HELLO ALL (The Group of 3,925+ and growing):

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. That motivation should naturally flow from the fact that Alberta’s energy business is the most important driver of the Canadian economy and its health directly impacts the standard of living of every
DON BRAID: THE LIBERAL’S STUNNING HYPOCRISY OVER SNC-LAVALIN AND PIPELINES

The hypocrisy of the federal Liberals is not only sickening but extremely dangerous to this country. This double standard goes beyond simply hypocrisy. It’s a destructive message to the whole country about who counts, and who doesn’t.

SNC-Lavalin is a Quebec-based company accused of fraud and bribery while doing business in Libya. Essentially, it’s charged with engaging in corrupt behaviour abroad that it would not employ at home. As the past couple of weeks have shown, the cabinet and government will contort themselves to keep this company out of criminal court.

A conviction would ban the company from bidding on Canadian projects for 10 years. On Monday, the Globe and Mail reported that officials are now writing rules to allow “flexibility” in the length of a bidding ban. Two senior officials of the company recently escaped criminal charges because judges ruled that prosecutors took too long to bring the cases to trial.

Former attorney general Jody Wilson-Raybould was unhappy with what she evidently considered undue pressure to drop prosecution. She resigned and will soon appear before a committee.

Now, consider the handling of Trans Mountain by these same people. The bedraggled project, far more important economically than any possible benefit from SNC-Lavalin, has been subject to endless public scrutiny. The first proponent, Kinder Morgan, complied with every regulatory demand, completed extensive public consultations and negotiations — including dozens of financial benefit agreements with communities and First Nations — and has not been accused of any wrongdoing. The project won 17 straight court challenges against other Indigenous groups, activists, and the cities of Burnaby and Vancouver.

But the obstruction played out for so long that the company left Canada, selling the project to Ottawa for $4.5 billion. Construction began. Then, last Aug. 30, Trans Mountain ran into three Federal Court of Appeal judges who decided it was a misstep. But Trans Mountain can’t bid on any others.
decided the permit was invalid. The decision was not hostile to the pipeline itself. It was mainly critical of some consultation and environmental issues involving killer whales.

At that crucial moment, Ottawa might have applied some SNC-Lavalin-style vigour to the ruling. Without any secretive actions, Ottawa could have appealed, ordered construction to continue, worked to fulfil the court’s demands and contested every application for an injunction. The Liberals could also have passed a federal law enabling the pipeline. That was actually promised at one point. But the pledge sank without a bubble in the toxically conflicted cabinet.

Last Friday, the National Energy Board approved the project for the second time, adding 16 recommendations to its long list of previous conditions. That might have been the moment for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau himself to promise quick cabinet approval. But no, there’s not even a commitment to issue a new permit within cabinet’s 90-day guideline. And all along, the Liberals have been busy erecting more legal barriers to energy and resource projects.

The best single article on this national disaster comes from former columnist Jeffrey Simpson, who recently wrote a long study for the Macdonald-Laurier Institute. It details the impediments the Liberals have created, from giving the environment minister undue control over energy and resources to inferring veto powers for groups that will never agree to a project under any conditions and inventing extra-legal concepts like “social licence.”

Two bills — C-69 and C-48 — are now close to passage. The first would regulate new projects into oblivion. The second would prohibit Alberta products (not B.C. natural gas) from shipping by tanker off B.C.’s northern coast. Absurdly, the Senate dominated by Ontario and Quebec is the last line of defence against these atrocious bills. Counting the cost of delays and diversions so far, the C.D. Howe Institute estimates the loss in investment at $100 billion in 2017-18 alone.

LAWRENCE SOLOMON: ALBERTA IS IN A STRONG BARGAINING POSITION BUT NOT USING IT!!

Canadians don’t value our fossil fuel economy, which explains why so many are okay to trash pipelines and see Alberta tank. Only 19% think it
many are okay to trash pipelines and see Alberta tank. Only 19% think it more important to pursue oil and gas development than to go green and regulate oil, according to EKOS polling. That 19% figure shrinks to 8% for Canadians who consider themselves Liberals, 6% for NDPers and 2% for those who vote Green, meaning that politicians of most stripes have no interest in alienating their supporters to help Alberta’s energy economy recover. Those figures also explain why Alberta’s sense of alienation is on the rise. According to Ipsos, fully 62% believe Alberta “does not get its fair share from Confederation” (up from 45% two decades ago), 46% feel more attached to their province than to their country (up from 39%) and 34% “feel less committed to Canada than I did a few years ago” (up from 22%). Just 18% of Albertans believe “the views of western Canadians are adequately represented in Ottawa.”

One-quarter of Albertans now believe Alberta “would be better off if it separated from Canada,” a number that may well rise if the provincial economy founders, and would certainly rise if Albertans realized that they need Canada a lot less than Canada needs them. Without Alberta’s wealth and foreign-exchange earnings, the living standard of Canadians outside Alberta would drop and the Canadian dollar would plummet, likely leading to inflation as the cost of imports rose. Albertans, in contrast, would see their affluence rise and, because oil sales are denominated in U.S. dollars, Alberta would be largely insulated from the inflation to its east and west.

