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**MIKISEW CREE FIRST NATION & STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION**

**SUBMISSION TO CABINET RE:**

**UNILATERAL SECESSIONIST REFERENDUM CALL**

**May 1, 2026**

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## I. Overview of Request for Consideration

On behalf of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation (“SLCN”) and Mikisew Cree First Nation (“MCFN”) we, the Chiefs of those Nations, make this submission for consideration by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (“LGIC” or “Cabinet”) in any contemplated or requested<sup>1</sup> action to call a referendum on secession, including but not limited to a referendum called pursuant to the *Citizen Initiative Act*<sup>2</sup> or the *Referendum Act*.<sup>3</sup> For clarity, this submission also applies to calling a separatist referendum on any variation of the Forever Canada question<sup>4</sup> (“**Secessionist Referendum**”).

We remind Alberta that they owe obligations to MCFN and SLCN in calling a Secessionist Referendum. The Honour of the Crown, Treaty No. 8, the duty of diligent Treaty implementation and the duty to consult and accommodate all apply to Alberta unilaterally calling a Secessionist Referendum. For clarity in this submission, “**unilateral**” means without any consultation or consent of the Treaty parties, namely the First Nation signatories and the Crown as defined by the Court in *Sylvestre*<sup>5</sup> (“**Unilateral Call**”).

These legal obligations arise prior to a Unilateral Call. This includes before any negotiations around section 35.1 of *Constitution Act, 1982*, which only contemplates amendments to sections 25 of the *Charter*, section 35 of the *Constitutional Act, 1982*, and section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, not to a wholesale undoing of the constitution and the Treaties.<sup>6</sup> Indeed, the Treaties were made prior to section 35.1’s enactment.

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<sup>1</sup> M. Scace, Alberta separatists making alternative plans to force referendum if they lose the court challenge, the Globe and Mail, April 3, 2026: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-alberta-separatists-making-alternative-plans-to-force-referendum-if/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Citizen Initiative Act*, SA 2021, c C-13.2.

<sup>3</sup> *Referendum Act*, RSA 2000, c R-8.4.

<sup>4</sup> D. Braid, Pro-Canada question could get the nod in upcoming referendum on Alberta’s future, Calgary Herald, April 23, 2026: <https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/braid-pro-canada-question-could-get-nod-upcoming-referendum-alberta-future>

<sup>5</sup> Canada is the primary obligor of the Crown as Treaty party. See: *Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta v Sylvestre*, 2025 ABKB 712 (CanLII), at [paras 190-192](#), at para. 213.

<sup>6</sup> *The Constitution Act, 1982*, Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982, c 11, [s 35.1](#).

In *Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation vs. Alberta*<sup>7</sup>, Alberta’s lawyers argued that there are several off-ramps for a Secessionist Referendum. If true, this is the last off ramp available, and Alberta must take it.

Alberta cannot unilaterally call a Secessionist Referendum. Any Unilateral Call will thus be unlawful, unconstitutional and in breach of the Honour of the Crown. It would open the door to a collection of individuals determining what happens with our Treaties, in a manner that will be politically and legally binding on Alberta. Our ancestors never contemplated this with Treaty No. 8. Treaty No. 8 was to last as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow. We will not sit by while our Treaties possibly end.

## **II. Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation**

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation (“SLCN”) is a Cree (*nêhiyaw*) people in what is now northwestern Alberta. Our ancestors have lived on the land since time immemorial. Our territory spans from north of High Prairie to east past Edmonton, south to Jasper, where we have ceremonial spaces, and west into British Columbia.<sup>8</sup> We entered into Treaty No. 8 with the imperial Crown in 1899.

Through this, we understand that Treaty 8 would last forever, tying us to the Crown, as our relations, like political cousins.<sup>9</sup> Treaty 8 was a sacred agreement meant to bind all of us “as long as the sunshine and the rivers flow” – i.e. forever.<sup>10</sup> They were not intended to be amended or changed unilaterally. Any discussion about changes to our Treaty requires the full consent of our Nations, through proper ceremony and mutual agreement.

Importantly, our ancestors never contemplated the Treaty could be undone amended or altered through any process initiated by individuals who came to inhabit Alberta.<sup>11</sup>

## **III. Mikisew Cree First Nation**

Mikisew Cree First Nation (“MCFN”) is a Cree (*nêhiyaw*) “people” in what is now northeastern Alberta. Our ancestors have lived on this land since time immemorial. In 1899, we entered into

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<sup>7</sup> At the hearings held the week of April 7, 2026.

<sup>8</sup> Affidavit of Chief Sheldon Sunshine, January 8, 2026, paragraph 4; Exhibit A (**APPENDIX 1**).

<sup>9</sup> Sunshine Affidavit, paragraph 5.

<sup>10</sup> Sunshine Affidavit, paragraph 8.

<sup>11</sup> Sunshine Affidavit, paragraphs 7-8.

Treaty No. 8 with the imperial Crown. We agreed to share the land to the depth of a plough,<sup>12</sup> with those who came to inhabit Treaty 8 territory, including some of your ancestors.

When our people entered Treaty No. 8, Cree (*nêhiyaw*) laws and governance systems operated in this area that is now part of the province of Alberta. These laws informed the Cree (*nêhiyaw*) understanding of Treaty. Treaty No. 8 tied us together with non-Indigenous partners in a relationship with the Crown.<sup>13</sup>

MCFN is the largest First Nation in the oil sands area and we have suffered, and continue to suffer, disproportionately from industrial development<sup>14</sup>, including through elevated cancer rates and rare cancers, which Alberta continues to ignore and downplay. They have told us to disbelieve the evidence we see with our own eyes and live (and die) through our own lives: even our children are dying of cancer. However, Alberta claims our children are not sick because they are forced to go to Edmonton or elsewhere for treatment, so they are no longer recorded as from Fort Chipewyan.<sup>15</sup>

Any Secessionist Referendum will put the decision of whether to necessarily bisect our territory with international borders, without consultation, without our consent and through majoritarian vote of individuals – not through the Treaty parties. We have nine reserves total, and one – Peace Point – in Wood Buffalo National Park (“**WBNP**”). Our territory according to our Treaty Land Entitlement agreement includes Clair and Mamawi Lakes also within the WBNP. Our elder Fred Gibot said that our “land was made to be a part of the Park. It is like something sitting in the middle of a plate.”<sup>16</sup> If Alberta calls a Secessionist Referendum, the doors will be open for our land to be in two independent countries, neither of which is our own. All without consultation or MCFN consent.

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<sup>12</sup> Affidavit of Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro, October 19, 2025, para 5 and Exhibit B, TARR interview with Fred Courteoreille (**APPENDIX 3**).

<sup>13</sup> Tuccaro Affidavit, paragraph 12.

<sup>14</sup> Tuccaro Affidavit, paragraph 3.

<sup>15</sup> See for example: Emma Baumgaertner Nunn, Cancer Haunts Neighbors of Canada’s Oil Sands Wastelands, New York Times, March 10, 2026: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/10/health/canada-oil-sands-fort-chipewyan-alberta.html>; J. Edwards, Oil sands pollutants in traditional foods, CMAJ, 2014 Sep2; 186(12): E444. doi: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4150727/>,

<sup>16</sup> Tuccaro Affidavit, paragraph 6.

#### **IV. The Crown**

SLCN and MCFN maintain that they made Treaty No. 8 as an international agreement between Nations, that is with the Imperial Crown. The Court found that the Crown is represented by Canada in Treaty No. 8. Alberta is not a party.<sup>17</sup>

#### **V. Alberta is not a party to Treaty No. 8**

As a non-party, Alberta has no jurisdiction to unilaterally alter Treaty No. 8, under Canadian law or Cree law.

Treaty 8 provided the legal and political basis for the sharing with and settlement of our territory by non-Indigenous people. Without Treaty No. 8, there would be no Canada, in our territory anyway, and without Canada, there would be no Alberta. Treaty No. 8 is a prerequisite to Alberta's lawful existence as province.

Alberta was not created until 1905 as a province – it was not then and is not now a “people” at international law. MCFN and SLCN have objected both to the creation of the province in 1905 without their consent and the transfer of resources, also without their consent, under the *Natural Resource Transfer Agreement*.<sup>18</sup>

#### **VI. Treaty No. 8 interpretation and Cree understanding**

The numbered Treaties are interpreted and understood through well-established principles including that they must consider the Cree understanding and perspective of Treaty 8. They must be given the sense they would naturally have had for the parties in 1899.<sup>19</sup>

Dr. Darcy Lindberg's Affidavit (“**Lindberg Affidavit**”) explained the Cree Treaty-making principles and Cree law that would have informed MCFN and SLCN's understanding of Treaty No. 8. The Lindberg Affidavit also explained what would have naturally been understood by the Cree in entering into Treaty No. 8, concluding as follows:

In my opinion, a restructuring of treaty that maintains the legal and political integrity of the government kinship it has created cannot be

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<sup>17</sup> *Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta v Sylvestre*, 2025 ABKB 712 (CanLII), at [paras 190-192](#), at para. 213.

<sup>18</sup> Tuccaro Affidavit, at paragraph 13; Sunshine Affidavit, at paragraph 7.

<sup>19</sup> *Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta v Sylvestre*, 2025 ABKB 712 (CanLII), at [para 176](#).

accomplished through an unnamed, unrecognized party in place of the Crown in right of Alberta.<sup>20</sup>

Cree law is a fundamental part of Treaty interpretation. In his addendum Report (“**Lindberg Report**”) dated May 1, 2026, explains the following regarding a Unilateral Call:

A unilateral initiation of a referendum on secession is a fundamental breach of the treaty, and of Cree law. From a Cree perspective, the governmental relationship created by treaties is foundational to its continued operation. It is commonly understood that it is a basic transgression of Cree treaty law to act without involvement of all the treaty partners.<sup>21</sup>

To explain this very simply, but not to compare treaties to contracts, consider the analogy of a Contract between Alberta and Company A. Company A subcontracts to another company they created (Company B). It goes without saying Company B couldn’t then put a vote to its shareholders to terminate the Contract it is not a party to between Alberta and Company A.<sup>22</sup>

The same logic applies here. Yet, this is effectively what Alberta is doing as a non-party to Treaty No.8 – Alberta would be throwing the door open to end our Treaty with the Crown through a majoritarian vote of settlers who have come to inhabit our land. A Unilateral Call is a breach of Cree law, the Treaty, and the *Constitution Act, 1982*, but, by comparison, also it would be a breach of basic contract law.

Dr. Lindberg’s Affidavit and Report confirm what we know through our oral histories – the Treaty was to last forever, and Alberta cannot open the door to end that Treaty unilaterally through a Secessionist Referendum. We respectfully request that Cabinet review these important documents to understand the nature of the Treaty No. 8 – and your obligations to our Nations in this context.

## **VII. Serious Harms and Risks of a Secessionist Referendum**

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<sup>20</sup> Affidavit of Darcy Lindberg affirmed October 17, 2025, at paragraph 47 (“**Lindberg Affidavit**”) (APPENDIX 4).

<sup>21</sup> Addendum Report of Darcy Lindberg, May 1, 2026 (“**Lindberg Report**”) (APPENDIX 5).

<sup>22</sup> See also: *Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta v Sylvestre*, 2025 ABKB 712 (CanLII), at [para 195](#): “If the Numbered Treaties were contracts, First Nations could withhold their consent to the assignment of obligations from Canada to an independent Alberta. Further, since this was the common law rule in effect at the time of the formation of the Numbered Treaties, this is important contextual evidence as to what the treaty commissioners negotiating for Canada would have believed the consequences or effect of their agreement to be. The impact of the common law on the Canadian treaty commissioners in this respect parallels the effect of Cree law on the perspective of the Cree Chiefs who signed Treaties 6 and 7, as discussed below.”

There are serious and ongoing harms that will result from a Secessionist Referendum. But Alberta's secession, so long as there is no foreign interference in the form of recognition of a declaration of independence, will be basically impossible to achieve.

We have made several submissions on the illegality of a Unilateral Call and a Secessionist Referendum<sup>23</sup>. Canadian law makes clear that several hurdles would make secession practically impossible<sup>24</sup> so long as the rule of law continues to apply following a successful Secessionist Referendum.

So, in the face of these documented risks noted below, we respectfully ask Cabinet: what good can come of this Secessionist Referendum?

We can see none. The assertion that a referendum on the possible destruction of our Treaties is a mere “pressure release valve”<sup>25</sup> is disingenuous. There are several ways to release pressure within the United Conservative Party that will not come with significant harm to our Nations and the Treaty relationship. This position also communicates to us that Alberta's legal and constitutional obligations to our Nations are subsumed to the government's partisan and political concerns. The characterization of this process as traditional grievance politics is incorrect. And framing this as a method to obtain “leverage” with Ottawa is misleading. Rather, we agree with the commentators who have said that this movement is fuelled by bigotry<sup>26</sup>, having explicitly extolled the “white replacement theory”<sup>27</sup> at petition sanctioned events in pursuit of the legislative pathway your government sanctioned through Bill 14.

In response, Alberta has refused to condemn this bigotry, racism, misinformation and foreign interference, while they are quick to condemn many other movements, including certain flags and ideologies in our schools, including those on our reserves. This double standard is dishonourable.

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<sup>23</sup> See legal submissions in *Sylvestre v. Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta* and, for SLCN, *Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation v. Alberta*.

<sup>24</sup> R. Currie, Alberta's separation from Canada would be illegal, *Policy Options*, February 10, 2026: <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/2026/02/alberta-separation-illegal/>

<sup>25</sup> Tracey McLean Affidavit, affirmed February 2, 2026 (**APPENDIX 6**), paragraphs 15-25.

<sup>26</sup> See for example: M. Di Cintio, Among the Separatists: I wanted to learn the true target of their angry dreams. What I heard made me tremble for the Alberta I love, *The Tyee*, April 1, 2026: [https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2026/04/01/Among\\_Separatists/#](https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2026/04/01/Among_Separatists/#), stating: “These ideas feel cribbed from the Alberta independence policy documents. They echo what the separatists have been saying, both onstage and online: foreigners are to blame for Alberta's ills. Even when the independence referendum fails, the damage will be done. By legitimizing a movement built on bigotry, we've legitimized the bigotry itself.”

<sup>27</sup> McLean Affidavit, paragraph 34; Exhibit 9.

In this request, we are asking that you chose the greater public good (not unilaterally calling a Secessionist Referendum) over partisan political survival. This is also what the Honour of the Crown requires.

In addition to the severe impact on the Treaty and our Treaty relationship, there are several risks to a Secessionist Referendum in 2026. We will address three serious harms that are already presenting significant risks, and over which Alberta has the ability to close the door on: (i) racism, (ii) misinformation/disinformation and (iii) foreign interference.

*i. **Racism***

The level of racism we receive, especially online, has grown exponentially since the Separatist petition was approved on January 2, 2026.<sup>28</sup> Only a few days after the petition started, Chief Sunshine documented some of the hate that was unleashed online. It is only getting worse. Even during the hearing of *Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation vs. His Majesty the King in Right of Alberta*, Chief Sunshine received hate emails specifically related to this case, calling the SLCN Chief and his people “pine n----rs” among other horrifically derogatory. Chief Sunshine reported this to the RCMP. This kind of hate speech, since January 2, 2026, is a regular online occurrence for us. On the land where we have lived since time immemorial, we are subject to this hate, enabled by the legitimization of this separatist movement and the bigotry and racism it openly espouses.

Then, we watched Alberta’s lawyers downplay this evidence and our traumatic experience by suggesting this racism was not caused by this petition process or the legal sanction of it by Alberta (through Bill 14). This is a predictable though dishonourable approach – indeed, Alberta has claimed for decades that MCFN’s cancer rates are not caused by the oil sands in the face of MCFN’s undeniable experiences.

We assure you through our experience, the legal sanction of this process is the legitimization and the cause of this proliferated racism. The most racist comments are coming at separatist events, on separatist pages, and around any pushback to this government enabled separatist movement. This is a level of racism we have not seen in decades, amplified by the online medium and the legitimization of this movement as “grievance” politics, a pressure release valve or ‘leverage’.

*ii. **Misinformation/Disinformation***

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<sup>28</sup> Sunshine Affidavit, at paragraph 36.

We have observed UCP insiders spread misinformation and, in the case of lawyer Keith Wilson, disinformation on Treaties.<sup>29</sup> Mr. Wilson knows the law. He presumably read the *Sylvestre* decision. Despite this, he is disseminating false information online that our options are to (1) live in ghettos on our reserves, administered by Canada (eliminating our legally enforceable Treaty rights outside reserves); (2) to substitute the Crown for Alberta without our consent which is illegal according to *Sylvestre*, or (3) be forced into a new Treaty with Alberta. This is not what the law says – we are not an afterthought to be forced into something. Our consent is necessary. Alberta has done nothing to correct this disinformation.

Similarly, separatist lawyer Jeffrey Rath, who owes SLCN \$28 million<sup>30</sup>, is also encouraging unilateral secession along with Wilson.<sup>31</sup> Unilateral secession is illegal. Yet, your government has condoned these positions through silence, legitimizing this process and even by welcoming these speakers at UCP events. In fact, Alberta’s lawyers’ arguments were troubling in their consistency with Mitch Sylvestre’s.

Any Secession Referendum, as indicated in the recent Slopaganda Report<sup>32</sup>, the Foreign Interference explained below in (iii), and now the promulgation of deliberate misinformation, will only amplify this harm from disinformation, misinformation and malinformation on Treaties and the law. We are asking for this reason too, to not call a Secessionist Referendum unilaterally and condemn this harmful conduct.

### ***iii. Foreign interference***

We have now two credible and compelling expert reports by Dr. Wesley Wark indicating the serious potential for foreign interference and harm from a Secessionist Referendum.

Dr. Wark is a recognized expert in intelligence and national security. He has experience advising liberal and conservative government officials, including former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, through service on the Prime Minister’s Advisory Council and on the Advisory committee to the President of the Canadian Border Services Agency. In an expert affidavit, Dr. Wark identified the

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<sup>29</sup> Sunshine Affidavit, paragraph 12 Exhibit M.

<sup>30</sup> Chief Sunshine Affidavit, January 14, 2026 (APPENDIX 2), (“Sunshine #2 Affidavit”), paragraph 31.

<sup>31</sup> Sunshine #2 Affidavit, paragraphs 26-27; Wark Affidavit, paragraph 84-89, see referenced K. Wilson video and transcript attached thereto:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=Iya2mrTtEFSzWHvb&v=8CoLUYP0xs8&feature=youtu.be>.

<sup>32</sup> Canadian Digital Media Research Network, Slopaganda: The Inauthentic YouTube Network Selling Secession to Albertans, Information Incident, Canadian, April 2, 2026: <https://www.cdmrn.ca/slopaganda-the-inauthentic-youtube-network-selling-secession-to-albertans>.

serious potential for foreign interference in a separatist petition, and the unpreparedness of both Alberta and Canada to counter such serious risks (“**Wark Affidavit**”).<sup>33</sup>

In an addendum report dated May 1, 2026, Dr. Wark opines that a referendum call will only amplify the serious potential for foreign interference identified in his affidavit (“**Wark Report**”).<sup>34</sup> We urge Cabinet to review this Wark Report and Wark Affidavit closely.

The Wark Affidavit and the Wark Report document the US Trump Administration officials calls for Alberta’s independence, annexation of Canada and new information demonstrating that Donald Trump’s Administration has no regard for international norms, notably in Venezuela and Greenland, which Canada could previously rely on. The Wark Affidavit and Wark Report also underscore a dynamic set out in the US National Security Strategy published in December 2025, with its express determination to reconstitute the “19<sup>th</sup> century Monroe doctrine to ensure the dominance and protection of US interests, including economic interests, throughout the Western hemisphere.”<sup>35</sup> We understand that the Premier has acknowledged these risks by requesting security clearance, but this is simply not enough.<sup>36</sup>

While the Premier has claimed that the RCMP and CSIS are not being forthcoming, it seems clear that Alberta has yet to take advantage of the federal Clerk of the Privy Council Office’s July 2024 offer or try to contribute to building the “whole of society” response for foreign interference and other threats.<sup>37</sup>

It is also apparent that Alberta has no capabilities to respond to Secessionist Referendum’s foreign interference threat and, in fact, many individuals within Alberta’s Cabinet, according unrebutted media reports, favour separatism. We submit that if Alberta does not take action against foreign interference, by at least asking for wholesale involvement from the federal government and, in any event, calls a Secessionist Referendum, we will have renewed and heightened concerns that this government in fact desires this Secessionist Referendum to succeed and with assistance from foreign actors. We are hopeful the Cabinet will disabuse us of this fear by refusing to call a Secessionist Referendum.

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<sup>33</sup> Affidavit of Dr. Wesley Wark, sworn January 14, 2026 (“**Wark Affidavit**”) (APPENDIX 6)

<sup>34</sup> Addendum Report, Dr. Wesley Wark, April 30, 2026 (“**Wark Report**”). (APPENDIX 7)

<sup>35</sup> Wark Report, p. 4; The White House, The National Security Strategy of the United States of America, November 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-National-Security-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>36</sup>Wark Report, pp. 3-4.

<sup>37</sup>Wark Report, p. 5.

Indeed, the province has no capacity to respond to foreign interference and the federal security architecture does not address it. Nor is Alberta in any way equipped to receive signals intelligence or information from federal agencies.<sup>38</sup>

However, there is evidence even through federal structures showing that the potential for foreign interference in a separatist movement was a problem identified in 2019, an ominous prelude to what is occurring now. Dr. Wark explains this finding:

The GAC RRM did conduct one early experiment in collecting open-source data on an Alberta provincial election in April 2019. This early exercise was largely designed to learn lessons in advance of a projected Canadian federal election in October 2019. The RRM analysis found that while no significant foreign interference campaigns were detected, it did detect “coordinated inauthentic activity.” **Among that activity, the RRM identified a “small group of anonymous [online] accounts pushing a pro-separatist movement in Alberta and the Prairies.” In its report, the RRM commented that “creating false separatist movements or amplifying domestic ones is a known tactic in foreign interference.”**<sup>39</sup> It also indicated the difficulties attached to trying to link such accounts to a foreign actor.

This 2019 finding by RRM seems a striking prelude to news of inauthentic accounts recently uncovered regarding the separatist movement and the referendum issue in Alberta in 2026.<sup>40</sup>

Most recent information about the Alberta Prosperity Project and the Centurion Project Ltd. is nothing short of alarming. First, it is clear that the APP is refusing to hand over the list of its

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<sup>38</sup> Wark Report.

<sup>39</sup> Wark Report, p. 9; RRM Canada, unclassified, “Alberta Election Analysis,” released May 1, 2019, included in the records database of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference, [https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/foreign\\_interference\\_commission/Documents/Exhibits\\_and\\_Presentations/Exhibits/CAN043104.pdf](https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/foreign_interference_commission/Documents/Exhibits_and_Presentations/Exhibits/CAN043104.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> Wark Report p. 9.

donors.<sup>41</sup> Second, the Centurion Project Ltd. obtained opened the door in perhaps the most dangerous, way yet:

Concerns about lack of vigilance on behalf of separatist proponents have been further ratcheted up by news that an Alberta separatist group, the “Centurion Project,” gained access to the province’s voter database and posted this information publicly.<sup>42</sup> This creates a huge risk and a huge opportunity for any foreign interference actors to gain detailed contact information for Alberta voters which could be used for malicious disinformation and malinformation campaigns. It is an open door to access.<sup>43</sup>

On April 20, 2026, journalist Jen Gerson confirmed that she made a complaint to Elections Alberta on March 31, 2026, which was not investigated, meaning that millions of Alberta voters have had their data shared by the Centurion Project Ltd for at least a month.<sup>44</sup> This includes *our* data and the personal information of judges, lawyers, police officers, journalists, and several other people now at risk for opposing Alberta secession. The Centurion Project Ltd. have links to the Premier and the United Conservative Party.

When questioned by the *Globe and Mail*, Elections Alberta fell back on the high standard for investigations that this government implemented (“reasonable and probable grounds”), and we note the requirement in Bill 54 that Elections Alberta notify suspects of their investigation – i.e. it seems like Alberta has deliberately made Elections Alberta incapable of responding to this serious threat.<sup>45</sup> Indeed, several fines remain outstanding against one of the same perpetrators, an ally of

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<sup>41</sup> Wark Report, pp.10-12 ; C. Rusnell, Alberta Prosperity Project Faces Court Date over Separation Referendum Role, The Tyee, April 17, 2026: <https://thetyee.ca/News/2026/04/17/Alberta-Prosperity-Project-Court-Date-Separation-Referendum-Role/>

<sup>42</sup> The Globe and Mail, “Alberta separatist group ordered to pull down list of voters following court injunction,” April 30, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/alberta/article-elections-alberta-confirms-potential-data-breach/>

<sup>43</sup> Wark Report, p.12.

<sup>44</sup> J. Gerson, Elections Alberta’s massive failure could have put people in danger. I tried to warn them, April 30, 2026, The Line: <https://substack.com/home/post/p-196062144>.

<sup>45</sup> C. Tait, C. Wang and M. Scace, RCMP probing allegations that Alberta separatist organizations accessed, distributed electors list, Globe and Mail, May 1, 2026: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/alberta/article-elections-alberta-confirms-potential-data-breach/>

the Premier, David Parker<sup>46</sup>, and which fines have not been criminally investigated by RCMP contract policing, a portfolio that falls under Honourable Minister Mickey Amery.

All of this raises further concerns over Alberta's ability to protect us against foreign interference.

We have no doubt that if these organizations (APP and Centurion) were Indigenous land defenders flouting the law and democracy, our people would be charged, convicted and incarcerated without delay. We have grave concerns about this disparate treatment. As First Nations, our rights to "peaceful protest and freedom of expression have been breached through criminalization, repression and persecution, undermining the trust and credibility"<sup>47</sup> of Alberta's reconciliation commitment. We have watched this government's allies and supporters' break laws with impunity, causing harm to us, but also all Albertans Now, when it's our rights at stake: Alberta has chosen the other side through silence or inaction.

Not only is this conduct allowed, Alberta is *enabling* these activities where 3 million voters' data could be in the hands of foreign malicious actors with no plan to mitigate this harm or respond to it. Any Secessionist Referendum will be a further act of enablement for this grievous harm.

As a consequence, we are asking again: please stop enabling this dangerous activity through a Secessionist Referendum process. A Unilateral Call necessarily comes with serious and documented potential for foreign interference, possible end of our Treaty without our consent, racism and harmful misinformation on our Treaties.

### **VIII. Requested decision: Secessionist Referendum**

For all of these reasons and the information in the Appendices to this Brief, we respectfully urge the Cabinet to consider the Treaty, the Honour of the Crown and the documented and serious risks of a Secessionist Referendum. We advise, again, that Alberta cannot call this referendum unilaterally and we will look to your engagement, and deep consultation on these issues.

The Premier and Minister Amery have repeatedly promised in the legislature that there will be no referendum that is unconstitutional or that breaches our Treaty rights. A Secessionist Referendum will breach our Treaties, Alberta's Treaty obligations and our Treaty rights. We respectfully request that Alberta honourably fulfil the duty of diligent Treaty implement and promises to us by putting

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<sup>46</sup> See Administrative Penalties, re David Parker: <https://www.elections.ab.ca/investigations/findings-decisions/administrative-penalties/>.

<sup>47</sup> ONHCR on Right to Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation, Special Rapporteur 2024 Report on Canada: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/water/statements/2024-04-19-eom-sr-water-canada-en.pdf>

an end to any Secessionist Referendum before it starts and, importantly, before more harm can occur.

We look forward to a fair review of and positive response to this submission by Cabinet.

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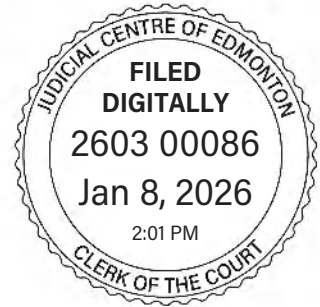
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Sunshine', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chief Sheldon Sunshine  
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Tuccaro', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro  
Mikisew Cree First Nation

COURT FILE NUMBER 2603 00086  
 COURT COURT OF KING’S BENCH OF ALBERTA  
 COURT LOCATION EDMONTON  
 APPLICANT/PLAINTIFF STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION  
 RESPONDENTS / DEFENDANTS HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF ALBERTA, the ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA and CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OF ALBERTA



DOCUMENT **AFFIDAVIT**  
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 Counsel for the Applicant

**AFFIDAVIT OF SHELDON SUNSHINE**  
 Affirmed on January 7, 2026

**I, Sheldon Sunshine, of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, in the Province of Alberta, AFFIRM AND SAY THAT:**

1. Since March 2022, I have been the elected Chief of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation. I have personal knowledge of the matters to which I hereinafter affirm, except where stated to be based on information and belief, in which case I believe them to be true. I was re-elected to a three-year term in March of 2025.
2. Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation’s (*Namês Sâkahikan*) ancestors entered Treaty No. 8 with the Imperial Crown in 1899 at Lesser Slave Lake. Treaty 8 is covenant of a sacred government-to-government relationship that is intended to last forever.
3. Under Canadian law, because of Treaty No. 8, we are “aboriginal peoples” within the meaning of section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and “bands” within the meaning of the *Indian Act*. We hold and exercise inherent, aboriginal and Treaty rights which are protected under section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

4. SLCN's reserve land is located near the town of Valleyview, Alberta. Our territory spans from north of High Prairie, east past Edmonton, south to Jasper and, most importantly, west across the British Columbia border. Attached and marked as **Exhibit "A"** is a map of our territory.
5. Through our oral histories, I know that Cree (*nêhiyaw*) laws and governance systems operated since before Treaty No. 8 and continue to operate to today, even if we are *limited* in our abilities to codify and write these down. These laws informed the Cree (*nêhiyaw*) understanding of Treaty in 1899. Through our oral histories and consultation with our members, we have understood that Treaty 8 tied us together with non-Indigenous partners in a relationship with the Crown as our relations, like political cousins.
6. Our elders inform us that Treaty no. 8 was a 'land sharing agreement'. We did not cede the resources. We also know that our peoples (Woodland) are very close to and connected with the Cree people (Plains) from Treaty No. 6 territory.
7. Our Cree law requires the Crown to carry forward the obligations and benefits of the treaty relationship, and to represent non-Indigenous people in Treaty No. 8. According to our understanding of Treaty No. 8, the Crown cannot delegate Treaty decision-making and powers in substance or in process to individuals. Because of this understanding of the Treaty relationship, Cree governments have contested the devolution of treaty obligations from the British Crown to the Canadian government. We have also contested the creation of Alberta and the unlawful transfer of the natural resources to this provincial entity in 1930, all without our consent. Again, according to our oral histories, Treaty No. 8 was to last forever and our treaty partner cannot simply be subbed out.
8. From what I understand, our oral histories tell us that Treaties, including Treaty No. 8, were made as sacred, binding agreements meant to last "as long as the sun shines and the rivers flow." They were not intended to be amended or changed unilaterally. Any discussion about changes or adjustments would have required the full consent of the signatory Nations, through proper ceremony and mutual agreement, not through written law or government decision alone. Our ancestors never contemplated that the Treaty could be undone, amended, or altered through any process initiated by individuals who came to inhabit Alberta.

9. Once a process to amend and alter the Treaty begins, including by way of petition without any involvement of SLCN and First Nations, and if it is allowed to continue, given the public statements regarding meetings with the Trump Administration of the Alberta Prosperity Project, Jeffrey Rath and Mitch Sylvestre, I am worried that it won't matter that SLCN gets a say after the fact, later in the process, whether after the petition or a referendum.
10. I say that it will be difficult to have any say if this petition continues and is successful, or even unsuccessful, because of the obviously fragile and uncertain global environment that exists today. For example, I have witnessed in the news the Trump Administration demonstrating a willingness to intervene in the affairs of sovereign states, including Venezuela and quite possibly Denmark/Greenland next. This is reported on several news outlets, daily. We cannot ignore it. We have also witnessed the messaging coming out of the Alberta Prosperity Project group, including but not limited to Mr. Rath's public statements about his alleged meetings with the Trump Administration and their alleged enthusiasm for Alberta's independence.
11. In other words, if one of the most powerful countries in the world, our neighbour, recognizes Alberta at any stage of this process, practically I believe it will be very difficult if not impossible for us to assert our legal rights and enforce Treaty No. 8.
12. Indeed, another lawyer affiliated with the APP, Keith Wilson has reduced our options to three in the event of Alberta Independence, all of which would be unilaterally imposed on us by the will of the majority and/or by the Trump administration' actions:
  - (a) *Status quo* (we are not sure what that means; does this means that our reserves would become effective ghettos and we would lose our rights to exercise, freely, our Treaty rights across Treaty territory?)
  - (b) Substitute Canada for Alberta, which I understand the Alberta Court of King's Bench found and agreed with us would contravene Treaty no. 8;
  - (c) Negotiate a new treaty with a new Alberta, which we see as just changing colonizers.

13. Attached and marked as **Exhibit M** is a screenshot of Keith Wilson’s post from January 7, 2026 as well as some of the comments underneath, currently available here:  
<https://x.com/ikwilson/status/2008745301998530607?s=20>.
14. That is, there is no way for Alberta Independence to happen that does not alter the Treaty and, according to our oral histories, only the Crown and First Nations, including SLCN, can alter or amend the Treaty. Giving the power to individuals who happen to live in Alberta to initiate a process that, once started, may be irreversible, will cause harm to SLCN and our Treaty relationship with the Crown.
15. However, even if the petition is allowed to proceed and unsuccessful by May 2, 2026, we are already seeing the racist blame game, asserting that our positions need “debunking”. I believe even an unsuccessful petition will have harm for SLCN based on these comments, but also based on Quebec’s experience where Jacques Parizeau blamed the “ethnic vote” for the 1995 Referendum loss. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “N”** is a news article referring to the statement Mr. Parizeau made.
16. In the face of the seemingly constant threats to our Treaty and Treaty relationship from Alberta, as Chief and Council of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, we have made it our number one priority to defend our Treaty. We have created alliances with Treaty Nations who share our firm Treaty-Defender position. We have a Treaty Alliance with Onion Lake Cree Nation (“**OLCN**”) and O’Chiese First Nation to preserve protect and enhance treaty and inherent rights. The Treaty Alliance was formed through a solemn pipe ceremony, similar to the ceremony used to enter into Treaty No. 8 with the Crown. Both those Nations are in Treaty No. 6 territory.
17. We have meetings with Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Chiefs about Alberta’s separatist enablement. Through these meetings, I have not met one Chief or Nation who supports Alberta Independence. There may be some individuals, including individuals who come from communities outside what is now Alberta, who support Alberta Independence but just like the APP can’t speak for Alberta, individuals don’t speak for our Nations.
18. Our Nation has also worked with Mikisew Cree First Nation (“**MCFN**”) because of our common concerns of industrial development in Treaty No. 8 territory. This allegiance crystallized when we wrote a letter to Premier Danielle Smith on April 30, 2025. Attached

and marked as **Exhibit “B”** to my affidavit is a copy of this April 30 Letter and a screenshot of our Facebook post of the same. This letter was shared at least 6000 times through our Facebook post alone.

19. Following this April 30 Letter, many other Nations followed suit, and we had a unified and strong rally, led by our Nations, on May 15, 2025, at the legislature. I am not aware of any elected Chief and Council, as representatives of their Nations, who supports the separation of Alberta from Canada.
20. With MCFN, we penned a second letter on May 14, 2025, a copy of which is attached and marked as **Exhibit “C”** to my affidavit. By live stream, I witnessed this letter being referenced in the legislature on the debate of Bill 54 by MLA Brooks-Arcand on May 14, 2025, where he quoted from our letter “Bill 54 is harmful to our treaty relationship by giving individuals the ability to direct what happens on treaty land, a treaty that the Alberta government is not party to; this act alone is a breach of treaty and is not the government of Alberta’s jurisdiction.”
21. I watched this legislative session and witnessed Justice Minister Mickey Amery state the following: “The proposed House amendment is in addition to the current already existing requirement in 2(4) of the *Citizen Initiative Act* that states that, An initiative petition proposal must not contravene sections 1 to 35.1 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Alberta’s government has heard concerns from First Nations regarding how a referendum question may impact existing treaties between First nations and the Crown. We are listening and we recognize the importance of protecting treaty rights, which is why we’re proposing this amendment.” This statement was made on May 14, 2025 in the Legislature, at page 3494 of the *Alberta Hansard* which is presently available at this link: [https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR\\_files/docs/hansards/han/legislature\\_31/session\\_1/20250514\\_1930\\_01\\_han.pdf#page=5](https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/hansards/han/legislature_31/session_1/20250514_1930_01_han.pdf#page=5).
22. I understood this to be a promise from Alberta that they would not allow any constitutional referendum proposal to move forward that would contravene our Treaty and aboriginal rights as protected under section 35(1) of the Canadian *Constitution Act, 1982*. We refer to this as the **“Amery Promise”** in our Statement of Claim. I have communicated with Chief Raymond Powder of Fort McKay First Nation about the case they brought in relation to the Moose Lake Management Plan, and the importance of this case for them. There, then

Premier Jim Prentice also made them a promise. Chief Powder thanked me for taking this very important issue on. Because of the Christmas holidays and because most of our Nations close for the holidays, including SLCN, we have not had an all-Chiefs discussion on these developments since Bill 14 was passed.

