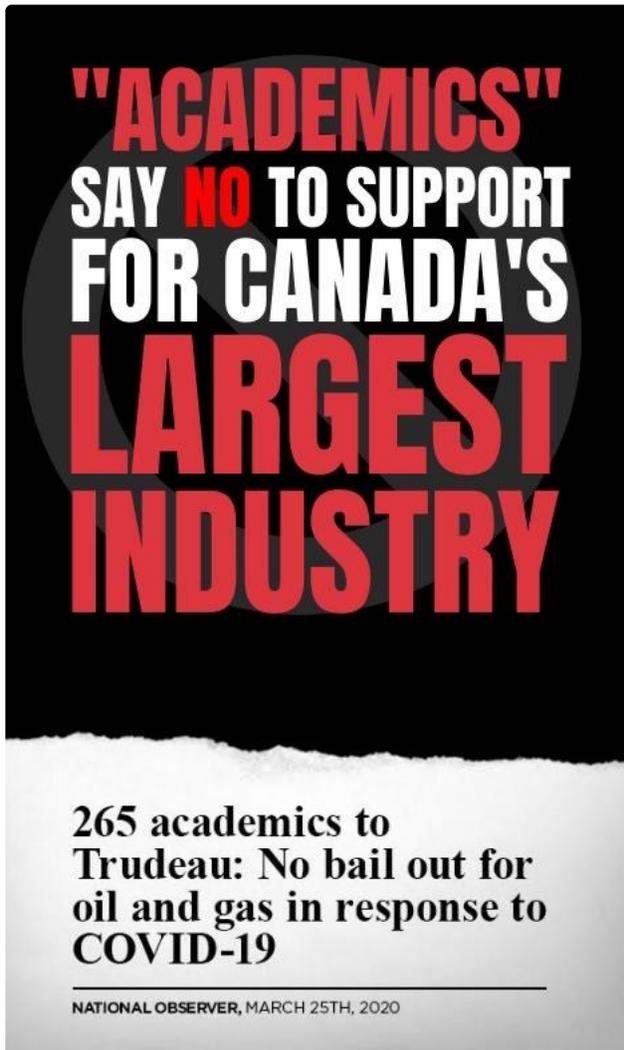


From: Action Alberta info@actionalberta.ca 
Subject: ActionAlberta #112 - REBUTTAL TO 265 ACADEMICS OUT TO KILL OUR ENERGY SECTOR!
Date: April 5, 2020 at 10:49 AM
To: Robert J. Iverach, Q.C. biverach@mac.com



ACTION ALBERTA

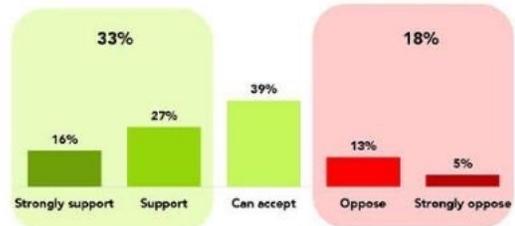


"ACADEMICS"
SAY **NO** TO SUPPORT
FOR CANADA'S
LARGEST
INDUSTRY

265 academics to
Trudeau: No bail out for
oil and gas in response to
COVID-19

NATIONAL OBSERVER, MARCH 25TH, 2020

CANADIANS
SAY **YES!** TO SUPPORT
FOR CANADA'S
ENERGY
SECTOR



ABACUS DATA, MARCH 26TH, 2020



ACTION ALBERTA

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HELLO ALL:

REBUTTAL TO 265 ACADEMICS OUT TO KILL OUR ENERGY SECTOR!

Canadian **academics** from the U of A, plus other institutions, are **lobbying** the Canadian Prime Minister to **destroy the oil and gas industry**, and not provide much needed government assistance in a time of need. Questionably, these academics say they want to **transition to a “green” sustainable economy**. **Talk about kicking an industry when it is down!**

Wonder if these **ivory tower dwellers** have any idea of the **contribution** that the oil and gas industry make to the Canadian economy? Simply put, resource extraction, including oil and gas is the **third largest sector in the Canadian economy**. In 2018 oil and gas put **\$117 billion directly** into the Canadian economy, supported **530,000 direct jobs** and provided **\$8 billion to governments**, on product prices that were **far below world average**.

About **30% of Alberta’s \$338 billion** GDP is based directly and indirectly on **oil and gas**. Contrast this to **universities** across Canada who annually **suck close to \$12 billion out of governments**. As a sad side note, over the years governments in Canada have **contributed about \$11 billion to groups fighting to destroy oil and gas**. Talk about biting the hand that feeds you! **We need oil and gas to survive in this climate**, let alone generate revenue for paying taxes. **Governments should stop funding groups trying to shut down our fossil fuel energy industry**.

