

From: **Action Alberta** info@actionalberta.ca
Subject: ActionAlberta #152 - HOW TRUDEAU BOUGHT THE CANADIAN MEDIA!
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ACTION ALBERTA

PRESS FREEDOM IN CANADA

GOVERNMENT OWNED	GOVERNMENT FUNDED	GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED	FREE PRESS
 CBC Radio-Canada 	 TORONTO STAR THE GLOBE AND MAIL NATIONAL POST CALGARY HERALD EDMONTON JOURNAL Winnipeg Free Press VANCOUVER SUN TORONTO SUN CALGARY SUN OTTAWA SUN LE DEVOIR LA PRESSE The Chronicle Herald	 CTV Global Telus-Quebec OMNI TELEVISION ROGERS tv.	 WESTERN Standard REBELNEWS CANADA LAND

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HOW TRUDEAU BOUGHT THE MEDIA!

The overwhelming bulk of **Canada's media is bought, and paid for,** by the

federal government. In particular, **by the Liberal Party** which has extended generous taxpayer subsidies to outlets that comply with its diktats.

In its 2019 budget, the **federal government rolled out nearly \$600 million in subsidies for select media outlets that obtain the federal government's approval.** The latest \$600 million cheque is meant to fill a blind spot in **exerting government influence** over the Canadian print and online media.

This was a 'blind spot', because **most of the rest of the Canadian media is already on the take.**

Magazines receive **large subsidies** to defray the costs of printing, and mailing. Massive **"regulatory subsidies"** give a cornered market to the **government's favoured broadcasters**, and make **entry by competitors (like the late Sun News Network) virtually impossible.**

The **elephant** of government media control is obviously the **CBC**, with an annual bill to taxpayers well in **excess of \$1 billion.**

By handing nearly **\$600 million directly to select newspapers**, the government isn't doing anything new. It's just **extending the control** that it had over other mediums, to traditional mainstream newspapers.

To dole out the cash, the **Liberals created a handpicked panel**, giving the bailout an appearance of distance from direct partisan intervention. Unsurprisingly, **the panel was stacked with Liberal allies**, some quite openly so.

In August, Winnipeg Free Press Publisher and **Liberal media panelist Bob Cox**, awarded himself a **large grant from the \$50 million** Local Journalism Initiative. He cut himself the cheque to **hire two new reporters**, including a **"climate change correspondent"**. What that reporter does all day is anybody's guess, but that "reporter" owes his or her own job directly to the **Liberal government.** Can we expect that person to do anything but **toe the party line?** For all intents and purposes, this person is an **employee of the federal government.** And not a reporter.

Even those not directly hired with a large grant in the print business will **owe a large portion of their take-home pay to the federal government.** The

large portion of their take-home pay to the federal government. The Journalism Labour Credit allows the Orwellianly-named “Qualified Canadian Journalism Organizations” to apply for a 25 per cent refundable tax credit, with a cap of \$13,750 per employee.

This puts even credible and reputable reporters, columnists, editors, and publishers in a **massive conflict of interest.**

MacLeans and iPolitics columnist Stephen Maher wrote in June 2019 that since everyone else is getting bailout out, **why not the media?**

“The public policy argument for some kind of measure to shore up public interest journalism is clear as day. For good or ill, the federal government has long been **in the bailout business.** Taxpayers spent \$3.5 billion bailing out automakers.”

The auto bailout was actually \$17 billion, but he has a point. In **crony capitalism**, every rent-seeking business needs to get their hands in the pie or risk paying the bill for it. But he is wrong on the necessity of it.

“**Federal governments routinely act** to protect important parts of the economy. When an industry is important enough to our society, Ottawa is forced to act. Banks. Farms. Airlines. Airplane manufacturers. Oil companies. Every significant sector is subsidized or bailed out in one way or another. Few industries are as important to our society as the news media, but so far the government has done nothing but consult.”

The Liberals cut a \$595 million cheque soon after, but **I can’t recall an oilfield bailout.**

The media is important. Without it, the only voices would be the official government line, and Karen on Twitter. But **at what cost** are we willing to keep the legacy corporate media afloat?

“Andrew Coyne and Paul Wells argue that if the government starts to pay our bills, we will inevitably start to **suck up to governments**, or at least to government,” said Maher. “I’m not so sure...An awful lot of our media is already subsidized, either directly by government, like news magazines, or through CRTC-mandated cable fees and industry funds, like TV news.”

Again, Maher is correct in that most of the other mediums of media are propped up by the government. His case that all of these other mediums are objective, fair and non-partisan is **a bit flimsier**.

Most of the **media miss the point** in boiling media objectivity down to a matter of partisanship. Whether a media outlet is Conservative, Liberal, or NDP is only semi-relevant. Where a media comes down on issues, policy, and ideology, is much more so.

Liberal media outlets like the **Toronto Star** were glowing of Stephen Harper's Conservative government when it enacted ideologically liberal, interventionist policies like the auto bailout. **Their only criticism was that it wasn't enough**. Similarly, **conservative media outlets** praised the Chretien Liberal government in the 1990s when it slashed spending to slay the deficit, as conservatives wanted.

Where a media outlet stands on the issues is a lot more important than where it stands on partisanship.

When **every major media outlet in Canada is directly on the government take**, this cannot help but to influence their coverage toward issues. Can the National Post credibly make the case against the **next Bombardier bailout** if it is receiving an annual, guaranteed bailout of its own?