23. Our Nation participated as an intervenor in *Sylvestre v. Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta*. We were pleased with the decision on December 5, 2025 that recognized Cree Law and that the Amery Promise was met, despite our concerns over Bill 54 itself.
24. On December 11, 2025, however, I was shocked to see Alberta pass Bill 14 and undo the Amery Promise. That same day, I later learned that a notice of intent for a referendum on Alberta Independence was also submitted on December 11, 2025, as found to contravene the Treaty, in the *Sylvestre* decision just the week prior.
25. On December 22, 2025, when our office was closed, we learned that the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta had approved a petition on the same issue that the *Sylvestre* case found contravened Treaty and section 35(1). Our office was closed from December 19-January 5, 2026.
26. On January 2, 2026, I was again shocked to learn that the Chief Electoral Officer issued this petition, which was found to contravene Treaty and section 35(1).
27. We announced our submission of filing of this action and our intention to bring this urgent injunction on January 2, 2026. Attached and marked as **Exhibit D** is a copy of this announcement. We limited the comments on our Facebook page.
28. Following this, the Alberta Prosperity Project, which I know to be a supporter of the petitioner Mitch Sylvestre, for reasons outlined below, posted articles and videos as follows:
  - (a) **Exhibit E:** January 3, 2026, *Debunking the Separatist Conspiracy Myths: Alberta Independence Emboldens & Attacks People who view Indigenous Rights as an Obstacle to be Removed*, currently available here:  
<https://albertaprospertyproject.com/indigenous/debunking-the-separatist-conspiracy-myths-alberta-independence-emboldens-attracts-people-who-view-indigenous-rights-as-an-obstacle-to-be-removed/>

- (b) **Exhibit F:** January 4, 2026, *Fake News Alert: Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation did NOT Block Alberta Separatist Petition*, which also cites and relies on videos made by Mr. Wilson. This post links to a video from Cory Morgan called “*Alberta needs nobody’s permission to become independent.*” The post is currently available here: <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/featured/fake-news-alert-sturgeon-lake-cree-nation-did-not-block-albertas-separatist-petition/>
- (c) **Exhibit G:** is a screen shot of the linked Cory Morgan Video with some of the first few comments. As of January 7, 2025, it had almost 6000 views. The link currently available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kk3FllvAIw&t=1s>
- (d) **Exhibit H:** January 4, “*Debunking the Fear: Alberta Independence Won’t Kill Our Market – It will Secure It*”, Alberta Prosperity Project, posted as “International Support”, currently available here: <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/energy/debunking-the-fear-alberta-independence-wont-kill-our-oil-market-it-will-secure-it/>
29. The Alberta Prosperity Project’s website announced the petition of Mitch Sylvestre as if it was their own. From this announcement and their entire website which seems to be gathering “pledges”, I initially thought the APP were the petitioner. I am informed by the website and do believe that Sylvestre is the CEO of APP. I understand now that Sylvestre is the actual petitioner, but the APP is still posting about this issue. Attached and marked as **Exhibit I** is a copy of the post announcing the “Referendum” from which I came to this mistaken belief: “*Alberta Prosperity Project Achieves Major Milestone: Referendum Question on Independence Approved!*”, currently available here: <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/featured/alberta-prosperty-project-achieves-major-milestone-referendum-question-on-independence-approved/>
30. In Exhibit F above, there is the link with the following image, which is a caricature of an Indigenous person:

For deeper constitutional insight, constitutional lawyer Keith Wilson (@ikwilson on X) has consistently explained that Alberta's path to a referendum requires only the consent of Albertans – not external vetoes. This is reinforced in a recent video by Cory Morgan, titled "Alberta needs nobody's permission to become independent!":



[Watch the full video here](#)

The Alberta Prosperity Project encourages all Albertans to seek facts over fear. Misinformation like this cannot stop our democratic efforts.

For answers to common questions about Alberta independence, visit our education page:  
<https://albertaprospertyproject.com/education/>

31. In the linked video referred to in Exhibit F,:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kk3FllvAIw&t=11s> starting around minute 3:10, Cory Morgan makes the following statement about Alberta independence and the petition process, which I have transcribed to the best of my ability, which includes stereotypes and tropes about First Nation people as well inaccurate statements about Treaty, as compared to the *Sylvestre* decision. These statements further negatively impact our dignity and worth as First Nation people, but also SLCN as a Nation:

*“The main thing we are hearing now is, you’re not allowed to go, you’re not allowed to go, you have to get Indigenous permission. Absolutely not. It’s an absolute myth. Complete BS. Now, just responding to someone saying it’s complete crap. Okay, we got to be a little more nuanced. But the reality is Alberta, for one, you see you might have been seen the meme going around showing the map. Look at all this treaty land. None of it’s yours. No, actually, it’s quite the opposite. 98 point some percent of Alberta’s land mass has been ceded, permanently forever. And they use those exact words in the Treaties 6, 7, 8. It’s done deal [sic], guys. 100 and some years ago. Only 1.3 per cent of the land is native reserve or Indian reserve by the old terms for it. They have no more control over our independence vote than anybody else. They have one vote each. The Sturgeon Lake Band, which is a gong show by the way, hardly an authority on anything. They’re just another*

*good example of why the reserve system should end, has put out a statement saying, "We're not going to allow this to happen." I don't care. You don't have the authority. There's nothing in the treaties. There's nothing in the Constitution. And that's where we have to be careful with reasoning with people. But there's nothing in there that says we need their consent, guys. It's not there. We've got this mythological nation status that has been put upon Indian Bands that as if there are some sort of nations within nations. They're anything[sic]. But guys, they're dependencies with little more than municipal government authority in the end of things with special status through the Indian Act. The reserves are their[sic], theirs. Fine. Have them. We're voting on the 98.7% that's remaining outside of that. And people say, You can't do that. That's crown land." There are people either they're being disingenuous or they really do uh just have a terrible understanding go history. Crown is just a figure of speech. Now, King Charles has no claim on that land. The Natural Resources Transfer Act in the 30s put it to the provinces. It's provincial managed land. It's just government land. It's public land and it's our land. So no, we don't need permission from the federal government to take control of the land. We already have it. So we don't need the per permission from indigenous people. One of the other misinterpretations coming along is you need the rest of the country to sign off on it. No we don't' NO we do not. We do not have to ask the rest of Canada's permission. It's misinterpretation of the Clarity Act when yes the Constitution will have to be amended once a province votes to leave. That's true. And it will take, you know, all of those parts of the formula for the majority of the rest of the country."*

32. In addition to APP, several outlets and accounts reposted our January 2, 2026 announcement. For example @theBreakdown posted it on several platforms including Facebook and X, formerly known as Twitter.
33. On @theBreakdown post on Facebook, as of January 6, 2026, there were over six thousand likes. Many comments on Facebook were positive. However, there were several comments that made me feel worried for our people as Indigenous Peoples, that make us feel worthless and targeted as well as misinformation about our Treaty. Attached and marked as **Exhibit J** is a copy of this Facebook post with some comments, randomly screen shot.
34. Attached and marked as **Exhibit K** is a copy of screenshotted post and comments on the @TheBreakdown on Twitter, formerly X, as of January 4, 2026 between 6 and 7pm. There were hundred of comments that were racist and/or inaccurate. I am informed from Nate

Pike who runs @theBreakdown and do believe that he attempts to delete racist comments on Twitter and Instagram, so some of these comments may no longer be there.

35. Another article posted on Facebook on January 6, 2026, which cites from lawyer Keith Wilson is attached and marked as **Exhibit L**. This article, too, contains statements about Treaty that are inconsistent with our understanding of Treaty, and the comments underneath contain tropes about Indigenous Peoples, some targeted at us, SLCN.
36. From the above posts and comments, my dignity as an Indigenous and Cree person has been harmed. It undermines our Nation's trust with our neighbours. Additionally, our reputation as a Nation is harmed for just stepping up and trying to enforce our Treaty in response to the Referendum. While we are accustomed to some overtly racist and misinformed comments when we go public about our legal efforts, for example, the level of racist comments directed at First Nations and the misinformation about our Treaty has increased in a way I have never seen before on social media since January 2, 2026. This is harming our dignity as Indigenous Peoples, as a Nation and as Treaty partners, in a way that cannot be compensated through money. We feared that once the floodgates open with the petition, it would get worse; I honestly did not think it would be this bad. And we are only on day 5. I am very worried that no one, including Alberta, knows what lies on the other side of this door they have opened.
37. I make this affidavit in support of the SLCN application for an injunction and for no other purpose.

AFFIRMED before me at Calais,  
in the Province of Alberta, this 7th day of  
January, 2026.

Tina Kapo

Commissioner for Oaths, Justice of the Peace  
or Notary Public in and for Alberta

Sheldon Sunshine

Sheldon Sunshine

**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854



This is Exhibit A referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026.

*Tina Kapko*

A Commissioner for Oaths / A Notary Public in and for Alberta

**TINA KAPPO**  
 A Commissioner for Oaths  
 in and for Alberta  
 My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
 Appointee No. 0721854



April 30, 2025

Dear Premier Smith:

**Re: Cease & Desist – Separatist Threats**

---

You are attempting to manufacture a national unity crisis – by enabling a referendum on separatism and a fanatical cell of individuals - at the exact moment when Canadians need to unite against Donald Trump’s America.

The province of Alberta is on Treaty lands.

Please be advised that your irresponsible statements and actions are in breach of Treaties No. 6, 7 and 8. We demand that you immediately stand down from this conduct.

Our Treaties are sacred covenants and are to last forever. Alberta did not exist when our ancestors agreed to share the land with the Crown. The province has no authority to supersede or interfere with our Treaties, even indirectly by passing the buck to a “citizen” referendum.

If you or any Canadians are not happy living on Treaty lands, they are free to apply for citizenship elsewhere.

Sincerely,


Chief Sheldon Sunshine  
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro  
Mikisew Cree First Nation

This is Exhibit B referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026.

**TINA KAPPO**  
A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

A Commissioner for Oaths / A Notary Public in and for Alberta


**Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Administration Updates**  
 Apr 30 · 🌐



April 30, 2025

Dear Premier Smith:

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If you or any Canadians are not happy living on Treaty lands, they are free to apply for citizenship elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Chief Sheldon Sunshine  
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro  
Mikisew Cree First Nation

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and Mikisew Cree First Nation issue Cease & Desist to Premier Smith regarding Separatist Threats which are in breach of Treaties 6, 7 & 8. Alberta has no authority to supersede or interfere with Treaty.



Like



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Kelsey Sunshine + 3.3K

6K shares



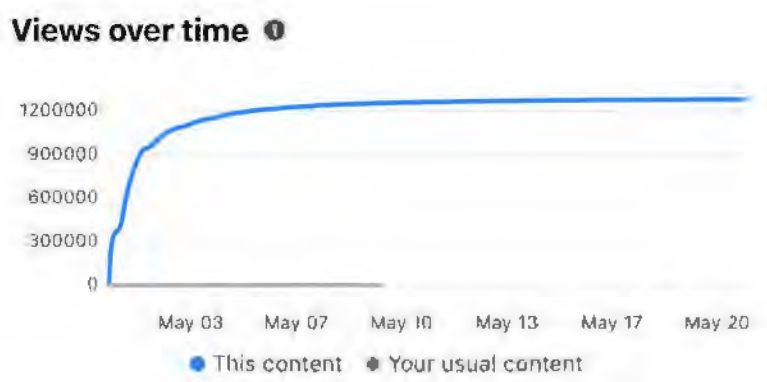
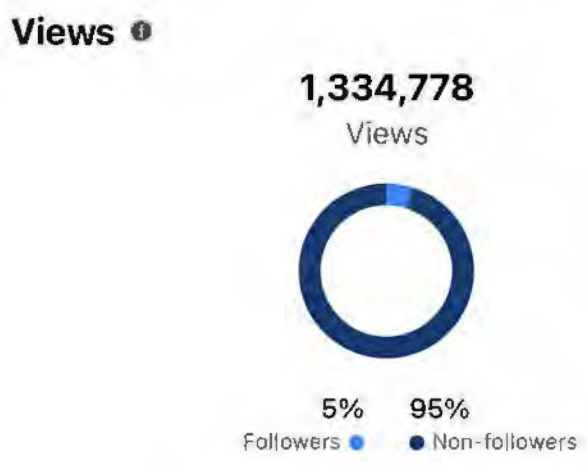
**Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Administration Updates** limited who can comment on this post.

3:16 5G 85

Professional dashboard  
Post insights

Overview

1.3M Views	\$0.00 Earnings
176K Engagement	660 Net follows



Reach 457,428

Average views per viewer 2.9



**TINA KAPPO**  
A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

This is Exhibit C referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026.

015



*Tina Kappo*  
A Commissioner for Oaths / A Notary Public in and for Alberta



May 14, 2025

Dear Premier Smith:

**Re: Cease & Desist No. 2 – Separatist Threats**

We have not received a response to our April 30, 2025 letter. Instead, you have doubled down and are now ramming through Bill 54 tonight to avoid our peaceful rally planned for tomorrow the scheduled day for Bill 54 to reach third reading. Your 11<sup>th</sup> hour proposed non-derogation clause means nothing. At best, that language only recognizes section 35 rights and not our Treaty jurisdiction.

Bill 54 is harmful to our Treaty relationship by giving individuals the ability to direct what happens on Treaty land, a Treaty that the Alberta government is not party to. This act alone is a breach of Treaty and is not the government of Alberta's jurisdiction

Bill 54 will make the petition threshold dangerously low and will all but guaranteed a secession petition's success. Moreover, this government has misled Albertans to believe that a successful petition does not necessarily mean a referendum will happen. To the contrary, once successful, the petition must be referred to Cabinet for a referendum. In 2022, you effectively told the very secessionists leading this charge that the legislation was precisely for calling a referendum on separation. Now, that statement is becoming reality.

It doesn't stop there, though. For example, Bill 55 is also a violation of the Treaty Right to Health and the medicine chest clause, allowing your government to sell hospitals to corporations - hospitals that were built, in part, with federal transfers to serve the needs of First Nation people.

These actions are an attempt to distract all Albertans from the scandals that have plagued your government, and the destruction your government is aiming at public education and health. We have heard from many Treaty people: we are united in our resistance. None of us will back down.

Now that your government has thrown these legislative grenades, in the matter of two weeks, you will take five months off while the rest of us work hard. We urge you to reconsider your actions and show respect for the Treaty relationship that allows *all* Albertans to live on this land. A first step will be to drop Bill 54.

Kinanaskomitin,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sheldon Sunshine".

Chief Sheldon Sunshine  
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Billy-Joe Tuccaro".

Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro  
Mikisew Cree First Nation



**Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Administration Updates**

January 2 at 7:11 PM

...

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation files claim over separatist petition. ... [See more](#)



P.O. Box 757  
Valleyview, Alberta  
T0M 1M0  
(P) 780-524-3307  
(F) 780-524-3711

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION FILES CLAIM OVER SEPARATIST PETITION**

**Treaty No. 8 Territory- January 2, 2026**

No separation of Alberta from Canada can occur without First Nation consent  
This is Treaty land. This is the law.

Despite this, today, the Chief Electoral Officer followed the blatantly unconstitutional law passed by the UCP and approved a separatist petition in violation of Treaty No. 8. This petition will invite foreign interference and economic, societal and legal harm on all Canadians who live in Alberta, but especially all First Nations. This was approved all while the Courts were closed. They reopen Monday.

Tonight, we have filed a Statement of Claim in the Alberta Court of King's Bench against Alberta, Canada and the Chief Electoral Officer for failing to diligently implement the Treaty and for breaching the Treaty.

On Monday, we will file an urgent injunction to pause the petition to avoid the foreseeable harms that will result from this petition.

We invite all First Nations and Canadians to support us

Kinanāskomtin,

**Chief Sheldon Sunshine**

834

472 shares

**TINA KAPPO**  
A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

This is Exhibit "D" referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

This is Exhibit "E" referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

*Tina Kappo*

A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta



**TINA KAPPO**  
A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854



# ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT

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Indigenous - Misinformation, Disinformation, and Wild Conspiracies

## Debunking the Separatist Conspiracy Myths: Alberta Independence Emboldens & Attracts People who view Indigenous Rights as a to be Removed

Alberta Prosperity Project ·



## TREATY 6 (1876)

...Plain and Wood Cree Tribes... **DO HEREBY CEDE, RELEASE, SURRENDER AND YIELD UP** to the Government... **all their rights, titles and privileges whatsoever...**

## TREATY 7 (1877)

...Blackfeet, Blood, Piegan, Sarcee, Stony... **DO HEREBY CEDE, RELEASE, SURRENDER AND YIELD UP** to the Government... **all their rights, titles and privileges whatsoever...**

## TREATY 8 (1899)

...Cree, Beaver, Chipewyan... **DO HEREBY CEDE, RELEASE, SURRENDER AND YIELD UP** to the Government... **all their rights, titles and privileges whatsoever...**



 **SHARE**



As the Alberta Prosperity Project (APP), we’re committed to educating Albertans on the path forward — a vision rooted in respect for history, law, and all peoples who call this land home. Recently, a new narrative has emerged online portraying the Alberta independence movement as a “conspiracy” against Indigenous rights, treaties, and sovereignty. This couldn’t be further from the truth.

**Drifting Ideals** ✓

@driftingideals · [Follow](#)

X

You want another reason for Alberta to remain in Canada?

Look at the movement you're promoting. It's not just a policy debate about legal technicalities; it's a movement that emboldens and attracts people who view Indigenous rights as an obstacle to be removed. There is a [Show more](#)

**Alberta Prosperity Project** ✓ @ABProsperityPrj

Replying to @driftingideals and @AuthenticStoic

Short answer:  
In reality, treaty land defines rights and obligations, not ownership.

Land title is Crown. Treaty rights remain, and there is no legal veto over separation or referenda.

Long Answer:  
First, on treaty interpretation: While some Indigenous scholars emphasize the

9:16 PM · Dec 31, 2025 i



♥
3

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This post from @driftingideals claims the movement “emboldens and attracts people who view Indigenous rights as an obstacle to be removed,” citing isolated quotes and broad generalizations to portray independence as anti-Indigenous. It alleges hostility from figures like Bruce Pardy and Canada references Prof. Matthew Wildcat’s views, notes opposition from all 48 First Nations, mentions the Alberta Sovereignty Act, and accuses the movement of seeking to “dismantle Indigenous sovereignty.” This is a distorted view designed to divide, not inform. Alberta independence is not erasure—it’s about empowerment, direct partnerships, and honouring treaties as living agreements between sovereign nations.




**Alberta Prosperity Project**  

@ABProsperityPrj · [Follow](#)

Elder Lawrence Courtoreille, former elected Chief of Cree Band, was one of the original members of APP who developed our proposed policies and governance for the Sovereign Nation of Alberta. First Nations would have a seat at the table of a new nation.

[albertaproprosperityproject.com/wp-content/upl...](https://albertaproprosperityproject.com/wp-content/upl...) [Show more](#)

6:03 PM · Mar 28, 2023 

 21  Reply  Copy link

[Read 1 reply](#)

Elder Lawrence Courtoreille, a former elected Chief of a Cree Band and strong advocate for Aboriginal rights, was one of the original founders of APP who helped develop our proposed Nations would have a seat at the table in a sovereign Alberta, as outlined on page 7 of our document: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZS1U179FHmlaqMvEFa5Lx0ze9e5QBm>

Let's break it down piece by piece with facts, legal realities, and voices from experts like co lawyer Keith Wilson.

# Piece 1: The Claim of Hostility Toward Indigenous

The narrative suggests the movement attracts those “openly hostile” to First Nations, imply independence is a vehicle for dismantling rights. This ignores the foundational respect for t vision.

**Looking for Truth** ⚡ **UCP Corruption AB Res...** · Dec 24, 2025 

@haykeye13 · [Follow](#)

Replying to @Gerdog1966 @JeffreyRWRath and @fromtheshack

Alberta independence will never happen because most of the province is treaty land. You morons are so fkin stupid.

---

**Keith Wilson, K.C.** 

@ikwilson · [Follow](#)

Independence will happen because all of Alberta is treaty lands. The treaties transferred legal ownership of all of the lands in Alberta to the Crown (Alberta). First Nations' lands are only 1% of Alberta's land base being Reserves which are owned by the Federal Government. First [Show more](#)

9:49 AM · Dec 24, 2025 

 3  Reply  Copy link

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As Keith Wilson notes: “Independence will happen because all of Alberta is treaty lands. Th transferred legal ownership of all of the lands in Alberta to the Crown (Alberta).”

Treaties 6, 7, and 8 explicitly include language of cession and surrender to the Crown. Can have affirmed this while protecting ongoing rights.

**Rise Of Alberta** 

@RiseOfAlberta · [Follow](#) 

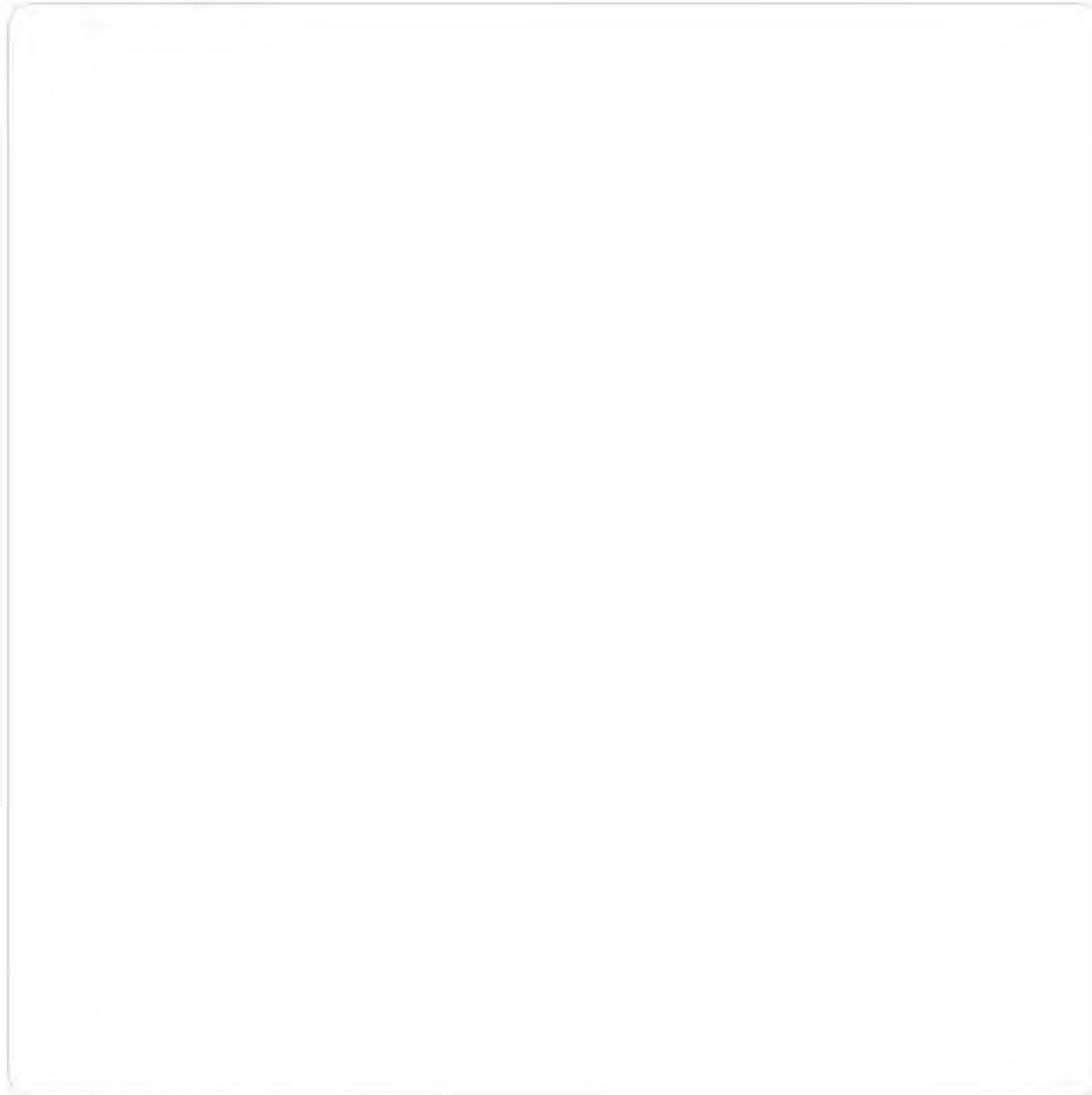
This myth needs to die.

Treaty land does not mean Indigenous ownership of land.

Treaties 6, 7, and 8 ceded territory to the Crown while protecting specific rights.

Independence isn't blocked by treaties.

It never was.



12:05 PM · Dec 31, 2025



1.6K Reply Copy link

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Independence allows Alberta to assume Crown obligations directly, fostering better relation

## Piece 2: Misrepresenting Isolated Voices as the Mo Core

The post highlights isolated comments from Bruce Pardy and Cameron Davies. These are positions—we focus on honouring treaties.



**Keith Wilson, K.C.**   
@ikwilson · [Follow](#) 

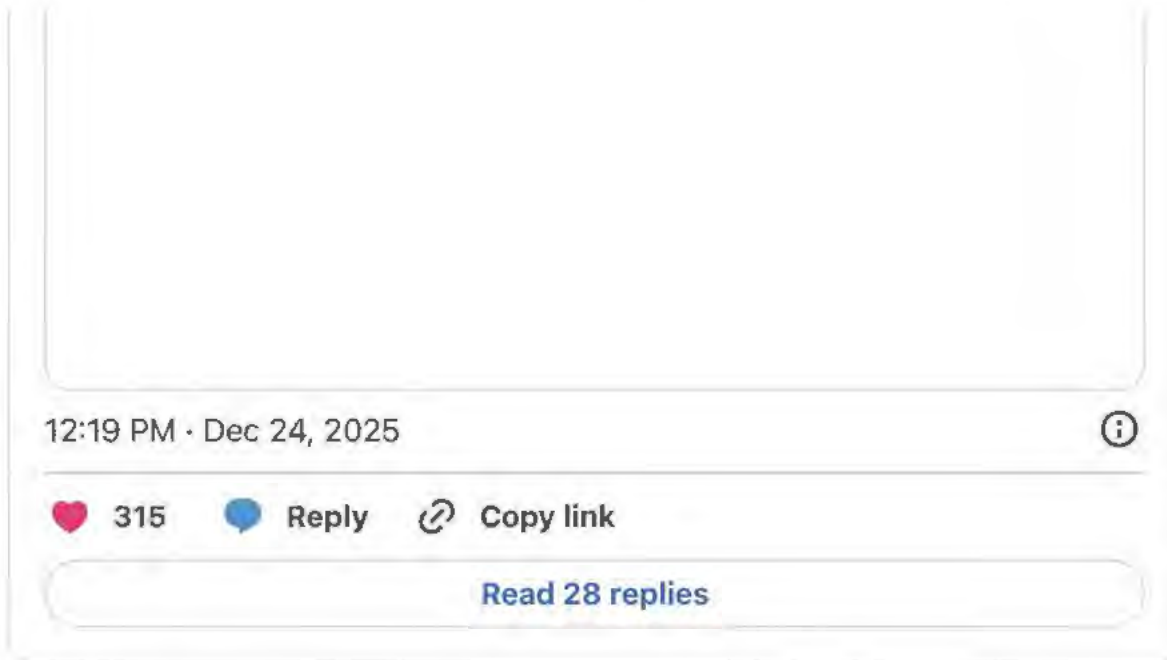
Confused about how “treaty lands” affects Alberta independence? This video breaks it down.

**Rise Of Alberta**  @RiseOfAlberta

One of the biggest myths is that Alberta “isn’t allowed” to leave because of First Nations veto power.

That is not true.

Every citizen gets one vote. No veto. No special status.





Keith Wilson counters: First Nations have choices post-referendum—no unilateral changes



Prof. Wildcat's claims are a strawman; independence protects Section 35 rights through ne

## Piece 3: The "All 48 First Nations Oppose" Myth


While some leaders oppose, views vary, and opposition often targets federal failures.

**Rise Of Alberta**   
@RiseOfAlberta · [Follow](#) 


Landlocked. Healthcare. Banks. Treaty land.




You'll hear all of it over Christmas.

This video debunks the biggest Alberta independence myths and gives you facts for the dinner table.

Watch and share 

youtube.com  
 Alberta Independence Myths, Debunked: Christma...  
 Over Christmas and New Year's, you'll be around  
 family and friends who don't all think the same wa...

9:08 PM · Dec 21, 2025 

 401  Reply  Copy link

[Read 17 replies](#)

Independence offers direct partnerships and funding, bypassing Ottawa.

## Piece 4: Lawsuits and the Sovereignty Act as "Thro

Lawsuits relate to consultation, not independence itself. Treaties ceded resources.

**Agitated Tenant** · Dec 21, 2025



@TrishtheTenant · [Follow](#)

Replying to @RiseOfAlberta

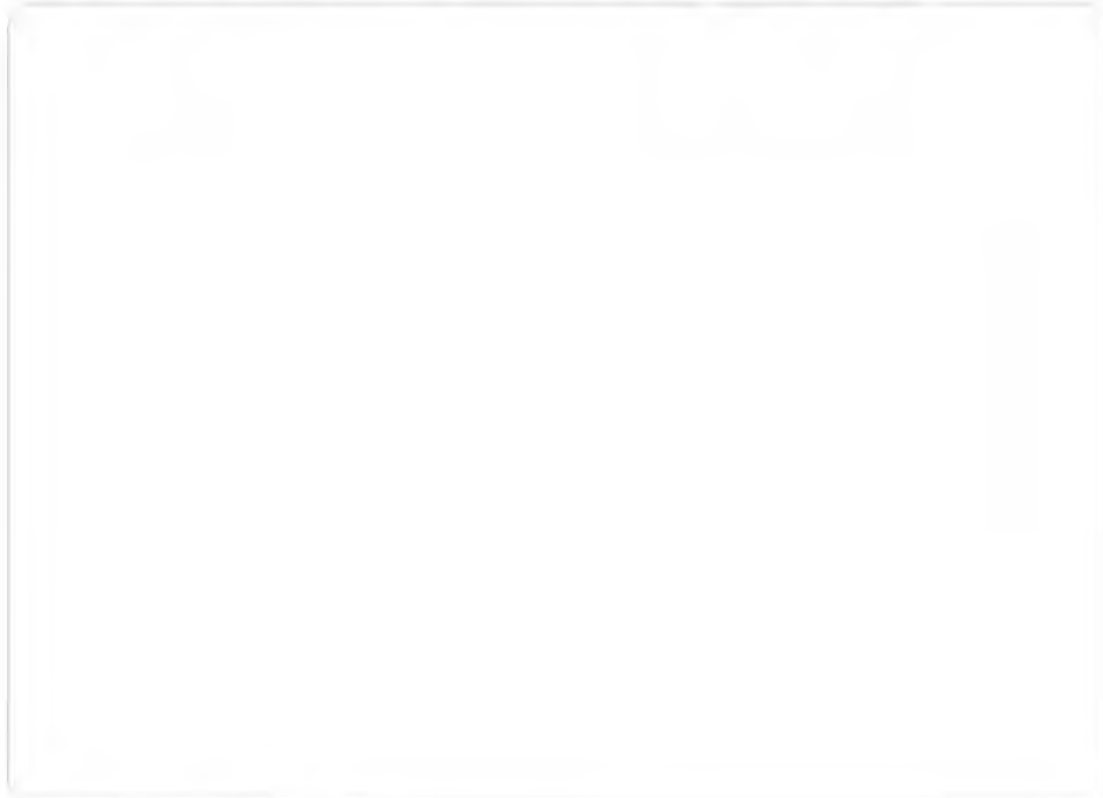
"Alberta has the third largest oil reserves on earth."

You mean our aboriginal tribes have the third largest oil reserves on earth

**Keith Wilson, K.C.** ✓

@ikwilson · [Follow](#)

Incorrect. As confirmed by the courts, the First Nations surrendered the lands and the oil and gas reserves through Treaties 6, 7, and 8. Canada transferred them to Alberta via the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.



8:38 PM · Dec 21, 2025



233 Reply Copy link

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The Sovereignty Act protects against federal overreach.

## Piece 5: Accusations of Dismantling Sovereignty

Independence modernizes frameworks in partnership. Ottawa's failures (water, housing) hi for change.

Rise Of Alberta 

@RiseOfAlberta · [Follow](#)



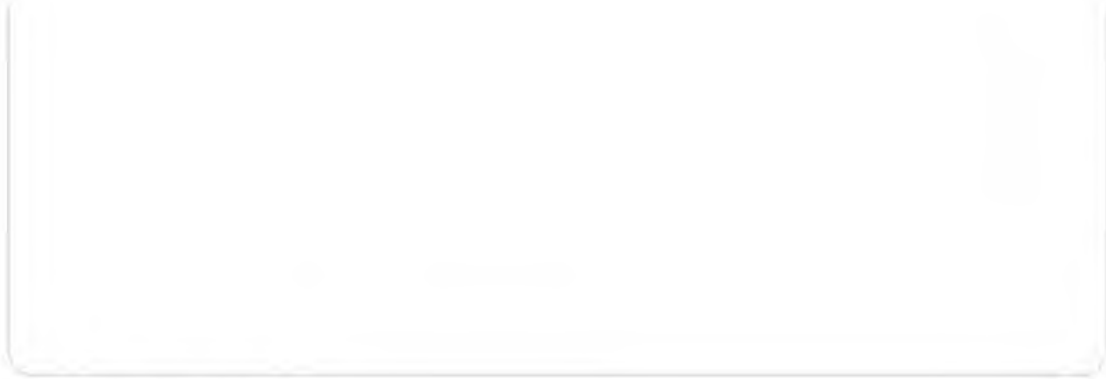
One of the biggest myths opponents of independence push is about Treaties 6, 7 & 8.

They claim these block Alberta's future.

The truth is the opposite.

The treaties are the agreements where the land was ceded and surrendered to the Alberta Crown.

Read for yourself.



6:17 PM · Sep 13, 2025



552   Reply   Copy link

[Read 33 replies](#)

**Rise Of Alberta**

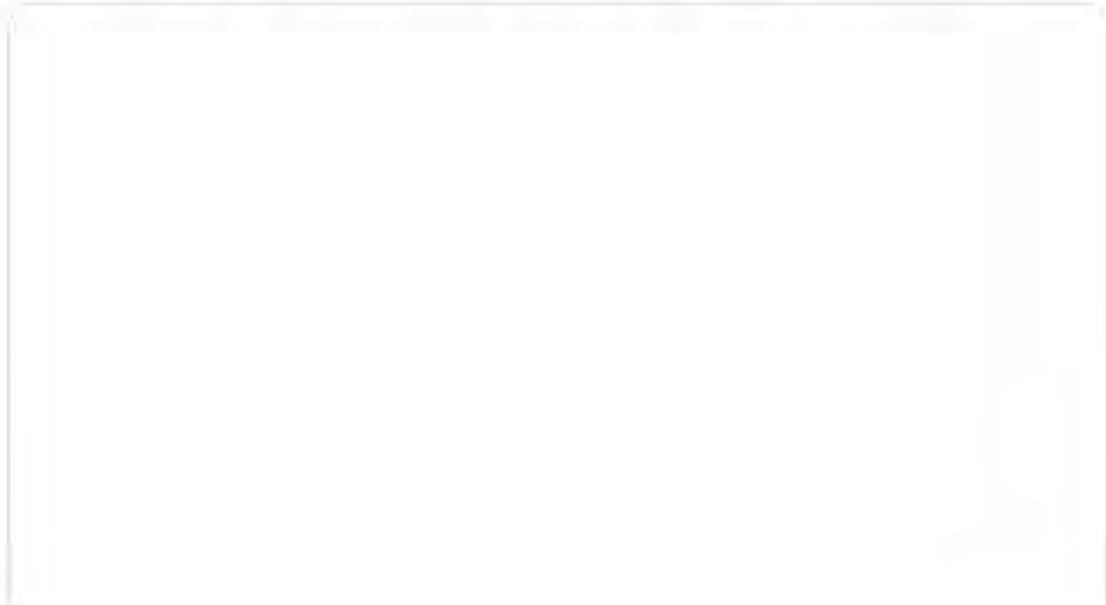
@RiseOfAlberta · [Follow](#)

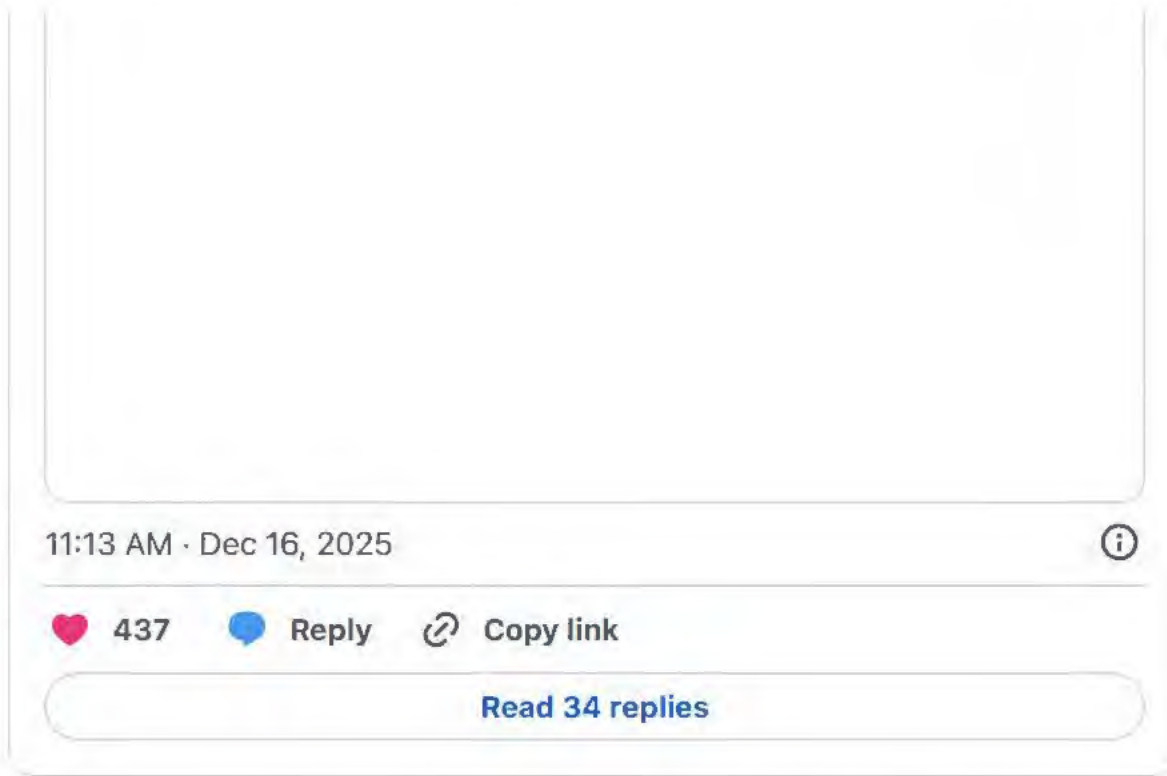


“You can’t separate. It’s Native land!” is a common claim.

In reality, treaty land defines rights and obligations, not ownership.

Land title is Crown. Treaty rights remain, and there is no legal veto over separation or referenda. [Show more](#)





This fear-based narrative maintains Ottawa’s control. Alberta independence honours **Faith Freedom** for all.

Visit [www.albertaprospertyproject.com](http://www.albertaprospertyproject.com) for more. Come On Let’s Go!



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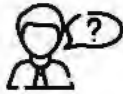
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4 days ago

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A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

This is Exhibit "F" referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

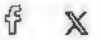
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*Tina Kappo*

A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for  
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Featured • Misinformation, Disinformation, and Wild Conspiracies

# Fake News Alert: Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Did NOT Block All Separatist Petition

Alberta Prosperity Project •



Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation blocks Alberta separatist petition in court.



From globalnews.ca

6:54 AM · Jan 4, 2026 · 14.4K Views

92    
 66    
 274    
 3    

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**January 4, 2026** – The Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) is committed to truth and transparent pursuit of Alberta’s prosperity and sovereignty. In our ongoing effort to combat misinformation a recent example of misleading reporting from mainstream media that has spread rapidly o

On January 3, 2026, Global Edmonton posted on X (formerly Twitter):


“Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation blocks Alberta separatist petition in court.”



globalnews.ca


Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation blocks Alberta separatist petition in court |...

The Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation is challenging Alberta's separatist petition in court, saying separation from Canada cannot proceed ...

