HELLO ALL (The Group of now 10,000+ and growing):
SELF-PRAISE WON’T RELAUNCH OUR ECONOMY – FREE ENTERPRISE WILL!

Audacity is a thing to behold. The Prime Minister has responded to the steady stream of job losses, insolvencies and dropping investment with his same old triumphal talking points and self-admiration. It is reminiscent of the Greek legend Narcissus, who fell so in love with his own image that he drowned trying to kiss his reflection in the water. Where he died, grew a beautiful narcissus daffodil in his place.

However, Canada’s economy is not sprouting daffodils, but dandelions.

Let’s start with the government’s favorite bragging point: the unemployment rate of roughly 6%. Sounds good. But nothing special. Four G7 countries have a significantly lower unemployment rate than does Canada, including Japan, Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom. In fact, the only two G7 countries with higher unemployment than Canada are France and Italy, whose socialist policies the Trudeau government is trying hard to emulate. Canada’s unemployment rate has been above the G7 average every year since Justin Trudeau took office.

This in the middle of what The Economist magazine called “The Great Jobs Boom” (Click here) around the world. “In America the unemployment rate is only 3.6%, the lowest in half a century. Two-thirds of the members of the OECD, a club of mostly rich countries, enjoy record-high employment among 15 to 64-year-olds. Most of the rich world is enjoying a jobs boom of unprecedented scope.” In that context, 6 percent unemployment is no reason to pop open the champagne.

Mass layoffs hit 2,500 GM Oshawa workers (Click here), 6,000 mill and forestry workers (Click here), 3,000 Bombardier workers (Click here) and most of all 200,000 energy-related jobs (Click here). It is no consolation that some of these workers are now driving UBER - even if such gig economy jobs are making unemployment numbers look deceptively low.

Growth numbers are not better. The United States outgrew Canada in three of the last four years and is projected to outgrow us by 50 percent this year.
Meanwhile, small, formerly-poor countries with few natural resources are leaving us in the dust. GDP-per-person is 40 percent higher in Singapore, 60 percent higher in Iceland and 70 percent higher in Ireland (YES, IRELAND!), than in Canada. Conservative Member of Parliament Michael Chong recounts a sad irony: “My dad left Hong Kong and my mother left the Netherlands for greater opportunity in Canada. Now, both Hong Kong and the Netherlands are richer than Canada.” He’s right. Both have significantly higher per capita GDP.

What does it mean for real people? It means they’re stuck. Despite grand Liberal promises to “help the middle class and those working hard to join it”, median income under Trudeau has gone from $54,015 in 2015 to $54,130 in 2018, a measly 0.07 percent annual increase. By comparison, median income grew $428-a-year under Prime Minister Harper and $38-a-year under Trudeau. Incomes grew more than ten times faster under Harper, who faced a U.S.-led economic meltdown, than under Trudeau who has enjoyed a growing world economy.

Low incomes and the rising cost of living, have left nearly half of Canadians less than $200 from insolvency, according to a report (Click here) by leading accounting firm MNP. The firm’s insolvency practice might be in for a boost, as there were 13,200 of them in October, a 13 percent annual jump, the highest number in a decade. Only higher incomes can fix that.

Why are incomes flat? As renowned economist Jack Mintz (Click here) calculated, our economy produces only $50 for every hour worked, where Switzerland produces $60, the U.S. $65 and Ireland $84. No wonder an Irish worker gets 36 percent more pay per hour than a Canadian worker.

Our workers are not to blame. They can only work with the tools and technology that their employers can afford to buy. That takes investment, which has plummeted in the last five years.

Taxes and red tape at all levels of government are driving money away. Deloitte reports that it takes 249 days to get approval to build a warehouse in Canada, three times longer than the 81 days it takes in the United States. We are ranked 63rd in the world for the time and cost of construction permits. Carbon and payroll tax hikes have made business more expensive, and anti-resource development laws (C-48 and C-69)
more expensive and anti-resource development laws (C-48 and C-69) have made much of it impossible. If money cannot get to work here, it will get to work elsewhere.

Canada must become an enterprise zone, by fixing the tax system so it rewards rather than punishes work and investment; replacing tax-funded corporate welfare with lower taxes for all, so businesses profit by having the best product, not the best lobbyist; and freeing entrepreneurs from red tape, so they can build more, hire more and do more.

