLA being investigated by Gibson who voted on the bill could be considered in a conflict of interest. Bill 22 passed, with all UCP MLAs in favour.

On November 9 UCP media handlers deleted social media comments and blocked users from viewing a livestreamed Kenney speech. “I was just muted from Jason Kenney's Facebook with my comment deleted for voicing respectfully that I do not wish for him to control our CPP and police force,” tweeted Spruce Grove teacher Allison Dakin.

In November, without consulting workers, the UCP government transferred assets from all public sector pension plans to AIMCo. Alberta Federation of Labour president Gil McGowan called this “tantamount to theft.”

In January 2020, CBC reported that Allan conditioned his support for Schweitzer on the candidate's endorsement of the Springbank Dam (an alleged conflict of interest), and that Allan's donation to Schweitzer wasn't disclosed to Elections Alberta.