

1973 Bill 72

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Second Session, 17th Legislature, 22 Elizabeth II

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

# **BILL 72**

**The Department of Telephones and Utilities Act**

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THE MINISTER OF TELEPHONES AND UTILITIES

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First Reading . . . . .

Second Reading . . . . .

Third Reading . . . . .

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## BILL 72

1973

### THE DEPARTMENT OF TELEPHONES AND UTILITIES ACT

(Assented to \_\_\_\_\_, 1973)

**H**ER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. In this Act,

- (a) "Department" means the Department of Telephones and Utilities;
- (b) "government agency" means
  - (i) a corporation that is an agent of the Crown in right of Alberta, or
  - (ii) any corporation, commission, board or other body empowered to exercise quasi-judicial or governmental functions and whose members are appointed by an Act of the Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor in Council or a Minister of the Crown, or any combination thereof;
- (c) "Minister" means the Minister of Telephones and Utilities;
- (d) "telecommunication" means the transmission, emission or reception of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, visual or other electromagnetic systems;
- (e) "utility" means
  - (i) any system, works, plant, equipment or service for
    - (A) the conveyance of telecommunications,
    - (B) the conveyance of persons or goods over a railway, street railway or tramway or similar form of transportation,
    - (C) the production, transmission, distribution, delivery or furnishing of water, heat, light, power, gas or liquefied petroleum gas, either directly or indirectly, to or for the public,
  - or
  - (ii) any oil or gas pipe line the proprietor of which may be declared by the Energy Resources Conservation Board to be a common carrier.

## **Explanatory Notes**

### **1. Definitions.**

**2.** There shall be a department of the public service of the Province called the Department of Telephones and Utilities over which shall preside the member of the Executive Council appointed by the Lieutenant Governor under the Great Seal of the Province as Minister of Telephones and Utilities.

**3.** In accordance with *The Public Service Act* there may be appointed a Deputy Minister of Telephones and Utilities and such other employees as are required to conduct the business of the Department.

**4.** (1) The Minister may appoint persons to advise him or to inquire into and report to him on matters under the Minister's administration.

(2) All persons appointed under this section shall be paid such remuneration and expenses as the Minister may prescribe.

**5.** The Minister may in writing

- (a) delegate to any employee of the Department any power, duty or function, including those required to carry out an agreement entered into by or on behalf of the Minister, but excluding the power to make regulations;
- (b) authorize any employee of the Department to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Minister.

**6.** (1) The Minister may establish such boards, committees or councils as he considers necessary or desirable to act in an advisory capacity in connection with any of the policies, programs, services or other matters under his administration.

(2) The Minister may, with respect to any board, committee or council established under this section,

- (a) appoint or provide for the manner of appointment of its members,
- (b) prescribe the term of office of any member,
- (c) designate a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary, and
- (d) authorize, fix and provide for the payment of remuneration and expenses to its members.

(3) A board, committee or council established pursuant to this section may, subject to the approval thereof by the Minister, make rules of procedure governing the calling of meetings, the procedure to be used at and the conduct of meetings, reporting and such other matters as required.

**2.** Establishment of Department.

**3.** Employees.

**4.** Consultants.

**5.** Delegation of powers.

**6.** Advisory boards.

(4) A board, committee or council established pursuant to this section may exercise such powers and shall perform such duties and functions as the Minister may approve, confer or impose upon it.

## **7. The Minister**

- (a) is responsible for the co-ordination of all policies, programs and activities of the Government of Alberta and government agencies in relation to all matters under the administration of the Minister;
- (b) may as a representative of the Government of Alberta, maintain a continuing liaison with the Government of Canada and agencies thereof, the governments of other provinces and territories and agencies thereof, municipal corporations, corporations and co-operative associations in Alberta, in relation to matters under the administration of the Minister;
- (c) may, on behalf of the Government of Alberta and with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, enter into an agreement relating to any matter pertaining to telecommunications or utilities with the Government of Canada, the government of any province or territory of Canada, an agency of any of those governments, any municipal corporation in Alberta, any corporation, any co-operative association in Alberta or any other person;
- (d) may carry out research projects related to matters pertaining to telecommunications or utilities;
- (e) may compile, study and assess information directly or indirectly related to matters pertaining to telecommunications or utilities with a view to using the results of such study and assessment for the purpose of better carrying out his functions and responsibilities under this or any other Act and with a view to providing such information or results to other departments of the Government and to government agencies and to the public;
- (f) shall conduct a continuing review of research related to any matter pertaining to telecommunications or utilities being carried out by the Government of Alberta or government agencies or by others and shall promote the co-ordination of such research and of facilities used for such research;
- (g) may generally do such acts as he considers necessary to promote the improvement of telecommunications or utilities for the benefit of the people of Alberta and future generations.

**7. Authority, duties and functions of the Minister.**

**8.** (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act, where any moneys have been appropriated by the Legislature for the making of grants under this Act, the Minister

(a) may make the grants, and

(b) may make regulations governing the conditions and methods of distribution of moneys appropriated for the purposes of making grants.

(2) The Minister may make regulations for the establishment, operation and administration of any services provided by the Department and fixing the fees to be charged for any matter arising out of the provision of those services.

**9.** This Act comes into force on the day upon which it is assented to.



## **8. Grants.**