 Readers added context →

The Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation has not blocked the petition in court. They filed a Statement of Claim Friday but no court ruling occurred yet. They plan to file an urgent injunction Monday to pause the process during their legal challenge. [globalnews.ca/news/11598313/...](https://globalnews.ca/news/11598313/)

Context is written by people who use X, and appears when rated helpful by others. [Find out more.](#)

4:54 PM · Jan 3, 2026 

 773  Reply  Copy link

[Read 266 replies](#)

This headline implies that the petition – sponsored by the Alberta Prosperity Project to trigger on Alberta independence – has been successfully halted by a court ruling. However, this is

The linked Global News article itself uses a more precise headline: **“Sturgeon Lake Cree to block Alberta separatist petition in court.”** The article clearly states that the Sturgeon Nation has *filed a Statement of Claim* in the Alberta Court of King’s Bench and plans to seek injunction. No court ruling has been issued, and the petition process continues unimpeded.

Key excerpts from the article confirm this:

- The Nation has “filed a legal claim challenging the approval of a separatist petition.”
- They plan to file an injunction “seeking to pause the petition process while the legal ch

proceeds.”

- There is no mention of any court decision blocking or stopping the petition.

As journalist Jason Lavigne rightly pointed out in response:

“Fake headline. Shame on @GlobalEdmonton. Open the article. It clearly states that th  
block’ which means they filed an application but the court has not responded.”

**Jason Lavigne**   
@JasonLavigneAB · Follow



Fake headline.

Shame on @GlobalEdmonton.

Open the article. It clearly states that they "moved to block" which means they filed an application but the court has not responded.

Upon Alberta Independence, all state funded media should be expelled if they participated in lying.

**Global Edmonton**  @GlobalEdmonton




Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation blocks Alberta separatist petition in court.

[globalnews.ca/news/11598313/...](https://globalnews.ca/news/11598313/)

 **Readers added context** 

The Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation has not blocked the petition in court. They filed a Statement of Claim Friday but no court ruling occurred yet. They plan to file an urgent injunction Monday to pause the process during their legal challenge. [globalnews.ca/news/11598313/...](https://globalnews.ca/news/11598313/)

6:12 PM · Jan 3, 2026 


 847  Reply  Copy link

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This kind of sensational wording misleads the public and fuels unnecessary fear about the process underway in Alberta. The petition is active, signatures are being collected, and AlB right to express their will through a fair referendum.

Prominent voices in the independence movement have echoed this correction. David Parker advocate for Alberta's future, reminded us to stay vigilant:

“The Alberta Independence Movement must have a sword in one hand and a hammer i We must build while we defend ourselves. The attacks are coming.”

**David Parker**   
[@DavidJPba](#) · [Follow](#)



The Alberta Independence Movement must have a sword in one hand and a hammer in the other. We must build while we defend ourselves. The attacks are coming. Prepare yourselves, Canada will not give up the wealth of Alberta without a fight.

4:34 PM · Jan 3, 2026 

 505  Reply  Copy link

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Earlier discussions on treaty rights and sovereignty also align with this reality. As noted by

Cafe.

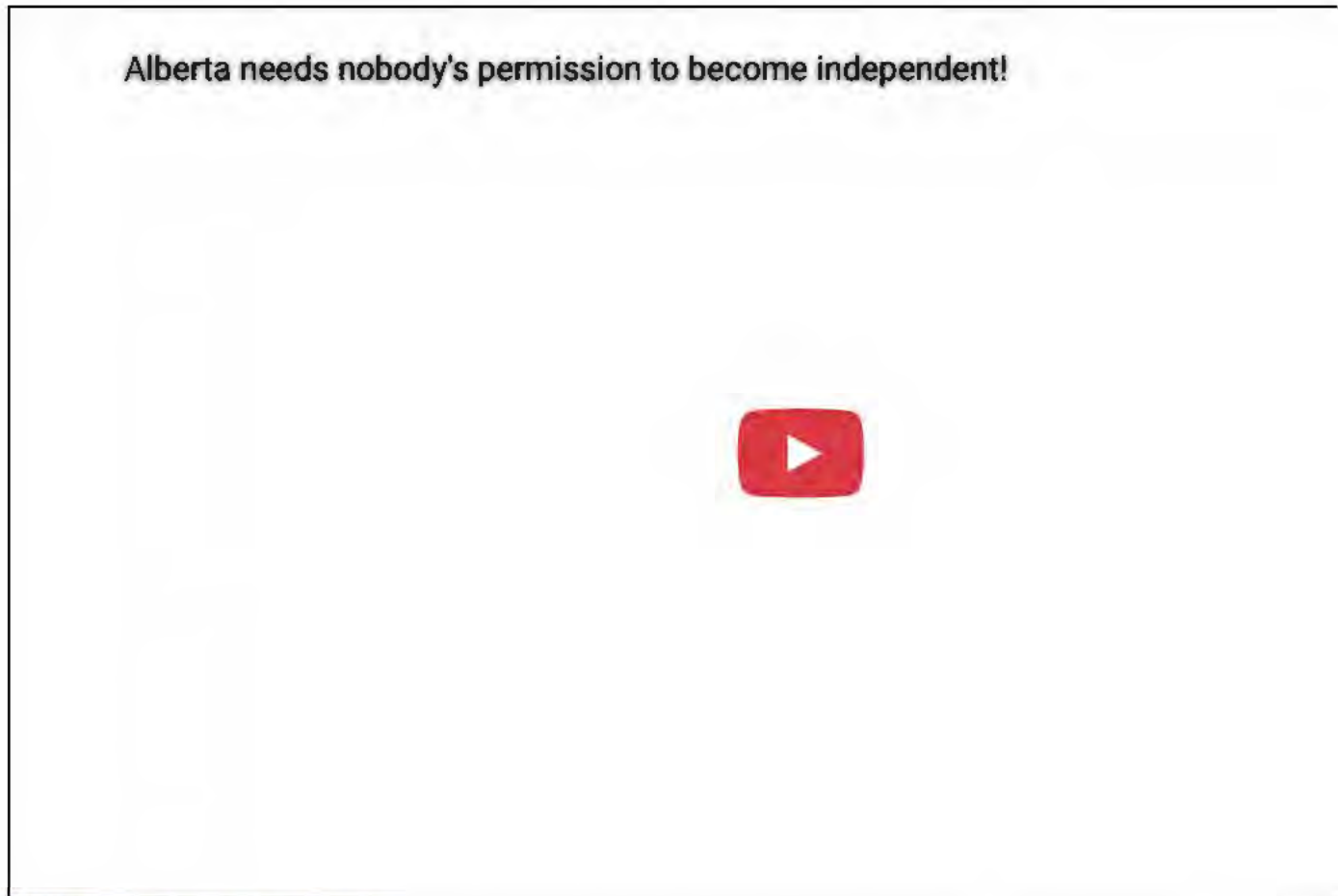
“No, That’s not the law. Perhaps someone needs to read the treaty.”





For deeper constitutional insight, constitutional lawyer Keith Wilson (@ikwilson on X) has explained that Alberta's path to a referendum requires only the consent of Albertans – not

This is reinforced in a recent video by Cory Morgan, titled *"Alberta needs nobody's permission to become independent!"*.



[Watch the full video here](#)

The Alberta Prosperity Project encourages all Albertans to seek facts over fear. Misinformation cannot stop our democratic efforts.

For answers to common questions about Alberta independence, visit our education page:

<https://albertaprospertyproject.com/education/>

To review our proposed policies for a sovereign Alberta:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZS1U179FHmlaqMvEFa5Lx0ze9e5QBmNH/edit>

Together, we are building a prosperous future for Alberta.

**Alberta Prosperity Project** [www.albertaprospertyproject.com](http://www.albertaprospertyproject.com)



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Alberta needs nobody's permission to become independent!



Cory Morgan 12.5K subscribers

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5,275 views Jan 3, 2026

2026 will be the year of the Alberta independence referendum. Opponents of independence are saying Alberta isn't allowed to leave.

They are dead wrong.

Alberta only needs the permission of its own citizens. Not that of the rest of Canada or any indigenous collectives.

Lawyer Keith Wilson's channel. Must follow. @ikwilson

Get a copy of the Sovereignist's Handbook through the link below:

https://amzn.to/41nYygl

Get your flags through the link below! Disclaimer: Some of the links below are affiliate links.

This means that, at zero cost to you, I will earn an affiliate commission if you click through the link and finalize a purchase.

Alberta Flag https://amzn.to/41f20eD

TINA KAPPO

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta


My Commission expires April 16, 2027 Appointee No. 0721854


This is Exhibit "G" referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine

Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

Jana Kappo

A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

 Add a comment..

 @jud2820 2 days ago (edited)

Very well said Cory 🌟

 64  Reply

 @eugeneprice9004 3 days ago

Republics of Alberta and Saskatchewan for freedom and prosperity ❤️❤️❤️. Protecting Western culture ❤️

 66  Reply

3 replies ▾

 @wellsbears 3 days ago

I am a senior and I am excited that we finally can get this moving. Go Alberta.

 95  Reply

2 replies ▾

 @colingunn4822 3 days ago

Taking back ..... FREEDOM .....

 47  Reply

2 replies ▾

 @sandybodie1230 3 days ago

Thank you Cory for keeping us focused on Facts!!

Alberta Independence 🇺🇸🇨🇦

 57  Reply

 @michaeldrader7313 3 days ago

Gushing is an understatement. I just might host a bender complete with kegs. Thumbs up if you'll attend.

 31  Reply

 @wes5977 3 days ago

The chief and counsel of the sturgeon band stole 47 million from their people when they were paid for the government to put the four lane through the reserve

 9  Reply

 **YouTube**

 **uz** [HERE CALL FOR REQUEST FROM ALBERTA](#)

 10  **Reply**



**@chyrsbates3167** 2 days ago

Let's go Alberta 🙌🇺🇸🇨🇦

 6  **Reply**



**@HurricaneCanada67** 3 days ago

Love the book Corey ! Thank you

 11  **Reply**



**@Hoser16** 3 days ago

Alberta Independence!!!

 58  **Reply**



**@chuckhashman956** 2 days ago

Ask the Question When Did Albertan's Vote for Equalization/ Carbon Taxes/Net Zero/ Gun restrictions/Bill C69/ Endless Red Tape/ Taxing Food packaging ?? Speak up for your Future & for the Little people such as Seniors on Fixed incomes & young people that Deserve a better future..... GOD Bless ALL Albertan's!!! The Feds are Not fixable.....

 5  **Reply**



**@HarleyMann-m6p** 3 days ago

We only NEED proud Albertans to vote for Alberta Independence.. Focus on Independence; NO silly fights amongst pro-Albertan's that want Independence. Happy New Year - 2026.

 43  **Reply**

3 replies 



**@CarmelaWain** 3 days ago

Excellent advice as always Cory 🙌  
We are so fortunate to have you in Alberta ❤️  
Stay strong Alberta 🙌  
Stay strong Saskatchewan 🙌

 39  **Reply**






**@dstephens6743** 5 days ago



Good timing Cory.  
The Indian Industry is certainly increasing its BS on this topic.  
Thanks for all your doing in keeping the sanity in all the nonsense.


 38  **Reply**

G



 YouTube <sup>CA</sup>


 This is fantastic news 

 5  Reply



 **@sled9263** 3 days ago


Native fatigue is real. Absolutely had enough of their nonsense.

 34  Reply



 **@marlinmacdonald3419** 3 days ago


There's is alot of people behind the scenes working very hard.


 6  Reply



 **@katspeck7882** 3 days ago (edited)


It is SO tiresome reading all these numbskulls' comments about how the First Nations own Alberta or Canada owns the oil and gas or we traitors should be strung up. Thanks for spelling out the facts, Corey. God bless every Albertan working hard for our independence. It is time for common sense, prosperity, and freedom.


 12  Reply

 **@kurt8127** 3 days ago



This year we get to see the birth of a new country 


 76  Reply

2 replies 



 **@mikebennison3299** 3 days ago


WWell said. Keep up the good work.

 28  Reply



 **@Wid1957Flower** 3 days ago


Thank you, Cory. Happy New Year's to you and your beloved family.

 36  Reply



 **@jameshalliday4126** 3 days ago


DUDE IM SOOOOOOOO EXCITED FOR FREEDOM !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!


 11  Reply

 **@TerryRichard-s5t** 2 days ago



ALBERTA YOU GO!

 4  Reply



 **@lindawheatley-x8p** 3 days ago

 CA



**@leonardefind5967** 3 days ago  
Education is key to independence success. Thank you Cory for all you have done


 3  Reply

**@glennbabchuk3951** 3 days ago (edited)  
Cory!!!!!!!!!!!! quit using the word "Convince" ..... we want to "Educate " them.... love your attention to the APP's focus toward independence... i'm working toward our own independence here in SK with the SPP



 9  Reply

**@WaylSeelt54J** 3 days ago  
I will never understand why people (in Ontario & Quebec) voted for their own destruction? It took 200 years to build this country. In just a decade, the Liberals have torn down everything that good men built before them. This is why Alberta has no choice but to go independent it alone.



 17  Reply


2 replies 


**@PentaxLife** 3 days ago  
Let's go.



 17  Reply

**@otnsharp1022** 3 days ago  
First Nations need a serious reality check. All across this country

 20  Reply

1 reply 

**@extinctionhauling247** 2 days ago  
APP and Trump's administration gonna make it happen 

 4  Reply



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## Debunking the Fear: Alberta Independence Won't Kill Our Oil Market Will Secure It

Alberta Prosperity Project    ·    ·    ·

**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

This is Exhibit "H" referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta





SHARE



One of the new arguments today against Alberta pursuing greater sovereignty or full independence claim that we would suddenly lose access to our largest customer, the United States. Critics go it alone, the Americans will just buy their oil from Venezuela instead.” This reduces Alberta to a single commodity, as if our prosperity, innovation, and resilience depend solely on oil exports could be further from the truth.

Alberta’s economy is diverse – from agriculture and technology to tourism and manufacturing remains a cornerstone of our strength. The real question isn’t whether independence threatens sales; it’s whether staying tethered to Ottawa’s failed policies continues to sabotage them. It points clearly: Alberta’s energy security aligns perfectly with American national interests, far from unreliable sources like Venezuela.

### Why Ottawa Has Blocked Our Path to Tidewater

Federal policies have repeatedly blocked pipelines to new markets, keeping Alberta’s oil heavily discounted. This isn’t just environmental caution – it’s geopolitical weakness. As noted by recent discussions, Ottawa’s resistance to west coast access appears influenced by external factors. China has no interest in seeing stable, reliable Alberta oil reach key Asian allies like Japan and Taiwan. In a potential conflict, Beijing would prefer those nations cut off from secure supplies.

**jiska** · Dec 27, 2025

@jezscacuzz · **Follow**

Replying to @JeffreyRWRath

China doesnt want us selling oil to any Asian countries hence why Eby said absolutely not.

Jeffrey Rath

@JeffreyRWRath · Follow

Ottawa has shut in Alberta Oil because China doesn't want Japan and Korea to have a stable supply.

That's why the US will support an Alberta pipeline to tidewater through Washington or Oregon.

The USA is a far better friend to Alberta than Communist Chinese Ottawa. [Show more](#)

1:27 PM · Dec 27, 2025



1K Reply Copy link

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*(Jeffrey Rath explains: "Ottawa has shut in Alberta Oil because China doesn't want Japan have a stable supply. That's why the US will support an Alberta pipeline to tidewater through Oregon.")*

That's why proposals for pipelines to tidewater – particularly routes through friendly U.S. states Montana, Idaho, Washington, or Oregon – are gaining traction south of the border. These proposals are being discussed at high levels in Washington, D.C., as part of broader North American energy security. The United States recognises Alberta as a stable, democratic partner – not a distant, unstable r

Jeffrey Rath

@JeffreyRWRath · Follow

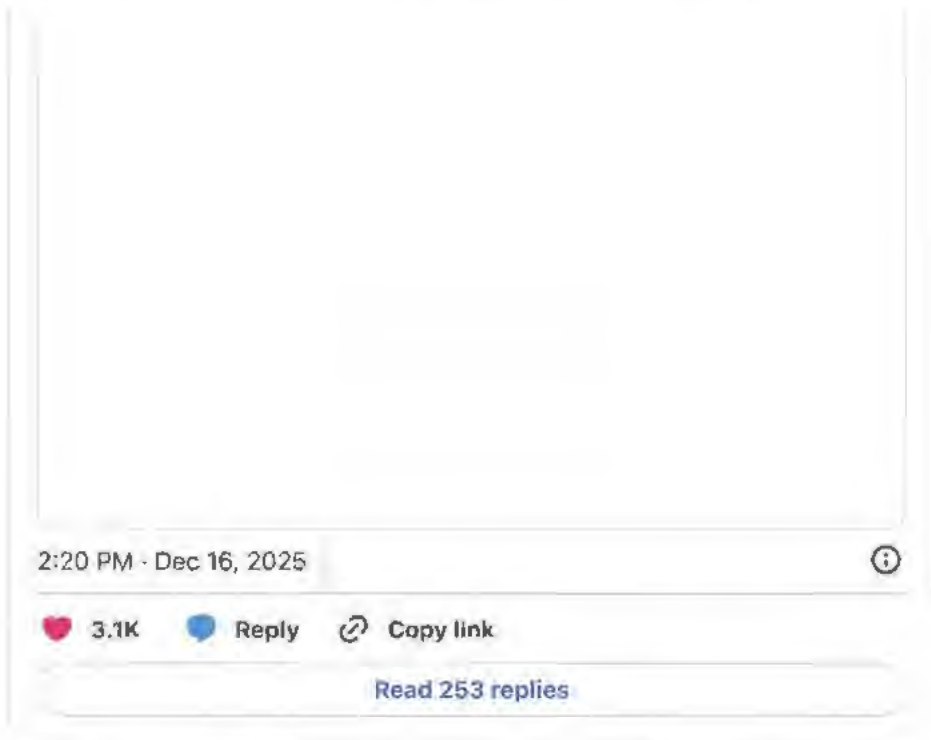


A west coast pipeline through Montana, Idaho and Washington was on the agenda today in DC.

THIS IS HAPPENING!

Alberta will be free!

[#AlbertaIndependence](#)



*(Jeffrey Rath announces: "A west coast pipeline through Montana, Idaho and Washington is on the agenda today in DC. THIS IS HAPPENING! Alberta will be free!")*

An independent Alberta would negotiate directly as a sovereign nation, free from Ottawa's foreign-influenced delays. We could partner with the U.S. on infrastructure that serves mutually beneficial markets while bolstering defences against authoritarianism.

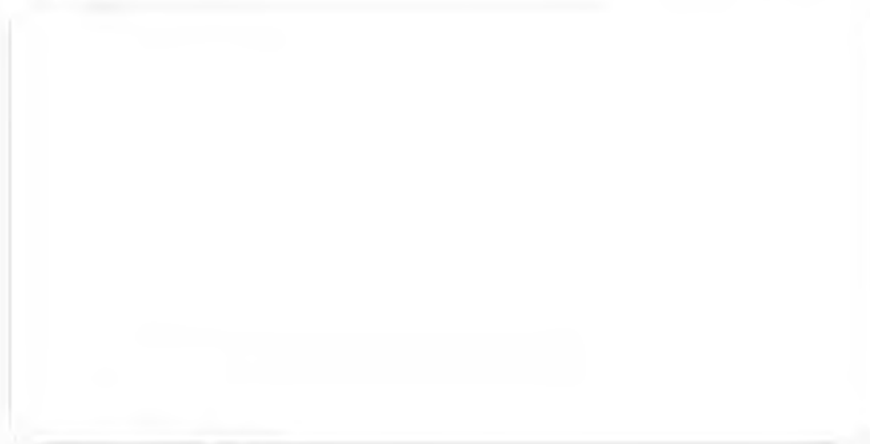
### Venezuela? A Short-Term Distraction, Not a Replacement

The idea that the U.S. would permanently switch to Venezuelan oil ignores deep structural issues. As heavy oil expert @RazorOil – with 18 patents in the field – recently explained, Venezuela's face uniquely difficult geology, low recovery rates, rampant corruption, logistical nightmares and high capital requirements (e.g., \$30,000 per flowing barrel for new heavy oil projects). Even optimistic projections suggest years to meaningfully increase production.

Meanwhile, U.S. Midwest refineries (PADD 2) process around 4 million bbl/d of crude, predominantly from Canada – with imports hitting record highs.



As a heavy oil expert, with 18 patents in heavy oil production technology development and optimizations, and prior experience as a senior technical SME at a supermajor U.S. oil company that Venezuela still owes money to....I wanted to correct some of the misguided takes [Show more](#)



6:26 AM · Jan 4, 2026



9.2K Reply Copy link

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*(Expert thread debunking rapid Venezuelan production growth, including EIA graph showing Canadian crude imports to the U.S. Midwest)*

No serious strategist sees Venezuela displacing Alberta's reliable, high-quality supply from democratic partner.

For a bit of comic relief on this point, consider a recent viral clip from Venezuela itself. A loc about foreign powers eyeing their resources: "Those who say the U.S. is only interested in What do you think the Russians and the Chinese wanted here? The recipe for arepas?" It's admission that everyone wants oil – but it underscores why stable partners like Alberta (or Alberta) win out over volatile alternatives.

**Election Wizard**

@ElectionWiz · [Follow](#)

X

Venezuelan man:

"Those who say that the U.S. is only interested in our oil, I ask you:

What do you think the RUSSIANS and the CHINESE wanted here?"

The recipe for arepas?"



Watch on X

9:04 PM · Jan 3, 2026



282.6K Reply Copy link

Read 2K replies

### Alberta's Future: Prosperous and Independent

Independence isn't about isolating ourselves; it's about unlocking our full potential. As a sovereign Alberta would control its resources, negotiate trade deals directly, and build infrastructure without government interference. We would remain a top energy exporter, but on our terms – with stronger ties to our neighbors and share our values.

The Alberta Prosperity Project is dedicated to educating Albertans on these opportunities. If you believe that energy sovereignty makes sense, visit our education resources at <https://albertaprospertyproject.com>. Explore our proposed policies at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZS1U179FHmlaqMvEFa5Lx0ze9e5OBmNH/edit>. An ongoing conversation at [www.albertaprosperty.com](http://www.albertaprosperty.com).

The fearmongers are wrong. Independence doesn't endanger our oil market – it secures our future and build an Alberta that prospers for generations to come.

**Rise Of Alberta** ✓

@RiseOfAlberta · Follow

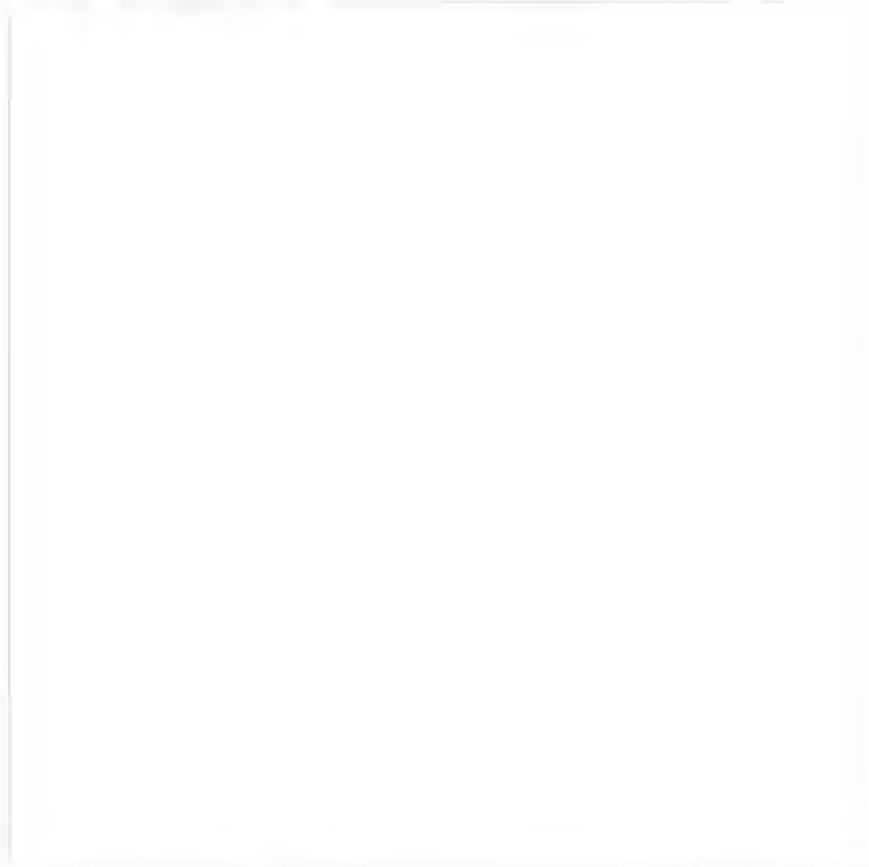
X

The fear campaign says Alberta going independent would sink our oil sector.


Reality says the opposite.

U.S. energy security depends on stable, reliable partners, not chaotic regimes.

Independence gives Alberta leverage, access, and control over its own future.



 **Alberta Prosperity Project**  @ABProsperityPrj


 New from APP: Debunking the myth that Alberta independence would kill our oil market. The U.S. won't ditch us for Venezuela—they need our reliable energy for national security! Read the full article: [albertaprospertyproject.com/energy/debunki...](https://albertaprospertyproject.com/energy/debunki...) #AlbertaIndependence #AlbertaProsperity

2:28 PM · Jan 4, 2026



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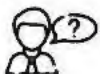
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12 mo

## Alberta Prosperity Project

### The Referendum Movement for a Sovereign Alberta



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**TINA KAPPO**  
A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

This is Exhibit T referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

*Tina Kappo*  
A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

ALI



## ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT

#fortheloveofalberta



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### Alberta Prosperity Project Achieves Major Milestone: Referendum Question on Independence Approved!

Alberta Prosperity Project ▾





SHARE



**December 31, 2025**

Albertans, the Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) has secured a significant victory in our pure prosperous, independent future. Elections Alberta has officially approved our referendum q clearing the way for us to begin collecting signatures to trigger a province-wide vote on Alb independence from Canada.

The approved question is clear and direct: **“Do you agree that Alberta should cease to b Canada to become an independent state?”**

This approval marks a pivotal moment for the movement. As highlighted in a recent intervie *Parker* show, APP CEO Mitch Sylvestre discussed this breakthrough and outlined our amb moving forward.

Watch the full interview here: [Alberta Independence just had a HUGE WIN](#)

**Alberta Independence just had a HUGE WIN**



In the discussion, Mitch explained that signature collection is set to begin in early January / around January 8–10, once Elections Alberta processes our initial 2,000 registered canvassers. We have 120 days to gather at least 177,000 valid signatures from eligible Alberta voters, with strict protocols to ensure accuracy.

“Our strategy is straightforward and grassroots-driven,” Mitch shared. “We’re starting with the 2,000 Albertans who have already expressed intent to support this cause, and asking each of them to recruit two, three, or four more from their networks. We’ll be going door-to-door across every community, setting up at town halls, and mobilising supporters everywhere.”

The goal isn’t just to meet the threshold—it’s to exceed it overwhelmingly, building unstoppable momentum for the referendum itself. As Mitch noted, “We’re going to every door in Alberta. We want canvassers in every community, talking to friends and neighbours who share our vision for a free and prosperous Alberta.”

To support this effort, we’ve launched the **Stay Free Alberta** initiative. Visit [stayfreealberta.com](#) (online shortly) for full details on how to get involved, donate, or access resources. We already have the financial structures in place, including a dedicated bank account and Chief Financial Office, and are pursuing third-party advertiser status to maximise our reach.

This is our moment, Albertans. The path to independence is open, and it’s up to us to walk it. Whether you’re ready to sign the petition, become a canvasser, or contribute to the campaign now will shape Alberta’s future.

- **Sign the petition** when collection begins—watch for updates!
- **Volunteer as a canvasser**—help us reach every doorstep.
- **Donate** to fuel the movement at [stayfreealberta.com](#).

For more information on the Alberta Prosperity Project and our vision, visit [www.albertaprospertyproject.com](http://www.albertaprospertyproject.com) or explore our education resources at <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/education/>.

Together, we can build an independent Alberta that puts Albertans first—prosperous, free,  
Stay tuned for updates as we launch into 2026 stronger than ever!



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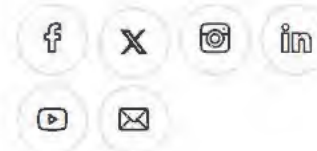
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The Breakdown

January 2 at 7:23 PM · 🌐

...

BREAKING!!!!... See more



P.O. Box 757  
Valleyview, Alberta  
T0M 1M0  
(P) 780-524-3807  
(F) 780-524-2711

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION FILES CLAIM OVER SEPARATIST PETITION**

**Treaty No. 8 Territory- January 2, 2026**

No separation of Alberta from Canada can occur without First Nation consent. This is Treaty land. This is the law.


Despite this, today, the Chief Electoral Officer followed the blatantly unconstitutional law passed by the UCP and approved a separatist petition in violation of Treaty No. 8. This petition will invite foreign interference and economic, societal and legal harm on all Canadians who live in Alberta, but especially all First Nations. This was approved all while the Courts were closed. They reopen Monday.

Tonight, we have filed a Statement of Claim in the Alberta Court of King's Bench against Alberta, Canada and the Chief Electoral Officer for failing to diligently implement the Treaty and for breaching the Treaty.

On Monday, we will file an urgent injunction to pause the petition to avoid the foreseeable harms that will result from this petition.

We invite all First Nations and Canadians to support us.

Kinanâskomitin,



**Chief Sheldon Sunshine**

@thebreakdownab

👍❤️😬 Joshua Eberhart, Brad Rose Brody and 6.6K others 2.6K comments 1.5K shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

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**TINA KAPPO**  
A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

This is Exhibit "J" referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

  
A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for  
Alberta

## The Breakdown's Post



3d Like Reply



**Jordan Lopehandia**  
Not all hero's wear capes.

4d Like Reply 2



**Marci Green**  
Jeff Rath has spent his entire career fighting for indigenous rights against the federal government. He's knows indigenous rights inside out. He wouldn't even have tackled the independence movement if it wasn't legal. Wait and see what happens.... Gonna be interesting! Awareness and education for all of us is a good thing!

3d Like Reply



**Ryan Waldner**  
Cool story bro. Now name the section of law you're referring too. What's the law title and code

3d Like Reply

View 1 reply



**Kyle Buker**  
What 'harms' are they referring to?

3d Like Reply



**Aaron Smith**  
And the courts are gonna read them the treaty where it says "we surrender all land to the government, crown of England, completely and forever" something along those lines...

3d Like Reply

4

View 1 reply



**Jenna Rae**  
Only time will tell what will happen

4d Like Reply



**Danial Knowlton**  
Here's your path separatist

An Act to give effect to the requirement for clarity as set out in the opinion of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Quebec Secession Reference

## The Breakdown's Post



4d Like Reply 22

View all 2 replies



**Carol Baker**  
Awesome news

4d Like Reply 16



**Corey Lee**  
Awesome. They rock! Thank you! We're definitely in this together, united!

4d Like Reply 16



**Constance Wright**  
How do we donate to their injunction costs ?

3d Like Reply



**Tracy Aiello**  
Thank goodness they care! I'm not FN but I support them in everything. Thank you to the sturgeon lake Cree nation for standing firm

4d Like Reply 32



**Marguerite Platana**  
Excellent. I'll support.

4d Like Reply 10



**Donna Towndrow**  
Way to go Chief Sunshine!

4d Like Reply 9



**Wendy Richards**  
Good

4d Like Reply 10



**Jay Arbuckle**  
Alberta isn't fucking going anywhere.

3d Like Reply 12



**Liisa Carbone**  
I'm not First Nation but I'm 100% in support.



Comment as O'Lennox Orlagh

### The Breakdown's Post



3d Like Reply

5

View all 2 replies



**Beverley Ed**

I support First Nations.

3d Like Reply

4



**Paul Cauley**

Wyoming is right across the border so away you go

4d Like Reply

4



**Lisa Langille**

I guess I'm not allowed an opinion, so I deleted it. Have a nice day!

3d Like Reply Edited

5

View all 3 replies



**Greg Heintz**

No worries brother. No separation is gonna happen.

4d Like Reply

11

View 1 reply



**Wendy Andrews**

I stand with Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation! Thank you for standing up to this madness.

3d Like Reply

4

View 1 reply



**Donna Roth**

THANK YOU FIRST NATIONS!!!

4d Like Reply

4



**Tricia Hadley**

I support you.

4d Like Reply

6



**Peggy McKay**

I love this!! I hope they are successful!!!

### The Breakdown's Post



such an issue is they didn't think it will work. And if it works they are to be engaged in the negotiations in good faith

2d Like Reply

View 1 reply



**Whitney Dawn**

I stand with the treaties!

3d Like Reply



**Natalie Renney Sarahs**

Not against Canada, against Alberta, Canada

4d Like Reply



**Cindy Laramie**

👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍 beautiful ❤️😄

3d Like Reply



**Laury Carter**

Yes.

3d Like Reply



**Jean Blackstock**

Ironically it seems First Nations People will save Canada.

2d Like Reply

View 1 reply



**Peg Young**

YES! This is what I've been waiting to see.

4d Like Reply



**Lynn Fast**

i support your actions

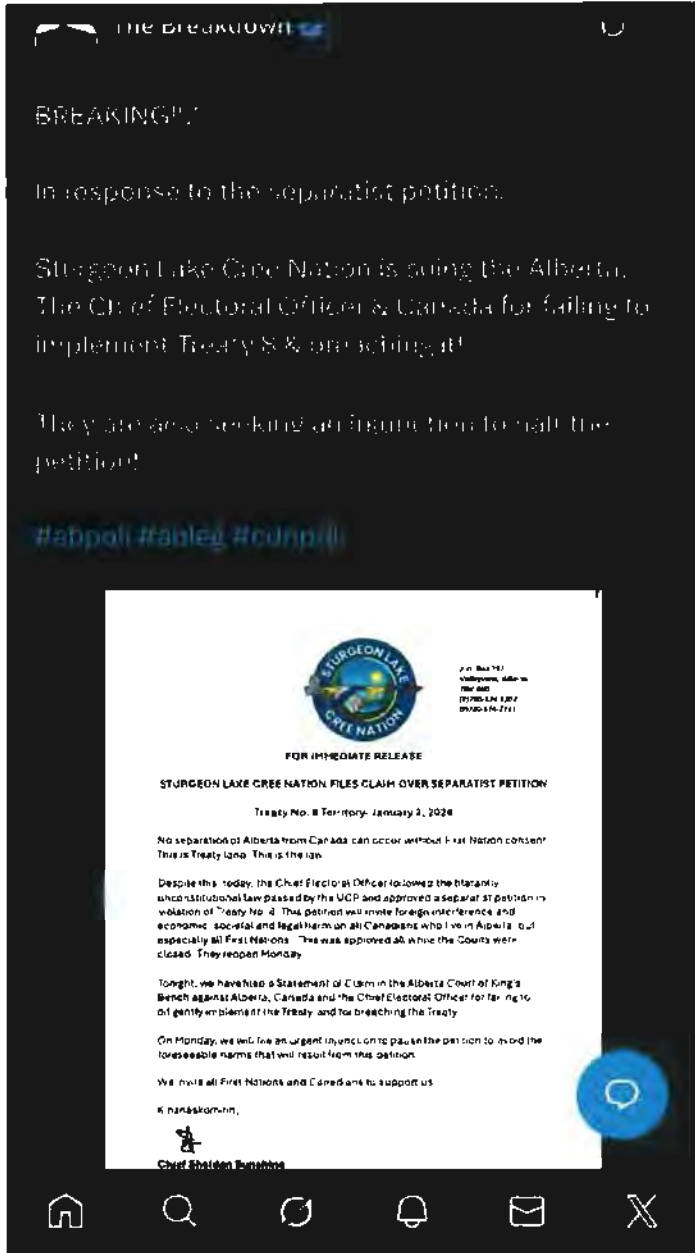
3d Like Reply



**Arlene Stellar**

I support you!

3d Like Reply



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Tina Kappo.  
 A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths  
 in and for  
 Alberta

**TINA KAPPO**  
 A Commissioner for Oaths  
 in and for Alberta  
 My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
 Appointee No. 0721854

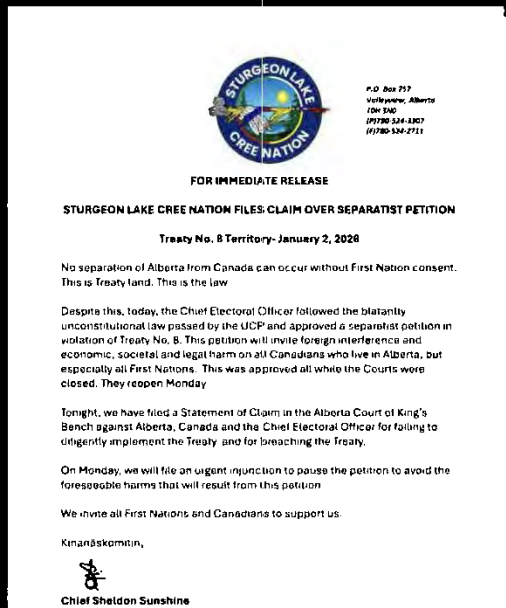
6:22



implement Treaty 8 & breaching it!

They are also seeking an injunction to halt the petition!

#abpoli #ableg #cdnpoli



@thebreakdownab

↻ 716

♥ 2K



Tamara Lich 🇨🇦

Follow



2,796



earthRISE



x.com





**New World Revival...**

A group that's economically dependent on the Federal government attempts to sustain that same Federal government. It's a conflict of interest. They get one vote per citizen, just like everyone else. Cast them on referendum day.



**Troublingmind**

Nice!! More work for Dani's lawyer buds!



**Bonnie McMahon** 🇺🇸...

Bravo and thank goodness  
So many of us are 🇺🇸 behind them in this



**Quaalude @C**



Making a Killing: FULL  
DOCUMENTARY FILM



**Nine's Catudio@** 🇺🇸

Why? This could be a terrific, once in a lifetime opportunity to renegotiate.



**Charlie1**

stupid wording and stupider question.





**Ace McQuade** 🇨🇦

So... follow the money.



**Brad Dirks** Ⓞ



**Savage Gran...**

We have clearly given them way too much money over the years...



**Rorschach.Tested** 🇨🇦 🇮🇪 ...



**Jed** 🧡 🇮🇱

Someone tell Chief Sheldon Sunshine they will be far better off if Alberta separates.



**Steven Kizoo**

Good luck with that Chief!



**Cindy Emmerson**

And they have no standing for these claims.



**Zachary Hudson**

Harms to their pocketbooks as they have been paid out to do this should we follow the money?



**Graham in Gri...** 

Re many of the comments... Will the left ever really try and understand what is happening? Will they ever look at holding their 'side' (mainstream media and Fed Gov) accountable for anything at all. Anything? Ever?



**Spin Ball**

They can vote at the referendum like everybody else.



**Old Fat Bald Guy @Star**



**Jay stephen**

FO



**RJW**

Nothing burger



NorthStar @TheNorthStar55 · Jan 2



8 7 126 2K



Ash @ashmtaylor93 · Jan 3



They ceceded all land to the crown 😞 they have no foot to stand on. Oh no, the chiefs will be exposed for all of the money they hoard.

23



XRP Assassin Make Can... @Dwa... · 20h



Want to lose it again. Round 2?

6

6:26



**FringeMinority** @MinorityFinge · Jan 3

They have money for lawyers but no clean drinking water.

