
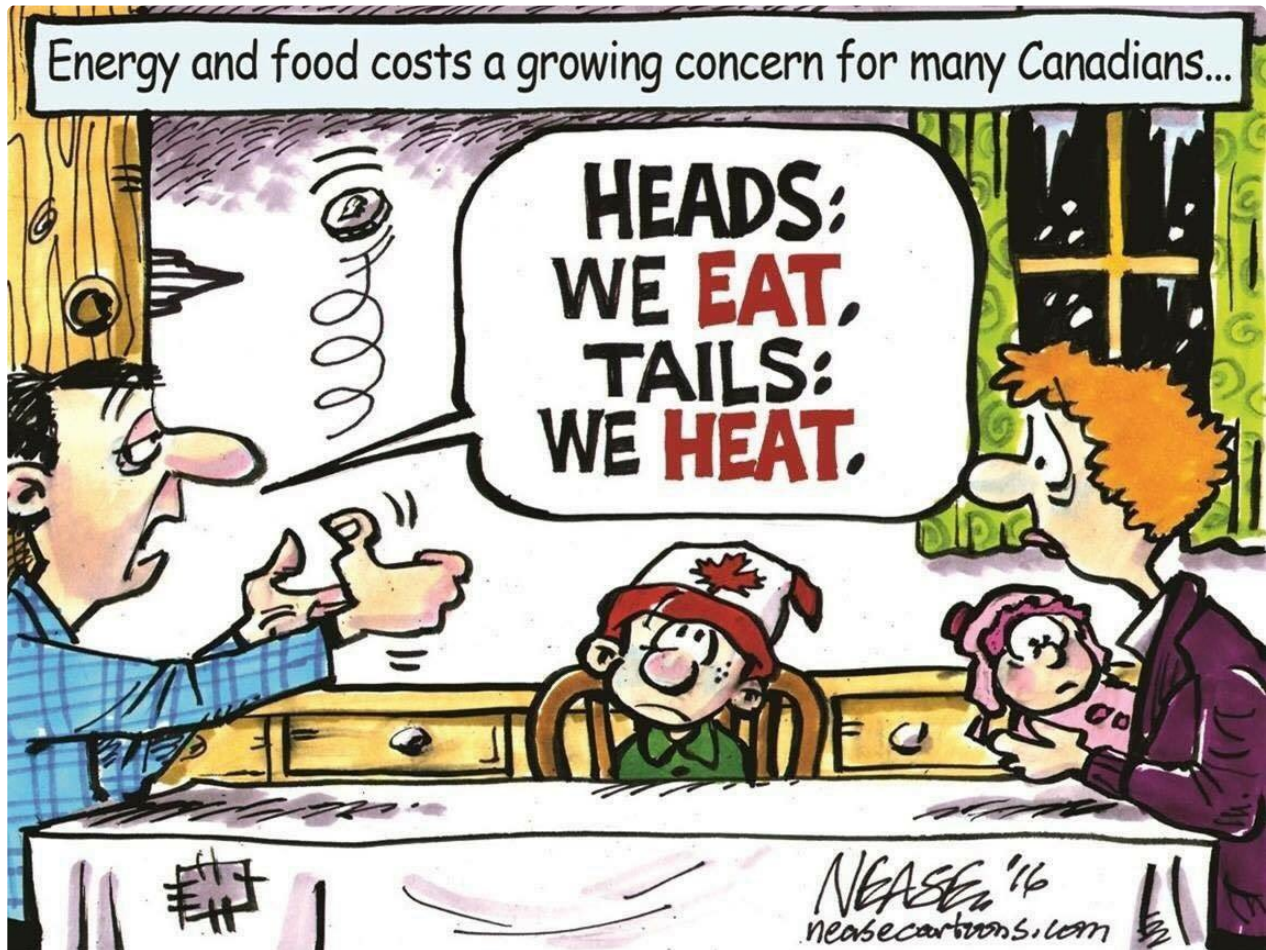


From: **Action Alberta** info@actionalberta.ca   
Subject: ActionAlberta #150 - IT'S TIME FOR THE WEST'S REPRESENTATIVES TO SPEAK UP!  
Date: October 11, 2020 at 5:12 AM  
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# ACTION ALBERTA



ACTION ALBERTA

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**IT'S TIME FOR THE WEST'S REPRESENTATIVES TO SPEAK UP!**

**By Three Proud Albertans:**

## **Stan Grad, Bill Turnbull and Dallas Howe**

It's time for the West's representatives to speak up. Stan Grad, Bill Turnbull and Dallas Howe say MPs and senators have failed to defend Alberta's interests in Ottawa.

