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Subject: ActionAlberta #84 - HOW THE LIBERALS SABOTAGED ALBERTA'S HISTORIC RIGHTS!
Date: November 30, 2019 at 8:05 PM
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HELLO ALL (The Group of now 10,000+ and growing):

NEW FEATURE: Joke of the week. See below.

HOW THE LIBERALS SABOTAGED ALBERTA'S HISTORIC RIGHTS!

(Ted Morton: Calgary Herald June 30, 2019)

We are at a **pivotal moment in Alberta's history**. Once again, **Alberta has no representation, no voice in a newly elected federal Liberal government**. We are in our **fifth year of recession and unprecedented unemployment**. **Premier Jason Kenney** has responded by creating the **"Fair Deal"** panel to consult Albertans on how best to respond to this crisis.

To make informed decisions, it's **time for Albertans to do a policy audit of the past 30 years**. Where have we been? Where are we today? The results are not happy.

Alberta is worse off today than it was 30 years ago. Despite the considerable efforts of such exceptional leaders as **Peter Lougheed, Preston Manning, Ralph Klein** and others, **Alberta is more vulnerable to destructive federal policies than we were in the 1980s**. Here's the balance sheet:

Lougheed's greatest achievement was the addition of Section 92A to the 1982 Constitution Act. Section 92A **affirms and protects all provinces' rights to develop their own natural resources**. For Alberta, this meant **primarily oil and gas** and was intended to prevent a repeat of **Pierre Trudeau's National Energy Program**. But today, **his son's carbon tax and Bill C-69 — the no-pipelines-ever law — are NEP 2.0**. They make section 92A almost **meaningless**. This stranding of Alberta's oil is aggravated by the **Liberals' tanker ban** off the north coast of B.C., **Bill C-48**. Of course, there is **no similar ban on oil tankers in the St. Lawrence River bringing OPEC oil to refineries in Quebec**.

Lougheed also was familiar with the **centralist bias of the Supreme Court of Canada**. He understood that the adoption of the 1982 Charter of Rights

Canada. He understood that the adoption of the 1982 Charter of Rights amplified this risk. As a precaution, Lougheed insisted on **the addition of the Section 33 Notwithstanding Power to protect Alberta (and other provinces) from policy vetoes by judges appointed unilaterally by the prime minister.** Today, the notwithstanding power is in disrepute and disuse.

Lougheed was also the strongest advocate for the new constitutional amending formula that treated all provinces equally and gave no special veto to Quebec. This was a **major victory for all the western provinces.** In **1996, Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien gave the veto power back to Quebec via ordinary legislation.**

A **final Lougheed achievement** was his insistence on **limiting the scope** of Section 35 to “existing aboriginal rights.” He successfully demanded the insertion of “existing” to **prevent it from becoming a “blank cheque” for judicial policy-making.** The **Supreme Court** subsequently ignored the framers’ intent and **invented the “duty to consult”**, words found **nowhere in the Constitution.** The result is that **Canadian pipeline policy is now made mainly by unelected, unaccountable judges.**

Alberta’s economic collapse has been exacerbated by **Ottawa’s abdication of federal responsibility for interprovincial pipelines.** In the 1980s, it was **unthinkable that a province could block the construction of an interprovincial pipeline that had been approved by the federal government.** **Now it’s happened twice: Energy East by Quebec and Trans Mountain by British Columbia.** Nothing falls more clearly under federal jurisdiction. But in this fall’s election campaign, **Justin Trudeau pandered to Quebec voters** with the promise that he would **“fight (premiers Kenney and Ford) and the energy companies that support them.”**

Equalization and other federal transfer programs continue to drain billions of dollars a year out of Alberta — over \$300 billion since 2000. Meanwhile, **Quebec** continues to see its share of equalization dollars increase — from less than **\$3 billion a year in the early 1980s to over \$13 billion a year today — or 66 cents of every dollar Ottawa sends out.**

While shocking, **these numbers are not that surprising.** The **Liberal party** can and does form **majority governments without electing any MPs from Alberta or Saskatchewan.** But winning a big chunk of Quebec’s 78 MPs is

key to the **Liberals' strategy to build a majority government**. Indeed, in 2015, Trudeau was the first Liberal leader to win a majority of Quebec's seats since his father did it in 1980. That hasn't changed.

What has changed is the federal civil service that administers all these programs. When **Pierre Trudeau introduced bilingualism**, it was sold as only a language proficiency test. But in practice, **it has meant that a disproportionate number of federal bureaucrats, especially in the upper levels, are Quebec francophones**. The result: **administrative decisions in Ottawa are made through an ideological lens that is sympathetic to Quebec's concerns and interests**.

In the 1980s, **Preston Manning helped to form the new Reform party under the banner, "The West Wants In."** During the 1990s, Manning and the Reformers did well. They swept the Mulroney Conservatives off the electoral map in 1993 and in 1997 formed the **official Opposition** in Parliament. **Fiscal reform, balanced budgets and Triple E Senate reform all seemed within reach**. Today, **federal deficits and debt are at record levels**. The project of **an elected Senate is dead**, killed by an arbitrary 2014 Supreme Court ruling and a new Liberal government that was **only too happy to let it die**.

In the early 2000s, **foreign capital investment poured into Alberta**. **ConocoPhillips, Marathon, Apache and Chevron all made major new investments**. But it wasn't just American energy companies. **New investors** included Shell, BP and Centrica from the U.K.; Total from France; Statoil (now Equinor) from Norway and a host of smaller companies from South Korea, China and Japan.

