

From: **Action Alberta** info@actionalberta.ca   
Subject: ActionAlberta #119 - THE BUFFALO PROJECT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA!  
Date: May 4, 2020 at 4:31 AM  
To: Q.C. Iverach, Q.C. biverach@mac.com

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# ACTION ALBERTA

**REPORTER: Mr Trudeau, what colour is your tie?**



**JUSTIN TRUDEAU:** First of all I would like to thank you for that thought out question. Here in Canada we are working very diligently to answer all questions such as this one to create a transparency and understanding for all Canadians. We have set up a special task force and are gathering research on this topic, and expect to have all apparent information regarding this at a later date. Furthermore, I would like to thank all of the Canadians

Furthermore, I would like to thank all of the Canadians working towards getting this information out there. Your dedication to acquiring this data has been outstanding, and shows what it truly means to be Canadian.

## **ACTION ALBERTA**

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### **LETTER FROM THE BUFFALO PROJECT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA (DAVID TURPIN)**

**April 13, 2020**

**Dr. David H. Turpin**

**President, University of Alberta**

**2-24 South Academic Building (SAB), University of Alberta**

**Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G7**

**Dear President Turpin:**

We are writing this letter today, as the Buffalo Project advisory board, to express our sincere concern over the actions of thirteen professors at the University of Alberta who authored and signed a letter asking our federal government NOT to provide financial assistance to our oil and natural gas industry during this COVID-19 crisis.

You can find the letter at: [Click here](#)

Many Buffalo Project founders, University of Alberta alumnus and major funders of Alberta's universities, are rightly outraged.

Especially disconcerting are the lead authors, Professor Laurie Adkin and Professor Debra Davidson, both of the University of Alberta.

The Buffalo Project supports academic freedom and the principles of free thought and uninhibited research. However, these signatories are not speaking from academic expertise but are parroting a popular ideology that opposes hydrocarbon extraction at any cost, human or economic.

It is also clear from the range of academic specialities represented, that many of the signatories are not experts in either energy markets, environment, nor economics.

Thus, these professors leveraging their positions at the University of Alberta, along with a Saudi Arabia/Russia price war and global pandemic, in an effort to divert support from our oil and gas sector, is incomprehensible.

Our oil and gas sector is Canada's largest industry representing 10% of Canada's GDP and approximately 500,000 jobs for Canadian families. It has supported Alberta families and universities with tax revenues, jobs and world-class research for decades.

Furthermore, oil and gas is fundamental to the fight against COVID-19. While heating our homes, we need oil and gas to transport goods and medical supplies. In fact, many of our lifesaving essential medical equipment is derived from oil and gas. We would lose the fight against COVID-19 without MRIs, IV bags and tubes, medical shields, gloves, antiseptics and hundreds of other medical supplies and products.

Another important fact is that many forecasts show global demand for oil will increase for at least the next 30 years. The world needs a supplier of that resource – and we have the third largest oil reserves on the planet and produce it in perhaps the most responsible way on earth.

Albertans should meet that energy demand, including many of your current and future graduates.

But now the sector needs our support more than ever. Not professors leveraging their titles and institutional reputation to seek its demise.

Our board would like to formally request a public statement from you indicating the views expressed by the thirteen professors in the aforementioned letter DO NOT represent the views of the University of Alberta to combat any potential perception issues.

perception issues.

Furthermore, the public statement ought to recognize the importance of the oil and gas industry to Alberta, Canada and the world – and how it is worthy of support during this crisis.

Thank you for your leadership of a critical Alberta institution, and for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Best regards,

**Dallas Howe, Chair**

**Grant Fagerheim**

**Stan Grad**

**Tim Hearn**

**Bill Turnbull**

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**RESPONSE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA (DAVID TURPIN)**

**16 April 2020**

**Buffalo Project**

**PO Box 2554, Stn. M**

**Calgary, AB T2P 2M7**

**Dear Members of the Buffalo Project Advisory Board,**

I am writing in response to your letter dated 13 April 2020. I want to assure you that the opinions expressed by the lead writers of the open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau do not reflect the views of the University of Alberta. As you note in your letter, faculty members have a right to free expression as well as academic freedom.

In contrast to the position expressed in their letter, the U of A recognizes that the impact of COVID-19 and the collapse of oil prices has been devastating for the economic and social well-being of the province as whole, and more directly, for our families, friends, and neighbours. Job losses, business closures and industry slow-downs are being felt by hundreds of thousands of Albertans. As a university, our role is to be a partner in the province's recovery.

