

Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2026 (No. 2)

Fall 2026

The *Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2026 (No. 2)* amends several pieces of Alberta legislation.

Alberta Human Rights Act

Alberta's government is putting merit first in public-sector hiring, training and education by ensuring that hiring decisions by provincial bodies are neutral, fair and based on merit and competence.

Changes to the *Alberta Human Rights Act* would:

- prohibit provincial bodies from using programs, policies or activities under section 10.1 of the *Alberta Human Rights Act* when making hiring or promotion decisions, except in limited circumstances set out by regulation.
- ensure hiring or promotion decisions by provincial bodies will continue to be subject to existing human rights protections and provisions regarding the duty to accommodate and the ability to rely on bonafide or good faith occupational requirements, where reasonably necessary.
- ensure mandatory workplace training and education within provincial bodies will be ideologically neutral and focused on job related duties and skills.
- prohibit mandatory workplace training and education content that addresses diversity, equity and inclusion, among others, but allowing training and education that is reasonably necessary for employees to perform their jobs competently to continue.
- allow for future regulations to define terms, clarify which entities are considered provincial bodies and establish exemptions from the proposed amendments.

Protecting Victims of Non-consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Act

The *Protecting Victims of Non-consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Act* gives victims a civil right of action when their intimate images are distributed without consent, allowing them to seek compensation and court orders to have the content removed.

Changes to the act would:

- rename it the *Intimate Content Protection Act* to reflect its broader scope,
- replace the definition of "intimate image" with "intimate content" to capture more media formats, including audio recordings and live-streamed content,
- add a definition of "altered intimate content" to address altered, modified or artificially generated media,
- allow a person to take legal action when someone threatens to distribute intimate content, even if it has not been distributed,
- allow a person to withdraw consent to the distribution of intimate content,
- hold people accountable for negligent behaviour that causes intimate content to be distributed,
- allow courts to order community service as an alternative to some or all punitive damages, and
- create a provincial offence punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000, imprisonment for up to two years, or both.

Court of King's Bench Act

The *Court of King's Bench Act* establishes and governs Alberta's superior trial court, including its judges, applications judges, court administration and jurisdiction over criminal, civil and family matters.

Changes to the *Court of King's Bench Act* would:

- clarify that applications judges can hear any matters assigned to them that they are constitutionally allowed to hear, which will enable them to more effectively resolve issues, including in family proceedings.

King's Counsel Act

The *King's Counsel Act* establishes the process and eligibility requirements for appointing King's Counsel in Alberta, recognizing lawyers who have made exceptional contributions to the legal profession, the justice system and their communities.

Changes to the *King's Counsel Act* would:

- clarify eligibility requirements,
- clarify that applicants must have at least five years of active membership in the Law Society of Alberta, and
- expand eligibility to include former office holders.

Legal Profession Act

The *Legal Profession Act* establishes the Law Society of Alberta and provides the framework for regulating lawyers, setting professional standards, governing admission to the profession and protecting the public interest in the administration of justice. The *Legal Profession Act* also establishes the Alberta Law Foundation.

Changes to the *Legal Profession Act* would:

- remove certain ministerial authorities related to Alberta Law Foundation bylaws, directives and approval of large grants and funding commitments,
- strengthen the foundation's operational independence while maintaining expectations for annual reporting to the Minister,
- address details related to appeals of Law Society of Alberta decisions to the Court of King's Bench, including appeal periods, confidentiality, hearing materials and fresh evidence, and
- change the threshold for requesting a special meeting of the Law Society of Alberta to better reflect the size of the legal profession.

Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act

The *Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act* requires the Government of Alberta and public sector bodies to disclose compensation information for employees earning over a specified threshold and all board members.

Changes to the *Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act* would:

- ensure that a successor public sector body in a reorganization would be authorized to disclose combined compensation for any employees transferred to the public sector body,
 - a public sector body would report the total amount an employee earned that year from both their previous and current employers,
 - a reorganization could include the division of one public sector body into multiple new ones, or the transfer of a power or responsibility.