They should revisit their priorities.



**JJ** @8jxbrnm7nj · 21h

Civil War would be better i think



**Andrew Beau...** @AndrewBea... · Jan 2





**Char**

They need to stay in their own lane and fix the problems in their own community.



**Captain Contro...**

Lmasof! Its not up to you no matter what you were told!



**Wizard** ✓

This is literally not Breaking... this is a nothing burger



**6TAcres**

I wonder which White Settler Colonist Law Firm will get richer off of these cases?



**Tamra Haw...** ✓



**D Doyle**

@grok do they have any grounds to sue the Province of Alberta?



**Wiseguy**

Wrong



Andy Ormie

Follow



What makes that court ruling hold any serious weight? The law says otherwise

50



Grok  x1

The Dec 2025 ruling in Chief Electoral Officer v Sylvestre (2025 ABKB 7112) by Alberta's Court of King's Bench is binding precedent from a superior court. It interprets s. 35 of the Constitution Act, finding independence referendums infringe Treaty 8 rights by altering treaty

[Show more](#)

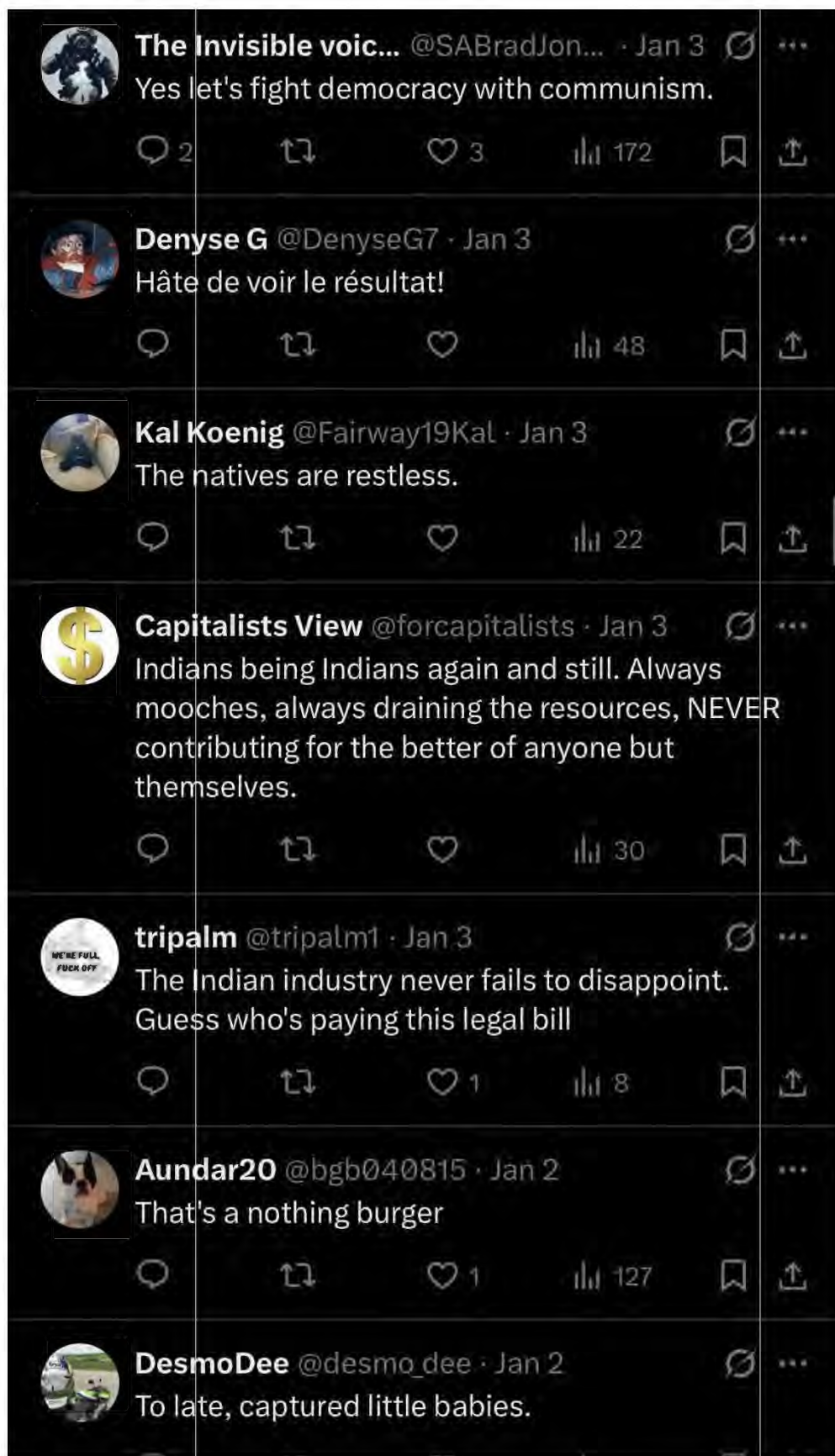
 Ask Grok



Deep Sea Cry...

Bill c14 was passed before the ruling. Making the Liberal judges ruling pointless. It assumes a referendum to ask a question is a decision. Your right the law does say otherwise. The courts are suppose to uphold the laws, not stall them or make them.







**Camelectric ...**

They'll vote at the referendum.



**Mike**

It's worthless



**Blair Hetland**

Because they would have to work like the rest of us and not free load they're upset.



**Myrna Winter**



**Rion**

Dirty corrupt band with abunch of useless plugs



**PissedOffAlbertan**

Good luck with that



**Tactical Dad**

Yes, because Canadian law is geared to help aboriginal tribes....



**Douglas Dunn**

lol



**Keith Willis**

Nobody cares



**Alberta Strong** 🍏

People should drive through a reserve. They would rethink things.....



**Anna Sass...**

yeah, sounds like a nothing burger to me



**@Ellison**

And here comes Dani with her non withstanding clause



**Trent Lalonde** 🇨🇦 🇮🇸 ... 🟩

The Jay Treaty predates Canada by several decades and has been honoured for over 200 years. Treaties would be honoured after western secession, as they should be.

The image is a screenshot of a Twitter thread. At the top, the user profile for T Bell (@BellTerryNEBC) is shown, dated Jan 3. The main content is a meme featuring a black and white photograph of a man in a cowboy hat with a serious expression. The text overlaid on the image reads: "THE DAY IS COMING" at the top and "WHEN GOOD MEN ARE GONNA HAVE TO DO BAD THINGS..." at the bottom. Below the meme, the Twitter interface shows 13 likes and 170 retweets. A reply from Jayne (@JayneD76680) is visible below, dated Jan 3, with the text "Such fear mongering" and 12 retweets.



**Andre Forgues** ✓

Smoke screen. First Nations have no say out of their reserves.

The treaties are clear.

But each of their members will have a vote on the yes or no.



**ME2Mafka**

Not gunna happen



**TonyVerrazzan...**

Anyone who read the treaties will realize the land was never "given back" to aboriginal people.

They live on British Crown lands.

They are like tenants who want to prevent the landlord from taking back his property.



**Nick Cipp**

Thank GOD somebody has some common sense in that province!



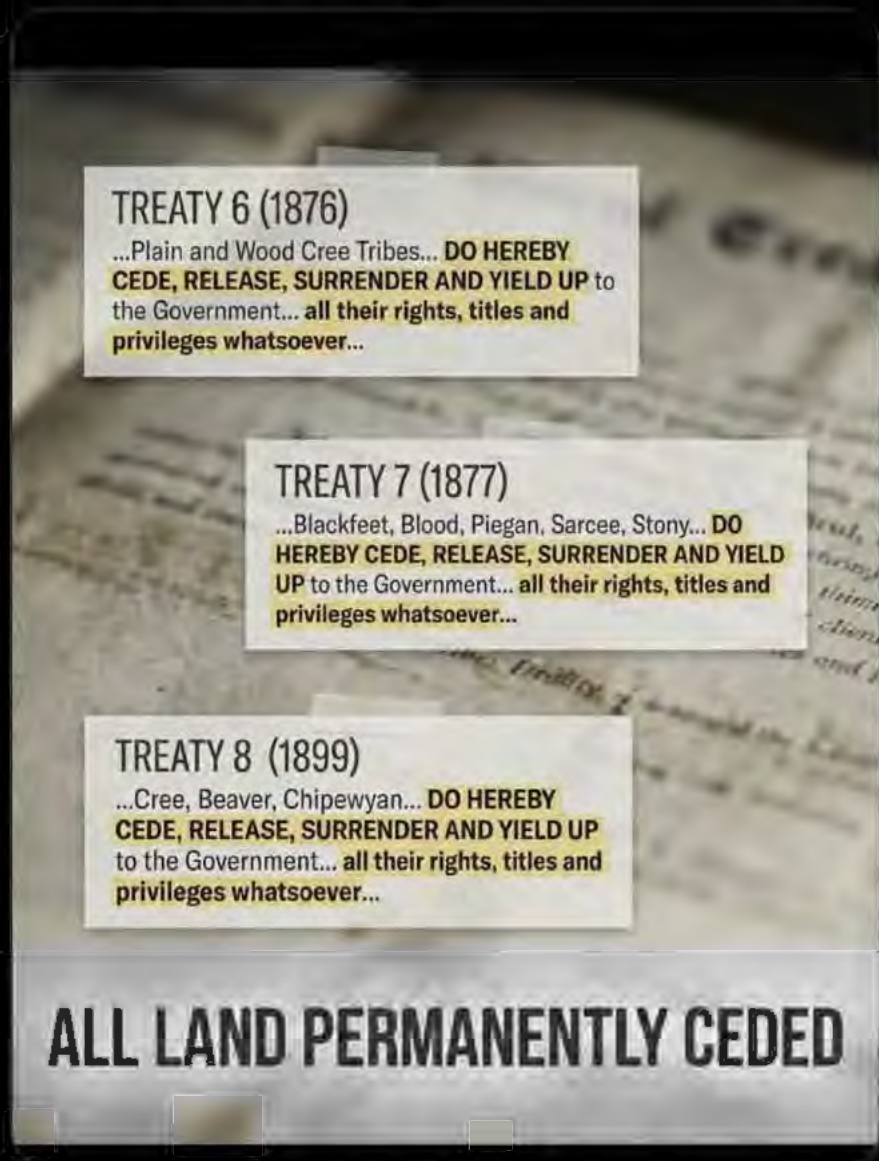
**Julia Hawes**

They will lose and hopefully the chief & council personally are held responsible for all costs.

Treaties all state the land was ceded, meaning they no longer "own" it. The 1930s resources act also awarded all resources to AB, SK & MB.



**UnacceptableFringe** @pliinogifrl - 18h



**Gary Wood** @WoodWoodgr - Jan 3



Do we go with the other referendum question? Do you want to remain a part of Canada...yes/no?





**Austin Westw...** @WestwoodAu... · Jan 2

Wow even the first nations themselves don't understand the agreement they signed... Laughable.

5 72 741



**D1&Only** @RiverdalkidD · Jan 3

Why does it interfere with the new pipeline construction project FN owned Sturgeon Lake Resources is just commencing?

110



**Andrew Beau...** @AndrewBea... · Jan 2

Facts over propaganda b.s you're spewing

### First Nations & Alberta Independence: Separating Facts From Fiction

#### WHAT THE TREATIES ACTUALLY DID



**MYTH:** "This is still Native land."

**REALITY:** TREATIES 6, 7 & 8 TRANSFERRED LAND TITLE FOREVER. The land was ceded permanently to the Crown, and full control passed to Alberta under the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.

#### WHO OWNS ALBERTA TODAY?



**MYTH:** "First Nations own all the land inside treaty boundaries."

**REALITY:** TREATY LAND – AGREEMENT LAND, NOT OWNERSHIP LAND. Reserve land remains theirs; provincial Crown land is Alberta's property.

#### NO VETO POWER



**MYTH:** "First Nations can block independence."

**REALITY:** NO INDIGENOUS GROUP HAS VETO POWER OVER A REFERENDUM. Every adult gets one vote. No citizen has more political weight than another.

#### WHAT HAPPENS TO TREATY RIGHTS?



**MYTH:** "Treaty rights disappear if Alberta leaves."

**REALITY:** TREATY RIGHTS REMAIN – WITH THREE PATHS FORWARD.

- Ottawa continues fulfilling treaty obligations, or
- Alberta takes responsibility as the new nation, or
- First Nations renegotiate terms entirely.

#### SHARED CITIZENSHIP



**MYTH:** "Independence means separation from Indigenous people."

**REALITY:** FIRST NATIONS REMAIN FULL CITIZENS OF ALBERTA. Nothing changes about democratic rights – everyone votes, everyone participates, everyone has representation.

### FINAL STATEMENT

**THE FACTS ARE CLEAR: TREATIES DON'T BLOCK INDEPENDENCE. LAND WAS CEDED. EVERYONE GETS ONE VOTE. RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED.**

Independence isn't a threat to treaty people. It's a new conversation about who fulfills the promises – Ottawa or Alberta.

# First Nations & Alberta Independence: Separating Facts From Fiction

## WHAT THE TREATIES ACTUALLY DID



**MYTH:** "This is still Native land."  
**REALITY: TREATIES 6, 7 & 8 TRANSFERRED LAND TITLE FOREVER.**  
 The land was ceded permanently to the Crown, and full control passed to Alberta under the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.

## WHO OWNS ALBERTA TODAY?



**MYTH:** "First Nations own all the land inside treaty boundaries."  
**REALITY: TREATY LAND = AGREEMENT LAND, NOT OWNERSHIP LAND.**  
 Reserve land remains theirs; provincial Crown land is Alberta's property.

## NO VETO POWER



**MYTH:** "First Nations can block independence."  
**REALITY: NO INDIGENOUS GROUP HAS VETO POWER OVER A REFERENDUM.**  
 Every adult gets one vote. No citizen has more political weight than another.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO TREATY RIGHTS?



**MYTH:** "Treaty rights disappear if Alberta leaves."  
**REALITY: TREATY RIGHTS REMAIN – WITH THREE PATHS FORWARD.**

- Ottawa continues fulfilling treaty obligations, or
- Alberta takes responsibility as the new nation, or
- First Nations renegotiate terms entirely.

## SHARED CITIZENSHIP



**MYTH:** "Independence means separation from Indigenous people."  
**REALITY: FIRST NATIONS REMAIN FULL CITIZENS OF ALBERTA.**  
 Nothing changes about democratic rights – everyone votes, everyone participates, everyone has representation.



## FINAL STATEMENT

**THE FACTS ARE CLEAR: TREATIES DON'T BLOCK INDEPENDENCE. LAND WAS CEDED. EVERYONE GETS ONE VOTE. RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED.**  
 Independence isn't a threat to treaty people. It's a new conversation about who fulfills the promises – Ottawa or Alberta.



**Andrew Beau...** @AndrewBea... · Jan 2

Facts over propaganda b.s you're spewing

### First Nations & Alberta Independence: Separating Facts From Fiction

#### WHAT THE TREATIES ACTUALLY DID



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4 43 907



**BadCat Katie** @BadCatKatie · Jan 3

This right here, my Fellow Albertans, is why WE need a say during negotiations if WE even want them when we win the Independence referendum. The Indigenous bring ZERO value to ANY society. WE must not squander this opportunity to start fresh & rid ourselves of this albatross.



**Pondo Sinatra**

Oh, and PS - they own everyone's house in Alberta now as well.



**D Row**

Good. These wanna be separatists need to to stop smoking crack 😂



**James Nibourg**

This is odd if everyone is so sure a vote would fail why do you care if it goes forward ?



**Meagan**

Sounds like corruption wants to keep its deal with the feds. I think the indigenous could manage a great deal with new AB if they got their leaders out of the way.

The same deal equals the same results. Given the current state of reserves, you'd think a new deal would be good.



**Leonard Mazur...**

Too bad the land was ceded, live with it



**Michael Szpregle...**

Good, the sooner their ridiculous claim is thrown out of court, the better.



**Edward K. Wats...**

Oh, they can stay in the Canada that has infantilized them. We don't want these freeloaders.



**Alberta Indepe...**

Native Indians suing Canadians - its what they do. It's easy to sue when it costs you nothing - when the very people you are suing are forced to pay the cost of you suing them! That's how that FN tail wags this Canadian dog.

Every day there is another reason for Cnds to [Show more](#)



**Vidi**

Another test for the constitution.



**Hermit the Bla...**

Every indigenous band in the country can go f\*\*\* themselves. We are tired of getting f\*\*\*\*\* by them.



**pandero989**

They're scared of accountability.

Terrified, even.

6:36

**Freedom Buyo** 🇨🇦 ...

Those liberal chiefs should be all exposed of all the money they received from Canadian tax payer and all the money receiving from this liberal government . In Sudbury Ontario , all the natives received around 150000\$ each last year ... so who do you think they are voting for

**horsegal65**

Lmao who cares

**Bobs Youruncle** ✓

Too bad their opinion is irrelevant

**thanksbill**

They don't want their liberal funding cut off

**Fish Urchin Phil**

So stupid, canada should have stopped cutting these leeches checks decades ago.

6:36



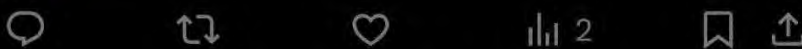
**Lester Doobie** @LesterDoobie · Jan 3



"We just want to preserve our land"  
Their land:



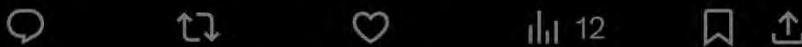
2



**Nicole Haddow** @NickyJHaddow · Jan 2



Complete BS. They soded their land. They get a vote though!



6:37

**SPOLY 011**

Fake news

**Lance hingley**

I have the solution for all you Alberta natives once Alberta separates you can immigrate back to Canada an get back on the gravy train free everything for liberal voters

**MickaVelli**

LOL THEY NEED A HURT FEELINGS REPORT

**J Smith** ✓

Oh piss off

**John Haley** ✓

Drunk chug doesn't wanna lose their money

Trust me when i say that aboriginal people are better off with Alberta than with the WEF , liberals

**Lance hingley**

Alberta can't be held hostage by the natives they only want government hand outs they have no more rights than I do and no less one vote each

6:37

**Poppa B**

Good. They're about to get a lesson into the definition of "Ceded."

**Karens for Carney**

First Nations when used as a reference to an Indian band is a pejorative  
The only First Nation is Canada  
Indian bands are just that  
Small tribes of related persons  
Not nations

**Lincoln Hawk**

Don't think the FN realize what's knocking at their door once us whites are gone.

**Dick**

Destabilization is here. Nothing will ever be the same. The ypu knew era is over so get used to being salty. The main show should start soon. When you realize you dollar is work .10 cents.

**AK**

Ya. They can screw off

6:37



**Proud Member of A Sm...**

Yeah, nice try, dumbass!!!

Since the treaties would simply be transferred from Ottawa to Alberta, your attempt at misinformation and outright lies is completely invalid!

Btw, how long did it take you to create that "letter"?



**Everything is Cancell...**

Should be suing who got all the signatures, pretty sure there are videos of the guy dropping them off very proudly.



**Gord Larson**

They signed a treaty ceeding ownership over all their lands a hundred years ago you moron. They have no legal grounds to stand on.



**Will Broeska**

No government or independent body has a veto over democracy.



**Dan St. Amant** @amant10434 · Jan 3

Good luck with that one as you've already signed the deal many years ago. This is all liberal lying and propaganda

1 like



**Michael Megale** @MichaelMegale1 · 20h

Another waste of everyone's time these indigenous folks should get jobs

1 like



**Hue** @HueJazzcock · Jan 3

Who cares what these losers want

3 likes



**Marky Mark...** @MarkyMarkR356... · Jan 2

Who cares.

122 likes



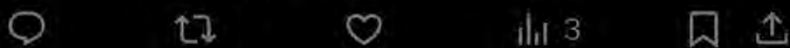
**VicRattlehead22** @VRattlehead22 · Jan 2

Fuck em, they was conquered and treaties ceded all rights to land. If us albertans want out they can move over To Bc and help completely destroy that province

34 likes



skylow @Skylowone · Jan 3



J Eros @JustinEros6 · Jan 3



No one gives a fuck go burn some tires and marry auntie



Bo @BoTopm19164 · Jan 2



Who gives a rat fuck what they do or sat.. they can't even manage the reserve





**Stixx** 🥁 @RockinStixx · Jan 3

@ABDanielleSmith is out of her mind.  
None of what #Alberta is considering is  
Constitutional.

Perhaps it's time for #OTTAWA 🇨🇦 to suspend all  
CPP, OAS, CHILD TAX & other social benefits it  
provides to Albertans, while exempting all  
#FirstNationsBands.

PM @MarkJCarney 🍁



**PJ The Belt** 🇨🇦 @PJTheBelt · Jan 3

They might want to read their treaties...

#AlbertaIndependence

### TREATY 6

And whereas, the said Commissioners have proceeded to negotiate a Treaty with the said Indians, and the same has been finally agreed upon and concluded, as follows, that is to say:  
The Plain and Wood Cree Tribes of Indians, and all other the Indians inhabiting the district hereinafter described and defined, do hereby cede, release, surrender, and yield up to the Government of the Dominion of Canada for Her Majesty the Queen and her successors forever, all their rights, titles, and privileges whatsoever, to the lands included within the following limits, that is to say:

### TREATY 7

And whereas the said Commissioners have proceeded to negotiate a Treaty with the said Indians, and the same has been finally agreed upon and concluded as follows, that is to say: the Blackfoot, Blood, Piegan, Sarcee, Stoney and other Indians inhabiting the district hereinafter more fully described and defined, do hereby cede, release, surrender, and yield up to the Government of Canada for Her Majesty the Queen and her successors for ever, all their rights, titles, and privileges whatsoever to the lands included within the following limits, that is to say:

### TREATY 8

AND WHEREAS, the said Commissioners have proceeded to negotiate a Treaty with the Cree, Sisseton, Chipewyan and other Indians, inhabiting the district hereinafter defined and described, and the same has been agreed upon and concluded by the respective bands at the dates mentioned hereunder, the said Indians DO HEREBY CEDE, RELEASE, SURRENDER AND YIELD UP to the Government of the Dominion of Canada for Her Majesty the Queen and her successors for ever, all their rights, titles, and privileges whatsoever, to the lands included within the following limits, that is to say:

**ALL LAND "PERMANENTLY CEADED"  
TO CANADA**

6:38

**KCKasem**

@grok. How much \$ does the Sturgeon Creek FN get in annual federal funding per member?  
How much did it increase in 2024 -2026?  
What is their financial situation as of 2025?

**Mel Lourie**

Audit should stop this

**Blair Franks**

Interesting fact , Indians have Chinese DNA in them , the Chinese were the original inhabitant's of the land so actually ... #aboli #cdnpoli

Yes, modern genetic studies show significant links between North American Indigenous peoples and ancient East Asians, including groups from northern coastal China, indicating that some ancestors of Native Americans migrated from Asia, potentially through multiple waves and routes (coastal and Siberian) after leaving from the East Asian around 21,000 years ago.

**REALITY**

They are looking to be a state, independence of Canada, be USA. Did you see their question, it is obvious what they want.

**Jay Pee**

The New Alberta Republic will dissolve the Canadian state (Free Nation) due to a the US will deal with Detroit, Michigan

x.com





**Stephen Dou...** ✓

Bye bye FN.



**Peterparker**

4k members...

[Learn more](#)



**Nemo**

They can get bent.



**The\_Dude**

Problem is they have no grounds ... what they seek is unconstitutional



**Money Trev**

First Nations is a cancer





**Robert Morris**

Put a fence around the reserve and have border guards. We need to put Alberta first.




6:39 📶 🔋

 **Ron** @Ron58429478 · Jan 3 🔄 ⋮




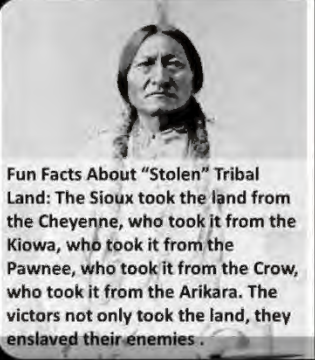
🗨️ ↺️ ❤️ 📊 1 📌 📤

 **Chesley Har...** @BigPapaHugeDo... · Jan 3 🔄 ⋮

They can vote yes or no, like everyone else, other than they they don't get anymore say.

🗨️ ↺️ ❤️ 📊 2 📌 📤

 **Trent** @Trent94562756 · Jan 3 🔄 ⋮



Fun Facts About "Stolen" Tribal Land: The Sioux took the land from the Cheyenne, who took it from the Kiowa, who took it from the Pawnee, who took it from the Crow, who took it from the Arikara. The victors not only took the land, they enslaved their enemies .

**TREATIES CEDED THE LAND PERMANENTLY**

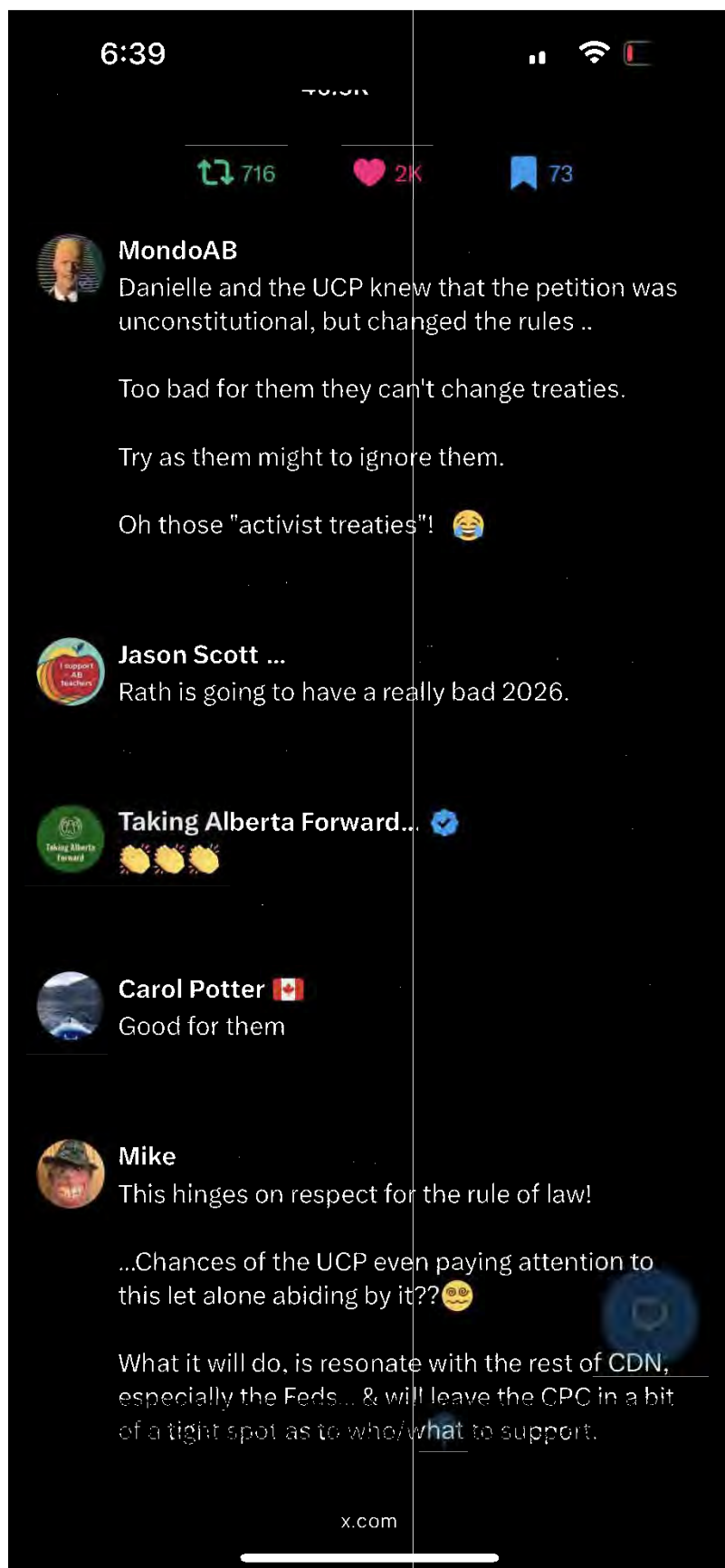
cede, release, surrender

**PERMANENT**

Courts have upheld it. The 'native land' claim

🏠 🗨️ 🔍 ↺️ 🔄 ❤️ 📊 📧 📌 📤

x.com



6:39

**Mike**

This hinges on respect for the rule of law!

...Chances of the UCP even paying attention to this let alone abiding by it?? 🤔

What it will do, is resonate with the rest of CDN, especially the Feds... & will leave the CPC in a bit of a tight spot as to who/what to support.

**FiftySomethingN...**

If Dani and a lot of these moron separatist types would just take a moment to actually listen to what the FN have to say they would learn so much on so many levels but listening & humanity is not their thing [#firetheucp](#)

**putz'eh** 🇨🇦

But the separatist have constitutional lawyer extraordinaire Jefferey Rath...



|| GIF

x.com

6:39



Jo 🍁

Somehow she is going to over ride this isn't she?  
Not withstanding clause for treaties.



Chris Berthelot ...

Please let this proceed/succeed, it would be the  
single-funniest thing to happen this year.



Stephanie Wolfe

Oh man I mean of COURSE! One of the myriad  
things that gets my goat is the time and expense  
and stress the UCP is putting on this province for  
nothing!



Sandra Norman ...

Thank you Chief Sunshine. ☀️ Wishing you  
success. Thank you for standing up for Albertans,  
Canadians, First Nations. For all of us.



J.L. White @eimaj66 · Jan 2

THANK YOU, Cree Nation. True Albertans stand  
with you. #SuckItDani #UCP #abpoli #ableg  
#cdnpoli



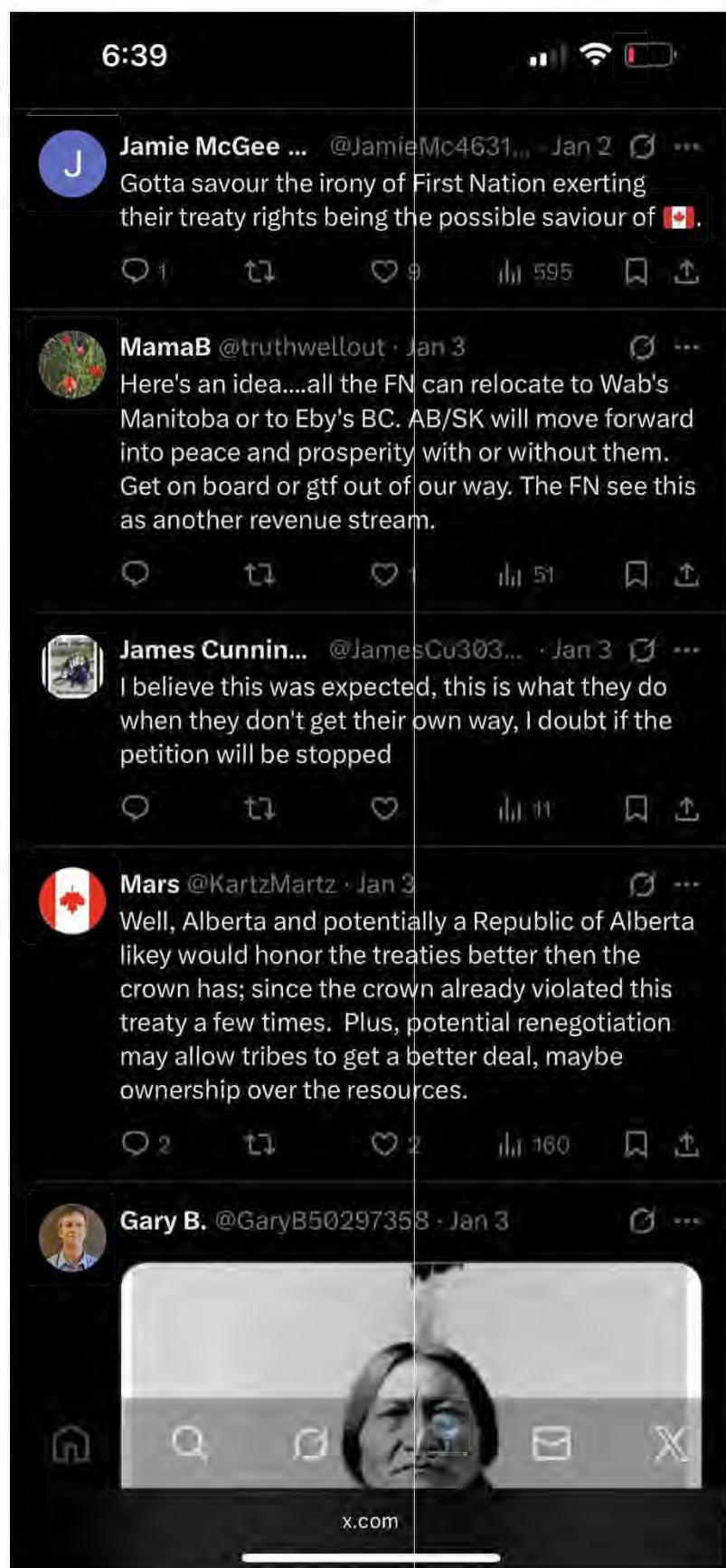
Tamara Lich 🇨🇦 🇺🇸

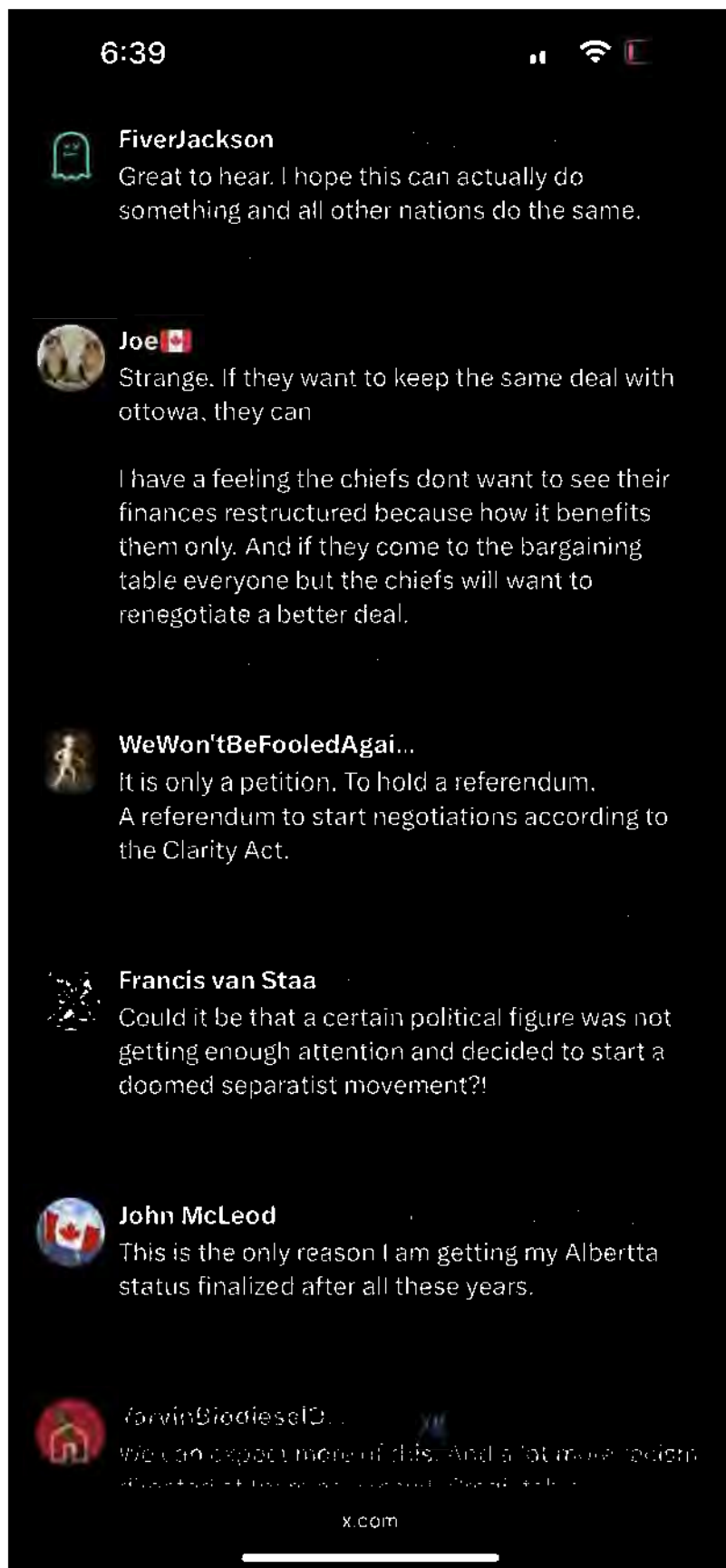


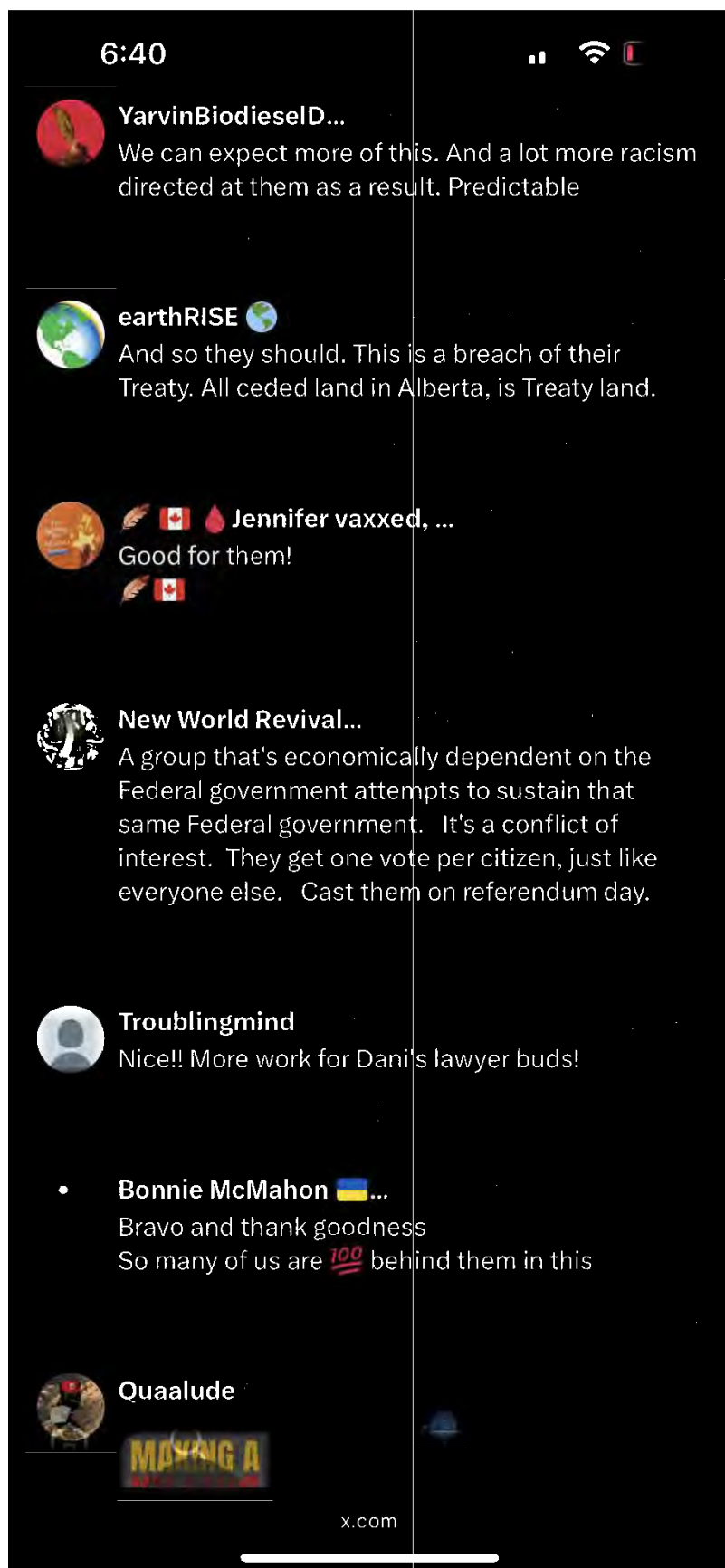
Brent Tyson 🇨🇦

Get it back in front of justice. Finally. He

x.com









6:40

the rest of Alberta hostage 😂😂😂



**Raebo**

You're actually talking with the wrong people. An independent Alberta will make its own laws. Any complaints take it to the Govt of Canada Treaties 6, 7, and 8, which are binding agreements between the Crown and First Nations, not Alberta.