Today, they are almost all gone. Since 2015, there has been a **\$50-billion exodus of foreign capital**. Add the **equity sell-off of Canadian oil and gas companies, and the loss soars past \$100 billion**. As noted, this **collapse has been driven by policy, not oil prices**. Where **Alberta used to rank near the top in terms of energy sector competitiveness, we now rank 16th in a recent survey of 20** North American states and provinces. **The problem: regulatory uncertainty, lack of pipeline access and taxes**.

This explains why even Canadian energy companies are **bailing out of Canada**. TransCanada Pipeline has **purged "Canada" from its new name, TC**

Energy, and is re-allocating its investments to **Texas and Mexico**. Encana, which began as Alberta Energy Corp. and grew to the highest-valued Canadian-owned energy company in the world, has changed its name to Orintiv and **slinkd away to Denver**.

The bottom line is clear: The political strategies of my generation of Albertans have not worked to improve Alberta's position within Confederation. It would be a **disservice to our children's generation** to say otherwise. **Today, we are even more vulnerable to the Liberals' tried and true strategy of pillaging Alberta's economy to buy votes in Quebec and Ontario.**

IT'S TIME FOR A PLAN A Plan B.

(Ted Morton is a former finance minister for Alberta and a senior fellow at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy.)

OUR READERS' COMMENTS SECTION

1. From a Reader: If we create a new democratic process that is the envy of the world, Saskatchewan, northern British Columbia, Manitoba and probably all of Ontario except for Toronto will want in on it. Once that starts to take shape, the rest of BC will probably come on board, and if they don't their loss. Ditto for the greater Toronto area. Quebec, I have no idea. The Maritimes, they'll probably want in on a good thing too. It sounds like a grandiose idea, but I think it is actually very achievable. Collectively, common people have tremendous power.

2. From a Reader: Here we are again and there's another headline from the United Nations about impending doom and gloom unless we stop procrastinating on climate change. The story reads, "U.N. predicts disaster if global warming not checked. A senior member from UNEP, the United Nations Environmental Panel says entire nations could be wiped off the face of the earth by rising sea levels if global warming is not reversed. Coastal flooding and crop failures will create an exodus of Eco-refugees, threatening political chaos says Noel Brown, director of the New York office of UNEP." This story is authored by journalist, Peter James Spielman for the Associated Press. The problem here, is the dateline for this story is June 29, 1989. This article warned then, that the planet

3. From a Reader: I watched this weeks edition of Question Period just to reinforce my alienation to the rest of Canada. The makeup of the Federal cabinet is telling and then the interview with Catherin McKenna just confirmed what to expect from this government going forward. I believe the philosophy of this Federal Government and may be to a lessor extent to the Provincial Government is continue with rhetoric and do nothing and eventually the alienation will subside. What most Westerners need to understand is that the Eastern establishment cannot allow the West to get a leg up whether it's energy or any other industry that might challenge the economic viability and power base of the East. As Westerners we must now stand up for our economic survivability or be forever upholding to the Eastern power brokers. A strategy must be constructed to communicate to Albertan's that no matter what we do, if it is a threat to the Eastern power base, we are always going to have a push back from the East . It is now or never!

4. From a Reader (in Ontario): The fact that Canada is the only nation on the planet in which an Anglophone majority is subservient to a Francophone minority is, to a large extent, a consequence of the support of Ontarians. When, in 1995, Quebec threatened to leave Confederation, Ontarians pleaded, en masse, for them to stay. Needless to say, Quebec stayed. My point is that as long as Quebec can count on Ontario to be ultra-Franco friendly, Quebec will continue to be Canada's dominate player. To further embellish Ontario's role as Quebec's chief cheerleader, Premier Ford is, with Bills 135/137, extending Francophone influence into every nook and cranny throughout our province. Together, Quebec, bilingual New Brunswick, and subservient Ontario represent almost 2/3 of Canada's population. Is it any wonder that Alberta and Saskatchewan are seriously angry at this great betrayal?

5. From a Reader (in Ottawa): I applaud Action Alberta and your efforts to promote real change in the political and economic mess we see in Canada currently. I want to remind you that Jason Kenney is a federalist, and as such, will NOT do anything to threaten the federation. He will continue to accept and the status quo in Ottawa and Central Canada. Rather, I would encourage you to educate and inform the people of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Numbers resonate with people almost immediately. Give the people facts on what's been going on. Give them numbers on the transfer of Alberta's revenues to Ottawa and Quebec. Have someone do some research and get federal departmental program spending and you will discover how all federal departments hold a Quebec first policy. That is, programs are engineered in

departments hold a Quebec first policy. That is, programs are engineered in such a way that the majority of federal spending go to programs that benefit Quebec and Quebec interests. Tie this in with the billions transferred annually to Quebec from the west and you'll see how absurdly unfair this whole situation is. It is the people of Alberta that will bring about change, not any politician, and definitely not Jason Kenney. Illuminate the people with the truth and facts and they will respond.

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. KEVIN O'LEARY ON RECENT TRUDEAU MINORITY GOVERNMENT ELECTION [Click here](#)

2. GREEN TERROR GRIPS CANADA IN CULTIC MADNESS [Click here](#)

3. CLIMATE CHANGE HAS BECOME A 'NEW RELIGION' [Click here](#)

4. DANIELLE SMITH: INDOCTRINATION IN ALBERTA'S CLASSROOMS MUST STOP [Click here](#)

5. REX MURPHY INTERVIEWS JASON KENNEY [Click here](#)

JOKE OF THE WEEK

The other night, my wife asked me how many woman I'd slept with. I told her: "Only you. All the others kept me awake all night."

The doctor says that I should be able to see again in about ten days. The broken arm will take about a month.

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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