

From: **Robert J. Iverach** biverach@me.com  
Subject: Re: ActionAlberta #25 - THE 2019 ALBERTA ELECTION (FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS)  
Date: April 8, 2019 at 9:23 AM  
To: Robert J. Iverach, Q.C. info@actionalberta.ca

RI

On Apr 6, 2019, at 1:21 PM, Robert J. Iverach, Q.C. <[info@actionalberta.ca](mailto:info@actionalberta.ca)> wrote:



RACHEL RIDES TO THE RESCUE.

ACTION ALBERTA

Website: <https://actionalberta.ca>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/action\\_alberta](https://twitter.com/action_alberta)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EnoughisEnoughCanadiansFightBackforOurEnergySector/>

**HELLO ALL (The Group of 5,193+ 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. Unfortunately that has not happened so far!

#### THE 2019 ALBERTA ELECTION (FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS)

In ActionAlberta #24 (The 2019 Alberta Election), we discussed various matters to consider in the upcoming Alberta election. That was just the tip of the iceberg. In this issue we cover several other issues that have received VERY little press coverage, but which are now having (or will have) a huge negative impact on Alberta going further.

#### NOTLEY AND THE NDP HAVE BEATEN DOWN OUR ENERGY SECTOR

Let's count the ways Notley and the NDP have beaten Alberta's oil and gas patch down over their four years in office:

1. the Alberta **royalty review** (that completely halted investment in the energy industry);
2. bringing in a **carbon tax** on January 1, 2017 even though it was never mentioned during the prior election campaign;
3. **apologizing for the oil sands**, calling Alberta the 'embarrassing cousin';
4. **cancelling electric power purchase contracts** (discussed further below);
5. **shaking the confidence of international investors** in general that has seen \$100 billion in planned investment flee the province;
6. **not objecting when Trudeau cancelled the Northern Gateway pipeline**;
6. **not objecting when Trudeau changed the rules on Energy East pipeline** that led to its cancellation;
8. **saying nothing** for months as the federal government's **Bill C-69 (the no-more pipeline bill)** was before a Commons committee and **Bill C-48 (the tanker ban that only excludes Alberta oil on the Pacific north coast of B.C.)**; and

7. recently **appointing opponents of Alberta energy to the AER** (Ed Whittingham and Linda Cody). (Note: The Alberta Energy Regulator governs all oil and gas operations in Alberta.)

<https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/corbella-notleys-beating-down-of-the-oil-patch-should-cost-her-the-election#click=https://t.co/WMyqoJkwLB>

#### **LEGAL OPINION FOR ALBERTA TO SUE THE FOREIGN FUNDERS OF ANTI-ALBERTA OIL ENVIRO GROUPS - IGNORED BY NOTLEY**

In mid-2018, **Vivian Krause** obtained a **legal opinion that there was a valid legal cause of action to sue (and stop) the foreign funders of the environmental groups** that were opposing Alberta's energy business. **Ms. Krause then presented the opinion to senior officials in Premier Notley's government** with the hope that the government would take legal action! **NOTHING happened!** The Notley government has been grossly negligent if failing to take action to stop these foreign funding groups! Why? Because their anti-oil and gas message fits with NDP policy of curtailing this most important sector of our economy.

To quote Ms. Krause on Twitter:

**"Premier Notley, Eight months ago, you were provided a proper legal opinion prepared by one of the very best litigation firms in Calgary, URGING YOU to litigate to end the Rockefeller's campaign to sabotage Alberta pipelines." EIGHT MONTHS AGO. You did nothing.**

<https://twitter.com/FairQuestions>

#### **THE COST TO ALBERTANS OF THE TERMINATED POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS**

Alberta electricity consumers have been **saddled with an estimated \$2 BILLION** in unnecessary costs because our Government made three critical mistakes in dealing with the **Power Purchase Arrangements ("PPA's)**. The story is not just about the PPAs though. It's also about how our elected representatives in the Alberta Government used their position of power and access to taxpayer funds to attempt to achieve their political objective of avoiding accountability for having poorly managed the PPA issue. Government incompetence is not confined to the federal level.

Read about these **costly and very serious problems** at:

<http://www.robhemstockalbertappa.com/>

#### **UNDER THE NDP, ALBERTA'S CREDIT RATING HAS BEEN DOWNGRADED**

**Alberta's credit rating has been downgraded six times since the NDP grabbed power in Alberta in 2015.** In 2015, the **NDP promised Albertans a \$586 million surplus** for this year. Instead, Alberta is now on track for a **\$95 billion debt**. What does that mean? Currently, Albertans pay **\$2 billion per year on interest payments** for the NDP government's debt (for context, that's more than the budget of 19 out of 23 government departments).