Those pooh-poohing independence claim Alberta, being land-locked, would be held hostage if it were an independent state. Those scoffers have it backwards. Alberta is today held hostage, its pipelines east and west kiboshed by its fellow Canadians. If Alberta were independent, its newfound bargaining power would certainly cause the Rest of Canada to capitulate, and speed to completion any and all pipelines Alberta needed to either ocean.

An independent Alberta would control access to its land mass as well as the skies above it, requiring Canada’s federal government to negotiate rights for, say, Vancouver-to-Toronto flights over Alberta airspace. Canada would also need Alberta’s agreement to have trains and trucks cross its now-international borders. Threats of tolls and tariffs could abound as needed to chasten those perceived to be wronging Alberta, whether Quebec, which exports dairy to B.C., grain interests that now commandeer rail to the detriment of Alberta’s oil shippers, or the B.C. ports that depend on commodities going to and from
shippers, or the B.C. ports that depend on commodities going to and from points east. Anyone thinking that Alberta would be unable to police its borders needs to be reminded that, for the past 70 years, Alberta’s patrols have made it the continent’s only rat-free jurisdiction.

The Rest of Canada has other reasons to avoid pushing Albertans to the point of separation. Should Alberta become a credible threat to leave the Canadian federation, the debate would likely embolden Quebec separatists, make Canada seem unstable and scare off both domestic and international investment. Alberta would have the United States as a bargaining chip, too: Manifest Destiny, the U.S. dream of controlling the entire continent, would experience a revival at the prospect of welcoming Alberta as its 51st state, strengthening America’s influence over the world’s energy markets and, in particular, over a now energy-dependent Rest of Canada. While history suggests Alberta would almost surely be better off outside Canada — Singapore, Norway, Taiwan, the Czech Republic and other breakaways have generally thrived — divorce would be messy, costly in the short term and unnecessary. The Supreme Court of Canada made separation plausible — separation negotiations would start as soon as a clear majority of Albertans in a clearly stated referendum voted to leave Canada.

It wouldn’t take too many more blows to Alberta’s economy and Albertans’ pride for the 46% who now see themselves more as Albertans than Canadians to become 56% or even 66%, figures setting Canada on a path to dismemberment.

The last time Alberta was pushed toward the brink, it argued that “the West wants in.” The next time it might argue that “Alberta wants out.” The Rest of Canada needs to understand it has no hand to play if it continues to fuel Albertans’ discontent. If we don’t come to have regard for the needs of Alberta, Alberta will come to have no regard for Canada.

**OUR READERS’ COMMENTS SECTION (AGAIN MANY)**

**From a Reader:** SNC Lavalin couldn’t have come at a better time. Now to finally peel all the layers of the onion off. It appears the last one may have a picture of Junior on it. Pretty sure they don’t teach ethics in drama school.

**From a Reader:** What do you think of the latest SNC Lavalin scandal? You and I both know the way to do business in Quebec is to bribe people. Everyone
knows the company is guilty of the crime but our government in power will look the other way. Bribes not only in Libya but also for work done in Montreal including the Jacques Cartier bridge and the McGill Health Center. As far as the Liberals are concerned, this Quebec company is “TOO BIG TO FAIL”. Failure would affect the beloved Quebec pension fund as well as the Liberal status quo. Let me tell you what I think is going to happen.

The Liberals had to sacrifice someone and that someone was Gerry Butts. Wilson Raybould will testify that she had a tiff with Gerry Butts to cut a deal with SNC. That is why she quit her AG job. He is gone now so all is well. One sacrificial lamb and all is back to normal. Wilson will be welcomed back into the Liberal fold, JT will say the sunny ways are back and life goes on. Big question, what did it cost the taxpayers to get rid of Butts?? How many millions is he going to get paid? This Trudeau ass has no moral compass and on top of that he is a very poor liar. He is unable to generate a good cover up. What a jerk!

From a Reader: A couple more federal bureaucratic profiles you might be interested in:

Erin Flanagan - Director of Policy at Office of the Minister of Natural Resources Canada
A former Pembina Institute executive (Pembina supported the Tar Sands Campaign).
https://www.linkedin.com/in/erin-flanagan-11a92826/?originalSubdomain=ca

Eric Campbell - Senior Advisor to the Environment Minister
Former Smart Prosperity (another enviro group)
https://ca.linkedin.com/in/campbelle

From a Reader: The appointment of Ed Whittingham, who runs the Pembina Institute, to the Alberta Energy Regulator is yet another appeasement move to the anti-fossil fuel crowd and one of many successful incursions of the socialist anti-infrastructure crowd into our governments. Just like the Gerald Butts of the world. And Tzeporah Berman too. The NDP and the Liberals are totally committed to destroying our way of life, and have to-date, been very successful. These wrong-headed socialists and their ENGOs are way, way ahead of the capitalist free enterprise society that built Alberta and Canada (and the USA too).
From a Reader: A few thoughts on recent political events and how they might relate to ActionAlberta.

The Trudeau Government has a culture and history of political interference. A few recent examples are as follows:

1. Huawei - John McKallum, Canada, Ambassador to C...
of Huawei, sCFO, Meng Wanzhou.

2. David