**Shaun**

Good !.... United we stand. Divided we fall.



**Maureen W.**

...ceded parts.

Perhaps you should consider reading a treaty

**TooMuchTimeOnThe401**

Just an FYI...



x.com

However, this is not accurate," said the group.

The APP clarified that the accompanying article in the post disproved the X headline.

"This kind of sensational wording misleads the public and fuels unnecessary fear about the democratic process underway in Alberta. The petition is active, signatures are being collected, and Albertans have the right to express their will through a fair referendum," said the APP. "The Alberta Prosperity Project encourages all Albertans to seek facts over fear. Misinformation like this cannot stop our democratic efforts."

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Author Isaac Lamoureux.



👍👎 225

105 comments 69 share

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027

Appointee No. 0721854

This is Exhibit "L" referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

*Tina Kappo*

A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta



Let's Talk Alberta Independence · [Join](#)

Beverley Nadiger · January 6 at 4:00 PM ·

...

An Alberta First Nations group is making a legally misleading claim that it can block the province's separation petition.

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation issued a press release on January 2, saying that it has filed a Statement of Claim in the Alberta Court of King's Bench "against Alberta, Canada, and the Chief Electoral Officer for failing to diligently implement the Treaty and for breaching the Treaty."

The group added that it would file an injunction on Monday seeking to stop the petition.

"No separation of Alberta from Canada can occur without First Nation consent. This is Treaty land. This is the law," the group falsely claimed.

The Alberta Prosperity Project began its 120-day signature drive for an independence petition on Saturday.

True North previously revealed that legal experts said Indigenous communities would have no legal power to veto an Alberta independence referendum, even if treaties remain intact.

Canadian Constitution Foundation legal counsel Josh Dehaas told True North that while Alberta cannot unilaterally secede from Canada, "First Nations do not possess veto power over a referendum or subsequent negotiations."

"There is nothing I'm aware of that would suggest that First Nations people could prevent those discussions from taking place," said Dehaas. "Even where treaties exist within Canada, the law is clear: that it is the Crown [that] is sovereign and holds underlying title to all of the land."

Constitutional lawyer Keith Wilson echoed the CCF's view, stating that while First Nations would be full participants in any post-referendum negotiations, they lack the legal authority to block Alberta's decision to hold a vote. His comments followed public opposition from an Alberta Treaty Chief, who symbolically threw Bill 54 in the air.

"Respectfully, the Chiefs would benefit from legal advice," Wilson posted to X. "They don't have a veto on whether Alberta separates."



Let's Talk Alberta Independence · [Join](#)



## Let's Talk Alberta Independence

Public group

29.2K members



[Join group](#)



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Wilson noted that if separation occurs, Indigenous communities could choose whether to maintain their current treaty arrangements with Ottawa, transition to new treaties with a sovereign Alberta, or negotiate an entirely new framework.

Any eligible voter would be able to vote in an independence referendum, with no person or group receiving special treatment. Upon a successful vote, the province of Alberta, First Nations from Alberta, the other provinces and the federal government are legally required to

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Any eligible voter would be able to vote in an independence referendum, with no person or group receiving special treatment. Upon a successful vote, the province of Alberta, First Nations from Alberta, the other provinces and the federal government are legally required to engage in good-faith negotiations to establish terms.

Therefore, the First Nations would be able to remain with Canada and maintain the status quo, request that the new independent Alberta take them under existing treaties, or negotiate new treaties with Alberta. The First Nations would make this decision individually.

The Alberta Prosperity Project also criticized Global Edmonton for a misleading and incorrect post to X, where it claimed that "Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation blocks Alberta separatist petition in court."

"This headline implies that the petition – sponsored by the Alberta Prosperity Project to trigger a referendum on Alberta independence – has been successfully halted by a court ruling. However, this is not accurate," said the group.

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Author Isaac Lamoureux.



## Beverley's Post

2h Like Reply Share



**Dalles Norell**

I am not sure why they are worried as they can stay in Canada with status go

2h Like Reply Share



View 1 reply



**Les Androkovich**

Ahhh yes! The first ones to start getting worried they're going to lose money! Then they might actually have to be accountable! That would be a change!

2h Like Reply Share

View all 2 replies



**Brenda Hulford**

Do t sign anything unless it's from APP

2h Like Reply Share

View 1 reply



**Spencer Bott**

They all falsely claim that

2h Like Reply Share



**Písím Whitford**

Separate your cheeks

2h Like Reply Share



**Daren Broers** ...

**"YOU CAN'T SEPARATE. IT'S NATIVE LAND!"**  
COMMON CLAIM

Here's what "treaty land" actually means.

- CLAIM: "Treaty land means ownership."**  
FACT: Treaty land defines rights and obligations, not land ownership. All land is owned by the Alberta Government, with exceptions like military bases, national parks, and reserves which are federal land.
- CLAIM: Independence would cancel treaty rights.**  
FACT: Treaty rights do not disappear. Obligations continue under a new government.
- CLAIM: Treaties legally block separation.**  
FACT: Treaties do not grant veto power over referenda or constitutional change.

Treaty rights remain. What changes is who governs and carries the obligations.




**“YOU CAN’T SEPARATE.  
IT’S NATIVE LAND!”**

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---



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**CLAIM: Independence would cancel treaty rights.**

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---



**CLAIM: Treaties legally block separation.**

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---

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## Beverley's Post

View 1 reply



**Mitch Hambone**

Well let's have the natives vote on it. For the 3% of Alberta they own.

- 1) Stay under Ottawa and the Indian act
- 2) join republic and get running water and better schools, council accountability.
- 3) be their own republics, self governing, self financing.

2h Like Reply Share Edited

6

View all 3 replies



**Patricia Morrone**

Bs baffles brains!

2h Like Reply Share



**Mitch Hambone**

Band leaders like the present agreement. They have no accountability. Independent Alberta will make them create financial statements and open financing.

3h Like Reply Share

8

View all 3 replies



**Jason Freeman**

Investigate them for bribery and corruption is my response

3h Like Reply Share

5



**Keith Jury**

They are incorrect, read the treaties.

3h Like Reply Share



**Andrzej Dandrzej**



**BRUCE COATES**  
 Put them on a full audit before anymore funding and watch them scramble. Socialism doesn't work and a Reserve proves that.  
 4h Like Reply Share 5

**Steve Whitehead**  
 Sorry, nothing can stop Alberta independence, the voters, Alberta citizens rule, and that's that.  
 5h Like Reply Share 11

**Robin Brayton**

The infographic is titled "First Nations & Alberta Independence: Separating Facts From Fiction". It is divided into several sections:

- WHAT THE TREATIES ACTUALLY DID:**
  - HEALTHY TREATIES & A TRANSFERRED LAND TITLE FUNDING:** The fact that the federal government paid for Alberta under the 1905 treaty. (Mnemonic: Transfer Funding Agreement)
  - WHO OWNS ALBERTA TODAY?**
    - HEALTHY TREATIES & A TRANSFERRED LAND TITLE FUNDING:** The fact that the federal government paid for Alberta under the 1905 treaty. (Mnemonic: Transfer Funding Agreement)
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  - HEALTHY TREATIES & A TRANSFERRED LAND TITLE FUNDING:** The fact that the federal government paid for Alberta under the 1905 treaty. (Mnemonic: Transfer Funding Agreement)
- WHAT HAPPENS TO TREATY RIGHTS?**
  - HEALTHY TREATIES & A TRANSFERRED LAND TITLE FUNDING:** The fact that the federal government paid for Alberta under the 1905 treaty. (Mnemonic: Transfer Funding Agreement)
- SHARED CITIZENSHIP:**
  - HEALTHY TREATIES & A TRANSFERRED LAND TITLE FUNDING:** The fact that the federal government paid for Alberta under the 1905 treaty. (Mnemonic: Transfer Funding Agreement)
- FINAL STATEMENT:**

THE FACTS ARE CLEAR. TREATIES DIDN'T BLOCK INDEPENDENCE. LAND TITLE FUNDING, EVERYONE GETS ONE COPY. RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED. Independence isn't a threat to treaty people. It's a new conversation about who fulfills the promises - Ottawa or Alberta.

5h Like Reply Share 2

**Brian Gerard**  
 They could be the 'wrench'!  
 Let's hope so!  
 5h Like Reply Share 2

**Dale Scott**  
 They Hunter/gatherer Has Turned Into Radicals That Have Used And Abused the System And Lie, Cheat & Steal In Many Ways Because They Think We Owe Them Everything.... The Stories Change Over Time !!!  
 5h Like Reply Share 5

**Janine Clarke**  
 Let them waste their time and money.  
 5h Like Reply Share 3

## Beverley's Post



**Brodi Brodman**

IT IS SOOOOO SAD THAT A HANDFUL IF UNEDUCATED, SELFISH LEACHES CAN MAKE 96% OF THE PROVINCE TOTALLY PISSED OFF ALL INDIANS!

I AM METIS! I NEVER TOOK A PENNY I DIDNT EARN! I NEVER ATTENDED A SINGLE PROTEST, I NEVER ACCUSED A WHITEMAN OF STEALING MY LAND OR ANYTHING ELSE!

I DON'T WEAR CLOTHES MADE OF FEATHERS OR ANINAL SKINS AND I DONT PAINT MY FACE, BEAT A LOUD DRUM OR SCREAM SOME UNINTELLIGIBLE CHANTS!

NEVER ENTER ANY SPIRITUAL TRANCE!

I LIKE: LIVING IN A HOYSE MADE OF WOOD AND CEMENT WITH GLASS WINDOWS, CENTRAL HEATING, ELECTRICITY AND.....ESPECIALLY. ... FLUSH TOILETS AND HOT SHOWERS !

I LIKE MY PICKUP TRUCK QUAD AND SNOW MACHINE!

I APPRECIATE HAVING SCHOOLS FOR MY KIDS, SWIMMING POOLS AND RECREATION CENTERS AND CLINICS AND HOSPITALS!

I CAN NOT STAND SOME UNEDUCATED SCREAMING FEED ME!

AND NOW THE GROSS BS ABOUT 215 DEAD INDIAN CHILDREN AT A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL IN KAMLOOPS, BC.

IT COST THE WHITEMAN OVER A \$MILLION DOLLARS TO X-RAY THE GROUND AND FIND: "NOTHING "!!!

NOT EVEN ONE INDIAN CHILD'S GRAVE!!!

DO YOU SEE WHY I DON'T REGISTER FOR A STATUS CARD??

I AM FINISHED NOW. ... I WILL NEVER VOTE TO GIVE AN INDIAN ANOTHER PENNY!

I AM NOT ALONE!!!! 96% OF THE POPULATION IN CANADA HAS "ZERO" INDIAN BLOOD! DO YOU , THE INDIGINOUS RACES , THE OTHER 4% OF CANADA REALLY THINK YOU CAN TELL US HOW TO LIVE!

HERE'S YOUR WAKE UP CALL PROTESTER:

INDIAN LIVES MATTER. ... BUT ONLY TO INDIANS!!!!




10m Like Reply Share



View 1 reply


### Beverley's Post ✕

View all 4 replies




**Cindy Breland**  
Show of hands how many in this group are true Albertans?


3h Like Reply Share 6  



**Russell Workun**  
This is the band that would not let the highway to Grand Prairie get twinned because of some traditional land BS until the government was going to bypass the area and suddenly money solved everything and traditional meant squat. They do not have authority to stop what majority of Albertans want.


3h Like Reply Share 12 

View 1 reply





**Roger Abraham**  
On the surface looks like a separatist account. So, I dismiss the entire thing.

3h Like Reply Share





**Rodney Steffen**  
They have never contributed, but they think they own everything !!! 😂

3h Like Reply Share 7 





**Dean Fortin**  
Makes them look even more corrupt

4h Like Reply Share 5 






**Leila Kostyk**  
Well, it can't. And more to the point, what exactly about their current situation are they so anxious to protect? They'd be much better off negotiating new treaties.

4h Like Reply Share 3 



**Todd Shore**  
Nice try! Not with taxpayer money Navajo!! Better save your beer cans and liquor bottles se you in about 20yrs!! Fuk off!!

4h Like Reply Share 5  



**Iain Chisholm**  
Dump Deni

## Beverley's Post



due to the passage of time.

### 4. Ongoing Dialogue and Reconciliation:

Despite the court's rulings on separation and the limitations on certain treaty claims, the Supreme Court has also emphasized the importance of ongoing dialogue and reconciliation between the Crown and Indigenous peoples.

The court has acknowledged the need to address historical wrongs and ensure that Indigenous rights are respected.

In the *Shot Both Sides* case, the court acknowledged the "long history of dishonorable conduct" and issued declaratory relief to clarify the Crown's obligations and assist future reconciliation efforts."

4h Like Reply Share

5



**Mark Allan Chappell**

Who's funding their protest?

4h Like Reply Share 9

[View all 2 replies](#)



**Blake McCully**

Try it and the battle is on.

4h Like Reply Share 3



**Kim Johnson**

Go pound sand. They are afraid of the upcoming forensic audits to find the stolen money



4h Like Reply Share 8



**Moskotaywenene J Gregory**

IF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT ONLY CAN CELEBRATE TO ALBERTA

**Keith Wilson, K.C.** @ikwilson · 15h  
The claim in the article is simply incorrect as a matter of law.

I remain puzzled why a small number of chiefs would drive a wedge into progress on reconciliation and seek to block both Albertans' and First Nations' democratic right to petition government.

**Edmonton Journal** @edmontonjournal · Jan 5  
"All of Alberta's rights are contingent on Canada's party status in Treaty No. 8. If there is no Treaty No. 8, there is no Canada, and if there is no Canada, there is no Alberta."

[edmontonjournal.com/news/local-new...](https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-new...)

36 66 277 9.8K

**Upper Canadian Cavalier** @UCCavalier · 15h  
Because it's their home and they want their nation-to-nation treaties respected.

How is it hard for you to understand this?

6 1 296

**Keith Wilson, K.C.** @ikwilson · 13h  
Replying to @UCCavalier

The Alberta independence movement advocates respecting the treaties. The only party talking about not respecting them is a few chiefs engaging in Lawfare at the expense of their people.

3 29 118 12K

**Upper Canadian Cavalier** @UCCavalier · 11h  
Treaty 8 was signed with the Crown, not Alberta (which didn't exist at the time). The Crown's obligations are perpetual & non-transferable to a new sovereign without consent.

You can tell all your supporters that this doesn't matter, but indigenous rights are pretty absolute.

4 210

**Keith Wilson, K.C.** @ikwilson

First Nations have the right to decide if they want to negotiate changes to their treaties and if they want to have Alberta instead of Canada administer their treaties. Or they can decide to keep everything the way it is now. But they do not have a veto on whether Alberta separates. Read the SCC Ref case and Clarity Act.

1:08 AM · Jan 7, 2026 · 3,709 Views

18 102 356 6

**Upper Canadian Cavalier** @UCCavalier · 10h  
FN do have veto-like power on Alberta secession. 1998 SCC Quebec says nothing about Indigenous treaties. Treaty 8 = nation-to-nation w/ Crown (Canada). Secession erases Canada's party status without consent = s.35 violation.

Not to mention the direction the overton window which  
[Show more](#)

1 1 331

**Upper Canadian Cavalier** @UCCavalier · 9h  
If Alberta's secession push violates Treaty 8 by trying to unilaterally replace Canada as the treaty partner WITHOUT First Nations consent, the entire 1899 agreement collapses.

Treaty 8 ceded vast northern lands (including the Athabasca oil sands region) to the Crown (Canada) in  
[Show more](#)

This is Exhibit "M" referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine

Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

*Tina Kappo*

A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027

Appointee No. 0721854

← Post Reply

non-transferable to a new sovereign without consent.

You can tell all your supporters that this doesn't matter, but indigenous rights are pretty absolute.

4 211

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Ron S. Friedman @RonSFriedman · 15h Paid by Ottawa? 5 112

Griswold @murswan · 14h If this is the only thing that puzzles you about FN, you have to start getting out more. 1 41

Brenda M. Borden @BmBordenSK · 5h Keith, I'm not puzzled at all. A small number of chiefs driving a wedge into the movement makes perfect sense if the money train is coming to an end. The first question should be simple: how much money have these chiefs made, and where is the accountability? Have their finances ever been subjected to public audits or forensic review? In my view, the resistance we're seeing isn't ideological it's financial. When accountability arrives, the gravy train stops. 2 43

Jason Rosland @Jason1426221311 · 3h Grift for cash 7

MYOB @susundyyc · 14h Follow the money. 1 4 53

JayUpNorth82 @Jayupnorth1982 · 27m Might have to drive down to the local pub and have a chat with this chief, 🍷

Analytics

Mark J @MarkJN21 · 7h Corrupt Chiefs need to secure their money flow. An Independent Alberta will ensure the money flows downstream to those who need it. They know that. 20

JudyMB @JudyMaxB · 13h The Liberals are paying them 52

FreeAlberta @Coralie4955 · 15h Always about the \$ and we know who gives them lots of it. 1 12 161

Prairie Guy @foothillsedge · 1h They percieve the \$\$\$ at risk, even though it isn't. 4

Kelly LA @Itisabadword · 1h Can they do it is the question 5

Retired Mike @SmithWessonMP20 · 13h Kickbacks! 1 49

On The Brink @reconscout777 · 12h Perhaps, they were paid to do it? 18

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This is Exhibit "N" referred to in the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me this 7th day of January, 2026

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Tina Kappo.  
A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**TINA KAPPO**  
A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

Home / Quebec Politics / Opinion / Op Eds



# Opinion: 30 years later, lessons from Quebec's referendum

*As we look to the future, let's not repeat the mistakes of Oct. 30, 1995 — the scapegoating of minorities and the failure to seek unity after division.*

By **Jack Jedwab** • Special to the Montreal Gazette  
Published Oct 30, 2025 Last updated Nov 04, 2025 3 minute read



Premier Jacques Parizeau's referendum night speech was far from the conciliatory message the moment called for, writes Jack Jedwab. PHOTO BY GORDON BECK / Montreal Gazette

October 30 marks 30 years since the 1995 referendum on sovereignty that is widely regarded as one of the most important events in Quebec political history. For those of us old enough to remember, what likely stood out

Sections

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For many, however, the most vivid memory was the immediate aftermath, with the inflammatory remarks made by premier Jacques Parizeau blaming "money and ethnic votes" for the defeat, adding that 60 per cent of "who we are" voted for sovereignty

STORY CONTINUES BELOW


The premier's public rebuke of the so-called ethnic votes contrasted sharply with a message he published only a few days before in selected Quebec media. "The morning after Oct. 30, whatever the results of the vote, we will all be Quebecers," Parizeau declared, adding that on Oct. 31, "the campaign will be over (and) there will be no more No side, no more Yes side. There will be one side only: the Quebec side."


In the end that wasn't his post-referendum message. Instead of a badly needed address aimed at reconciliation after a highly polarizing vote, he chose to serve up a divisive tirade that vilified ethnic minorities.


Surely the premier wasn't surprised by the degree of minority ethnic support for the No side. At the time, I served as executive director of the Quebec branch of the Canadian Jewish Congress, which oversaw a coalition with the Italian and Greek congresses as part of the No side. We knew that the Yes campaign deployed virtually no resources to persuade ethnic minorities to vote otherwise. They undoubtedly viewed doing so as a waste of time.

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The same strategic thinking applied to the overwhelmingly federalist anglophone voters, where virtually no effort was made by the Yes side to convince them to change their minds. Sovereignists understood anglophones would overwhelmingly vote No given their strong attachment to Canada.

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Curiously, anglophone voters dodged the premier's referendum night wrath. So why pick on ethnic voters? Likely because he wanted to deflect personal responsibility for the loss, and to that end ethnic minorities made for a relatively easy target — one that also resonated with some of his supporters.

Parizeau had already made clear that he was unhappy, as were others, with the involvement of some ethnic community organizations in debates about Quebec's future within Canada.

In 1993, the premier told an interviewer: "To toy with (the idea of) ethnic origin as a criterion for making a political decision — as the leaders of the Jewish, Greek or Italian communities do — seems to me to be a

thoughtless attitude. ... I seriously deplore this manner of thinking and acting.”

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We can assume Parizeau and many Yes side supporters would have felt differently had these communities endorsed sovereignty. After all, he was quite emphatic about securing the involvement of ethnic community organizations in the 1995 pre-referendum consultations on Bill 1, “An Act Respecting the Future of Québec,” which sought to draft a constitution for an independent Quebec.

The referendum campaign was hard fought, and on all sides emotions ran high. Many of the major figures from that era are no longer with us, and it’s important to remember the vital contributions they made to past and current debates about Quebec identity.

As we look to the future, we must remember the lessons of that moment, not just the outcome.

We should not ignore the more troubling parts of the referendum story simply because they might clash with one’s preferred

narrative. To do so risks repeating the same mistakes that deepened fractures in Quebec society in 1995: the marginalization and/or scapegoating of minorities and the failure to seek unity after division.

*Jack Jedwab is president and CEO of the Association for Canadian Studies and the Metropolis Institute.*



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I see Chrystia Freeland as a person of deep commitment. But she should not leave Parliament "in a couple of weeks." She must go now.

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## Edmonton Oilers looking to scratch not one, but two high-paid veterans

Montreal Gazette

## After Venezuela, Trump could put Canada 'back in his crosshairs,' Charest warns

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## U.S. seizes two more ships as Trump tightens Venezuela quarantine

Montreal Gazette

## From record to 'robot' quote, recapping Zayne Parekh's world junior tournament

Montreal Gazette

## 6-year-old girl dies after four-vehicle accident in Laval

Eight others were injured in the accident Monday night on Route 335 in Laval, including an infant who is in critical condition.

**Form 49**  
*Alberta Rules of Court*  
 Rule 13.19

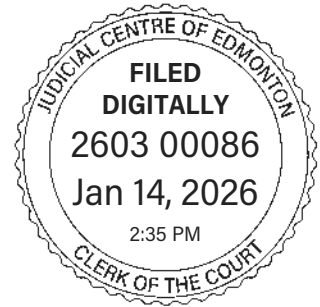
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COURT                      COURT OF KING’S BENCH OF ALBERTA

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APPLICANT/PLAINTIFF   STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION

RESPONDENTS /  
 DEFENDANTS            HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF  
 ALBERTA, the ATTORNEY GENERAL OF  
 CANADA and CHIEF ELECTORAL  
 OFFICER OF ALBERTA



DOCUMENT                AFFIDAVIT

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE   **O’KELLY LAW**  
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 PARTY FILING THIS     [orlagh.okelly@okellylaw.ca](mailto:orlagh.okelly@okellylaw.ca)  
 DOCUMENT                Counsel for the Applicant

**AFFIDAVIT OF SHELDON SUNSHINE**

Affirmed on January 14, 2026

**I, Sheldon Sunshine, of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, in the Province of Alberta, AFFIRM AND SAY THAT:**

1. I am the elected Chief of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation (“SLCN”). I make this affidavit as a supplemental one to my affidavit sworn January 7, 2026. This action was filed with the full support of our Chief and Council.

***Treaty Nations’ support***

2. As Chiefs, we are the spokesperson for our Nations, like the Prime Minister is the representative of Canada. Our Nations are governed by our elected Chief and Councils and we are the representatives when it comes to defending and litigating our collective rights, which I understand and do believe were guaranteed to us under Treaty and affirmed under the Constitution of Canada.

3. On January 8, 2026, I attended an emergency meeting with almost all of the Treaty Chiefs in Alberta. Most of the Chiefs of the approximately forty-eight (48) First Nations in what is now Alberta attended in person at the Treaty 8 office in Edmonton; others joined online. I am currently the Deputy Grand Chief of the Treaty 8 Nations of Alberta.
4. At that meeting, the Chiefs expressed unanimous opposition to Bill 14 and separatism. The Chiefs who spoke, as representatives of their Nations, supported Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation's litigation and thanked us for taking the lead in such urgent circumstances over the holidays. From this meeting and public statements, I am informed and do believe that there are other Nations contemplating their own legal action, but it was agreed that the Treaty Nations in attendance would express support for Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, rather than intervene, so as not to delay the hearing of this injunction. We also discussed our support for Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation's court application for judicial review, which was similarly unanimous.
5. There were no Chiefs present who supported Bill 14 or separatism. I am not aware of any First Nation in Alberta that supports separatism and Bill 14.
6. Out of the January 8, 2026 Chiefs' meeting, we all agreed to a joint letter of the Chiefs of Treaties 6, 7, and 8, dated January 9, 2026, a copy of which is attached and marked as **Exhibit "1"** to my affidavit, as posted on the Facebook pages of the Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations and the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Facebook pages also on January 9, 2026.
7. On January 9, 2026, we had a meeting with Chiefs of Treaty 8 only. Again, unanimous support was confirmed from the Treaty 8 First Nations, and the Chiefs of Treaty 8 authorized Grand Chief Mercredi to sign a letter on our behalf, a copy of which is attached and marked as **Exhibit "2"** to my affidavit.
8. On January 12, 2026, we received a letter of support from the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, a copy of which is attached and marked as **Exhibit "3"**.
9. Between Friday, January 9, 2026, and Tuesday, January 13, 2026, Sturgeon Lake received the following letters, all of which are attached and collectively marked as **Exhibit "4"** to my affidavit:

- (i) Blood Tribe, Kainaiwa, Treaty 7, January 8, 2026
- (ii) Sucker Creek First Nation, Treaty 8, January 9, 2026
- (iii) Mikisew Cree First Nation, Treaty 8 January 12, 2026
- (iv) Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Treaty 6, January 13, 2026
- (v) Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Treaty 6, January 12, 2026
- (vi) Alexander First Nation, Treaty 6, January 12, 2026
- (vii) Samson Cree Nation, Treaty 6, January 12, 2026
- (viii) Ermineskin Cree Nation, Treaty 6, January 12, 2026
- (ix) Whitefish Lake First Nation #128, Treaty 6, January 12, 2026
- (x) Montana First Nation, Treaty 6, January 12, 2026
- (xi) Louis Bull, Treaty 6, January 12, 2026
- (xii) Kehewin Cree Nation, Treaty 6, January 12, 2026
- (xiii) Driftpile Cree Nation, Treaty 8, January 13, 2026
- (xiv) Lubicon Lake Band, Treaty 8, January 13, 2026
- (xv) Swan River First Nation, Treaty 8, January 13, 2026

10. I am informed by the Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations and do believe that many Treaty 6 Nations included “Without Prejudice” to ensure that these letters could not be used against them in their own litigation, and not to detract from their support for SLCN’s litigation.

11. We also received support from Treaty 8 outside Alberta, namely Tthebatthie Denesuline Nation, Smith’s Landing First Nation in the Northwest Territories, January 12, 2026, which attached and marked as **Exhibit “5”**.

12. Other First Nations wanted to get support statements to SLCN, but simply did not have time, these included: Tallcree Tribal Government (Treaty 8), O’Chiese First Nation (Treaty 6), Onion Lake Cree Nation (Treaty 6), Tsuu T’ina (Treaty 7) and Piikani Nation (Treaty 7).
13. The aforementioned unity among Treaty Nations is unprecedented in my time as Chief, since 2022.

***Disinformation, racism and American involvement***

14. Since December 22, 2025, and then again since January 2, 2026, I have witnessed racism, misinformation on Treaties and our peoples’ anxiety accelerate. In the face of the misinformation and anxiety, we are expending significant resources to educate our members *and* Canadians about Treaty and the harms that are coming from the petition process itself.

@RiseofAlberta

15. Since January 2, 2026, some of the online hate and misinformation is targeted at our Chief and Council to de-legitimize us as leaders and interfere in our own governance; some is directed at me personally.
16. For example, one self-described “Treaty Indian”, Darren Grimes, who states he is from a Nation in Ontario, posted messaging reminiscent of the 1969 White Paper, which proposed legislation to eliminate our “status”, and other assimilationist language (i.e. that First Nations are just citizens with votes in a referendum like all other Canadians). This post is going viral on Alberta separatist pages as if this individual can speak for Indigenous Peoples in what is now Alberta. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “6”** is copy of this letter to our nation, which was shared twice on @RiseofAlberta Facebook on January 9, 2026, including some of the comments randomly selected, which have been liked collectively 3,500 times on @RiseofAlberta on Facebook.
17. @RiseofAlberta is an account that amplifies the Alberta Prosperity Project messaging and speaks, often, in the first person as the petitioner and in relation to meetings in Washington, for example in a X post-dated October 1, 2025, available here: <https://x.com/RiseOfAlberta/status/1973594252606349472?s=20> . Indeed, I have seen that

lawyer Keith Wilson, whose videos are linked on the APP website, shares an address with @RiseofAlberta. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “7”** is a copy of the screenshot of the October 1, 2025 post and a screenshot of the address pages of Keith Wilson and @RiseofAlberta which have since been hidden. These screenshots were shared by @TheBreakdown on X and other platforms, currently available here: <https://x.com/TheBreakdownAB/status/2002623205392146680?s=20>.

18. We have also witnessed @RiseofAlberta solicit signatures and publish polling data, saying that support for independence is 45%, for example in a screenshot attached and collectively marked as **Exhibit “8”**. I have never seen a poll above the 30 per cent range published in the mainstream media. The poll in the news around that time, by Leger, said 29% supported the idea of Alberta becoming independent, in a poll published here, <https://leger360.com/in-the-news-alberta-separatism/>. The Tyee noted that the 30 percent was the approximate figure since 2019, in an article available here: <https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2025/11/05/Has-Alberta-Separatism-Gone-Mainstream-Common-Ground/>. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “9”** are the Leger poll from May 15, 2025 and the Tyee article dated November 5, 2025.

19. Finally, Cory Morgan at an APP event, posted on @RiseofALberta is talking beside someone named Eva Chipiuk, who I am informed and do believe was one of the lawyers for Mitch Sylvestre on the *Sylvestre v. CEO* decision. This was a signature collection event with speakers scheduled for January 10, 2026. In that video, Morgan makes statements about Treaties. Ms. Chipiuk does not correct Mr. Morgan on the clip that is posted January 11, 2026, currently available here and which has 27,000 views as of January 13, 2026: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1DKAGKwzn2/>. The full statement of Mr. Morgan is:

*But of course, quite seriously, getting to the treaty thing. Treaties were mythical things for most of us. We'd read about it in school. We'd grow up, and we'd hear about treaty violations, and we'd hear about problems with treaties. And of course, nobody had read them, and it was difficult. Where would you find one? You'd go to a library, perhaps, and find a book with a treaty in it, or archives somewhere. But now we've got that beautiful thing called the internet, and I don't know how many years ago was the first time I went out and actually read a treaty. And these are very simple documents. They aren't that complicated, they're important, and they have to be abided by. I fully agree with that, but people have interpreted what these treaties mean and encompass into something that's*

*absolutely untrue, and it's a myth. We've got to cut through. They are very clear. The biggest and most important part of these treaties, and that's where the worst violations they're going to work. We're defining where the reserve lands. You say from this river down to here, and from that boundary there, and this is where the reserve is where the reserve is going to be, but it's also and this is the part they don't like talking about. Says cede surrender, permanently, forever, every other part of the province. That's what people forget. the misinformation we're seeing right now. You might have seen a meme if your internet types. They show a map of Alberta, and they show all the zones of treaties that were under, and Alberta's under four treaties. You said six, seven and eight, which are big ones, and just a little tiny chunk of 10 comes in from Saskatchewan. But they interpret, and they put this little thing on all those shaded areas and said, not your land, not your land, not your land. It's actually quite the opposite. What they're trying to claim is that this is treaty land, thus it's ineligible for independence. But no, that's the ceded land permanently, 100% forever ceded land, 1.3% of the province is reserve land. Maybe it'll be a little higher, because, as I said, there was some bad deal there enough. There still are some things to be said. But for people to say the treaties stop us from becoming independent. Read one, there's nothing in there, says anything of the sort. And people say, constitutionally, the First Nations rights are in the Constitution that prevents it. Have a look at that, because that's again, where people are being disingenuous. And play with the words, because constitution says consult. That's important. Consult that's important. I think it's pretty rude that our fellow fellow citizens to do anything [sic] consulting. But people are reading in consent. We'll start with C but there's a very big difference between the two. We don't need consent. Do not, not for independence, not for pipelines, not for many things.*

There is intentionally no **Exhibit "10"** to my affidavit.

20. I have seen many inaccurate and what I have received as racist posts, but it is impossible to capture them all, and it is hurtful to listen to these statements all apparently made for the purpose of garnering support for the petition since December 22, 2025 (when the petition was approved) and increasing after January 2, 2026 (when the petition was issued). I have observed these comments getting worse and louder, and they detrimentally affect my dignity as a First Nation person and leader. We have fought so hard for recognition and rights, and have so much further to go, and this petition process has set us back decades in

our legal status and relationship with non-Indigenous Canadians living in what is now Alberta. If it continues, I am fearful for how far we could be set back.

Comments by Sylvestre, Modry and Rath on unilateral secession and American's recognition

21. We have witnessed several alarming and harmful statements by the Alberta Prosperity Project, its representatives (CEO, Mitch Sylvestre, founder, Dennis Modry, and lawyer/founder, Jeffrey Rath) and its adjacent accounts.
22. In a YouTube video podcast by “Real Citizen” dated November 14, 2025, and available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSs4TJMt4mg>, the following statements are made:
  - i. Rath claims that there is 35 % for Alberta independence according to an Angus Reed poll on separatism and he is calling it 40 plus %. (1:05:46)
  - ii. Sylvestre states that he has discussed this Citizen Initiative Act with Premier Smith (1:13:47) and she explained: “And the reason that they do it, the Citizens [*sic*] Initiative Act is so people can do [*sic*] ask questions of the government that basically government hasn't got the courage to ask questions of on their own. So they can shift the blame to the people. If the people want to do it badly enough, go out there get enough signatures, put it on our desk and then we're compelled to do something with it or not do something with it. Right. So, something as important as this is a question that you know is going to have to be dealt with now because... isn't not going away. Yeah. But the whole spirit of the Citizens Initiative Act is not to have bureaucracy weigh in on it. ...”
  - iii. Sylvestre calls the Forever Canada petition a “mosquito bite” (1:15:22) and that their petition “question is like being bit by a great white shark because it will trigger real change. So, the other thing that I wanted to explain to you is that based on our position and based on what we're doing, I have had conversation with people that were. Highly involved with Brexit. They started their petition at in the low 30 per cent. Okay. They say that they say that if we're anywhere near or over 40 um chances of us wining this referendum are very very good.”

23. In the November 14, 2025 podcast, Rath states the following in discussion with the Real Citizen Podcaster and Rath:

*PODCASTER: “quickly first answer Trump administration you got, someone who’s mentioned that they would be willing to recognize Alberta...”*

*RATH: shortest free trade agreement of all time, one page, zero tariffs on both sides of the Alberta- US border*

*PODCASTER: Alberta-US Border?*

*RATH: Yeah, Alberta- US Border, all goods and services. We’ve also spoke to the US about immediately recognizing Alberta as an independent country, immediately upon a successful referendum result.*

*PODCASTER: Who did you guys speak with? You said Trump administration.*

*RATH: Yeah, we were meeting at a very senior level. We’re not going to disclose the identity of the people that we were meeting with, but I mean, people were leaving our meeting and going directly to the Oval Office.*

*PODCASTER: You went down to DC?*

*RATH: Yeah, we’ve been to DC twice, and I’m in touch with them on a weekly basis.*

24. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “11”** is a screen of the November 14, 2025 podcast link and the number of views as of 55,572 views as of January 13, 2026.
25. The Alberta Prosperity Project (“**APP**”) hosted event said to be held in Red Deer on or about June 14, in a video posted to the APP website under “Videos” available here: <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/videos/> and currently available here: <https://rumble.com/v6ut1fx-dr-dennis-modry-rebel-news-live-red-deer-2025-06-14.html?mref=rwhnu&mc=ce4s3>. Attached and marked as **Exhibit 12** is a screen shot of this video and the APP “Videos” tab captured on January 13, 2026.