[https://www.factcheckalberta.com/ndp-fiscal-record.html?gclid=EAlaIqObChMlx4a7m\\_u74QIVLCCtBh0QHgwMEAAAYASAAEgL8fvD\\_BwE](https://www.factcheckalberta.com/ndp-fiscal-record.html?gclid=EAlaIqObChMlx4a7m_u74QIVLCCtBh0QHgwMEAAAYASAAEgL8fvD_BwE)

#### **ALBERTA IS NOW BORROWING FROM SOUTH AFRICA**

Yes, you saw that right. In February, the province **borrowed 750 million South African rands**, which the finance minister says was equivalent to roughly \$70 million CDN at the time. An economist at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy expressed surprise that Alberta went to South Africa to borrow money.

"It is an unusual case," **Jack Mintz** said of the South African loan. The economist noted that governments often take out loans overseas to diversify their debt holdings. But they typically borrow from major financing countries with highly convertible and liquid currencies.

About 70 per cent of Alberta's debt is held by Canadian institutions. The provincial government has historically taken loans in US dollars, British pounds, Swedish krona, Australia dollars, Swiss francs and in euros.

Mintz said **borrowing in South Africa**, rather than in major international currencies, **brings other risks**. The rand is more volatile, its market is less liquid and if Alberta wants to get rid of that debt before paying it off, it might have trouble. "If you do want to sell off the debt, which is possible to do to financial institutions, it's **harder to sell** it without paying a higher payment cost

associated with it," Mintz said.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-government-debt-south-africa-1.5083949>

#### OUR READERS' COMMENTS SECTION

**1. From a Reader (from Calgary):** On January 1, 2017, the NDP Alberta government imposed a **carbon tax** on its citizens. By January 31, 2017, lower income Albertans (reader young voters) received their first **MONTHLY carbon tax rebate cheques**, in amounts far **in excess of any carbon tax they would have paid** in January. Effectively, the carbon tax is an NDP **wealth/income redistribution scheme and a way to buy the votes of these young voters**. If you were a young low income voter receiving a monthly cheque from the government, would you vote them out? Likely not. You would vote for them. **That is why it is crucial that conservative voters get out on April 16 to vote for the UCP!**

**2. From a Reader: Hydroelectric power sales are NOT counted as natural resource revenue.** Therefore, **that vast income that Quebec gets from its daily, electricity exports to the US, Ontario, etc, is NOT included in the (Quebec) Equalization Formula calculation, as part of its provincial income!** No wonder Quebec's per person (per capita) income comes out lower (and so, they are sent "more, free" \$\$\$)! The "Transfer Payments dice" is definitely politically loaded in Quebec favor. **It's a scam!**

**3. From a Reader:** Calgary in particular is in serious financial trouble because the Corporate tax base has literally fallen of the edge. The city is becoming known as **"Detroit North"**!

**4. From a Reader:** There's another issue that might be of interest to your readers, particularly military veterans. When Colonel Don Ethell was Alberta's Lt. Governor, he implemented a program to help veterans suffering from PTSD. It was called **"The Circle of Mental Health and Addiction"**. The national NDP party is always telling Canadians how much it supports veterans. Ironically, one of the first things the Notley NDP government in Alberta did when it took power was **cut the funding for this critically important program**. I was particularly upset because for many years I have worked as a veteran's advocate, particularly for our Afghanistan veterans, who were **left hanging out to dry** when the Canadian government introduced the terrible "New Veterans Charter" in 2006, a disgraceful piece of legislation.

**5. From a Reader: The Harper government permitted 5 major pipelines. 4 were completed,** doubling oil shipments by 1.7 million BPD. The 5th - Gateway - was opposed by you, Premier, and killed by your ally Justin Trudeau. **In opposition, the only time the NDP talked about pipelines was to oppose them.**

#### 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. DANIELLE SMITH: TALK ABOUT SCARY CANDIDATES - THE NDP HAS THEM**

<https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/smith-labour-union-air-and-ground-war-giving-ucp-the-squeeze>

**2. JACK MINTZ: WHY ALBERTA'S TWIN DOWN UNDER HAS HAD MUCH BETTER LUCK**

<https://business.financialpost.com/opinion/jack-mintz-why-albertas-twin-down-under-has-had-much-better-luck>

**3. DAVID STAPLES: TRUDEAU BAN ON TANKING ALBERTA CRUDE IS "UNCANADIAN", FORMER LIBERAL M SAYS**

<https://edmontonjournal.com/business/local-business/david-staples-trudeau-ban-on-tanking-alberta-crude-is-uncanadian-former-liberal-mp-says>

**4. LILLEY: WHAT COUNTRY HASN'T JUSTIN TRUDEAU PISSED OFF?**

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/lilley-which-country-hasnt-justin-trudeau-pissed-off>

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!**

Bob

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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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