And are the media organizations that are already **receiving government-backing (like CBC, CTV and Global)** immune from the influence of being on government support? **Name one of them that is even mildly conservative or libertarian.**

When Stephen Harper cut the CBC's \$1 billion budget by 5 per cent, the network launched a holy war against him. When Justin Trudeau promised a massive increase to their budget, they hailed him as the Second Coming (which, in a sense, he was).

There is a small but growing list of **upstart alternative media** entering the market. Most will not qualify for government funding, likely by design. **The Liberals tied themselves into pretzels to prevent Ezra Levant's Rebel News from qualifying.** This was a bad idea for several reasons.

First, if **Rebel News** did qualify, and did accept the money, it would have blown its reputation as an outsider media outfit, righteously blasting the mainstream media for its complacency. In all probability, Rebel News would have refused the money if it was available for that reason. Much the same as the **Western Standard**.

Second, by creating a regulatory rat's nest to **exclude Rebel Media**, they made it **much more difficult for other up-and-coming alternative media sources to compete** with the big, **dying**, legacy media sources. By advantaging the media outlets whose business models are failing them, the government gives them a massive competitive edge over their new challengers in the market.

The **Liberals** tweaked this a bit by giving themselves an even greater latitude in selecting which favoured media outlets qualify, by **creating a government media licensing program**. Only **“Qualified Canadian Journalism Organizations”** get in on the good times.

In addition to creating **artificial advantages** for some media sources over others, they have also gone down the dark, authoritarian road of **deciding who is a “real journalist”, and who is not**.

For our part, **the Western Standard will not be registering for a government media license, and we will not be accepting bailout dollars**. This puts us at a **legally designed, permanent competitive disadvantage with our competitors**. But as the publisher and primary owner, I would rather go bankrupt than corrupt ourselves for **thirty pieces of silver**.

Trudeau's **media bailout** will not save the newspaper business. It will put it in a **complacent, comatose state on life support**, fearful that **if it acts against its master, that the plug could be pulled at any time**.

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OUR READERS' COMMENTS SECTION

1. From a Reader (from Ontario): Regarding Action Alberta #151, you have hit every nail on the national coffin squarely on the head! In 1965, I watched the Red Ensign hauled down to be replaced by "Pearson's Pennant". At the time, I thought "this is not good. Why are we discarding our national identity"? Nobody had a clue that this action was the result of the increasing Quebecois/French influence in Ottawa. In other words, the Red Ensign was "TOO ENGLISH". Three years later, Trudeau senior came to power and it was indeed, the death knell of Canada. I blame the utter apathy (ignorance) of the Canadian electorate which includes the over representation in Quebec and the CBC addicted, wine and cheese crowd in the 416 and 905 area codes for this national mess. I had Erin O'Toole's number before he became leader of the CPC party. He was already pandering to vote rich Quebec. He is just another lawyer-cum-politician...better pension. He will do nothing to "right" things. I am an old soldier who does not usually concede to defeat, but I am most afraid that the French speakers who now run everything in this frozen, over-taxed hell have a choke-hold on the country that cannot be broken by "normal" procedures/means. My advice to my friends in western Canada, GO!

2. From a Reader (from Ontario): I am a sympathizer from Ontario and I can relate to where your group is coming from. I detest the corrupt Liberal government that controls our lives, and the NDP who will support them no matter how blatantly they thumb their noses at us. The west has what we need to survive, whether it be heating fuel, gasoline, you name it. I know it might create some short term economic problems but perhaps the west could selectively choose who they will market to. There is an old saying that goes "when you have them by the balls their hearts and minds will follow."

3. From a Reader: Re: AA #151 - I couldn't agree with you more if I tried. You have summed up EXACTLY what is wrong with Canada and EXACTLY how it happened. Sad thing is, many Canadians are also aware of this but they are afraid to say anything in this socialist politically correct (i.e., free speech control) era. Others have either deluded themselves into thinking it's OK, or are so brainwashed with socialist propaganda that they actually believe it's correct. Now I fear there are so many brainwashed younger people in the West that we won't have enough votes to WEXIT and will slowly become just another complacent cesspool in Canada. PET's agenda should have been subtitled "How to take over a country without firing a shot".

4. From a Reader: The height of modern lunacy! [Click here](#)

5. From a Reader: Thank you for your continuing support for the West. Your most recent article describes perfectly the lack of REAL action in opposition to the Federal Liberal government's attack on our energy industry. Coupled with this is the complacency of the general population in their blind acceptance of these crippling measures & attacks on an industry that has provided many Canadians with a standard of living which, until this current Liberal government assumed control, was the envy of many other countries. Now with countless billions of dollars of investment fleeing this country, crippling legislation & allowing protests from our own Indigenous people, who benefit directly from these energy projects, & foreign funded protest groups, Canada has become the laughing stock of all other oil producing nations. Where are the news media to report on the Trudeau family's contractual ties to Saudi oil? It really is time to take the gloves off & stop thinking & hoping that the West will ever get a fair deal in this so called Confederation that in its earliest & current format was specifically designed to benefit the East! Wake up Canadians before it's too late.

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. HERB EMERY: THE REST OF CANADA HAS MORE TO LOSE FROM AN INDEPENDENT ALBERTA - AND THE NUMBERS SHOW IT [Click here](#)

2. THE LIBERALS ARE BECOMING A CLIMATE CULT [Click here](#)

3. JACK MINTZ: IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND DEFICITS, WE'RE NOW NO. 1 IN THE WORLD [Click here](#)

4. FOR YEARS, OIL ENSURED CANADA'S HEALTHY TRADE BALANCE. NOW THAT'S CHANGING - WITH MAJOR CONSEQUENCES [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.

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