HELLO ALL (The Group of 4,749+ 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 Canadian.

HERE IS THE EQUALIZATION STORY!!
(by Ken Wilson, Neil Bowker, Rick Shannon and Bob Iverach, all of Action Alberta)

Since 1961, Alberta citizens and businesses have PAID a total of $611 BILLION (in net 2017 adjusted dollars) to Ottawa, while Quebec has RECEIVED a total of $476 BILLION (in net 2017 adjusted dollars).

That is a total differential SWING of $1.087 TRILLION between Alberta and Quebec!!!

Thanks to Ottawa and Confederation, Quebec will receive $13.1 BILLION in fiscal 2019-20, while Alberta will receive NIL.

And in December 2018 Quebec said to Alberta, in response to a call to resurrect the Energy East pipeline project: “There is no social acceptance for a pipeline (from Alberta) that would pass through Quebec territory.” (Quebec Premier, Francois Legault).

Alberta, to its own financial detriment, effectively funds Quebec’s operating surplus, and Quebec blocks Alberta access to new markets. This is not Confederation.

“EQUALIZATION” is a core program of Canadian Federalism and was designed to use Federal Government revenues to mitigate the consequences of fiscal disparities among provinces. In other words, Canadians coast to coast, regardless of where they live, should receive the same level of health and social services regardless of their personal income. A noble philosophy, especially with a comparatively small population spread over an enormous geographical land mass comprised of vastly different regional attributes. A philosophy rife with fertile opportunities to flim-flam certain the provinces for the political gain of the Federal government. Just like the governing Liberal Party of Canada did in stealth mode in 2018 by quietly slamming the door on
Party of Canada did in stealth mode in 2018 by quietly slamming the door on an established path for the provinces to renegotiate the formula. More flim-flamming.

And no province has been "flim-flammed" more, in favor of both Quebec and eastern centric votes to keep the governing party in power in Ottawa, than Alberta. For decades!

By what measure has Alberta been ‘flim-flammed’?

Alberta’s success has resulted from the significant risks taken and efforts made to develop vibrant tax-paying businesses employing hundreds of thousands of Canadians from a range of industries. Willingness to take risk, overcoming substantial obstacles, complying with some of the world's toughest environmental regulations and world-leading technical and industrial innovation are just a few of the inputs that have built the foundation for the wealth transferred to Ottawa and several other Provinces. The monies being transferred have been earned only after prudent management effectively overcoming very large obstacles.

Under the terms of EQUALIZATION, that’s a fair deal because Alberta is a wealthy province and can afford to spread that wealth to less wealthy provinces. Provinces like Quebec and even British Columbia. Is that fair?

Absolutely not!!! Not when Quebec and British Columbia block Alberta from building pipelines and LNG terminals to deliver its resource wealth to global markets; when these ‘partners in Confederation’ block Alberta from attracting the massive capital investment needed to continue development and transportation of oil and gas to global markets. Investor confidence has vanished under recent government policies at both the Federal and Provincial levels. Instead of being business friendly, we now have carbon taxes, regulations designed to kill new projects through delay and added costs exacerbated by Ottawa picking favorites among Provinces. The net result is a hugely non-competitive country and province, an unfavorable climate for investment and an inability to compete in world markets.

Not when the cities of Montreal, Longueuil and Shawinigan display appalling hypocrisy by consciously dumping millions of litres of untreated sewage into the St. Lawrence and Saint Maurice rivers; not by consciously contracting international oil tanker traffic through the St. Lawrence to deliver oil from
international oil tanker traffic through the St. Lawrence to deliver oil from despotic countries with appalling environmental and human rights practices and pay world prices, compared to deeply discounted Alberta oil prices.

Not when the province of British Columbia hypocritically operates as the number one exporter of coal in North America, trumping Norfolk, Virginia and dwarfing the entire annual coal production of the entire country of Mexico. Not when the hypocrisy is further extended by approving and expeditiously building without protests or court challenges an underground jet fuel pipeline, 13 Kilometers in length through heavily populated Richmond to YVR. Breathtaking yet true!

Alberta has faithfully kept its commitments to the EQUALIZATION deal ... Ottawa and Quebec and British Columbia have not. There has been a fundamental breach in the terms of the deal and it needs to be rescinded immediately.

The bottom line is that Ottawa has been using the wealth generated by the people and businesses of Alberta to ‘bribe’ Quebec to stay in Confederation and to subsidize other so called “have not” provinces. The formula actually rewards Quebec and other provinces for not prudently developing their own resources. For many decades. And Quebec, and now British Columbia who are and have been huge beneficiaries of Albertan’s wealth, are blocking our progress. Period. Those actions have had a drastic effect on the Alberta economy and, because of the critical importance of the energy business, have materially and adversely impacted every Canadian.