The **principal authors** of this letter are from the **University of Alberta**. What a way for the University staffers to **thank the oil and gas industry** for its support of academic and research programs at the University. U of A is home to the **Institute for Oil Sands Innovation (IOSI)**, a multi-million-dollar institute, doing **oil sands research**. Several oil and gas related Research Chairs, with industry support from companies like Cenovus, Suncor, CNRL, PetroCanada, to name a few, are located in the **Faculty of Engineering**.

The **principal concern** of the complaining academics authoring this letter seems to be much-needed aid to the oil and gas sector. Government assistance to business takes **many forms** - grants, tax breaks, subsidies, loans, loan guarantees and forgivable loans. Between 1981 and 2009 all levels of government provided almost **\$684 billion in financial assistance to**

industry. Industry recipients included **agriculture, aerospace, electronics, manufacturing** and many others. In some cases, recipients were profitable and had substantial cash on hand.

The academics' argument seems to be that **instead of subsidizing oil and gas, government aid should go to such causes** as renewables, public transportation, regenerative agriculture, and more to stop global warming. However, this **warming may be coming to an end** as our sun enters a lower energy level, a **Grand Solar Minimum**, for the **next 35 years** or so. They are also advocating more **centralized planning** for all sectors of the economy. We have seen how this has played out in recent years with the plethora of **regulations and hoops to jump** through to get a new energy project, or any project, underway. Years and **years of hearings, massive costs** for the proponents, and **billions of dollars leaving** to countries that actually allow development to go ahead. Best to cut the red tape and allow free enterprise to take risks and develop new projects. **Centrally planned economies usually fail spectacularly!**

Another reality is that global emissions are set to raise. By 2050 increased use of fossil fuels is expected to **increase emissions by 43%**, principally in China, Southeast Asia, India, the Middle East and Africa (non-OECD countries) as these economies **grow and eliminate poverty**. Alberta has the **third largest fossil fuel reserves** on the planet and can be a responsible and ethical major supplier for this energy demand.

Generally, wind and solar, which are **heavily subsidized**, are **unreliable and don't produce a consistent baseload**. **Ontario is a perfect case study** of the negative effects of transitioning to wind and solar. Utility costs increased massively due to feed in tariffs and preferential contracts - consumers had to pay **\$9.2 billion more over 20 years for green power**, and suffered energy poverty. In addition, Ontario had to pay \$3.1 billion more than the revenue it received for exported power - **power that had to be dumped** because it was being generated in excess of Ontario's immediate demands. By 2016 **Ontario** had some of the **highest electricity rates in North America**. World wide the experience with **wind and solar renewables** is that they **increase the cost of electricity up to 3.4 times** the cost of conventionally produced power. Increasing utility costs cause businesses of all types to move to lower cost locations.

Life on earth is carbon based, and CO2 is essential to that life continuing to thrive on this planet. It is very amusing to watch highly educated academics vilify CO2 and advocate that we eliminate it from the atmosphere to prevent “global warming”. There is **no proof** that increasing atmospheric CO2 levels cause anything other than **improved plant growth**. Plants take CO2 from the atmosphere, combine it with minerals from the soil and sunshine, to produce plant tissues. These plant tissues are known as food, and all animal life on this planet (humans included) is dependent on plants for food. Prior to the beginning of the industrial age (in 1750) CO2 was constant at **273 parts per million** in the atmosphere, a starvation level diet for plants. Today the CO2 level is **415 ppm** and raising - **resulting in an increase in our food crop yields**.

Canada is a heavily taxed economy awash in debt (government, personal, business) that currently sits at about **320% of GDP**. The current **COVID-19 crises will have a major impact on our economy** by increasing debt, putting many enterprises out of business, increasing unemployment and scaring away investment. The crises, while slowing down the economy, will **cut government tax revenue** resulting in severe austerity across all levels of government. From a business point of view, it makes a lot of sense to support a proven, reliable, economical, responsible and ethical source of energy. **We should not chase the nightmare of expensive, unreliable, heavily subsidized solar and wind**.

In short, **academics without a grasp of basic economics, or science, and food production**, are advocating the **shut down of an economical, reliable source of energy** for renewable energy that has proven to be **uneconomical and unreliable**. Further, **they want massive government funding for a green transition and generous social programs**. This is **not realistic**. It will drag Canada’s economy to **third world level poverty and stagnation**. **Meanwhile, non-OECD economies that choose to use fossil fuels will grow and prosper**.

