HELLO ALL (The Group of 3,315+ and growing):

We are a group of deeply concerned, unpaid Alberta resident volunteers. Our work is intended to educate, inform and motivate Canadians to be visible and vocal regarding the unequal, unfair and discriminatory treatment of Alberta by our Federal Government.
THE OIL PRICE DIFFERENTIAL NARROWS!

At the time of writing this article, Alberta’s Western Canadian Select oil (“WCS”) was trading at US$34.20 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (“WTI”) was at US$51.70 per barrel.

The Differential (or Discount) continued to be US$17.50. This means that Canada is still selling its WSC, mainly to the US, for 66.2% of the WTI price or a discount of 33.8%!! Over the last month, the Differential has narrowed, but ONLY because the Alberta Government has mandated a temporary 9% reduction in oil production commencing January 1, 2019. If we had more pipeline takeaway capacity, the Differential would be substantially lower and the government’s interference in the market would not be necessary!

CANADIAN IMPORTS OF SAUDI OIL (From Peters & Co.)
(The insanity of our country’s current oil policy in one chart)

This chart highlights the ridiculousness of our energy policy in Canada. We currently import ~$3 billion worth of crude oil from Saudi Arabia on an annual basis. This is despite being a country with the 3rd largest proven oil reserves in the world, but because of special interest groups (largely funded by the US groups), we are unable to build pipelines and move our oil effectively within Canada, so instead our costs to import oil from less environmentally/socially responsible Saudi Arabia are skyrocketing (never mind the lost profit opportunity from producing oil with a world price as well). This number would be even more shocking if oil prices had not crashed, as the amount of oil we are importing from Saudi Arabia is increasing quickly as well. Wake up Canada!
IS ALBERTA ABOUT TO LOSING ITS LARGEST HEAD OFFICES?

Encana Corp., the storied Canadian company that had been slowly transitioning away from Canada and natural gas over the past few years under CEO Doug Suttles, has pivoted aggressively to U.S. shale basins. Last November, it announced that it will acquire Houston-based Newfield Exploration Co. for US$5.5 billion in all-share deal. Analysts say the deal will flip Encana’s production profile from being 60 per cent weighted in Canada to roughly 60 per cent weighted in the U.S. and represents yet another major shift Suttles has implemented at Encana.

Significantly, the deal could also signal a downgrade for the company’s Calgary headquarters, which may no longer function as the central hub.

“We call it a headquarter-less model,” Encana president and CEO Doug Suttles said on a Thursday conference call. “We’ll have three locations: Calgary, Denver and Houston and actually the work happens where the people are as opposed to the opposite.”


Then last week, TransCanada Corp., the huge Canadian pipeline corporation, announced that it will be changing its name to: "TC Energy". In other words, it is dropping the word “Canada” from its name. Significantly, the deal could also signal a downgrade for the company’s Calgary headquarters, which may no longer function as the central hub.
With limited investment opportunities in Canada, TransCanada has grown outside the country, with moves including its recent US$13-billion purchase of U.S. natural gas transporter Columbia Pipeline Group and a growing list of projects in Mexico.

With limited opportunities in Canada (and all the negative government regulations), TransCanada's next move may well be to move its head office to the USA where it is much easier to do business.

If TransCanada's head office goes, can Enbridge's head office be far behind?

Such moves would further decimate Alberta’s and Calgary’s business community!


https://globalnews.ca/news/4829542/transcanada-name-change-tc-energy/

THE UN GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE IN KATOWICE, POLAND

Did you know that Trudeau's environment minister, Catherine McKenna, took a 126-person entourage along with her to the UN global warming conference in Katowice, Poland? That’s not a typo. 126 people - all of them very important, all of them on our taxpayer dime. (Mind you, that is down from the 310 person Canadian delegation that attended the Paris conference!)

You’d think people who hate fossil fuels so much would jet around the world a little less. But that’s what they don’t tell you about these global warming conferences — they’re fake. You’ve heard about fake news, right? Well these UN global warming conferences invented it.

ALBERTA’S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STILL RELATIVELY HIGH

For the first time in three decades, Alberta’s annual average unemployment rate was above the national number for a third consecutive year in 2018 (6.7 per cent versus 5.8 per cent). The last time the annual unemployment rate was higher in Alberta than in the country as a whole was in 1988 (8.0 per cent).
Higher in Alberta than in the country as a whole was in 1988 (8.0 per cent versus 7.8 per cent).

As was the case in 1986-1988, troubles facing our oil patch explain the high rates of unemployment that have been plaguing Alberta over the last three years. Unfortunately, ongoing pipeline capacity constraints are likely to keep Alberta’s unemployment rate unusually high in 2019 and 2020. On the bright side, the unemployment rate did come down in 2018 compared to where it was in 2016 and 2017. However, the reduction in the unemployment rate is also largely due to oil workers leaving Alberta for good.

While both of our two largest population centres have endured unemployment rates above the national average for the last three years, Calgary has been hit harder than Edmonton in this regard. Calgary’s unemployment rate in 2018 was 7.9 per cent compared to 6.5 per cent in Edmonton.

Outside Calgary and Edmonton, the unemployment rate was 5.4 per cent last year, but the rate in specific communities will vary depending on local economic conditions. (Statistics Canada reports up-to-date unemployment rates for seven economic regions in the province but not for particular communities.)

ALBERTA – IT IS TIME TO PUT “INDEPENDENCE” ON THE TABLE!!

As we have said in previous email, Canada is not only broken - it is totally broken! In fact, Canada is in the ditch!

Alberta MUST get the other provinces and the federal government to the negotiating table to rectify these egregious issues so that Alberta receives a fair deal in Canada.

It's time to stand up for ourselves and to stop overly accommodating others who don't appreciate our contribution AND it's time to stop apologizing for our successes.

If elected, Jason Kenney (of the Alberta UCP) has proposed the calling of a referendum of Albertans to vote on the “equalization” system. If approved, all provinces and the federal government MUST then sit down and renegotiate the “equalization” system.
However, that is not enough. **When renegotiating the “equalization” system with Ottawa and the rest of Canada, Alberta must have the “independence” referendum option on the table.** We cannot continue to let our political leaders refuse to even raise the topic, as that leaves Alberta negotiating with both hands tied behind its back.

**ADDITIONAL READING**

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. **THIS THING CALLED CANADA** is fragile. Clearing the Plains 2.0 Donna Kennedy-Glans
   https://beyondpolarity.blog/2019/01/07/clearing-the-plains-2-0/
2. Open letter to Canadians opposing Canadian pipelines and oilsands
   https://www.todayville.com/open-letter-to-canadians-opposing-canadian-pipelines-and-oilsands/?fbclid=IwAR1HltYj8zVZV4QL0mVcD-DCV-ChZodh30ZY56NXWmjKrihYAdN7s5fboM4
3. First Nations are speaking out and the majority support resource development. They want jobs and opportunities.
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbFIBTkZ0pw#action=share
4. Why First Nations need more leaders like Crystal Smith
   https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-why-first-nations-need-more-leaders-like-crystal-smith/
5. Bill C-69 is the antithesis of what the regulatory reform effort hopes to achieve - Martha Hall Findlay

Please share this email with your contacts so we can turn this unfair, inequitable, unjustifiable travesty around. If you would like to submit information or articles, please send them to me. **Thank you for ALL your support and interest!**

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If you do not wish to receive our emails, please email info@actionalberta.ca stating "Unsubscribe". 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 our Canadian energy and equalization/transfer payment crisis.

NOTE: Our website disclaimer applies to all our Alberta Action activities.