26. In this video recording someone introduced as Dennis Modry, speaks about several issues including:
- i. explaining what Mark Carney’s book “Values” “says”, which he tells the crowd will require control of their bank accounts and that they cannot eat meat, among other things. Modry says that everything “happening right now is to subjugate the West, and to control us and pillage our wealth.” He talks about the need to be free from “persecution” which they have faced from “this federal government”.
  - ii. stating in relation to the petition that he has the contact information of over a “quarter million” and that he has 18,000 volunteers and “we” will be able to get the signatures very soon. With respect to the *Clarity Act*, preamble “successful referendum” obligates to negotiate in good faith and negotiations “might” lead to secession. Modry then says, if negotiations fail, at around 20:40, says:

*There’s another solution to that, and when you look at how the Supreme Court analyzed the whole issue of unilateral declaration of independence, there’s section 154 and 155 in that analysis, this is really important to understand. It says that if a region is subjugated, dominated, exploited and their aspirations of self-determination are not met, that region has the right to have a referendum on sovereignty and it is political legitimacy then becomes legal legitimacy when other nations acknowledge that Alberta has had a successful referendum and if the premier has the guts to do it, the day after that successful referendum, she will declare Alberta as a sovereign nation, and the US, we know this first hand because we were there talking with them on April 22, will acknowledge Alberta as a sovereign nation*

27. Another APP question and answer panel in Red Deer was said to be held on or about June 9, 2025, currently available at: <https://rumble.com/v6un6yd-part-2-alberta-prosperity-project-red-deer-2025-06-09-questions.html?mref=rwhnu&mc=ce4s3>. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “13”** is a copy of a screen shot of the talk with Sylvestre, Modry and Rath, where statements are made as follows:

- i. At 2:00, after being asked about the “fight” with First Nations, Rath says: “I honestly don’t think it is going to be much of one. I had lunch with a Chief and Council today and was walking them through our plan today and they were delighted and they said it had to get out to every First Nation community in Alberta....” He continued about the APP plan for First Nations would be that “they don’t need to go to Ottawa anymore with a begging bowl.”
- ii. Rath is then asked about the “Treaty rights in place” “some of which are with federal government”, and asked what is the barrier to separate from these rights. Rath answers: “We don’t have to get around it. There is a process under the Clarity Act that requires negotiations with First Nations to begin with.” He then claims that his proposal, APP’s proposal, will leave First Nations far better off than “150 years of... poverty” with the federal government.
- iii. Around 11:00: Modry, sitting beside Sylvestre and Rath, goes back to “the analysis of the Supreme Court in the Quebec Secession Reference and that analysis, sections 154 and 155, .. it’s it’s it’s ...the brilliant solution. It’s political legitimacy to have a referendum that is successful that should be 50 % + 1, and then when the international community acknowledges it, Alberta has the right just like Kosovo did, to declare its independence unilaterally. That would be the easiest, fastest way, then the negotiations are just on the terms, there’s no muddying of the waters, of negotiations about maybe if we get a better deal in Canada, we’ll stay.... We’re out.” Rath is then asked if he has anything to say on this and he shakes his head no.
- iv. Around 12:50, after Modry further explains his view on the poor drafting of the Clarity Act, Rath responds “I think at the end of the day if you look at paragraphs 154 and 155 and, you know, clearly Albertans are oppressed people, you just look at Senate balance, the Supreme Court balance, you look at the way we have been treated throughout Confederation, umm you know, we could unilaterally secede under paragraph 154 or alternatively we could simply unilaterally declare our independence under section 155. And we have it on pretty good authority that if we issue that declaration of independence, the Americans would recognize us the next day. So, I would far rather negotiate with Canada- nation to nation - than as a

province on bended knees saying ‘oh please great Canada, can we please have our money back.’”

28. Sometime in the spring, I first saw Jeffrey Rath as the apparent spokesperson for the 51<sup>st</sup> state movement and announcing a “delegation” to Washington DC. This included an appearance on Fox News. A copy of the Fox News article dated March 6, 2025 is attached and marked as **Exhibit “14”** to my affidavit.
29. On or about March 6, 2025, the APP posted “EXCLUSIVE: Alberta delegates head to Washington for statehood”, currently available here: <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/economy/exclusive-alberta-delegates-head-to-d-c-for-statehood/>. This is posted on the APP website that the 51<sup>st</sup> state is “leverage” for the separatist movement and APP. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “15”** is a copy of this article from the APP website dated March 6, 2025.

***Rath as former counsel to SLCN***

30. I know Mr. Rath because he was former counsel to Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, as noted in the *Goodswimmer* decisions. In these decisions, Rath was found to have engaged in “serious misconduct” (paragraph 121) and subject to a personal costs award: *Goodswimmer v Canada (Attorney General)*, 2022 ABKB 841 (CanLII), at para [175](#). The Court in *Goodswimmer* also noted that Rath took many steps not at our instructions (paragraph 154). Having spoken with previous Councillors, I am informed and do believe that Rath did act without instructions.
31. We also have ongoing litigation with Rath over the review of a \$28 million contingency fee Rath charged our nation under a contingency fee agreement that the Alberta Court of Appeal found on February 26, 2025 to be unenforceable (*SLCN v. Rath & Company*, [2025 ABCA 65](#)). I am informed by legal counsel on that matter (Jon Faulds, KC) and do believe, that Rath is still holding the entire \$28 million and is opposing attempts to expedite that review process. We also have an ongoing application to remove Rath as trustee on our Nation’s minors’ trust (Court File 2203 14676). Rath is also opposing this application to have him removed as trustee and replaced with the Royal Bank Canada.

***Offer of consent, interim injunction***

- 32. On January 13, 2026, I am informed and do believe that SLCN's lawyer wrote to all of counsel in this action to request an interim consent injunction given the real and present dangers to foreign interference all opened up by Bill 14 allowing the petition proposal on the question of independence. At the time of affirming this affidavit, I am informed and do believe that our counsel did not hear back from counsel for Alberta, Canada and the Chief Electoral Officer on the issue of a consent interim injunction order.
- 33. I make this affidavit in support of the SLCN application for an injunction and for no other purpose.

AFFIRMED before me at Calais,  
 in the Province of Alberta, this 14th day of  
 January, 2026.

*Tina Kapo*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Commissioner for Oaths, Justice of the Peace  
 or Notary Public in and for Alberta

*Sheldon Sunshine*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Sheldon Sunshine

**TINA KAPPO**  
 A Commissioner for Oaths  
 in and for Alberta  
 My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
 Appointee No. 0721854

This is Exhibit "1" to the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me on January 14, 2026

TINA KAPPO  
A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

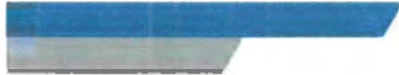
*Tina Kappo*



Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations

January 9 at 3:31 PM · 🌐

STATEMENT FROM THE FIRST NATIONS OF TREATY NO. 6, TREATY NO. 7, AND TREATY NO. 8



Treaty No. 6



Treaty No. 7



Treaty No. 8



**STATEMENT FROM THE FIRST NATIONS OF  
TREATY NO. 6, TREATY NO. 7, AND TREATY NO. 8**

January 9, 2026

The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations, Tsuut'ina Nation, Blackfoot Confederacy and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta stands with all Alberta First Nations in support of Chief Sheldon Sunshine and the legal action of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation seeking an injunction to halt a referendum question regarding the province of Alberta separating from the rest of Canada.

On January 8th, the Chiefs of Treaty No. 6, 7 and 8 came together to affirm our unified opposition to Alberta separation. We affirm that the Alberta UCP government's actions enabling and supporting the so-called Alberta Prosperity Project petition are a direct violation of Treaty obligations and the Honour of the Crown. Changing the law through Bill 14 on December 12, 2025 to overturn a court ruling in our favour is not the work of a government that respects democratic institutions or the rule of law.

Strong and united, Treaty First Nations and their peoples, where the Province of Alberta is, will not tolerate any action that seeks to undermine our Treaties, our Rights or our Sovereignty. Our Treaty Regions extend across borders and our Treaty Rights transcend political interests and games.

**Treaty is forever - As long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the waters flow.**



👍❤️ 998

36 comments 624 shares





Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

January 9 at 4:08 PM · 🌐



Treaty No. 6



Treaty No. 7



Treaty No. 8



### STATEMENT FROM THE FIRST NATIONS OF TREATY NO. 6, TREATY NO. 7, AND TREATY NO. 8

January 9, 2026

The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations, Tsuut'ina Nation, Blackfoot Confederacy and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta stands with all Alberta First Nations in support of Chief Sheldon Sunshine and the legal action of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation seeking an injunction to halt a referendum question regarding the province of Alberta separating from the rest of Canada.

On January 8th, the Chiefs of Treaty No. 6, 7 and 8 come together to affirm our unified opposition to Alberta separation. We affirm that the Alberta UCP government's actions enabling and supporting the so-called Alberta Prosperity Project petition are a direct violation of Treaty obligations and the Honour of the Crown. Changing the law through Bill 14 on December 12, 2025 to overturn a court ruling in our favour is not the work of a government that respects democratic institutions or the rule of law.

Strong and united, Treaty First Nations and their peoples, where the Province of Alberta is, will not tolerate any action that seeks to undermine our Treaties, our Rights or our Sovereignty. Our Treaty Regions extend across borders and our Treaty Rights transcend political interests and games.

**Treaty is forever – As long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the waters flow.**



You and 1.2K others

408 comments 331 shares





# Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

015

*To Protect, Promote, Bring to Life, Implement, and Sustain the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8 "as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, the rivers flow and until such time as Yidah should reverse"*

## MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 25579 RPO West Drive Thru  
Edmonton, AB T5T 7E7 [www.treaty8.ca](http://www.treaty8.ca)

## SUB OFFICE

11620-168 St. NW (Back Entrance)  
Tel: (780) 444-9366 Fax: (780) 484-1465

January 9, 2026

Premier Danielle Smith  
Office of the Premier  
Room 307, Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

**This is Exhibit "2" to the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me on January 14, 2026**

*Tina Kapo*

## TINA KAPPO

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

### Urgent Demand to Implement the Treaty and End Citizen-Led Separatist Activities

Premier Smith,

This letter is to serve notice that the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta stands together against your government's separatist agenda.

The Land which the Province of Alberta is located on is Treaty land. Treaty No. 8 is with the Imperial Crown, not with the Province of Alberta. You govern here only because those Treaties made it possible. Without them, Alberta sits on unlawfully occupied territory.

We will not allow any discussion, petition, or referendum on separation without our consent. We want to make it clear; we do not consent. The courts have already made that clear, and so does the Treaty No. 8. Only the Treaty partners, our Nations and the Imperial Crown, have the authority to alter these agreements. Citizen petitions or referendums cannot override that.

Your government's actions, enabling and supporting the so-called Alberta Prosperity Project petition, and changing the law through Bill 14 on December 12, 2025, to overturn a court ruling in our favour, are a direct violation of Treaty obligations and the Honour of the Crown. These are not the actions of a government that respects democratic institutions or the rule of law.

Your interference has already caused harm. The separatist push has spread racist disinformation against our peoples and fuels division across this province. We hold your government responsible for these consequences.

As Treaty Chiefs, we demand the following actions:

1. Call an emergency session in the Legislature to immediately repeal Bill 14 as it relates to the *Citizen Initiative Act*; or
2. Instruct the Minister of Justice to seek to exercise his powers in Court or otherwise to pause the separatist petition issued on January 2, 2026.

Head Office:  
Beaver First Nation

You have until January 31, 2026, to act. You proved your government can move quickly when it benefits separatists, now, we expect the same effort to uphold the law and the Treaties. Failure to comply will be seen as a deliberate refusal, and we will respond accordingly.

If you believe Albertans should decide their path, then call an election and seek that mandate honestly. But do not continue down this reckless road, especially in a time of global instability, when governments undermining lawful order have led to chaos and suffering elsewhere.

In the Spirit of Treaty,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Mercredi', written over a horizontal line.

Trevor Mercredi  
Grand Chief

# CONFEDERACY OF **TREATY SIX** FIRST NATIONS



HEAD OFFICE: ENOCH CREE NATION NO. 135 P.O. BOX 270, ENOCH AB T7X 3Y3

12 January 2026

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

**Premier Danielle Smith**  
**Office of the Premier**  
 307 Legislature Building  
 10800 – 97 Ave  
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
 premier@gov.ab.ca

Dear Premier Smith,

**Treaty No. 6, 1876 and Adhesion Treaty Nations stand in solidarity and support Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation of Treaty No. 8, 1899**

We submit this letter in solidarity and support of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation of Treaty No. 8, 1899 and its recently filed court injunction on Alberta's Bill 14,

Treaty No. 6 Nations reject the statements, actions and beliefs of the Alberta Separation movement. We also reject those legislative actions of the Alberta UCP government that appear embolden and support the claims of the aforementioned. We assert that such proposals are not hypothetical or benign political expressions, instead they represent real and legally impermissible acts that are being actively contemplated and advanced. These actions are already causing harm, they are fuelling racist disinformation, destabilizing communities, and placing Treaty No. 6 Nations and peoples at risk. Therefore, we call for the firm and immediate rejection of separation proposals to preserve the safety and wellbeing of all.

Any separation movement that proposes the unilateral withdrawal of Alberta from Canada, constitutes a fundamental constitutional legal violation. Any attempt at separation without the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of Numbered Treaty First Nations is a direct breach of the Numbered Treaties entered into between Sovereign Nations and not with a province. Alberta has no lawful authority to alter, extinguish, suspend, or renegotiate Treaty relationships, nor can it assume Crown Treaty obligations without the consent of the Numbered Treaty Nations. Such a proposal also violates section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the honour of the Crown, and the principle affirmed in constitutional jurisprudence that Numbered Treaty Nations and their Treaty Rights predate, pre-exist and constrain Crown sovereignty. Further, separation would unlawfully presume Alberta provincial jurisdiction over Numbered Treaty lands and Numbered Treaty peoples, undermining Numbered Treaty Nations jurisdiction, international legal character, and the Canadian Constitutional framework itself, therefore Alberta separation is not merely a political question but a legally impermissible act.

**This is Exhibit "3" to the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me on January 14, 2026**

*Tina Kappo*

**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths  
 in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
 Appointee No. 0721854

Numbered Treaties are not historical artefacts or political accommodations, they are solemn Nation to Nation agreements grounded in Indigenous worldview and legal orders, international treaty-making principles, and the honour of the Crown. Numbered Treaties were intended to establish peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, benefit, shared responsibilities while providing protection to the Imperial Crown and its representatives.

Numbered Treaty Nations did not alter, diminish, surrender or extinguish our right to self-determination, our sovereignty, our right to govern ourselves, our lands, territories or our resources. Numbered Treaty agreements affirm existing Treaty Nation governance, jurisdiction, our connection to the lands, territories and resources and our responsibility and inherent right to protect the same; these are also reciprocal obligations of our Treaty Partner, originally the Imperial Crown, now the Crown in the Right of Canada that will endure for “as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.”

The International Character and Canadian Constitutional status of Numbered Treaties is well documented and established through numerous bodies of work. Within Canada, Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights, placing Numbered Treaty obligations at the highest level of Canadian law. In this context, it is important to recall the words of Lord Denning in his judgment arising from the Patriation Reference, where he affirmed that Indigenous peoples possess rights that predate Canada itself and that such rights cannot be unilaterally taken away. Lord Denning recognized that Treaties represent binding commitments that continue to limit and shape the authority of the Crown and its successors, reinforcing the principle that constitutional sovereignty in Canada is neither absolute nor detached from its Numbered Treaty foundations,

“There is nothing, so far as I can see, to warrant any distrust by the Indians of the Government of Canada. But, in case there should be, the discussion in this case will strengthen their hand so as to enable them to withstand any onslaught. They will be able to say that their rights and freedoms have been guaranteed to them by the Crown, originally by the Crown in respect of the United Kingdom, now by the Crown in respect of Canada, but in any case, by the Crown...“... No Parliament shall do anything to lessen the worth of these guarantees. They should be honoured by the Crown in respect of Canada “as long as the sun rises and the river flows”. The promise must never be broken.” - Lord Denning, High Court of the United Kingdom, January 28, 1982

Importantly it must be understood that Numbered Treaty obligations are not borne by the federal Crown alone. Canadian provinces are constitutionally and legally bound to uphold, respect, and implement Numbered Treaties within their areas of assumed jurisdiction. Provinces derive their assumed authority from the Canadian Constitution, which itself is conditioned by the existence of Numbered Treaties. As such, provincial governments cannot legislate, regulate, or act in ways that undermine, infringe, or disregard existing Numbered Treaty Rights. The division of powers within Canada does not absolve provinces of responsibility, instead it requires them to exercise their jurisdiction in a manner consistent with the honour of the Crown, Treaty obligations, and constitutional supremacy.

The legal responsibility of provinces to uphold Numbered Treaties is reinforced by constitutional law, Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence, and International Human Rights law and standards, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which is now a part of Canadian federal positive law.

Meaningful implementation of Numbered Treaties requires more than symbolic recognition. It requires good faith, shared decision-making, consent-based processes, and concrete action-based measures that reflect the original spirit and intent of the Treaty relationship, not just between Numbered Treaty Nations and the successor

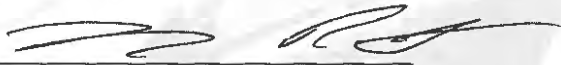
Crown but also between Numbered Treaty Nations and the provinces which continue to benefit from Numbered Treaties.

Upholding Numbered Treaties is not optional, discretionary, or aspirational. They are a legal and constitutional obligation, a legal duty, and a moral imperative. Respecting Numbered Treaty commitments and guarantees not only strengthens the rule of law, it also advances reconciliation, and affirms the foundational truth that Canada exists because it is the basis for the strengthened partnership of Numbered Treaties, not despite of them.

Treaty No. 6 Nations reject Alberta separation not only as a political proposition, but as a present and actionable legal threat that, if pursued, would amount to a fundamental violation of Numbered Treaties as international agreements and the constitutional order of Canada. We reiterate that Treaty No. 6 Nations do not consent and will not consent to any proposal that directly impacts Treaty No. 6 and violates the relevant articles of the UN Declaration including Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

We call on all levels of government, including provincial authorities, to act with urgency and consistently with their legal responsibilities and obligations to fully honour, implement, uphold and enforce the Numbered Treaties in all areas of law and governance.

Sincerely,



Grand Chief Joey Pete  
Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations

C.c.: Chiefs of Treaty No. 6

Chiefs of Treaty No. 7

Chiefs of Treaty No. 8

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, [info@gg.ca](mailto:info@gg.ca)

Her Honour the Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lt. Governor of Alberta, [ltgov@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ltgov@gov.ab.ca)

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, [mark.carney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mark.carney@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Rebecca Alty, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, [Rebecca.alty@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rebecca.alty@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Indigenous Relations, [ir.ministeroffice@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ir.ministeroffice@gov.ab.ca)

Dr. Albert K. Barume, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, [hrc-sr-indigenous@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-indigenous@un.org)

AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak,

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Complaint Procedure Unit – Human Rights Council Branch



## KAINAIWA

### Office of the Chief

Box 60 Phone: (403) 737-3753  
Standoff, Alberta T0L 1Y0 Fax: (403) 737-2336

**This is Exhibit "4" to the  
Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine  
Affirmed before me on January  
14, 2026**

*Tina Kapo*

### TINA KAPPO

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

Via Email: [premier@gov.ab.ca](mailto:premier@gov.ab.ca)

January 8, 2026

Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Danielle Smith:

#### **RE: Demand to Honour the Blackfoot Treaty and Terminate Citizen-Led Separatist Activities**

As the Chief of the Blood Tribe and on behalf of the Blood Tribe Council and Blood Tribe members, I write to communicate that the Blood Tribe stands opposed to the separatist agenda which is being encouraged and legally facilitated by your UCP Government.

The Blood Tribe occupies Blackfoot Traditional Territory and has Reserve lands in what is now known as present-day southern Alberta. Our People, along with the other constituent member Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Piikani Nation, Siksika Nation, and the Blackfeet Nation who reside in present-day Montana), have occupied Blackfoot Traditional Territory since time immemorial. A significant percentage of Blackfoot Traditional Territory is situated in present-day Alberta.

As documented throughout history, as well as in various Court proceedings, any occupation of Blackfoot Traditional Territory by outsiders was made possible only with the consent of Blackfoot Confederacy Nations. The Blood Tribe entered into the Blackfoot Treaty of 1877 (Treaty No. 7) with the Crown with the sole purpose of creating peace with the newcomers. Our ancestors made Treaty in accordance with our customary practice of *Innaihtsiyissini*- when two powerful nations come together into a peace agreement. We maintain the position that we have never surrendered our interest in our traditional territory, through Treaty or otherwise.

Page | 1

**We have never, and will never, sell or allow the illegitimate surrender or transfer of Blackfoot Traditional Territory to a sovereign nation without our consent.**

The Blood Tribe stands in opposition to any initiative for Alberta secession and have grave concerns regarding the current use of Alberta's *Citizen Initiative Act*, especially following your government's amendments which removed screening mechanisms designed to ensure that citizen-led proposals did not contravene the Constitution.

Despite tabling this position with our MLA, the Honourable Joseph Schow, both he and the remainder of your UCP Government Alberta voted in favour Bill 14 in December 2025, notwithstanding scathing criticism from the Courts and unanimous opposition from First Nations. In doing so, your government made clear that it would support the concept of an illegitimate and unconstitutional transfer of lands – including Blackfoot Traditional Territory – to a sovereign nation that has no obligations to our People under Treaty, common law, or otherwise. This political act lays bare your government's true view of its obligations to our People.

Your government's amendments to the Citizen Initiative Act strip away the integrity and independence of Alberta's democratic processes and expose a deliberate effort to rig the rules to serve your political agenda. This conduct is unconscionable. It sends a clear and troubling message to our People that our voices are to be sidelined when they are inconvenient. That message is rejected. If our voices are not being heard, we will ensure our voice becomes impossible to ignore.

The Court of King's Bench was clear that initiatives for Alberta secession under the Citizen Initiative Act constitute an abrogation or derogation of our Treaty rights. At a minimum, they signal a profound disregard for the Treaty relationship which Alberta is bound to uphold. Treaties were not agreements with a province, nor were they made subject to provincial public opinion. Any attempt to redefine the political or constitutional status of our traditional territory and our Treaty relationship is incompatible with Treaty and with the honour of the Crown.

Alberta has an affirmative obligation to uphold the Treaty relationship. This includes ensuring that provincial legislation, processes, and public initiatives do not undermine Treaties or create the false impression that the province may unilaterally alter the constitutional framework within which Treaties exist. Allowing or advancing citizen-led initiatives that ignore Treaty rights represents a failure to meet that obligation.

We therefore call on your government to:

- Publicly affirm that Treaties remain binding, solemn obligations, and unaffected by any citizen-led initiative or proposal for separation;
- Publicly acknowledge that Alberta has no authority to alter Treaty relationships or the constitutional status of First Nations;

- Engage directly with Treaty Nations to reaffirm Alberta's commitments and responsibilities within the Treaty framework;
- Call an emergency session in the Legislature to immediately repeal Bill 14 as it relates to the Citizen Initiative Act; and
- Instruct the Minister of Justice to seek an injunction to pause the Alberta Prosperity Project petition while Bill 14 is repealed.

We are aware that other First Nations in Alberta are voicing similar positions. We stand in solidarity with those Nations and will explore all legal avenues to protect and uphold our Treaty and Aboriginal Rights, our Treaty relationship, and our traditional territory.

Treaties are not historical artifacts. They are the foundation of peaceful coexistence and shared governance on these lands. Any failure to respect them erodes trust and undermines the legitimacy of the Crown itself. We expect Alberta to act consistently with its constitutional duties and to conduct itself in a manner that upholds the honour of the Crown.

We look forward to your response and to concrete actions that demonstrate Alberta's commitment to the Treaty relationship.

Yours truly,

**Blood Tribe/Kainai**



Chief Traveller Plaited Hair

Cc: Honourable Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Indigenous Relations  
Email: ir.ministeroffice@gov.ab.ca




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**Sucker Creek First Nation**


---

P.O. Box 65                      Tel (780) 523-4426  
 Enilda, AB T0G 0W0        Fax (780) 523-3111

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January 9, 2026

Premier Danielle Smith  
 Office of the Premier  
 Room 307, Legislature Building  
 10800 – 97 Avenue  
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

### **Urgent Demand to Implement the Treaty and End Citizen-Led Separatist Activities**

Premier Smith,

This letter is to serve notice that the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta stands together against your government's separatist agenda.

The Land which the Province of Alberta is located on is Treaty land. Treaty No. 8 is with the Imperial Crown, not with the Province of Alberta. You govern here only because those Treaties made it possible. Without them, Alberta sits on unlawfully occupied territory.

We will not allow any discussion, petition, or referendum on separation without our consent. We want to make it clear; we do not consent. The courts have already made that clear, and so does the Treaty No. 8. Only the Treaty partners, our Nations and the Imperial Crown, have the authority to alter these agreements. Citizen petitions or referendums cannot override that.

Your government's actions, enabling and supporting the so-called Alberta Prosperity Project petition, and changing the law through Bill 14 on December 12, 2025, to overturn a court ruling in our favour, are a direct violation of Treaty obligations and the Honour of the Crown. These are not the actions of a government that respects democratic institutions or the rule of law.

Your interference has already caused harm. The separatist push has spread racist disinformation against our peoples and fuels division across this province. We hold your government responsible for these consequences.

As Treaty Chiefs, we demand the following actions:

1. Call an emergency session in the Legislature to immediately repeal Bill 14 as it relates to the *Citizen Initiative Act*; or
2. Instruct the Minister of Justice to seek to exercise his powers in Court or otherwise to pause the separatist petition issued on January 2, 2026.

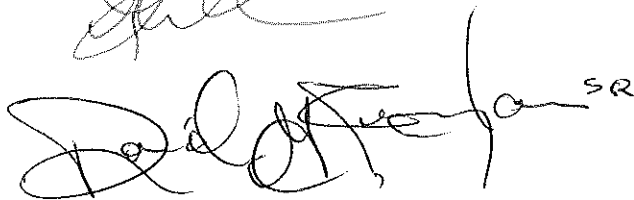
You have until January 31, 2026, to act. You proved your government can move quickly when it benefits separatists, now, we expect the same effort to uphold the law and the Treaties. Failure to comply will be seen as a deliberate refusal, and we will respond accordingly.

If you believe Albertans should decide their path, then call an election and seek that mandate honestly. But do not continue down this reckless road, especially in a time of global instability, when governments undermining lawful order have led to chaos and suffering elsewhere.

In the Spirit of Treaty,



Chief Barb Okemow  
Sucker Creek First Nation



January 12, 2026

P.O Box 757  
Valleyview, AB  
T0H 3N0

Sent VIA Email - [chief@sturgeonlake.ca](mailto:chief@sturgeonlake.ca)

Dear Chief Sunshine.

Mikisew Cree First Nation rejects in the strongest terms the process that the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta has set in motion.

The Chief Electoral Officer has already asked the Court of King's Bench in a reference case to decide whether the proposed petition for Alberta Independence would contravene our Treaty rights. The Court heard from many Alberta First Nations, including the Treaty Six Confederacy and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, who explained that the Crown cannot be replaced as a Treaty partner. Alberta's borders are not our borders and our Treaties protect our traditional territories.

On December 5<sup>th</sup> 2025, Justice Feasby agreed. He found that the referendum *would* infringe our Treaty rights. More than that, he confirmed what we have been saying for generations:

*"First Nations' consent to non-Indigenous settlement in what is now Alberta, memorialized in the Numbered Treaties, led to the creation of Alberta and continues to confer legitimacy on Alberta. First Nations, as founding partners in the creation of Alberta, cannot be ignored or bypassed as Alberta contemplates its future whether that is as part of Canada or not."*

The Government of Alberta's amendment to the *Citizen Initiative Act* in Bill 14, passed before the ink was dry on the Court's decision, represents a profound betrayal. It demonstrates a blatant disregard for Justice Feasby's decision which contains important rulings concerning our Treaty rights and the rule of law. This decision matters.

The Chief Electoral Officer's decision to launch a Citizen Initiative process on Alberta Independence under the new legislation without any consideration for that decision cannot stand. This process is dishonourable and represents an abdication of the Province's Treaty obligations. It is an attack on the very principles that underlie and legitimize Alberta's existence as a Province.

Mikisew Cree First Nation fully supports and endorses the judicial review filed by Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation to have the decision set aside and declared unconstitutional.

Sincerely,



Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro

CC: MCFN Chief and Council  
Aaron Lepine, MCFN CEO





12 January 2026

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

**Premier Danielle Smith**  
**Office of the Premier**  
 307 Legislature Building  
 10800 – 97 Ave  
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
 premier@gov.ab.ca

**Treaty No. 6, 1876 and Adhesion Treaty Nations stand in solidarity and support Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation of Treaty No. 8, 1899**

We submit this letter in solidarity and support of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation of Treaty No. 8, 1899 and its recently filed court injunction on Alberta's Bill 14,

Treaty No. 6 Nations reject the statements, actions and beliefs of the Alberta Separation movement. We also reject those legislative actions of the Alberta UCP government that appear embolden and support the claims of the aforementioned. We assert that such proposals are not hypothetical or benign political expressions, instead they represent real and legally impermissible acts that are being actively contemplated and advanced. These actions are already causing harm, they are fuelling racist disinformation, destabilizing communities, and placing Treaty No. 6 Nations and peoples at risk. Therefore, we call for the firm and immediate rejection of separation proposals to preserve the safety and wellbeing of all.

Any separation movement that proposes the unilateral withdrawal of Alberta from Canada, constitutes a fundamental constitutional legal violation. Any attempt at separation without the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of Numbered Treaty First Nations is a direct breach of the Numbered Treaties entered into between Sovereign Nations and not with a province. Alberta has no lawful authority to alter, extinguish, suspend, or renegotiate Treaty relationships, nor can it assume Crown Treaty obligations without the consent of the Numbered Treaty Nations. Such a proposal also violates section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the honour of the Crown, and the principle affirmed in constitutional jurisprudence that Numbered Treaty Nations and their Treaty Rights predate, pre-exist and constrain Crown sovereignty. Further, separation would unlawfully presume Alberta provincial jurisdiction over Numbered Treaty lands and Numbered Treaty peoples, undermining Numbered Treaty Nations jurisdiction, international legal character, and the Canadian Constitutional framework itself, therefore Alberta separation is not merely a political question but a legally impermissible act.

Numbered Treaties are not historical artefacts or political accommodations, they are solemn Nation to Nation agreements grounded in Indigenous worldview and legal orders,

*Visions of Tomorrow*

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**BEAVER LAKE**

**CREE NATION**

## BEAVER LAKE

## CREE NATION



international treaty-making principles, and the honour of the Crown. Numbered Treaties were intended to establish peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, benefit, shared responsibilities while providing protection to the Imperial Crown and its representatives.

Numbered Treaty Nations did not alter, diminish, surrender or extinguish our right to self-determination, our sovereignty, our right to govern ourselves, our lands, territories or our resources. Numbered Treaty agreements affirm existing Treaty Nation governance, jurisdiction, our connection to the lands, territories and resources and our responsibility and inherent right to protect the same; these are also reciprocal obligations of our Treaty Partner, originally the Imperial Crown, now the Crown in the Right of Canada that will endure for "as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow."

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"There is nothing, so far as I can see, to warrant any distrust by the Indians of the Government of Canada. But, in case there should be, the discussion in this case will strengthen their hand so as to enable them to withstand any onslaught. They will be able to say that their rights and freedoms have been guaranteed to them by the Crown, originally by the Crown in respect of the United Kingdom, now by the Crown in respect of Canada, but in any case, by the Crown... "... No Parliament shall do anything to lessen the worth of these guarantees. They should be honoured by the Crown in respect of Canada "as long as the sun rises and the river flows". The promise must never be broken." - Lord Denning, High Court of the United Kingdom, January 28, 1982

Importantly it must be understood that Numbered Treaty obligations are not borne by the federal Crown alone. Canadian provinces are constitutionally and legally bound to uphold, respect, and implement Numbered Treaties within their areas of assumed jurisdiction. Provinces derive their assumed authority from the Canadian Constitution, which itself is conditioned by the existence of Numbered Treaties. As such, provincial governments cannot legislate, regulate, or act in ways that undermine, infringe, or disregard existing Numbered Treaty Rights. The division of powers within Canada does not absolve provinces of responsibility, instead it requires them to exercise their jurisdiction in a manner consistent with the honour of the Crown, Treaty obligations, and constitutional supremacy.

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Meaningful implementation of Numbered Treaties requires more than symbolic recognition. It requires good faith, shared decision-making, consent-based processes, and concrete action-based measures that reflect the original spirit and intent of the Treaty relationship, not just between Numbered Treaty Nations and the successor Crown but also between Numbered Treaty Nations and the provinces which continue to benefit from Numbered Treaties.

Upholding Numbered Treaties is not optional, discretionary, or aspirational. They are a legal and constitutional obligation, a legal duty, and a moral imperative. Respecting Numbered Treaty commitments and guarantees not only strengthens the rule of law, it also advances reconciliation, and affirms the foundational truth that Canada exists because it is the basis for the strengthened partnership of Numbered Treaties, not despite of them.

Treaty No. 6 Nations reject Alberta separation not only as a political proposition, but as a present and actionable legal threat that, if pursued, would amount to a fundamental violation of Numbered Treaties as international agreements and the constitutional order of Canada. We reiterate that Treaty No. 6 Nations do not consent and will not consent to any proposal that directly impacts Treaty No. 6 and violates the relevant articles of the UN Declaration including Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

We call on all levels of government, including provincial authorities, to act with urgency and consistently with their legal responsibilities and obligations to fully honour, implement, uphold and enforce the Numbered Treaties in all areas of law and governance.

Chief Gary D. Lameman

Chief Gary D. Lameman (2011-12-20 13:09:32 MST)

Chief Gary D. Lameman  
Beaver Lake Cree Nation #131  
Treaty No. 6

C.c.: Chiefs of Treaty No. 6  
Chiefs of Treaty No. 7  
Chiefs of Treaty No. 8  
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada,  
info@gg.ca  
Her Honour the Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lt. Governor of Alberta,  
ltgov@gov.ab.ca

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The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada,  
 mark.carney@parl.gc.ca  
 The Honourable Rebecca Alty, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations,  
 Rebecca.alty@parl.gc.ca  
 The Honourable Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Indigenous Relations,  
 ir.ministeroffice@gov.ab.ca  
 Dr. Albert K. Barume, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of  
 Indigenous Peoples, hrc-sr-indigenous@un.org  
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12 January 2026

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

**Premier Danielle Smith**

**Office of the Premier**

307 Legislature Building

10800 – 97 Ave

Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

premier@gov.ab.ca

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**Alexander First Nation**

P.O. Box 3419 Morinville, AB T8R 1S3



can it assume Crown Treaty obligations without the consent of the Numbered Treaty Nations. Such a proposal also violates section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the honour of the Crown, and the principle affirmed in constitutional jurisprudence that Numbered Treaty Nations and their Treaty Rights predate, pre-exist and constrain Crown sovereignty. Further, separation would unlawfully presume Alberta provincial jurisdiction over Numbered Treaty lands and Numbered Treaty peoples, undermining Numbered Treaty Nations jurisdiction, international legal character, and the Canadian Constitutional framework itself, therefore Alberta separation is not merely a political question but a legally impermissible act.

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Chief George Arcand Jr.  
Alexander First Nation

C.c.: Chiefs of Treaty No. 6  
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Chiefs of Treaty No. 8

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AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak,

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Complaint Procedure Unit – Human Rights Council Branch

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**Alexander First Nation**

P.O. Box 3419 Morinville, AB T8R 1S3



# SAMSON CREE NATION

Chief Vernon Saddleback

P.O. Box 159  
Maskwacis, AB T0C 1N0  
Telephone: 780-585-3793  
Edmonton Direct Line: 780-421-4926  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-2579  
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January 12, 2026

## WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Premier Danielle Smith  
Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Ave  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
premier@gov.ab.ca

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Sincerely,



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Samson Cree Nation

cc. Samson Council  
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Council Branch



# ERMINESKIN CREE NATION<sup>039</sup>

BOX 219 MASKWACIS, ALBERTA T0C 1N0

PHONE 780-585-3741

EDM. LINE 780-420-0008  
FAX 780-585-2550

12 January 2026

## WITHOUT PREJUDICE

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**Office of the Premier**  
307 Legislature Building  
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On behalf of the,  
**ERMINEKSEE CREE NATION**

**Chief Joel Mykat**

C.c.: Chiefs of Treaty No. 6  
Chiefs of Treaty No. 7  
Chiefs of Treaty No. 8  
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, [info@gg.ca](mailto:info@gg.ca)  
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AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak,  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Complaint Procedure Unit – Human Rights Council Branch



12 January 2026

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

**Premier Danielle Smith**  
**Office of the Premier**  
 307 Legislature Building  
 10800 – 97 Ave  
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
 premier@gov.ab.ca

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X 

Chief Herb Jackson

C.c.: Chiefs of Treaty No. 6  
 Chiefs of Treaty No. 7  
 Chiefs of Treaty No. 8  
 Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada,  
 info@gg.ca  
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Peoples, hrc-sr-indigenous@un.org  
AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak,  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Complaint Procedure Unit – Human  
Rights Council Branch



## Montana First Nation

Phone: (780) 585-3744  
Main Fax: (780) 585-3264

January 12, 2026

**Premier Danielle Smith**  
**Office of the Premier**  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Ave  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
[premier@gov.ab.ca](mailto:premier@gov.ab.ca)

Dear Premier Danielle Smith


**Re: Urgent Demand to the Implementation of Treaty & End of the  
Citizen-Led Separatist Activities**

The Montana First Nation No. 139 is a proud member nation of the Maskwacis Cree Treaty No.6. We formally express our unequivocal support for the legal action initiated by Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and Chief Sheldon Sunshine. Their injunction against the Province of Alberta's separation attempts is a necessary measure to halt the proposed referendum, which seeks to advance the Alberta prosperity project without any regard for the First Nation Treaty Rights holders.

We stand in solidarity with Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and fully endorse their pursuit of an injunction to prevent Alberta's attempts at separating from Canada. The Montana First Nation categorically rejects any discussion, petition, or referendum on separation. We do not, nor will we participate in any actions to separate from Canada – the Montana First Nation is *not* in support of separation from Canada.

It is imperative to recognize that Treaty Six was signed in 1876, decades before the establishment of the Province of Alberta, and our Treaties remain binding and paramount. Our Treaties predate and supersede any provincial authority. Our Treaties are strong, and remain intact and cannot be overridden by provincial legislation or initiatives.

Regards,

  
Chief Ralph Cattleman  
Montana First Nation

cc Chief Sheldon Sunshine, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation  
Montana First Nation Council and Administration

**LOUIS BULL TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION**

PHONES: 780-585-3967  
 780-585-3860  
 780-585-3978  
 FAX: 780-585-3799



Your file:

Our file:

12 January 2026

BOX 130  
 HOBBEWA, ALBERTA  
 T0C 1N0

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

**Premier Danielle Smith**  
**Office of the Premier**  
 307 Legislature Building  
 10800 – 97 Ave  
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
 premier@gov.ab.ca

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*Desmond Bull*  
**Chief Desmond Bull**  
**Louis Bull Tribe**

C.c.: Chiefs of Treaty No. 6  
 Chiefs of Treaty No. 7  
 Chiefs of Treaty No. 8  
 Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada,  
 info@gg.ca  
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AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak,  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Complaint Procedure Unit – Human Rights Council Branch



#123

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P.O. Box 220, Kehewin,  
Alberta T0A 1C0

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T: 780 826 3333  
T: 780 826 3334  
F: 780 826 2355

12 January 2026

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

**Premier Danielle Smith**  
**Office of the Premier**  
 307 Legislature Building  
 10800 – 97 Ave  
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
 premier@gov.ab.ca

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Respectfully,



**Chief Vernon Watchmaker**

Kehewin Cree Nation

C.c.: Chiefs of Treaty No. 6  
Chiefs of Treaty No. 7  
Chiefs of Treaty No. 8  
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada,  
info@gg.ca  
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Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Complaint Procedure Unit –  
Human Rights Council Branch



Box 30, Driftpile, AB T0G 0V0 Phone: 780-355-3868

Fax: 780-355-3650

**To: Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Leadership,**

Driftpile Cree Nation extends its full and unwavering support to Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation in your opposition to Bill 14 and the proposed separation measures that threaten Treaty obligations, jurisdictional integrity, and the NationtoNation relationship with the Crown.

We recognize the gravity of the challenges before you and the farreaching implications this legislation may have on Treaty rights, governance structures, and the inherent authority of First Nations across Turtle Island. The steadfast commitment to protecting our people, our lands, and our Treaty relationship with the Crown reflects the strength, leadership, and resilience that continue to guide our Nations.

