

From: Robert J. Iverach, Q.C. info@actionalberta.ca
Subject: ActionAlberta #1 - Energy & Equalization Crisis - NEW Website & Newsletter launched!
Date: December 20, 2018 at 9:32 PM
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Hello All (The Group of 3,023+ and growing):

**ANNOUNCING our NEW WEBSITE: www.actionalberta.ca and our new
Twitter page: https://twitter.com/action_alberta**

As well, check our **Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/EnoughisEnoughCanadiansFightBackforOurEnergySector/>

We are a group of deeply concerned unpaid Alberta volunteers. Our work is intended to educate, inform and motivate Canadians to be visible and vocal regarding the unequal, unfair and discriminatory treatment of Alberta by our Federal Government.

Let's start first with the FEDERAL "AID PACKAGE"

Earlier this week, the Federal Government announced an "aid package" of \$1.6 Billion in "potential" funding to the energy sector. The "aid package" includes loans for the oil and gas sector, as well as some government funding for some unspecified projects.

(In essence, the Federal Government has taken **OUR** money that we have paid in taxes and **loaned** (not given) it back to us!)

One billion dollars of the funding will ostensibly help companies invest in new technologies: \$500 million is available in commercial financing initiatives over

technology. \$500 million is available in commercial financing initiatives over three years from the Business Development Bank, \$50 million is available from Canada's Natural Resources Clean Growth Program, and another \$100 million is available through Canada's Strategic Innovation Fund for diversification-related projects.

The question is:

“How will this conceivably help the hurting oil and gas sector?”

It will not! It is a Joke!

In fact, we question whether most of the funds will ever be advanced.

It appears to be a soft way of phasing out the oil and gas sector with “clean technology”. The oil patch is infuriated!!!

ALL INDICATIONS ARE THE REST OF CANADA COULD CARE LESS ABOUT ALBERTA'S OIL PROBLEM!

At the time of writing this article, Alberta's Western Canadian Select oil (“WCS”) was up to **US\$30.47** per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (“WTI”) dropped to **US\$47.97** per barrel.

The Differential (or Discount) was **US\$17.50**. This means that Canada is still selling its WSC, mainly to the US, for **63.5%** of the WTI price or a discount of **36.5%!!**

Over the past few weeks, the Differential has narrowed, but **ONLY** because the Alberta Government has mandated a 9% reduction in oil production commencing January 1, 2019. In other words, if we had more pipeline capacity, the Differential would be far less than it is now!

CANADA'S EQUALIZATION SYSTEM IS ANOTHER MATTER OF MASSIVE CONCERN

Over the history of the equalization/transfer system, **Quebec has received \$221 Billion** in Federal equalization payments while **Alberta has received just \$92 Million!**

Over the last ten years, Alberta has contributed \$240 Billion in net contribution into the system!

Last week, the Federal Government advised that for the 2019-20 fiscal year, Quebec will now receive an additional \$1.4 Billion more, taking its cut to \$13.1 Billion, which will be 66% of the total equalization pool! Alberta will receive ZERO. How fair is that?

Remember that earlier this year (without any consultation with the Provinces), the Federal Government unilaterally extended the equalization formula for another five years! They did this with no meaningful consultation with the Provinces. The map at [ACTION ALBERTA WEBSITE](#) spells out the numbers.

We Albertans are proud to share some of our wealth when times are good here and bad elsewhere. But now the opposite is true. Now Alberta is hurting and where are all the other Provinces who benefitted from our generosity?

Quebec, for example, is the main beneficiary of Alberta-funded federal transfers, even though:

- Alberta has a **\$7.5 Billion deficit**. Quebec has a **\$3.1 Billion surplus**.
- Our economy is smaller than it was four years ago, while Quebec's economy has been booming.
- Our unemployment rate is higher than Quebec's.
- Quebec refuses to allow pipelines to carry Alberta oil.
- Quebec enjoys lower tuition AND daycare rates.

It should not be too much to ask other provinces, that benefit from Alberta's resources, to not stand in the way of us getting a fair price for those resources.

