

NOTES FROM THE DOME

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Carbon tax referendum bill defeated

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A private member's bill calling for a referendum on the province's carbon tax ahead of any cost hikes was defeated Monday.

"One of the key issues that Albertans will vote on (in the next election) is whether we will or will not eliminate the carbon tax," said UCP Leader Jason Kenney.

He introduced the Alberta Taxpayer Protection (Carbon Tax Referendum) Amendment Act in March. The bill proposed a public referendum before the carbon tax rate could be increased, but the legislation was defeated 38-20 during its second reading.

House leader Brian Mason said Monday the tax paved the way for approval of pipeline projects.

"To reverse that at this stage ... would undermine federal support for the Kinder Morgan proposal."

CELEBRATING VAISAKHI

Albertans celebrated the religious festival of Vaisakhi on Saturday, marking the most important day in the Sikh faith.

"The birth of the Khalsa represents a commitment to service, justice and freedom. It is a day to celebrate social and gender equality," said Premier Rachel Notley in a news release Saturday.

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