Driftpile Cree Nation stands firmly beside Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation in collective opposition to Bill 14. We support your right to assert your position, demand accountability from the Crown, and safeguard the interests and wellbeing of your members. At a time when legislative changes may undermine the foundations of our Treaty relationship, unity among First Nations is essential.

Driftpile Cree Nation remains committed to working alongside Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation through continued dialogue, coordinated advocacy, and NationtoNation support as this matter progresses.

**In unity and respect,**

**Chief, Dwayne Laboucan**  
**Driftpile Cree Nation**



**LUBICON LAKE BAND**

**# 453**

**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

TO: COA Jamie Koe FROM:

COMPANY: DATE: Jan. 13/26

FAX NUMBER: TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

PHONE NUMBER:

RE: Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Letter of Support

URGENT  FOR REVIEW  PLEASE COMMENT  PLEASE REPLY  PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

**THIS MESSAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL AND CONTAINS INFORMATION FOR THE ADDRESSEE ONLY. IF THE READER IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OR THE AGENT THEREOF, YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS FAX IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS FAX IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL TO OUR OFFICE BY MAIL AT OUR EXPENSE. THANK YOU**





January 8, 2026

Dear Premier Danielle Smith:

### **Urgent Demand to Implement the Treaty and End Citizen-Led Separatist Activities**

We, the undersigned Treaty Chiefs from the First Nations within what is now called Alberta, stand together against your government's separatist agenda.

This is Treaty land. Our Treaties — Nos. 6, 7, and 8 — are with the Crown, not with the Province of Alberta. You govern here only because those Treaties made it possible. Without them, Alberta sits on unlawfully occupied territory.

We will not allow any discussion, petition, or referendum on separation without our consent. We want to make it clear, we do not consent. The courts have already made that clear, and so do our Treaties. Only the Treaty partners — our Nations and the Crown — have the authority to alter these agreements. Citizen petitions or referendums cannot override that.

Your government's actions — enabling and supporting the so-called Alberta Prosperity Project petition, and changing the law through Bill 14 on December 12, 2025, to overturn a court ruling in our favour — are a direct violation of Treaty obligations and the Honour of the Crown. These are not the actions of a government that respects democratic institutions or the rule of law.

Your interference has already caused harm. The separatist push has spread racist disinformation against our people and fuels division across this province. We hold your government responsible for these consequences.

As Treaty Chiefs, we demand the following actions:

1. Call an emergency session in the Legislature to immediately repeal Bill 14 as it relates to the *Citizen Initiative Act*; or
2. Instruct the Minister of Justice to seek to exercise his powers in Court or otherwise to pause the separatist petition issued on January 2, 2026.

You have until January 31, 2026, to act. You proved your government can move quickly when it benefits separatists — now, we expect the same effort to uphold the law and the Treaties. Failure to comply will be seen as a deliberate refusal, and we will respond accordingly.

If you believe Albertans should decide their path, then call an election and seek that mandate honestly. But do not continue down this reckless road — especially in a time of global

instability, when governments undermining lawful order have led to chaos and suffering elsewhere.

In the Spirit of Treaty,


The Undersigned Treaty Chiefs of Treaty Nos. 6, 7, and 8  
(on behalf of their Nations, with logos attached or signature provided, as the case may be):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Sheldon Sunshine, on behalf of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Billy Joe-Tuccaro, on behalf of Mikisew Cree First Nation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Dwayne Laboucan, on behalf of Driftpile First Nation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Rupert Meneen, on behalf of Tallcree Tribal Government

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Billy Joe Laboucan, on behalf of Lubicon Lake Band #453

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 22:24:59 Mountain Standard Time**

**Subject:** Re: Letter of Support from Swan River First Nation Council  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 10:24:59 PM Mountain Standard Time  
**From:** Orlagh O'Kelly  
**To:** Chief Sheldon Sunshine  
**CC:** Sharla Goodswimmer  
**Attachments:** Outlook-e54oxrzh.png

**From:** Chauntae Twin <[admin@srfn.ca](mailto:admin@srfn.ca)>  
**Sent:** January 13, 2026 4:25 PM  
**To:** Chief Sheldon Sunshine <[chiefsunshine@sturgeonlake.ca](mailto:chiefsunshine@sturgeonlake.ca)>  
**Cc:** Lee Twinn <[srfnlee@gmail.com](mailto:srfnlee@gmail.com)>; Ryan Davis <[srfnryan@gmail.com](mailto:srfnryan@gmail.com)>; Richard Woodman <[Richard.Woodman@srfn.ca](mailto:Richard.Woodman@srfn.ca)>; Dale Chalifoux <[Dale.Chalifoux@srfn.ca](mailto:Dale.Chalifoux@srfn.ca)>; Bailey Wiedemann-Komarnicki <[SwanriverCEO@srfn.ca](mailto:SwanriverCEO@srfn.ca)>; [cao@treaty8.org](mailto:cao@treaty8.org); Gwen Muskwa <[GMuskwa@treaty8.org](mailto:GMuskwa@treaty8.org)>; Jordan Wilkins <[jwilkins@treaty8.org](mailto:jwilkins@treaty8.org)>; Candace Daychief <[cdaychief@treaty8.org](mailto:cdaychief@treaty8.org)>  
**Subject:** Letter of Support from Swan River First Nation Council

You don't often get email from [admin@srfn.ca](mailto:admin@srfn.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter of support from Swan River First Nation Chief and Council, in support of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and Chief Sheldon Sunshine regarding the upholding and protection of Treaty No. 8 rights.

Should you require any additional information or follow-up from our Nation, please feel free to reach out!

Kind regards,

Chauntae Twin

Executive Administrative Assistant | Swan River First Nation  
 780.775.3536 | [www.srfn.ca](http://www.srfn.ca) | PO BOX 270, Kinuso, AB, T0G 1K0



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## SWAN RIVER FIRST NATION

P.O. Box 270  
Kinuso, Alberta  
T0G 1K0

Phone: (780) 775-3536 Fax: (780) 775-3796



From the Office of Chief Lee Twinn- Treaty No. 8 Territory

Swan River First Nation

January 8th, 2026

On behalf of Swan River First Nation, we write to express our full and unequivocal support for Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and Chief Sheldon Sunshine in their actions to uphold and defend the rights affirmed under Treaty No. 8.

We stand in unity with Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation in asserting that no separation of Alberta from Canada can occur without the free, prior, and informed consent of the First Nations whose lands are subject to Treaty. Treaty No. 8 is a living, binding agreement that continues to hold the full force of law. Any action that disregards or undermines this Treaty relationship represents a serious breach of constitutional, legal, and moral obligations.

We share deep concern regarding the approval of a separatist petition without consultation or consent from Treaty Nations. Such actions not only violate Treaty rights, but also create foreseeable economic, legal, and societal harms, particularly for First Nations peoples whose sovereignty, jurisdiction, and inherent rights are directly affected.

Swan River First Nation supports the legal steps being taken by Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation to protect Treaty No. 8 and to seek accountability from the province of Alberta and its agents. These actions are not only necessary, but essential to preserving the integrity of Treaty relationships for current and future generations.

We affirm that Treaty Nations are not stakeholders, they are rights holders. Any political or constitutional changes affecting our territories must respect this fundamental truth.

We stand with Chief Sheldon Sunshine, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, and all Treaty Nations in defense of our lands, our laws, and our Treaties.

In unity and respect,

Chief Lee Twinn  
Swan River First Nation



**This is Exhibit "5" to the Affidavit  
of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed  
before me on January 14, 2026**

Tina Kapo

**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

January 8, 2026

Dear Premier Danielle Smith:

### **Urgent Demand to Implement the Treaty and End Citizen-Led Separatist Activities**

We, the undersigned Treaty Chiefs from the First Nations within what is now called Alberta, stand together against your government's separatist agenda.

This is Treaty land. Our Treaties — Nos. 6, 7, and 8 — are with the Crown, not with the Province of Alberta. You govern here only because those Treaties made it possible. Without them, Alberta sits on unlawfully occupied territory.

We will not allow any discussion, petition, or referendum on separation without our consent. We want to make it clear, we do not consent. The courts have already made that clear, and so do our Treaties. Only the Treaty partners — our Nations and the Crown — have the authority to alter these agreements. Citizen petitions or referendums cannot override that.

Your government's actions — enabling and supporting the so-called Alberta Prosperity Project petition, and changing the law through Bill 14 on December 12, 2025, to overturn a court ruling in our favour — are a direct violation of Treaty obligations and the Honour of the Crown. These are not the actions of a government that respects democratic institutions or the rule of law.

Your interference has already caused harm. The separatist push has spread racist disinformation against our people and fuels division across this province. We hold your government responsible for these consequences.

As Treaty Chiefs, we demand the following actions:

1. Call an emergency session in the Legislature to immediately repeal Bill 14 as it relates to the *Citizen Initiative Act*; or
2. Instruct the Minister of Justice to seek to exercise his powers in Court or otherwise to pause the separatist petition issued on January 2, 2026.

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If you believe Albertans should decide their path, then call an election and seek that mandate honestly. But do not continue down this reckless road — especially in a time of global

instability, when governments undermining lawful order have led to chaos and suffering elsewhere.

In the Spirit of Treaty:

The Undersigned Treaty Chiefs of Treaty Nos. 6, 7, and 8

**(on behalf of their Nations, with logos attached or signature provided, as the case may be):**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorraine MacDonald", is written over a horizontal line.

Chief Lorraine MacDonald, on behalf of Tthebatthie Denesúliné Nation

*Tina Kappo*

**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854



Rise Of Alberta

January 9 at 8:13 PM · 🌐

To the "leaders" of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.

Written by a Treaty Indian from Alberta.

# AN OPEN LETTER TO THE "LEADERS" OF STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION

An Open Letter: To the "leaders" of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation,

I am a Treaty Indian in Alberta.

Nobody asked my opinion. Nobody asked the opinion of countless others like me. Yet decisions are announced, statements are issued, and positions are blasted all over social media.

What, exactly, about the current system is good enough for you?

Is it the fact that Indigenous kids make up roughly 54% of children in foster care? Is it the suicide and addiction rates, which are many times higher than the rest of the population, eight times higher in some places? Is it that more money than ever is being spent "on Indigenous issues," yet our communities are still broken, overcrowded, addicted, and dependent, with little to show for it in real infrastructure, real ownership, or real opportunity?

For 150 years, chiefs from coast to coast have been bought off, managed, or absorbed into the system, and our people are the ones paying the price.

The system doesn't reward results. It rewards compliance. It rewards managing poverty, not ending it.

What benefit are you enjoying today that couldn't be enjoyed, and exceeded, on land actually owned by our people, deeded to us, not held by the federal government and "managed" by chiefs who answer to Ottawa before they answer to their own people?

Tell me, Chief Sunshine, what treaty right are you enjoying that couldn't be exercised on land that can be developed, leveraged, passed on, and defended like everyone else's in this country?

And while you're at it, explain this part too:

What about the other Nations in Alberta? What about our people as a whole? Shouldn't something this fundamental be discussed openly as a people?

What change are you actually against? Are you against our people owning land outright? Against breaking permanent federal control? Against ending a system that has produced dependency, addiction, and despair for generations?

Explain why, after 150 years, we should believe that more of the same will somehow fix what it created.

Our people deserve an answer.

**Darren Grimes**

Treaty Indian, Alberta

👍❤️ 2K

363 comments 547 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

View more comments



Rise Of Alberta

January 9 at 8:14 PM · 🌐



To the "leaders" of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.

Written by a Treaty Indian from Alberta.

# AN OPEN LETTER TO THE "LEADERS" OF STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION

An Open Letter: To the "leaders" of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation,

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Explain why, after 150 years, we should believe that more of the same will somehow fix what it created.

Our people deserve an answer.

**Darren Grimes**  
Treaty Indian, Alberta

1.5K

398 comments 334 shares

Like

Comment

Share

# Rise Of Alberta's Post



**Kevin Sheena**



3d Like Reply 24 🤔👍

View all 2 replies



**Shawn Carter**

Go look at Sheldon house. You'll have your answer.

3d Like Reply



**Pat Hunt**

Where's the letter from the club of Rome giving Alberta kingdom 11?

3d Like Reply



**Dale Lapointe**

Hmmm this is just a thought but how much are the chiefs getting paid to back the federal government?

3d Like Reply

22 👍

View all 2 replies



**Victor Guerette**

Playing devils advocate. We all know that it's the chiefs making the big claims and such. Above says the FN individuals aren't happy. Let's assume this is all true. Without having a seat at the table ourselves, we don't know how much of this is true or not. I as a nobody albertan would be willing to sit and discuss with nobody FN people and hear about their side of the story. Maybe we will agree. Maybe we won't. But so long as only government and chiefs are at the table we will never know ourselves if any of this is true or not.

Just trying to get everyone thinking. Playing devils advocate.

3d Like Reply

29 👍

View 1 reply



**Raymond N Shura**

I think the chief has to good of a deal going with carney and Trudeau he's making millions and not giving it to the people that need it . I'm sure it's true . You should look in to how much they got from 2022 oh wait there is no statements I wonder why 🤔🤔

3d Like Reply

14 👍



**Bernard Stoney**

## Rise Of Alberta's Post

**AJ Goethals**

The answer: chiefs don't wanna give up the money laundering, payoffs and kickbacks they get to keep themselves rich and "their people" living on reservations on welfare & government handouts. No better than the freeloading immigrants that come here. Only difference between the 2 is place of birth; foreign Indians & domestic Indians.

3d Like Reply Edited

18

View 1 reply

**Dave English**

One opinion.....sooooooooooooo important that ONE OPINION.

3d Like Reply

4

**Mike Gust**

This is a really great and well written letter.

These crooked chiefs need to hear this message.

The system isn't working for indigenous people. It isn't about money or land. It's about people.

I want to see every indigenous person in Alberta thriving. I want to see them break out of poverty, addiction, hopelessness.

We need to free them along with all of Alberta.

3d Like Reply

5

**Greg Wilson**

Once the Referendum is signed and the desire to separate is established, discussions with First Nations will commence in earnest before any separation vote is held

3d Like Reply

**Ted Tyschinski**

Very well said and true! Whether you like what he said or not it is TRUE! Why is it that FN people can't own their own homes? I'll tell you why, TOTAL and COMPLETE CONTROL over them! I believe lots of FN people are just as fed up with the system as the rest of us are!!!

3d Like Reply

9

**Judy Nygaard**

What was their answer I wonder 😊

3d Like Reply Edited

3

**Jim Riley**

Indigenous people often times don't have the sophistication to figure these things out. They need to be nurtured and taught genuinely with logic and precision in order for them to understand the many benefits of separation from Ottawa. They're not stupid people. They just need genuine conversation by people who are sincere. Once they realize they would be much better off with the separation, forming a new nation or state with tremendous benefits for them they would be on board. Said from the heart.



### Rise Of Alberta

111K followers · 20 following

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#### Intro

Accelerating Alberta's journey toward independence.

Get your Independence Gear

[Riseofalberta.com](http://Riseofalberta.com)

Page · Cause

[riseofalberta](#) · 87K followers

#### Featured

**Rise Of Alberta**  
July 18, 2025

One thing Quebec got right? They made independence feel cool. It wasn't just a movement, it was an identity...



**This is Exhibit "7" to the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me on January 14, 2026**

*Tina Kappo*

**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854



**Rise Of Alberta** ✓  
@RiseOfAlberta



### 3/ Immediate Recognition of Alberta as a Sovereign Nation

U.S. officials signaled they could recognize Alberta immediately after a “Yes” vote, regardless of negotiations with Ottawa and their delay tactics.

That means independence becomes real the moment Albertans choose it.



9:41 PM · Oct 1, 2025 · **4,512** Views

5

29

147

7





Rise Of Alberta

18h · 🌐

SIGN THE INDEPENDENCE PETITION TODAY.

Monday, January 12.

Spruce Grove — 6:00 PM

Swamp Donkey

15 C Alberta Ave

Bentley — 7:00 PM

Bentley Community Hall

4821 50 St

Millet — 7:00 PM

Millet Community Hall

4528 51 St

Show up. Sign. Be counted. Bring ID.

If you have an ID with a PO Box. Make sure you bring two pieces of ID with one having your residential address on it.

# SIGN THE INDEPENDENCE PETITION TODAY

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

## SPRUCE GROVE

6:00 PM

Swamp Donkey

15 C Alberta Ave, Spruce Grove, AB

## BENTLEY

7:00 PM

Bentley Community Hall

4821 50 St, Bentley, AB

## MILLET

7:00 PM

Millet Community Hall

4528 51 St, Millet, AB

← Post



**The Breakdown** ✓  
@TheBreakdownAB



What are the odds that Keith Wilson’s law office operates out of the same Post office box at a UPS store as “rise of Alberta”?

Apparently 100%.

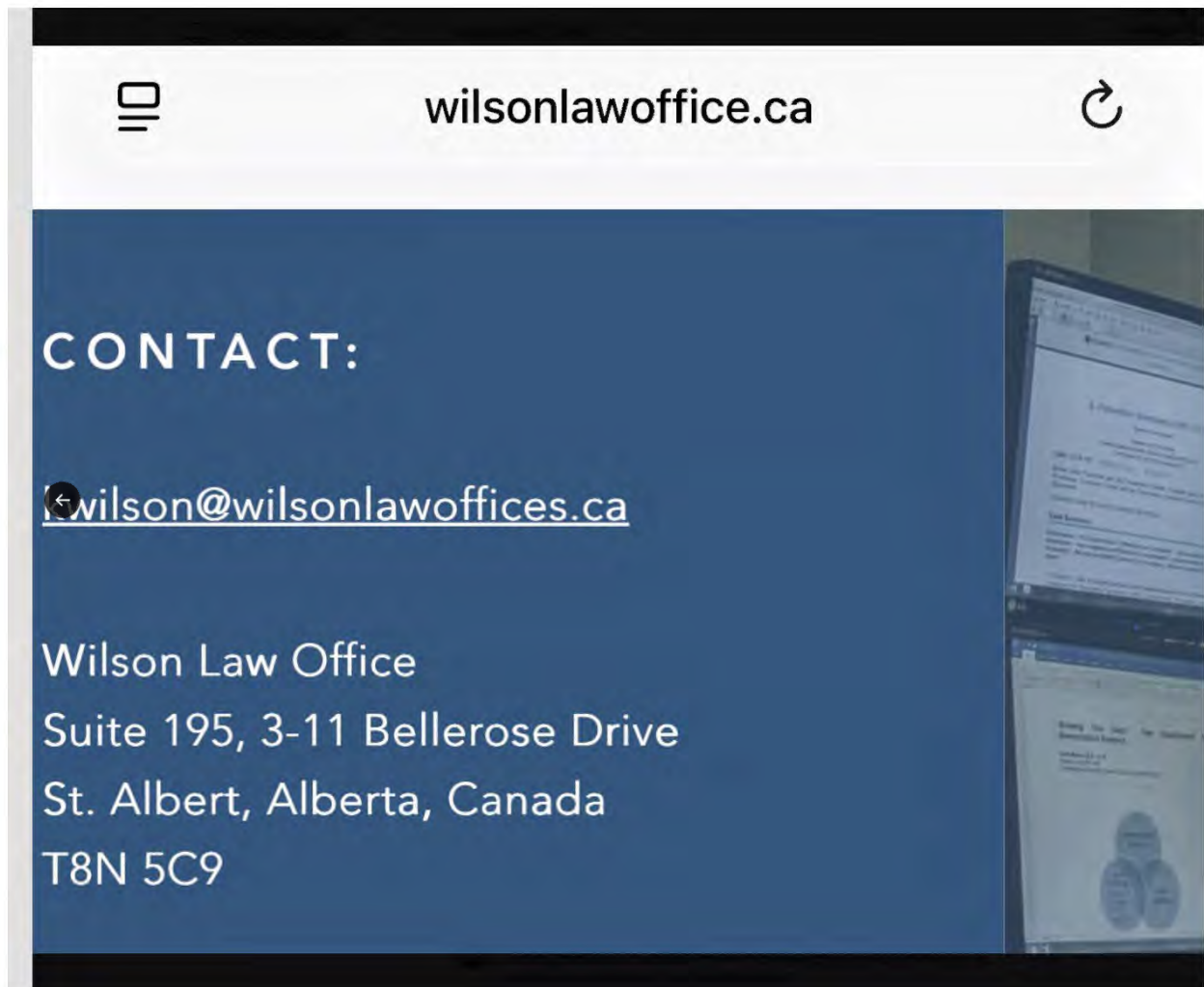
(And why do they always call PO boxes suites?)

[#abpoli](#) [#ableg](#) [#cdnpoli](#)

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 **cm** @cmcalgary · Dec 20, 2025  
 what an interesting thread, re: 'Rise of Alberta'  
[threads.com/@dawnpinkskull...](https://www.threads.com/@dawnpinkskull...)  
 #Alberta #abpoli #ableg #Canada #cdnpoli

11:12 PM · Dec 20, 2025 · **11.7K** Views



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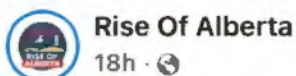
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Monday, January 12.

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Swamp Donkey  
15 C Alberta Ave

Bentley — 7:00 PM  
Bentley Community Hall  
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Millet — 7:00 PM  
Millet Community Hall  
4528 51 St

Show up. Sign. Be counted. Bring ID.

If you have an ID with a PO Box. Make sure you bring two pieces of ID with one having your residential address on it.

This is Exhibit "8" to the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me on January 14, 2026

**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854

**SIGN THE INDEPENDENCE PETITION TODAY**  
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

**SPRUCE GROVE**  
6:00 PM  
Swamp Donkey  
15 C Alberta Ave, Spruce Grove, AB

**BENTLEY**  
7:00 PM  
Bentley Community Hall  
4821 50 St, Bentley, AB

**MILLET**  
7:00 PM  
Millet Community Hall  
4528 51 St, Millet, AB



### Rise Of Alberta

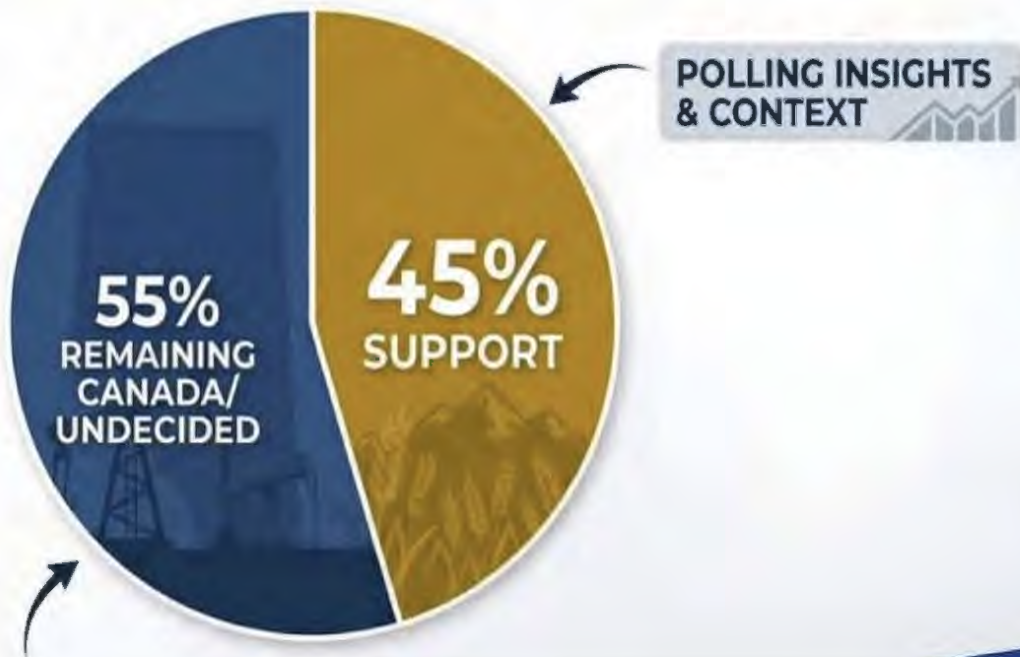
22h · 🎵 Eminence Front · The Who · 🌐



One tactic opponents will increasingly use is questionable polling.  
Small samples, loaded questions, or selective media coverage can create the impression that independence is impossible, even when underlying support remains strong.  
The goal of narrative polling is not accuracy. It is psychology.  
Convince supporters the movement is fading.  
Convince fence sitters it is fringe.  
Convince leaders it is unsafe to engage.  
That tactic has been used in every major independence movement.  
In May 2025, a Kolosowski Strategies poll showed 45% support for Alberta independence.  
Support for Alberta independence sitting in the low to mid-40s is not marginal.  
It is historically significant. That level of support forces institutions to respond, which is why you will see efforts to downplay or distort it.

## IN MAY 2025, ALBERTA HAD 45% SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE.

This was the strongest poll for Alberta independence, conducted by Kolosowski Strategies.





This is Exhibit "9" to the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me on January 14, 2026 Insights ▾

*Tina Kapko*



**TINA KAPPO**

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027

Appointee No. 0721854

# Alberta Politics and Separatism Sentiments

May 15, 2025

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From May 9 to 12, 2025, we surveyed Albertans on their identity and separatism sentiments.

## Related Posts

Online Sexual Abuse Among Canadian Teens: 86% Were Harmed in Private Messaging Spaces

Trump Tariffs



**Download the report to learn**

**more** →

## Highlights of our survey include...

- 44% of Albertans identify as primarily Canadian, while 21% identify as primarily Albertan, and 32% identify as both equally
- 29% of Albertans support the idea of Alberta becoming a country independent of Canada, while 67% are opposed to that idea.
- 17% of Albertans support the idea of Alberta becoming a U.S. state.
- 35% of Albertans support the idea of Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Manitoba forming an independent country.
- 58% of Albertans say that actions by the federal government could influence their views on Alberta's political future within Canada.
- 62% of Albertans believe that people in other parts of Canada do not understand the reasons why some Albertans feel alienated from the rest of the country.

Had a Significant Economic Impact in 2025, Canadians Say

078

Canada in 2025: A Year Marked by Uncertainty, Strain and Resilience

Holiday Season: A Meaningful but Stressful Time for Many Canadians

## Methodology

The results for this wave of research are based on online research conducted from May 9 to May 12, 2025, with a representative sample of 1,000 Albertan adults 18 years of age and older from Leger's LEO panel. The data was statistically weighted according to 2021 Canadian Census figures.

A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey, but for comparison purposes, a probability sample of 1,000 would have a margin of error of +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.



### **Online Sexual Abuse Among Canadian Teens: 86% Were Harmed in Private Messaging Spaces**

Online sexual harm is affecting



### **Trump Tariffs Had a Significant Economic Impact in 2025, Canadians Say**

As 2025 draws to an end, Canadians



### **Canada in 2025: A Year Marked by Uncertainty, Strain and Resilience**

As 2025 comes to an end, Leger wanted to reflect on the key events

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GA

# Has Separatism Gone Mainstream in Alberta?

We spent the summer exploring the question. Here's what we learned.

**Samuel Goertz** / 5 Nov 2025 The Tye

Samuel Goertz is a PhD student in political science and researcher at the University of Alberta. He is affiliated with the Common Ground initiative, which published this article on its Substack.

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Does the average 'Joe' want Alberta to separate from Canada? One research team surveyed across the province to find out. Photo via Facebook.



Listen to this article

13 min

Politically engaged Albertans have spent a lot of time debating the popularity of the Alberta independence movement lately. But there's an important difference between popularity and acceptability.

About 30 per cent of Albertans support (<https://leger360.com/in-the-news-alberta-separatism/>) or somewhat support the idea of separation, while most do not. This figure fluctuates but hasn't changed substantially (<https://www.commongroundpolitics.ca/separatismab>) since 2019.

While the numbers show the popularity of separatism, they don't tell us about its mainstream acceptance.

If an idea is popular, but seen as unacceptable, it rarely gains traction. If an idea is viewed as acceptable, even when most people disagree with it, it can spark real change. This summer, our team at Common Ground (<https://www.commongroundpolitics.ca/>) set out to learn whether separatism is truly mainstream in Alberta, and why or why not.

Every Common Ground focus group starts with the same activity. We ask our participants to simply “draw an Albertan.” Participants then share their drawings and the group discusses which one most Albertans would imagine as typical. These conversations explore who Albertans see as representative.

Asking how these “typical Albertans” view politics through a series of activities helps map the boundaries of acceptability in Alberta's political culture — the policy options that fit into the Overton window (<https://www.mackinac.org/OvertonWindow>) for serious consideration.

Our focus groups vary in their depiction of the typical Albertan, but a dominant archetype shows up time and time again: Joe Alberta (<https://www.commongroundpolitics.ca/joe-albertan>). In general, Joe is a man in his late 30s, lives in a rural or suburban area, is married with kids, works a blue-collar job and is not terribly interested in politics but might describe himself as a “commonsense conservative.”

So, what did we find? Does “Joe” want Alberta to separate from Canada?

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**The typical Albertan is separatist-curious**



‘Every Common Ground focus group starts with the same activity. We ask our participants to simply “draw an Albertan.”’

Our results found Joe isn’t seen as a separatist, but he is separatist-curious. He wants Alberta to remain in Canada and make it work, but life has been harder lately, and he wonder if things would be better if Alberta went it alone. Or, at least, thinks Alberta needs to do something more drastic to get a better deal with Ottawa. He feels that Alberta has little power and that Albertans are neither well respected nor understood by the rest of the country.

Joe wouldn’t attend a separation rally on his own, though he would consider going if someone else invited him. He probably wouldn’t vote to separate in a referendum, though he might be tempted to vote yes by the leverage it presents.

When Alberta separation comes up in each focus group, we ask what might pull Joe towards separatism and what pushes him away. I’ve broken down the main themes.

### **What pulls ‘Joe’ towards separatism?**

There are two main drivers: cost-of-living and Alberta’s perceived lack of power in Canada.

Joe is feeling pinched relative to what he expects out of his life. He connects this to his perception that the rest of Canada is holding back Alberta’s economy. This view is deeply rooted for Joe — he grew up hearing about policies from Ottawa that made Alberta poorer to make other provinces richer (think National Energy Program).

Even if he acknowledges that Alberta has it better than some other provinces, he doesn’t think that should mean he has to give up his slice of the seemingly shrinking pie (for example, through equalization). As one focus group participant put it: “Everyone expects us to share because we have more, but what if we’re tired of sharing.”

“Albertans are more concerned with their quality of life and the increased price of necessities than separatism, and remain firmly focused on their material conditions over abstract concepts.” - Amina Yassin, Common Ground research assistant

At the end of each focus group, we ask if Joe sees himself as having power or influence over politics and resoundingly, the answer is no. When we specifically ask about provincial or municipal politics, the no softens, but the bottom line is that Joe feels overlooked. He complains that every federal election is decided by the time they start counting votes in Alberta (which is underrepresented) and that federal politicians don't really care or understand the province.

“Separatism cannot be considered a ‘fringe’ movement anymore... most typical Albertans were ‘separatist-curious.’ This is because they had grievances towards the federal government, and, while true separatism is seen as an unrealistic and undesirable goal... they see this movement as addressing their concerns, and giving them a voice” - Nicole Alexander, Common Ground research assistant

Joe also doesn't feel respected by other parts of Canada — specifically those in Ontario, Quebec and the Vancouver area. In many focus groups, participants joked that if they had to describe how other parts of the country viewed the typical Albertan, it would get a lot more extreme. To some extent, this may reflect normal regional dynamics (akin to sibling rivalry), but it also indicates a larger sense of alienation.

### **What pushes ‘Joe’ away from separatism?**

Even with the reasons outlined above, Joe isn't a separatist. In fact, he thinks remaining in Canada is much more desirable and likely.

On the side of desirability, Joe is pushed away from separatism simply because he identifies with Canada and thinks highly of it, despite his political grievances. Recent polling data has shown (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-janet-brown-may-2025-poll-separation-sentiment-1.7544074>) roughly a third of Albertans identify mainly as Albertan, a third as Canadian and a final third as both.

However, in our own surveys, Albertans tell us they don't like being forced to choose between these identities. They feel both to some degree. Joe is described in the same way. When he watches the Olympics, he's Team Canada all the way. Joe doesn't care whether Sidney Crosby is from Nova Scotia or Alberta; he just cares that he scored the Golden Goal and reps “our” colours.

“Many participants expressed that they viewed separatism less as a genuine desire to leave Canada and more as a bargaining tool. They preferred that the federal government negotiate and reach an agreement that would leave Albertans better off financially, rather than take on the risks and uncertainties of pursuing independence” — Chino Nwachukwu, Common Ground research assistant

Joe also doesn't think separatism is practical. While he might see it as a valuable leverage point (though he rejects the idea of "blackmail"), participants usually didn't think he would find it feasible. Going further, they often thought Joe would find separatism too risky to support.

"Joe might talk somewhat positively with his friends about separatism, but when push comes to shove, he'd back Canada over Alberta. Oftentimes the reason is simply prudential: he is a family man (whatever that might look like) with local commitments, whose first job is to protect his lot in life.... He wants a better place in Canada and wouldn't get himself in a position where he'd be putting that ideal at material risk." - Samuel Clark, visiting PhD student with Common Ground

## More about our approach

To gather our findings, our research team drove over 4,068 kilometres across Alberta this summer. We conducted 21 focus group sessions with nearly 200 Albertans, visiting Edmonton, St. Albert, St. Paul, Lloydminster, Lethbridge, Hanna, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche and Fort McMurray.

Starting with a shared picture of the "typical Albertan," our focus groups then explored how this person views politics, particularly separatism. We had two sets of focus groups, splitting six activities between them. Below, I break down each activity and the insights from it.

1. **Real Time Reactions:** Participants responded to real quotes about separatism and identity, exploring how the typical Albertan would react to both the message and the messenger. People generally thought the typical Albertan would agree with the quotes expressing resentment and alienation about how Alberta is being treated, but often found the quotes from separatist leaders to be over the top. Near universally, participants do not think Joe trusts politicians as messengers.
2. **Think, Say, Do:** Participants were shown scenarios and asked what the typical Albertan would think, say and do in each case. What became clear from this exercise is that Joe doesn't want to engage in politics — he doesn't have the time or energy. He might think something, but typically won't engage unless it's serious or affects him or his loved ones directly.
3. **Mapping Canada and the U.S.:** Participants divided a blank map into five or so regions and described how the typical Albertan sees and feels about those places. Joe almost always began with Alberta, sometimes extending to Saskatchewan and Northern B.C. The rest of B.C. was usually dismissed as a left-wing vacation spot, while Joe felt a general warmth toward the East Coast. Ontario and Quebec were almost always cast as entitled elites. And the U.S. typically didn't get detailed, except as favourite travel destinations or with a nod to the Midwest and Texas.
4. **Proud To Be:** Participants watched short clips about Canada, Alberta and separatism and voted whether the typical Albertan would feel proud, neutral or ashamed. These revealed

that Joe's identity, particularly his identification with Canada, is deeply rooted and<sup>87</sup> emotional. While he agrees with the goals of some separatist leaders, he wants more nuance in their arguments and doesn't tend to agree with aggressively pro-separatist arguments.

5. **Wouldn't It Be Nice If:** Participants completed the phrase, "When it comes to Alberta separatism, wouldn't it be nice if..." from the perspective of the typical Albertan, using cards tied to different groups (e.g., Canadians, the premier, the prime minister). The picture that emerged from this activity is that Joe wants Alberta to be more appreciated by the rest of Canada, the media and federal leaders. He generally thinks Alberta Premier Danielle Smith gets it right and that separatists go a bit too far.
6. **Where Do We Go From Here:** Participants placed pins on a grid to show how likely and desirable the typical Albertan would find three different future scenarios for Alberta (staying in Canada, independence, joining the U.S.). Overwhelmingly, participants thought that Joe would view remaining in Canada as both likely and desirable. Alberta's independence was a more mixed prospect, being mainly viewed as unlikely but still somewhat desirable. Joe was flat out against Alberta joining the U.S. in the eyes of almost all participants, with perceived likelihood also being low. As one participant summarized, "Washington is even further than Ottawa."

Through these activities and our opening and closing discussions, we got a rich picture of how people see the typical Albertan, their views on politics and separatism in particular. In doing so, we were able to understand the deep story (<https://onbeing.org/programs/arlief-hochschild-the-deep-stories-of-our-time/>) behind the polling.

## Closing thoughts

The conclusion from our research is clear: the typical Albertan doesn't want to separate but gets why others do. Supporting separatism isn't mainstream, though being curious about it is. The bridge between those viewpoints is not a long one.

We have to take separatism seriously, especially as recent changes in provincial legislation have made (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-is-changing-the-rules-to-make-referendums-easier-here-s-how-1.7534041>) a citizen-initiated referendum likely in the near future, and some political elites appear to be stoking separatist flames for leverage, or at least doing little to assuage these sentiments.

In our travels across Alberta, I witnessed the vast diversity and beauty of our province. Alberta's landscape ranges from the grasslands and Badlands in the south to the Rockies in the west to the boreal forest in the north and the prairies in the east. Even that description


obscures the variation across this place. This variation came up frequently in our sessions. Most people, when asked, drew a fairly similar Albertan. But, a significant minority of people expressed how hard it was to hone in on one.

It's because there isn't one way to be an Albertan. There are many. And while a lot of us have a picture in our heads of what a typical Albertan believes, says, does and looks like, it often misses the mark.

There is a gap between who Albertans are and who we think we are. This has huge implications for our politics, including on separatism (<https://cground.substack.com/p/who-is-the-most-typical-albertan>) .

The discussions that lingered after our focus groups demonstrated to me that a lot of Albertans don't feel fully represented in Alberta, but they want to be. It's on each of us and our political leaders to better articulate the plurality of what it means to be an Albertan. No one group of people living here owns that identity.

Finally, I want to say a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in our focus groups and everyone who made them possible. As one participant said in giving feedback, "The time slipped away quickly and I left feeling renewed optimism for Alberta's political future."

I feel the same way. 