Consider this: Quebecers consume 360,000 barrels of gas and diesel every day, much of it imported. They benefit massively from wealth generated by Alberta energy. But the Quebec Premier condemns that energy as "dirty," while saying he will block our effort to ship it to Eastern Canada and global markets. Is this how our generosity is repaid in our time of need?

(Perhaps our own leadership helped bring on this disrespect. Remember when Premier Notley said that Alberta was "the embarrassing cousin that no one wants to talk about"?)

Now we are at a place where "Enough is Enough". We are tired of being taken

advantage of, undermined and attacked.

We have made a net contribution of **\$220 billion** to the rest of Canada through our federal taxes over the past decade. We have been the country's greatest job creation engine. We have moved tens of thousands of Canadians from poverty to prosperity.

It's time to stand up for ourselves and to stop overly accommodating others who don't appreciate our contribution AND it's time to stop apologizing for our successes.

ALBERTA – IT IS TIME TO CONSIDER “INDEPENDENCE”!!

Canada is not only broken - it is totally broken! We have asked Alberta to put the separation referendum option on the table when dealing with Ottawa and the rest of Canada. We cannot continue to let our political leaders refuse to even raise the topic because that leaves Alberta negotiating with Ottawa and the rest of Canada with both hands tied behind our back.

Throughout history, powers such as Great Britain have had colonies under their control. However, most colonies eventually rebelled against such colonial control (e.g., the USA) and declared INDEPENDENCE from their masters. Alberta has now reached the point in time where it is time to rebel against its colonial rulers in Ottawa. Alberta is now and always has been treated as a “colony” of Eastern Canada.

As one of our readers commented: One cannot help but draw a parallel to the situation that the American colonies found themselves in: “taxation without representation”. As Thomas Jefferson wrote: "The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give it to those who would not."

Here is an excellent article on this topic: Jack Mintz: [JACK MINTZ ARTICLE](#)

Here's another opinion from JOHN FELSTED IN WINNIPEG.

With all the fuss over the Kinder Morgan Trans-Mountain pipeline project, one would think that British Columbia was under siege from petroleum interests. That is an epic fairy tale. Our federal government should have the same approach to petroleum pipelines no matter where they are proposed or built.

approach to petroleum pipelines no matter where they are proposed or built. Similarly, movement of oil by ship should be the same no matter what part of Canada movement is in. The facts tell an entirely different story:

Few people are aware that the East Coast of Canada has about 4,000 inbound trips by oil tankers each year. Tankers account for about one fifth of the 20,000 inbound vessel trips on the East Coast.

Over 82 million tonnes of various petroleum and fuel products are moved in and out of 23 Atlantic Canada ports. In Quebec, 25 million tonnes of crude oil and various petroleum products are moved in and out of 39 ports where cargo is loaded or unloaded. 89% of the shipments of crude oil and various petroleum products are through Quebec City and Montreal.

Over 4.1 million tonnes of oil products are moved from 29 marine facilities in and out of ports in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway.

All indications are the Canada East pipeline would have disrupted the vested interests of those who import and refine foreign crude.

The screaming of Montreal politicians over building the Energy East pipeline has nothing to do with protecting the ecology or preventing oil spills unless we overlook the hazards of marine shipping and ignore Montreal consistently pouring a few million liters of raw sewage into the St. Lawrence River. The fuss over a pipeline is all a smokescreen to allow investors in the current setup to continue to make money.

Why is tanker traffic barred from the British Columbia coastline but not Quebec? The hypocrisy and double standards are blatantly obvious and unacceptable.

The notion that a pipeline company must account for downstream effects of product shipped is ludicrous. If we ship crude to a terminal on the west coast and it is bought by China, or another Pacific Rim nation, we cannot be held accountable for carbon emissions of the importing nation.

The above is where ideologues like McKenna and Trudeau are dangerous. They believe they can impose their utopian standards on other nations while their inane policies are strangling our economy at home.

Even worse, the environmental standards imposed on Canadian projects do

Even worse, the environmental standards imposed on Canadian projects do not apply to foreign oil imports. Our government is making it harder for us to become energy self-sufficient.

**Why would we import oil rather than produce oil for our own use?
Something stinks and it is not Alberta bitumen.**

In closing, here is additional information on the problems we are facing and the need for us to take remedial action immediately to right our sinking ship.

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