



As a dedicated advocate of the energy sector, I continue to put forward creative policy proposals to try to improve the current state our natural resource sector. This isn't enough. Since the 2014 collapse in oil, people have been using the word "diversification". You might hear the current provincial government speaking about diversifying Alberta's economy but they have not delivered any results.

Calgary's prosperity is under attack. Tens of thousands of layoffs have occurred over the last four years. **I am one of those people who was laid off.** Thousands of more layoffs are likely to occur depending on how soon we come out of this current crisis. Of course, we have seen downturns before in Alberta; but this time is different, many of the great jobs in downtown may not come back and one of the culprits is rapidly advancing technology.

When I refer to technology causing a rise in unemployment, I am not necessarily referring to technology like self-driving cars; I am talking about things like advanced accounting software and machine learning which are destroying jobs around the world. In my current job selling water storage technology to oil and gas companies that are fracking across Alberta. I deal with dozens of companies in this city every day and I am seeing the technological revolution first hand. It used to take at least two or three people to process invoices, now they are simply scanned and automatically entered into a database. This has resulted in the loss of well-paying jobs across our province.

These technological innovations have created massive gains in productivity and our ability to compete in the global market.

The natural tendency to this reality is to fear technological development. That's why people burned printing presses and were terrified by the innovation of the automobile, but **fear of innovation is not the Albertan way.**

I propose the following three policies:

1: Business and government work together to create a tech supercluster in Calgary with a focus on some of the success stories that are already growing in Calgary including Peloton, Aucerna, Absorb LMS, Benevity, and Solum.

2: Embrace innovation in the Artificial Intelligence and Analytics space by using these technologies in oil and gas extraction and exporting that technology to global markets. We all know that the future will be dominated by Artificial Intelligence and Robotics; Alberta should be at the forefront of these industries especially when it comes to energy extraction.

3: The government cannot solve these problems alone. Let's encourage the Calgary business community to increase access to capital and mentorship for the start-up/technology community. There is an incredible amount of experience in Calgary raising capital for innovative projects, the business community and government must concentrate on creating the best possible environment for Alberta's entrepreneurs to thrive.

As the world changes, lets take Alberta to the next level. The good news is that Alberta has proven its ability to adapt in the past all we need is a government that understands and works with business.

I understand our economic issues.

Together we can bring back a strong Alberta economy.

Warmest Regards,

Becca Polak
UCP Calgary-Mountain View Nomination Candidate