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“Redford to Revive Public Consultation on Land Management”, 1 June 2011

Tory leadership candidate Alison Redford pledged today to change the government's controversial land management legislation. In March, Redford became the first candidate to publicly call for implementation to be halted pending review and she reiterated this stance today: " There's a lot of mistrust over the issue. We can't rush blindly ahead, it's unfair to people potentially affected by the bills."

Bill 19 - Land Assembly Project Area Act, Bill 36 - Alberta Land Stewardship Act and Bill 50 - Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 have many landowners afraid the government will be able to expropriate their property without the right of appeal or adequate compensation. Although the government has since amended Bill 36 with Bill 10 (the Alberta Land Stewardship Amendment Act), Redford does not believe this is enough, saying, "We simply haven't addressed the concerns of Albertans."

"I will add the three C's to Bill 19 & Bill 36: improved consultation, an explicit compensation model and access to the courts."

"Throughout Alberta, landowners have been talking about the lack of consultation. For me, it isn't about getting 100% agreement. It's about 100% participation. That is my goal."

"The Expropriation Act has fairly served Albertans for years. We need to including this Act in Bills 19 & 36 to ensure Albertans have confidence in full compensation."

"Finally, as a former Justice Minister, I deeply value access to the courts as one of our fundamental rights. It is an appropriate check to government's power."

Bill 50 also needs to be amended. "Bill 50 is about Critical Transmission Infrastructure, but many of the projects it deems critical simply are not. We need to proceed with one north south line from Edmonton to Calgary and the Heartland line. All other projects should be referred back to the AESO for a needs assessment and go through the full process."