If you're a western Canadian, someone employed in or around the energy sector, or maybe someone concerned about the long-standing tax bill that Alberta has paid for the rest of the country's program spending largesse, then I hope you had something better to do than watch the Liberal speech from the throne.

If you did watch it, perhaps with the faint hope that the needs of Alberta or Saskatchewan would be addressed, you have likely been left more than just disappointed. You might feel hopeless.

In any functioning federation, if the economic engine and the largest industry in the country had received a triple whammy of low commodity prices, lack of transport capacity and COVID, there would be concerted and aggressive action to help put that industry back on its feet.

It's only logical - all the other aspirational goals of any developed country can only proceed if there is money to pay for them.

But Canada is not a functioning federation. In fact, since the drop in oil prices in 2014, the federal government has put its foot on the throat of Canada's largest industry with regulations that are not only regionally disparate, but obviously targeted, and intended to destroy.

Ottawa wants the hydrocarbon sector dead. The speech from the throne reflects that in an absence of words. Not a word on how to get Fort McMurray working again. Not a word on plans to increase export capacity. Not a word of support or a dollar pledged for workers and families dependant on good, paying jobs in the energy sector who have been left un-or underemployed.

Westerners should not be surprised. We should be outraged. In a world heavily dependent on oil, Alberta supplies the most green and ethical oil on the planet. Yet our federal government wants that sector dead, so it can revel in self-righteousness, fawn over Greta Thunberg, while increasing market share for Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria. Not to mention the U.S. oil industry.

Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria. Not to mention the U.S. oil industry, laughing at Canada all the way to the bank.

Ottawa also wants our taxes, big time. Scholars have pointed out that in addition to the equalization program, Canada has a fiscal stabilization program. At least on the books. But has Ottawa made any move to allow that program to actually flow dollars into Alberta and Saskatchewan at a time of record economic decline? Of course not. It's time to take all this personally.

The Buffalo Project, a group of volunteers, many from the business community, sent a letter to all western members of Parliament and senators before the throne speech. It asked four simple things of our western representatives, most of whom are from the Conservative Party: That they demand under explicit threat of withholding support for future government actions the transfer of additional funds through the fiscal stabilization program; real steps toward a northern infrastructure corridor; a federal taxation strategy to bring back some of the tens of billions of investment dollars that have fled the West and an explicit statement of support for the energy sector.

Remember, this was a request made to Alberta and Saskatchewan MPs and senators. Credit to the few officials who wrote back. Shame on the rest for their silence. We are not surprised there was no support for the West in the throne speech, but we are more than surprised at the lack of specific demands from our own elected and appointed officials.

Our recent polling shows broad and deep dissatisfaction with the federation on the part of western Canadians. Eastern Canadians like to portray those feelings as "anger." We don't think so, we think the predominant feeling is total frustration, frustration that the West doesn't matter. Frustration that the federal government will make our dismal economic situation even worse. Frustration that Canada has rejected us.

We do not support efforts at immediate separation from Canada. Every effort must be made to reform the federation. But we look first to our federal representatives.

If you are not willing to put your reputations, careers and status within your own party on the line for your beleaguered constituents, another party could easily rise up and support slip away faster than many think.

Dallas Howe is chair and Stan Grad and Bill Turnbull are founders of The Buffalo Project. [Click here](#)

### **ADDITIONAL READING**

With the holiday weekend, we ask that you just read one article, which really sets out what is happening to the West and our energy industry!

**CONRAD BLACK: JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S CO-ORDINATED ASSAULT ON CANADIAN ENERGY** [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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