(By: Pierre Poilievre - a six-term Member of Parliament, former Minister of Employment and the current Conservative Shadow Minister of Finance.)

OUR READERS' COMMENTS SECTION

1. From a Reader: For those of you Albertans still sitting on the fence, consider this: Norway is often praised for its Sovereign Wealth Fund which it built up by nationalizing its oil industry, while Alberta’s Heritage Fund is denigrated for its size and the provincial government's inability to keep it's fingers out of the pie - the latter of which may well be a valid criticism. Those laughing however, forget that Norway is a country and did not have an inimical federal government to rip it off for $611 Billion since 1960. How much are you going to allow them to RIP off in the next 60 years???

2. From a Reader: One country blockading the ports of another would be seen as a declaration of war. And this is effectively what the Liberals did with Bill C-48. We in the West cannot stay in Confederation. It will only be more of the same. Here is a George Orwell quote from 1984 that sums up the West’s relationship with the East: Click here

3. From a Reader: How come there is no Equalization in health care? The Federal government sends our money to Quebec so that "everyone can enjoy the same level of service." Quebec has much shorter wait times but the Feds still send them our money. How does that work? Just how is that fair?

4. From a Reader: So long as we continue to try to play nice...that is to not play hard ball with the feds...nothing is ever going to change. The last thing in the world the Federal government wants to see is the west gaining influence within Confederation by becoming too wealthy thus diminishing the influence of the east which is their power base. Imagine if all of Canada had to use our
of the east which is their power base. Imagine if all of Canada had to use our own Canadian oil from the west rather than imported oil from questionable counties (shipped here in tankers burning the dirtiest leftovers from refineries...not very environmental). There would be a decided shift of influence in this country over time...because of course from wealth comes power. This in my opinion is why the feds...while pretending to support pipelines...put up obstacles preventing them ever coming into being or being viable. As I live in Alberta and work in the oil industry I sincerely hope the pipelines get built. Sadly I have a sneaking hunch though that if Trans Mountain ever gets completed it will be used to replace the current old pipeline on the grounds that it is old and environmentally dangerous to continue to operate... so the new will just replace the old thus maintaining the status quo. As to the energy east pipeline the reason that never will never get completed is blandly obvious and has been stated above. Then of course there’s the USA card in so far as they very much like the idea of discounted land locked Western oil available to them. Wake up Premier Kenney and take off the velvet gloves and start to represent the people of Alberta and by extension the peoples of the west!!

5. From a Reader: In your recent opinion piece, you referred to the destruction of the East coast fishing industry and the emerging threat to the B.C. forest sector. Unfortunately, it doesn’t end there! There have already been clear indications that Agriculture (including ranching) will be the focus of hyperactive regulators and environmentalists. Combined with the tone-deaf activities of Canada’s inept Foreign Affairs officials towards our most important trading partners, it’s reasonable to anticipate a dwindling number of agribusinesses selling lower volumes of products to our few remaining customers, the French, Cubans and Palestinians. Non-comatose Canadians will soon realize that Bill C-69 remains famished long after it devours the Energy industry. Next on the menu will be Mining, Infrastructure Development, Manufacturing and Transportation. Nothing will escape C-69’s ravenous appetite. That thundering belch is the sound of hundreds of billions of capital dollars being expelled from our country.

One last thought. Albertans transfer ~ $20,000,000,000 per annum to the federal piggy bank, $55,000,000 per day. For that, does this great province receive any thanks, recognition or appreciation from the needy masses? Hardly. The most common responses are Disdain, Disrespect and Disinterest. Imagine our standing once we have nothing more to give.

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. LORNE GUNther: ONCE AGAIN, TRUDEAU MANAGES TO INSULT THE WEST  Click here

2. OTTAWA’S FISCAL UPDATE SHOWS BILLIONS MORE IN DEFICITS THIS YEAR AND NEXT  Click here

3. CONRAD BLACK: JUDGING BY THE THRONE SPEECH, CANADA IS EN ROUTE TO A TRAIN WRECK  Click here

4. AGAINST THE GRAIN: FOR PRAIRIE FARMERS, CARBON TAX SHOWS HOW LITTLE OTTAWA UNDERSTANDS THEIR INDUSTRY  Click here

5. JOHN IVISON: WHEN JASON KENNEY SPEAKS, JUSTIN TRUDEAU WOULD BE WELL-ADVISED TO LISTEN  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.

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