Brian Kennedy
(Sherwood Park, Alberta)

Ed Schultz
(Sherwood Park, Alberta)

OUR READERS' COMMENTS SECTION

1. From a Reader: Canadians should be horrified to know that their hard earned tax dollars have been subsidizing the educations of the signatories of this outrageous letter. There are no words, or a combination thereof, capable of describing its stupidity. These academics, who should know better, are asking the Trudeau government to turn its back on an industry which has been, and continues to be a crucial lynchpin in Canada's economy. They should be ashamed of themselves for asking, and even more so for asking at a time when this industry has been crippled by a global corona virus pandemic, a Russia/Saudi Arabia price war, and Federal government policies which have effectively land locked its production. Sadly, the signatories have raised the stupid bar by their collective failure to understand that if the Trudeau government were to accede to their request, the following would occur. Thousands of well paying jobs would be lost, permanently. Countless Canadian companies would be forced into bankruptcy. Numerous pension plans, and those of thousands of Canadians would be seriously impaired. Provincial and federal tax and royalty revenues would plummet, precipitously. The revenue destruction would be long lasting because, contrary to the beliefs of the signatories, there are no viable green alternatives which are currently capable of replacing it. The net result of this monumentally stupid request is that the aspirations of the signatories, global emissions reduction, will not be fulfilled. To the extent that Canadian fossil fuel production is terminated, it will immediately be replaced by foreign producers, and the associated emissions and jobs will be off-shored to those producers.

2. From a Reader: The most overused phrase right now..."We're all in this together"... Really!!! ... If we're in this together we would have our pipelines built already. Eastern Canada would be buying oil from Alberta instead of Saudi Arabia. These are your friends Eastern Canada! TMX would have been completed. I couldn't give a rat's "you know what" anymore about Toronto, Quebec or Vancouver/Victoria. You can rot in hell! I used to be a very proud Canadian. It's over! We are on our own now! And have been for a long time. IT'S OVER! Time to start acting accordingly. Why are there transfer payments at all....? I want out of this sick country. It's the virus - for Alberta!

3. From a Reader: Alberta is generating 600 megs from our wind farms and still buying 800+ megs from BC and Montana. When will Calgary stop all work on the rink, library and green line and shift it to a money making shovel ready

on the milk, library and green line and shift it to a money making shovel ready (without all of the useless paperwork and studies) Shepard 2 combined cycle money making gas fired power plant. It will stop the outflow of cash from Alberta, generate revenue, eliminate wind and solar subsidies, help our dying gas industry and help save our middle class. If the City Council doesn't refocus, Calgary will end up in our money eating composting operation. We own Enmax, what is the matter with you people?

4. From a Reader (Sherwood Park, Alberta) My wife and I are diligently following the recommendations to control the spread of Corvid 19 and look forward to when we can see a reduction in the number of new cases. Our concern is also one of how we support our families during what would appear to be an extended period where some will have little or no income other than Government support or extended credit , both of which accumulate as debt for repayment sometime in the future. I am 68 years of age and have accumulated a substantial balance in RRSPs which I will have to draw down starting within the next 4 years. As a boost to the economy and to assist family members (sons and daughters) in accessing funds to assist with mortgage payments and basic living costs, I propose the Federal Government allow individuals such as myself to withdraw up to \$100,000 at a flat tax rate of 10% and gift to family members in need. This would bring the government a 10% tax (albeit likely somewhat lower than when one would normally cash out as income at a later date) and support family members at a time of need.

5. From a Reader I am an extremely concerned oil and gas industry worker that thinks it is time for Kenney to expand on the support he just gave TC Energy for XL. It is not going to happen from Ottawa in a meaningful kind of way. Perhaps it's the first step in becoming independent but Alberta and Saskatchewan need to give the industry as much support as possible. If our Federal government can rack up \$200 Billion in debt for Covid-19 then Alberta can take on a whole bunch too for the engine that drives the Alberta economy. Let me know how I can help. I am tired of the crap coming out of Ottawa.

ADDITIONAL READING/ VIEWING

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.

1. FRIENDS OF SCIENCE - OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU - RE: LETTER FROM 265 ACADEMICS – FIGHT VIRUS NOT CARBON [Click](#)

[here](#)

2. APRIL 1 IN CANADA: FEDERAL CARBON TAX JUMPS 50% AND MPs' SALARIES GROW 2.1% [Click here](#)

3. DIANE FRANCIS: PUTIN'S WAR ON CANADA'S ECONOMY [Click here](#)

4. FRIENDS OF SCIENCE: DON'T BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU [Click here](#)

5. CALGARY IN CRISIS - THE TRAILER [Click here](#)

ACTION ALBERTA - WHO WE ARE

We are a group of deeply concerned, unpaid Alberta resident volunteers. Our work is intended to educate, inform and motivate all Canadians to be visible and vocal regarding the unequal, unfair and discriminatory treatment of Alberta by our Federal Government. Alberta's energy sector is the most important driver of the Canadian economy and its health directly impacts the standard of living of every Canadian. Unfortunately, that is not happening under our current Federal government!

Please **share** this email with your contacts so we can turn this unfair, inequitable, unjustifiable travesty around for the good of all Canadians. If you would like to submit information or articles, please send them to me.

Thank you for ALL of your support and interest!

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If you are an elected representative of any level of Government, you have a fiduciary responsibility and a moral obligation to hear constituent voices about the problems facing Canada and the Canadian energy and equalization/transfer payment crisis.

NOTE: Our website disclaimer applies to all our Action Alberta activities.



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