I am actively engaging with colleagues in Ottawa to increase understanding of the situation here in Alberta, and on behalf of the U of A, I am making the case for financial support for the province, our communities, and our key industries, including energy and natural resources, as well as support for our employees, students, and research. This support is critical to the well-being of our province in these unprecedented times.

As we look to the future, we will build on the strength of our partnerships and continue to support the rebuilding of Alberta's economic and social prosperity in all sectors--including oil and gas, agriculture, healthcare, education, AI and bio-technology. Only by working together will we find innovative and compelling solutions to the challenges Alberta faces and make a full recovery.

You can find my recent public statement in support of Alberta in a time of crisis [here](#).

**Yours sincerely,**  
**David H. Turpin, CM, PhD, LLD, FRSC**  
**President and Vice-Chancellor**

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## **OUR READERS' COMMENTS SECTION**

**1. From a Reader:** My concern is short and simple. Under the current Federal government how is it possible for Alberta to even continue to exist let alone prosper. Since Mr Trudeau came to power, sticking with the status quo renders our situation hopeless for the foreseeable future.

**2. From a Reader:** In 2018 I read a "A Tale of Two Countries" by Richard Saillant, an academic from the Maritimes. I recommend it to all Action Alberta readers. This book published in 2016 is an easy read of 216 double spaced pages. It has nothing to do with GHG, oil and gas or our Prime Minister. What the book does is illustrate with an abundance of clear research is the financial peril that this nation faces due to the demands of demographics and social welfare expectations. The clear point is that the Maritimes and PQ are effectively broke and the only remedy is further significant transfers from the federal government in the years ahead. The clear conclusion of this Albertan is demographics of an aging Canada are irreversible and it's an inevitable "iron curtain" for us. The cost is shouldered to this reality and voting for living will not

curtain for us. The east is shackled to this reality and voting for living will not stop. The demographic sunset begins in the east and rolls west with the Alberta being bled the whole way. The health care system implodes when the average Canadians age hits a certain number at or near the Ottawa River. Alberta has had its cash flow inhibited by pipeline politics, global investment wealth has abandoned us and the future is uncertain. What we have left with at present is a fair bit of private wealth in this province. If you read Mr Saillant's book you will be under no illusion of the precariousness of that wealth going forward. Forget for a moment the oil politics and strongly consider reading this book in this time of idleness to consider whether separation is not necessary for this reason alone.

**3. From a Reader:** Deprived of my civil liberties and like a deer in the headlights, I bravely watch BNN each morning, vainly hoping to see if there is a pulse in my decimated portfolio. Relief is offered when programming is shifted to Ottawa to cover Mr. Trudeau's daily briefing of the nation. Eagerly anticipating some badly needed good news, I resist the urge to change the channel, only to be disappointed and angered by another ludicrous waste of time. Thank God I have a lot of it to spare these days. Instead of being treated to inspired leadership and guidance, I watch our Prime Minister emerge from his little red brick cuckoo clock, descend to his podium, flash an arrogant smirk, then proceed to spout and repeat platitudes, heavily punctuated by "ahs" and "uhs". After ten annoying minutes of saying absolutely nothing meaningful, he proceeds to insult his audience with another ten minutes of deflecting and obfuscating softball, vetted questions from the "bought and paid for" Canadian press. Following a final condescending smirk, he abruptly turns and retreats into his cuckoo clock for another day. Canadians have sacrificed and paid for something substantially better than this.

**4. From a Reader:** The letter written by the 256 "Academics" requesting the destruction of oil and gas industry is so outrageous and out of line that it is hard to grasp. They are showing their true colors (green) and bias, much the same way our CBC and CTV media do every day. These "academics" are supposed to be in charge of educating our children, not brainwashing them and spending their time on pet political agendas. They should all be fired.... immediately. If an employee of a public institution publicly voiced his private opinion on some social matter and signed with his public credentials, he would most definitely be fired. I've seen it happen. Why is there no call for this disciplinary action? We should all draft a letter to the PM demanding that

educational institutions pursuing political agendas all be shut down.

## **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. FRASER INSTITUTE: A FRIEND IN NEED: HOW ALBERTANS CONTINUE TO KEEP FEDERAL FINANCES AFLOAT, 2020** [Click here](#)

**2. ALBERTA'S NET CONTRIBUTION TO OTTAWA DWARFS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER PROVINCES** [Click here](#)

**3. BELL: TRUDEAU STILL A NO-SHOW ON ALBERTA'S OILPATCH DEAL**  
[Click here](#)

**4. MICHAEL MOORE, ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE** [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!**

**Robert (Bob) J. Iverach, Q.C.**

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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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