If Ottawa is going to continue to extract $BILLIONS from Alberta to pay over half of the entire EQUALIZATION pot to Quebec every year, Alberta pipelines must be built immediately, and to both coasts; LNG terminals must be built immediately on the West Coast and Bills C-69 and C-48 must be killed. Or, in the alternative Alberta will keep all of its wealth to independently fund its own growth.

The politicization of Canada’s Equalization program through the number of seats Quebec has in Confederation has taken the power out of Ottawa and put it in Quebec City. That is NOT Confederation. That is NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE and is the primary driver of why Alberta will seek a path to Independence.
OUR READERS' COMMENTS SECTION

1. From a Reader: Jacques Bougie who JUST happens to not only sit on the Board of SNC-Lavalin, also sits on the Board for ... get ready ... The Trudeau Foundation. It also turns out that he is a Director at McCain Foods ... You know, Bill Morneau’s (Minister of Finance) wife’s family business ... Really ? ... I mean REALLY ? !!! Yeah, no conflict of interest there. What’s that I smell?

2. From a Reader: I support your efforts to the degree that i believe we all must help Canadians (especially MAJORITY ENGLISH SPEAKING CANADIANS) become aware that they are being conned into believing that this new warped, overreaching vision of bilingualism in Canada is far from what was originally proposed and is NO WHERE NEAR what we signed up for. As good kind people who wanted to be accommodating most of us collectively agreed back in-the-day to get on board with the original concept of providing bilingual / French services by the federal government to those who needed it. That was / is fine however... That “original concept” is now being pushed to major extremes. We watched as the province of Quebec was taken over and the English speaking Canadians push aside, ignored and sometimes even beaten there. And now we are now seeing the majority English speaking Canadians outside of the province of Quebec also being pushed into second class status in their own country. AWARENESS and EDUCATION ARE KEY...

3. From a Reader: Trudeau has our National Pension Plan invest billions of dollars our money into oil and gas in the US which in turn is cutting off the market for Canadian energy thereby further harming Alberta. First Trudeau killed oil production growth, energy east pipeline and TMX, and now Trudeau is set to kill natural gas production in Alberta with natural gas investment going into the US and natural gas purchases set to displace remaining western Canadian natural gas that is sold into central Canada. If Albertans don’t demand a vote to declare independence and vote accordingly, I will be emigrating. Here is the article:


4. From a Reader: You might also have noted that Quebec has passed unconstitutional laws attempting to turn Quebec into a unilingual jurisdiction, and now making it illegal for anyone to use French outside the province. Their
such as making it illegal for some segments of its population to send their children to an English language school!!! How can the ROC find this tolerable, while doing everything possible to foster French, where it is completely useless. These unconstitutional laws were saved only by use of the notwithstanding clause. Again this would be politically unacceptable anywhere else. One could also note that whenever there is government corruption in Canada, it is almost always in Quebec.

5. From a Reader: Bilingualism is tough to swallow, but that is a tradeoff I would be prepared to make in return for a full scale and immediate resurrection of the energy industry, scrapping or rationalizing the equalization scheme, a senate with real powers to represent the provinces on an equal basis, and a Supreme Court of Canada with equalized representation.

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. DAVID YAGER: ELECTION 2019: ALBERTA MUST CHANGE DIRECTION FOR INVESTMENT TO RESUME

2. SCREWING THE WEST TO PAY THE REST

3. ACHIEVING A NATIONAL PURPOSE: PUTTING EQUALIZATION BACK ON TRACK
http://publications.gc.ca/site/archivee-archived.html?

4. DANIELLE SMITH: ALBERTA NEEDS A FIREWALL, THE SOONER THE BETTER
https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/smith-alberta-needs-a-firewall-the-sooner-the-better

5. DANIELLE SMITH: CANADA’S ON NOTICE ALBERTANS HAVE HAD ENOUGH
https://edmontonjournal.com/opinion/columnists/danielle-smith-canadas-on-notice-albertans-have-had-enough

6. HAVE YOU NOTICED OR DID YOU KNOW?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iGZE6zxoKQ

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 wish to receive our emails, please email me at biverach@mac.com stating "Subscribe". If you do not wish to receive them, please email me at biverach@mac.com stating "Unsubscribe", but only if you really mean it!!.

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 Alberta Action activities.