## See the 2025 Writers' Trust Winner Live



([https://chancentre.com/events/leanne-betasamosake-simpson/?](https://chancentre.com/events/leanne-betasamosake-simpson/?utm_source=tyee)

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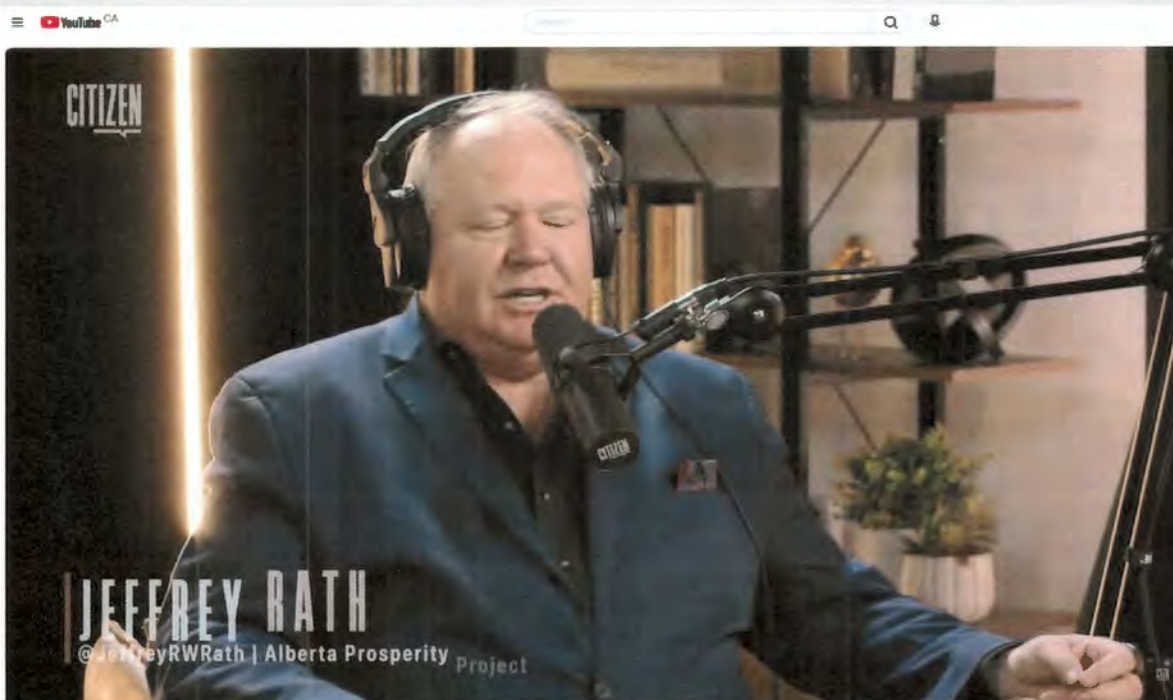
Leanne Betasamosake Simpson. Photo by Zahra Siddiqui.

Winner of Canada's largest prize for non-fiction for *Theory of Water*, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson is a Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg author, musician and scholar.

In *Theory of Water*, Simpson artfully weaves Nishnaabeg stories with her own thoughts and lived experience — and offers a vision of water as a catalyst for transformation, today and into our shared future.

Whether onstage or on the page, Simpson invites audiences into layered worlds where Indigenous ways of knowing become powerful acts of resilience, care and opportunity.

See one of this country's most compelling and awarded writers live at the Chan Centre on Jan. 29. Get your tickets here ([https://chancentre.com/events/leanne-betasamosake-simpson/?](https://chancentre.com/events/leanne-betasamosake-simpson/?utm_source=tyee)  
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**Inside Alberta's Independence Movement**

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55,572 views Premiered Nov 14, 2025 **CALGARY**

Alberta independence: is it a fantasy... or the only realistic path to prosperity? Mitch Sylvestre and Jeffrey Rath, two leaders from the Alberta Prosperity Project, join the show to argue that Ottawa is actively harming Albertians and that negotiated fixes are political theatre.

We dig into their plan, the 'day one' promises, and the economics they claim would supercharge industry—from cheap power to LNG and AI hubs. We also get into the hard stuff: how to handle CPP, passports, borders, currency, trade, and Indigenous rights.

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Alberta Prosperity Project: [https://albertaprospertyproject.com/...](https://albertaprospertyproject.com/)

#Albertaindependence #AlbertaProsperityProject #CitizenPodcast #CanadianPolitics #canada

Here's a clean chapter list with only the "big topics" (start times shown). Use these as YouTube chapters or podcast markers.

- 00:00 — "Why support a gov't that hurts you?" (opening challenge)
- 00:16 — "No more 'better deal'—pure path to independence"
- 02:32 — APP claims 250k pledges; path to referendum
- 03:08 — "Independence is survival, not politics"

**This is Exhibit "11" to the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me on January 14, 2026**

*Tina Kapo*

**TINA KAPPO**  
 A Commissioner for Oaths  
 in and for Alberta  
 My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
 Appointee No. 0721854



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*Tina Kappo*

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A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 20~~26~~<sup>27</sup>  
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**ALBERTA  
PROSPERITY  
PROJECT – RED  
DEER 2025-06-09  
(P1)**



**ALBERTA  
PROSPERITY  
PROJECT –  
QUESTIONS –  
RED DEER 2025-  
06-09 (P2)**



**IS ALBERTA  
SEPARATION  
VIABLE?**



**ALBERTA  
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QUESTIONS?  
ANSWERS WITH  
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**ALBERTA'S EXIT**



**ALBERTA'S EXIT :  
CLOSER THAN  
YOU THINK?**



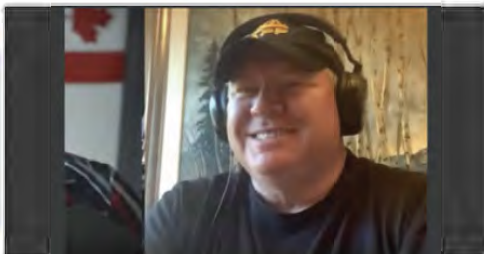
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**#844 – ALBERTA  
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PROJECT**



**ALBERTA IS  
ALREADY  
MOVING TOWARD  
INDEPENDENCE...**



**IS ALBERTA  
FINALLY  
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LAWYER TALKS  
THROUGH  
REFERENDUM**



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## Alberta Prosperity Project

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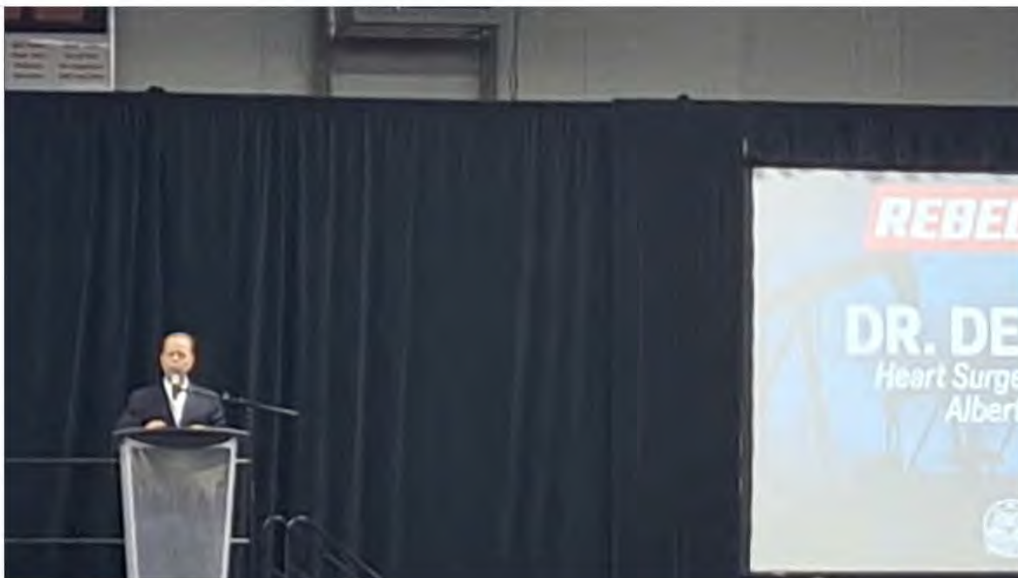
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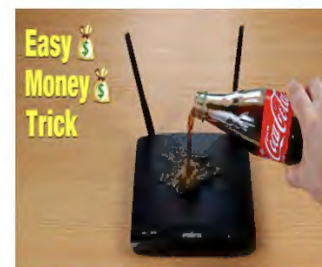
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My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854



# Canadians are 'fed up,' says Alberta lawyer leading delegation to Washington for statehood talks

By Madison Colombo

Published March 06, 2025

Fox News

A Canadian lawyer is leading efforts to explore the possibility of Alberta joining the U.S., as President Donald Trump continues to push for closer ties with Canada's energy-rich province.

"There's literally hundreds of Albertans that are reaching out and volunteering to join our delegation," Jeffrey Rath said Thursday on "FOX & Friends."

Rath and a small group of Albertans are planning to travel to Washington, D.C., to discuss potential pathways for Alberta, including independence with economic ties to the U.S., territorial status, or full statehood.

He believes the movement will gain traction as dissatisfaction with Canada's federal leadership grows.

## CANADIAN PREMIER THREATENS TO CUT OFF ENERGY TO US IN RESPONSE TO TRUMP TARIFFS: 'THEY NEED TO FEEL THE PAIN'

"It's a steering committee of people that are looking to come to Washington on an exploratory basis and meet with a representative appointed by President Trump," Rath explained.

"To explore the benefits of either Alberta becoming an independent sovereign nation with economic union to the United States, becoming a U.S. territory, or pursuing full statehood."

Rath argues that Alberta, home to 4.9 million people and a major hub for oil, manufacturing, and construction, has little in common with Canada's political elite.

"They've completely lost their way," he said, criticizing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration.

This is Exhibit "14" to the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me on January 14, 2026

**TINA KAPPO**  
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta  
My Commission expires April 16, 2026  
Appointee No. 0721854





Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, and President Donald Trump held a recent phone call, according to the White House. (Getty Images)

"Trudeau and [former Bank of Canada Governor Mark] Carney, you know, are all wringing their hands over tariffs. They're going to be kicking Albertans in the teeth and bringing in a 21% carbon tax increase in April."

Rath claims that Albertans feel alienated from Ottawa's policies and share more cultural and economic ties with Montana than with the rest of Canada.

#### **TOP CANADIAN OFFICIAL SLAMS TRUMP FOR TARIFF PLAN AS TRUDEAU LEAVES OFFICE: 'YOU LOSE PROSPERITY'**

"People in Alberta are fed up with being governed by idiotic politicians back in Ontario, that do not understand our province and do not understand that culturally, we're far more closely affiliated with our friends to the south in Montana, than we are with all of the people in Ottawa," he said.

Canadian leaders have rejected the notion of Alberta leaving the country. Trudeau reaffirmed Canada's sovereignty, telling reporters there is "not a snowball's chance in hell that Canada will ever be the 51st state."

Rath, however, believes Alberta should have the right to choose its own future. He and other local leaders are drafting a proposal to present to Trump's administration, urging the U.S. to support Alberta's push for self-determination.

#### **[CLICK HERE TO GET THE FOX NEWS APP](#)**

"Please support Alberta self-determination. Promise that to Alberta in the same way you promised it to Greenland. We'll be an excellent partner to the United States and we'll all prosper," Rath said.

Madison is a writer for Fox News Digital on the Flash team.

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<https://www.foxnews.com/media/canadians-fed-up-says-alberta-lawyer-leading-delegation-washington-statehood-talks>

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## EXCLUSIVE: Alberta delegates head to D.C. for statehood

written by Jeff Rath • Published: March 6, 2025 • Updated: May 25, 2025



This is Exhibit "15" to the Affidavit of Sheldon Sunshine Affirmed before me on January 14, 2026

*Tina Kappo.*

### TINA KAPPO

A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

My Commission expires April 16, 2027  
Appointee No. 0721854



“On Rachel Parker, Rachel is joined by Alberta lawyer Jeffrey Rath who explains efforts to organize delegates to travel to Washington, D.C. and pitch the Trudeau administration on Alberta statehood. Rath responds to criticism that he’s a ‘ explains how regular Albertans can get involved.”



Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef5jAmtFEro>

## Think of this as leverage towards Sovereignty.

A way to encourage discussion around the idea and help open the eyes of those who are o

### Ask:

“What would Alberta have to gain?”

“Who would you rather answer to, Ottawa or Washington?”

“What does this look like for Alberta, regardless of WHO is in government 5, 10, 25 years fr

Share this with your fellow Albertans and encourage them to submit their commitment to v Sovereign Alberta.

It's all worth an open discussion among Albertans and those looking to the future and beyo turmoil.

## WHAT CAN ALBERTANS DO?

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We appreciate all of the support you can give us as we work together for a Free, Prospero Alberta and for all who call Alberta home!

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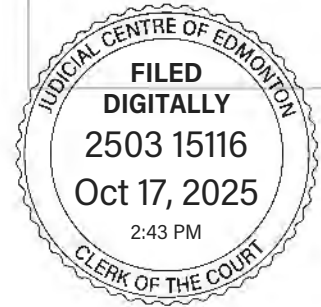
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## APPENDIX 3

COURT FILE NUMBER	2503-15116
COURT	COURT OF KING'S BENCH OF ALBERTA
COURT LOCATION	EDMONTON
APPLICANT	TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA
RESPONDENT / APPLICANT ON ORIGINATING APPLICATION	CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OF ALBERTA
RESPONDENTS / RESPONDENTS ON ORIGINATING APPLICATION	MITCH SYLVESTRE and MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF ALBERTA
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ADDRESS FOR SERVICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF PARTY FILING THIS DOCUMENT	<b>O'KELLY LAW</b> 403-10113, 104 ST NW Edmonton, Alberta, T5W4K1 Phone: 587-525-8348 Counsel: Orlagh J. O'Kelly <a href="mailto:orlagh.okelly@okellylaw.ca">orlagh.okelly@okellylaw.ca</a> Counsel for the Applicant

Clerk's Stamp

**Form 49**  
*Alberta Rules of Court*  
Rule 13.19



### AFFIDAVIT OF BILLY-JOE TUCCARO

Sworn on October 16, 2025

#### **I, Billy-Joe Tuccaro, of Mikisew Cree First Nation, in the Province of Alberta, SWEAR AND SAY THAT:**

1. Since October 8, 2022, I have been the elected Chief of Mikisew Cree First Nation. I have personal knowledge of the matters to which I hereinafter affirm, except where stated to be based on information and belief, in which case I believe them to be true.
2. Mikisew Cree First Nation (“MCFN”) has a registered population of approximately 3000 members. Our ancestors entered into Treaty No. 8 in 1899 at Fort Chipewyan. Treaty 8 is a sacred covenant of a special government-to-government relationship.
3. Our Nation is the largest in the oil sands area. We have suffered disproportionate impacts from industrial development, authorized by Alberta, including on our peoples’ health. Since

elected, I have committed to defend our Treaty and protect our peoples' way of life that was promised under Treaty No. 8.

4. We have nine reserves throughout what is now northern Alberta. Our Peace Point reserve is in the Wood Buffalo National Park which is federal Crown land co-managed by Parks Canada and, to an increasing degree, Mikisew Cree First Nation. WBNP includes Lake Claire and Mamawi Lake. These lakes are the heart of the Peace Athabasca Delta (“PAD”) and our homeland. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “A”** is a copy of the WBNP map, also available here: <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/nt/woodbuffalo/visit/brochures>.
5. I have reviewed the interviews from the Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research (“TARR”) Department project from MCFN Elders, most of whom have now passed on. These interviews are one record of our oral histories. Almost all of these interviews mention the promise of Treaty 8 that it would last as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow and grasses grow. They also affirm our oral understanding that we only agreed to share the land to the depth of a plough, i.e., “six inches”. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “B”** is the transcription of Fred Courtoreille which is one example of these oral histories.
6. Another MCFN elder, Fred Gibot, provided a lengthy interview, which cannot be included in whole with this affidavit. Gibot referred to WBNP as our land as follows: “The Wood Buffalo Park is our land. This is where we grew up; where we are now is not our land. When the white people want to fish in the Park they ask permission.” Gibot was asked the following:

*R. Lightning: That land which you say is yours, does it enter the Park boundary?*

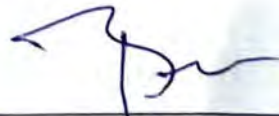
*Mr. Gibot: Yes, our land was made to be part of the Park. It is like something sitting in the middle of a plate.[ ...]”*
7. Another member Billy Simpson, interviewed on February 7, 1974, explained further. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “C”** is a copy of Billy Simpson’s transcribed oral history.
8. Now, our community lives primarily outside the WBNP and around the hamlet of Fort Chipewyan on two reserves. This is on the edge of Lake Athabasca, which is bisected by the Alberta-Saskatchewan border.

9. In 2014-2015, we led a petition to UNESCO to protect the PAD as the foundation for our peoples' way of life. We have successfully advocated for a WBNP Action Plan that involves the federal and provincial governments taking action.
10. With the heart of our territory in WBNP, MCFN's territory also spans into Saskatchewan (like Lake Athabasca) and over the border into the most southern part of the Northwest Territories.
11. Under Canadian law, because of Treaty No. 8, we are "aboriginal peoples" within the meaning of section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and "bands" within the meaning of the *Indian Act, RSC 1985, c 1-5* (the "*Indian Act*"). We hold and exercise inherent, aboriginal and Treaty rights which are protected under section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
12. When our people entered Treaty 8, Cree (*néhiyaw*) laws and governance systems operated. These laws informed the Cree (*néhiyaw*) understanding of Treaty. Through our oral histories and consultation with our members, we have understood that Treaty 8 tied us together with non-Indigenous partners in a relationship with the Crown as our relations.
13. Our Cree government requires the Crown to carry forward the obligations and benefits of the treaty relationship, and to represent non-Indigenous people in Treaty 8. Because of this understanding of the Treaty relationship, Cree governments have even contested the transfer of treaty obligations from the British Crown to the Canadian government, and in turn to Alberta in 1905 and over our lands and resources in 1930.
14. I make this affidavit in support of SLCN and MCFN's intervention.

AFFIRMED before me at Edmonton,  
 in the Province of Alberta, this 16th day of  
 October, 2025.

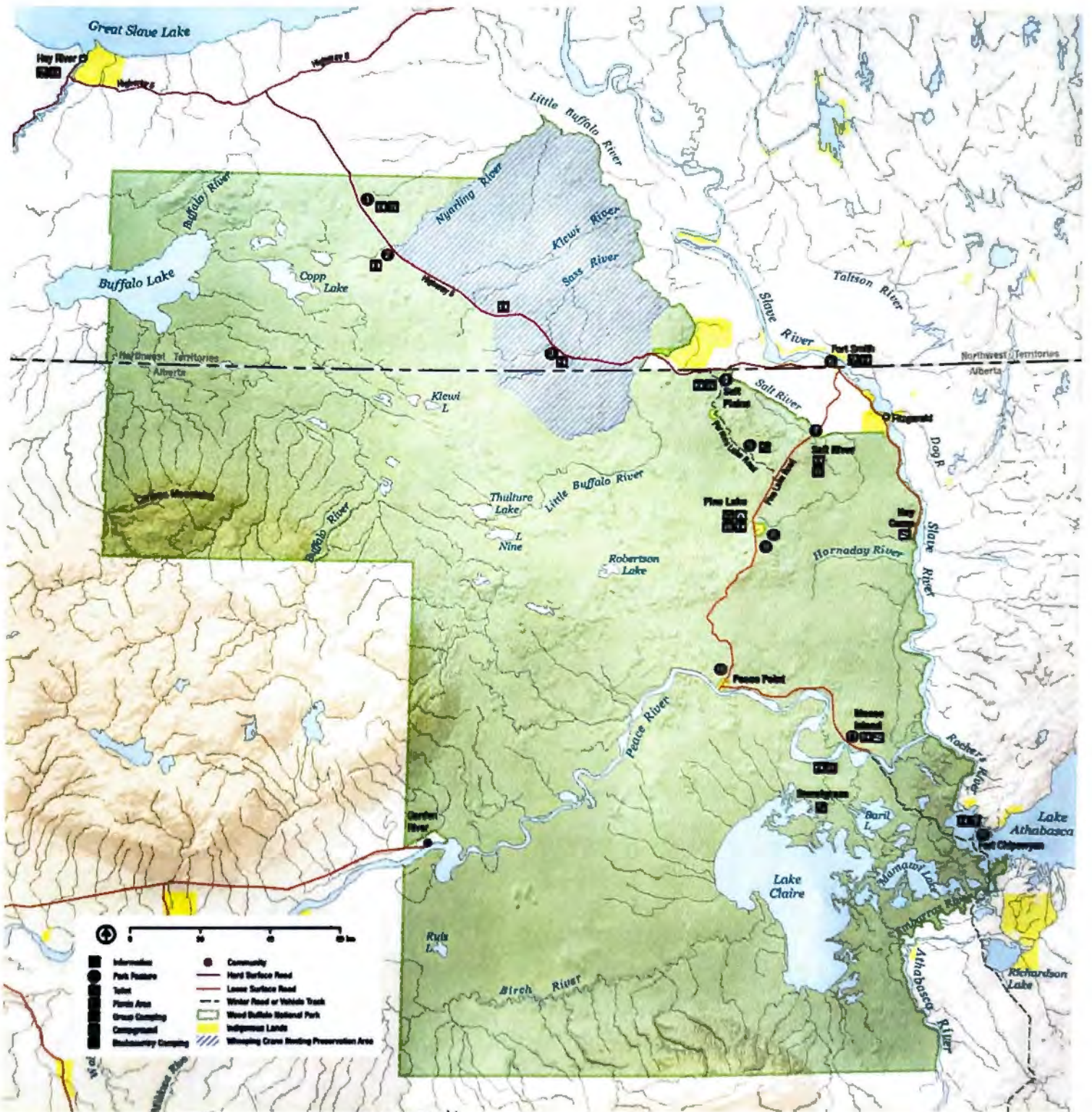


Commissioner for Oaths, Justice of the  
 Peace or Notary Public in and for Alberta



Billy-Joe Tuccaro

Barrister + Solicitor  
 Orlagh O'Kelly



This is Exhibit "A" to the  
 Affidavit of Billy-Joe Tuccaro  
 sworn before me at Edmonton Alberta  
 on October 20th, 2025

Name: Fred Courtourelle  
Location: Bigstone Band  
Interviewed by: Dave Capot, Dan McLean  
Transcribed by: Lawrence Courtourelle

Dave + Dan  
not there  
Lawrence  
conducted  
interview

This is Exhibit "B" to the  
Affidavit of Billy-Joe Tucame  
sworn before me at  
Edmonton, Alberta on  
October 16, 2025



---

Barrister + Solicitor  
Orlagh O'Kelly

Fred Courtoreille

*Fort Chip*

Answer: I will tell my story, as far back as I can remember since the war story in 1918. About my father of how, he worked, and travelled with the Indian Agent. How the people were promised that is how he knew of this. The first treaty that was to be made, the Indian Agent came and the people. There were many red coats, about 500, that he came with. His name was Alexander Kastawekam from Manitoba. That was where I was scared, my dad said, but anyway there were lots of Indians also on one side, and they had guns and ammunition, and so did the red coats. They had the preparation, just in case the Indian Chief said a wrong word, and then hell would break out. The Chief stood with 4 councillors beside him and someone came forward, said that the Indian Agent has four red coats standing beside him also. He also had a sword around his waist and the Indian also had a knife. Then they shook hands, and the Chief promised that he would give his land, for they were after him for four days to sign treaty. But I will not give you my land, so you can farm the land. I will only give you six inches deep of the land, that is how much I can give, if you are willing to stay with the bargain. Then I will take your \$5.00, he said. Then the Indian Agent said, I am very glad you have said to me, and I will promise you, for as long as the sun shines and the rivers runs and also the grass grow. When the sun stops and the rivers stop flowing and the grass stops growing, that my law will change. That is what he was told.

*Not complete -  
1287 - description*

Name: Billy Simpson  
 Location: Fort Chipewyan  
 Interviewed by: J. Deranger  
 Transcribed by: J. Deranger  
 Date Interviewed: February 7, 1974  
 Age: 63

*This is Exhibit "C"  
 to the Affidavit of  
 Billy-Joe Tucearo  
 sworn before me on  
 October 16, 2025  
 at Edmonton Alberta*

J.D.: What is your name?

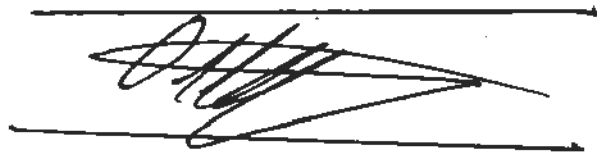
B.S.: My name is Billy Simpson

J.D.: How old are you?

B.S.: I am 63 years old.

J.D.: Were you born in Fort Chip?

B.S.: No, I was born in Fort McKay.



J.D.: Your grandfather or your dad, did they mention to you of how the treaty was signed? Can you tell me all that you can recollect from the recollections of the people that told you of how this treaty was signed?

*Barrister &  
 Solicitor  
 Oragh O'Kell*

B.S.: Traditionally, our people, young and old, when our people mentioned to them of what concerned them as an important matter, they listened because it was a matter of importance. That is what I was taught to do is listen and when my father talked to us about the treaty, I listened attentively to my father. "When I first heard about the treaty, it was from my father," he had told me. "The people who were white were the commissioners who came to make the treaty with us. At that time, we didn't have an official head man of any kind since we were always not in a group, we attended to our own privileges of support for our families. Yet we were able to choose from the people gathered before the actual negotiations, a man with considerable understanding of the concepts of negotiations. He was called Jonas Martin, an elder. So the people had chosen him to represent us since we were convinced that he could negotiate our demands.

The commissioner was explaining the terms of the treaty," "if we wanted to take the treaty money" to the elder."

Martin said, "If we take this treaty money, you will perhaps eventually take away our land from us, since you are using the treaty money as a gimmick."

Commissioner said, "No, we will not take your land in exchange for the treaty money. It was the Queen who has given you this money because she had heard from informative sources that you people were desperately struggling to survive from the land with considerable hardships. She has heard that the people of this region were starving. That is the real reason why she has sent this money, so you can make a living from

L  
 E

Billy Simpson

- 2 -

outside sources that will prevent you from going about your daily activities, fishing, trapping and hunting for a living. No restrictions of any kind will interfere with your way of life. You can trap, fish, and hunt in any area you wish. You are free to go about your lifestyles." Martin said, "If we take this treaty money, perhaps this money that you are so desperately trying to give us keep us from our present lifestyle. Perhaps from this money, as a gimmick, will prevent us from trapping, fishing and hunting. Perhaps we will not be as free to do as we wish."

Commissioner: No, that's not the reason. Even if you take this money, your lifestyle will not be curtailed by any regulations, As long as the sun shines and the river flows we will not make regulations that will restrict you from trapping, fishing and hunting, as long as those elements that I have described are functioning, forever you are free to do as you wish. Even those, the migration of many white people into this country, they will not even take a blade of grass from you. They will not even chop a branch from your land.

Martin: The terms that you have described to us, that there will be no restrictions of any kind to our lifestyles, no curtailment to prevent us from trapping, hunting and fishing, as you say, "as long as the sun shines and the river flows" and forever. Then we will take the treaty money.

After the treaty was signed, there was a big pow-wow.

After the first World War we Indians started migrating into the settlement of Fort Chipewyan. Many young Indians were placed in the mission that was run by the Roman Catholic Church. I was one of those young people. I was probably 12 years old then when my father took me out of the mission, when I was able to understand and reason for myself. It was then my father had told me of the way the treaty was signed and I have told you all I can recollect concerning the way the treaty was signed.

It was shortly after this that we decided to take a reserve for means of trapping, fishing and hunting. My father was then a councillor with Chief Cowen. When the treaty was made, as I told you, that there was to be a migration of white people into the area, there will be probably many remembering that this is why we decided to take a reserve for our means of trapping, fishing and hunting.

It was also said in the agreed terms, that we can set aside a reserve for trapping, hunting and fishing which pertains to our way of living. The area that we choose as land will not be bounded by miles and acres. We are free to take the territory according to our demands of taking, since we are close to nature and the wildlife that roam the land have no established boundaries.

Our forefathers were told by the commissioner to take land as large as they wish.

It was on these terms that when my father was councillor with Chief Cowen.

The land at that time that was asked by the Indians at that time, wish to take for a reserve had an unlimited boundary.

At the point of Little Rapids to Peace Point to a point south of Fort Smith across the river to Peace Point running in a southerly direction to the west of Lake Claire about 2.5 or 5 miles into the interior to Birch Mountain from there running in an easterly direction including land alongside of Lake Claire and Mamawi back into the interior to

about 20 miles, running to a point that intersects, the Ebarras River, running in a northerly direction to the point of origin.

Now the cited territory at that time was too large for the government to grant to the Indians.

Now looking at the treaty again, the government clearly stated that the site for a reserve that the people wish to choose will be granted to them, but as we Indians had chosen the site, they appear not wanting to accept their part of the treaty agreement.

It was just too large a reserve according to the government.

As we keep asking for the reserve to this very day, the boundaries of the original reserve kept getting smaller and smaller. Now we don't even think that the two sites are large enough to maintain our way of life.

Looking again at the treaty, there was no mention of miles or acres to a person. We were told to choose land that will maintain our way of life. The question of miles and acres was not mentioned. Taking into considerations into account of this land, we wish to take as a reserve was mentioned to us when I first left the mission.

Traditionally we were always the original inhabitants of the territory we wish to take as a reserve, since it pertains to our traditional lifestyle. The inhabitants who inhabited the territory were there 100 years before I was born. All the territory that I have previously mentioned belonged to the Cree nation of that time, since they had maintained their way of life in the territory we wish as a reserve. I know from historic facts, we are the original owners of that land. In that traditional lifestyle, no one was staggering around as they do today because of drinking. They lived in their traditional lifestyle of hunting, trapping and fishing. They only time they even came to the settlement of Fort Chipewyan was when they came to get their treaty money along with the provisions, tea, bacon, tobacco, bullets and lead to make buckshot.

They then immediately went back to their traditional ways, of fishing and hunting, till early fall. They once again came back to Fort Chipewyan to get supplies, for the winter trapping.

They don't come back to the settlement until Christmas. After Christmas they returned back in their ways of living off the land till early spring to get some supplies for the summer months. Traditionally, our forefathers had raised their children by this means of lifestyle, from fishing, hunting and trapping.

Since we are the original inhabitants of the land, we have the aboriginal rights to the land. The land was inhabited by Chipewyans and Crees. The Indians did not go beyond the imaginative boundaries. They trapped hunted and fished in the area that they were quite familiar with.

J.D.: The people lived at Catfish camping site?

B.S.: Yes, they lived at the Catfish camping site. They had lived in two other areas also, Little Rapids and Sweetgrass which is now the Wood Buffalo National Park before the Park was even there. As a young man I had hunted ducks and fished for a living. Then there were no buffaloes and white men.

J.D.: Now that we have three locations of where the Indians lived, how far north, east, south and west did they trap, hunt and fish?

B.S.: Where at the present times Snowbird lives along in a southwesterly direction from the community of Fort Chipewyan approximately 35 miles.

The people had trapped, hunted and fished around Lake Clair and Mamawi as far back into the interior to the Birch Mountains. The people who lived at Little Rapids had also trapped, hunted and fished around Lake Clair back into the interior as far back to the Birch Mountain and Birch River.

We lived at Jackfish Creek. We hunted, trapped and fished up to the Cariboo Mountains. Also from Peace Point, we trapped and hunted to the Cariboo Mountains.

J.D.: How far north did these people living in this area trap and hunt towards the north? L H

B.S.: Some of the people living around Peace Point and Jackfish Creek had trapped and hunted and fished in a northerly direction as far as Fort Smith. The people from Fort Smith had also hunted, trapped and fished in a southerly direction. The two groups of people had at times met each other in the wilderness. I must also mention the fact that the people from Fort Smith had also trapped and hunted in a westerly direction as far as Cariboo Mountains.

J.D.: You have told me some of the most important points concerning aboriginal rights. If you have any more important points to tell me, I will tape them.

B.S.: What I have told you was mentioned to me by my father. Other than that we considered as important, I can't think of any. But how I raised my children was by means of trapping, hunting and fishing. My youngest boy is now 19 years old. I have raised him by means of hunting, trapping and fishing till he was 11 years of age. There was no welfare at that time. I had raised my family by means of trapping, hunting and fishing. Many families have also raised their family the same way I did.

Therefore the land that we inhabit is rightfully ours. It doesn't belong to the buffalo and it doesn't belong to the white people since we are the original inhabitants of the land. We have the aboriginal rights of the land to claim as ours. It belongs to both the Cree tribe and the Chipewyan tribe. L H

J.D.: In 1922 the government was made aware of the fact that the Indians of Fort Chipewyan had wanted a reserve for hunting, trapping and fishing. The land that is now Wood Buffalo National Park south of the Peace River in 1922 was not yet a Park, it only became a park in 1926. Was this mentioned to you by any of the elders? L H

B.S.: One elder had told me of this. His name was Pierre Whitehead. He was a chief. The land was loaned to the government for the buffaloes. This was mentioned to me by Philip Gibot. It seemed to me that the land was given to them, but apparently it was just loaned to them. After 5 years, the population of the buffalo grew in size. It was at this time the government (federal) had, as the provincial government for the land south of the Peace River and north of the Peace River is the old buffalo park, the provincial government has also loaned the federal government the land south of the Peace River for the Wood Buffalo National Park. Now that land is also filled with buffalo as far as the 27th base line.

J.D.: I thank you for the important information that you have given us.

COURT FILE NUMBER 2503-151116

COURT COURT OF KING'S BENCH OF ALBERTA

JUDICIAL CENTRE EDMONTON

APPLICANT CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OF ALBERTA

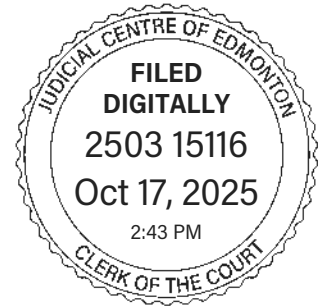
RESPONDENTS MITCH SYLVESTRE and MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF ALBERTA

INTERVENERS STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION and MIKISEW CREE FIRST NATION

DOCUMENT AFFIDAVIT OF DR. DARCY LINDBERG

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 T: 587 525 8348  
 Counsel for the Intervenors

Clerk's Stamp



**AFFIDAVIT OF DR. DARCY LINDBERG**  
**Affirmed on October 17, 2025**

**I, Darcy Lindberg, of Victoria, British Columbia, AFFIRM THAT:**

1. I am an assistant professor at the University of Victoria. I hold a PhD from the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria, and my area of expertise is nêhiyaw (Cree) law and governance, nêhiyaw treaty making, and Indigenous laws generally.
2. My previous and current research is focused on nêhiyaw (Cree) law, nêhiyaw treaty making, the relationship between nêhiyaw law and the Canadian constitution, and ecological governance practices through Indigenous laws generally. My master thesis explored ceremonies and nêhiyaw governance. My doctoral research focused on nêhiyaw constitutional and legal traditions in an ecological context and their implication on the treaty relationship between Canada and the nêhiyawak (Cree people). Aside from my thesis and dissertation I have written

various academic articles and book chapters on *nêhiyaw* law specifically and Indigenous laws generally.

Through my academic work I have developed several courses involving *nêhiyaw* law. This includes a course that comparatively examines *nêhiyaw* constitutional traditions and Canadian constitutional law, a course on Indigenous treaties and treaty making, and a course on Indigenous legal orders and ecological governance. Attached as **Exhibit “1”** to this affidavit is a list of education and academic work relevant to this area of expertise.

3. On October 1, 2025, I agreed to be retained by O’Kelly Law as an expert witness to provide, in the short time frame available, the research and context on the following:

- a. The relationship between the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree, including around Treaty.
- b. The Cree (*nêhiyaw*) laws and governance systems that operated at the time of Treaty-making in 1876 and 1899.
- c. Based on these laws and governance systems, the Cree understanding of the Treaty relationship.
- d. Does Cree law and/or governance systems contemplates how the Treaty relationship may be altered or amended?

4. In this affidavit, I am focusing on these legal principles within Cree law: *wâhkôtowin*, *wîtaskêwin*, *pâstâhowin* and *pâstâmowin* and their roles in legitimizing and structuring treaty making by Cree peoples in Treaty 6 and Treaty 8. For ease of review, I will primarily use the term *Cree* for *nêhiyaw* but acknowledge both can be used interchangeably.

5. I certify that I am aware of my duty as an expert witness to assist the Court and not to be an advocate for any party. I have made this affidavit and have given this written testimony in conformity with that duty. If I am called to give further testimony, it will be in conformity with that duty.

**PART A: The legal, cultural and social relationship between the Plains Cree and the Woodland Cree**

6. The Plains Cree (paskwâwiyiniw) and the Woodland Cree (sakâwiyiniw) are distinct but interrelated sub societies of the Cree (or the nêhiyawak) in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Plains Cree inhabit the southern to central part of the province of Alberta. The Woodland Cree inhabit the northern areas of Alberta. While the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree are recognized as distinctive, individual sub-societies of the nêhiyawak, there are shared legal, cultural, and linguistic practices between the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree. Aside from shared cultural, legal, and linguistic practices, the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree also have parallel and often intertwined histories. Both speak the same dialect of nêhiyawewin, or the Cree language. They also share laws, rules, principles and practices that structure the Cree legal system and Cree governance generally.

7. While distinctions between the sub-societies are often made on geography, in many areas there is no bright distinction between the Woodland Cree and the Plains Cree, in terms of political and legal identity or citizenship. In particular, the area near the border of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 territory have historically and contemporarily been a mixed Plains Cree/Woodland Cree territory.

8. Cree law (nêhiyaw wiyasowewina), Cree culture and Cree social practices have all ensured deep relationships between the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree, as they are modeled on a fluid kinship structure. This means that the Woodland Cree and Plains Cree societies have always been intermarried and thus have long-lasting kinships between each sub-society. The term ‘tribe’ – historically ascribed to First Nations in Canada - does not reflect how Cree Nations are complex in ethnic, linguistic, social, and cultural make up. As Rob Innes notes:

“The non-specific definitions of “tribe” are problematic because of “the confounded idea that a tribe is at one and the same time, an ethnic unit, a linguistic unit, a territorial co-residence unit, a cultural unit and societal unit. ... Seldom are these units discretely bounded and correlative in membership composition.” (Innes, 2012 at 126).

9. Fluid kinship, rather than political identity or ethnic unity, is the defining feature of Cree social ordering. As Patricia Albers notes:

“The historical situation of the Plains Cree, Assiniboine and the Ojibwa did not conform to typical tribal models where territories were divided, claimed and

defended by discrete ethnic groups, nor did it fit descriptions in which political allegiances were defined primarily in exclusive ethnic terms...What appears to have been more important in defining the geopolitics of access to land, labor and resources were social ties based on ties of kinship and sodality in their varied metaphoric extensions and expressions.” (Albers, 1996 at 91).

10. While the placement of the Woodland Cree and Plains Cree on reserves has amplified the artificial binary of the distinctiveness of each sub-society, the practice of fluid kinship between the two has continued since treaty.

11. The fluid kinship between the Woodland Cree and Plains Cree had implications in the lead up to both the making of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8. Each treaty was not made in a vacuum; Cree people had knowledge of treaty making among themselves and generally had knowledge of the treaties that were previously made with the Crown. The fluid kinship between the Woodland Cree and Plains Cree meant that Woodland Cree people were aware of the oral terms and promises made in the creation of Treaty 6. Cree peoples within Treaty 8 territory had knowledge of the terms of Treaty 6 and expected similar terms. J. A. Macrae, Secretary of the Department of Indian Affairs Inspector during the making of Treaty 8, wrote to Treaty commissioner McKenna about this expectation:

“[T]he Wood Crees and halfbreeds around Lesser Slave Lake who are closely connected with some of the Edmonton Indians may be found imbued with an intention to demand all those things which the Crees from the South always claim they were promised, and blame the Government for not embodying in the written treaty, asserting that they were amongst the terms” (McCormack, 2010 at 162).

12. Patricia McCormack notes that treaty knowledge in Treaty 8 from the dealings of Treaty 6 was widespread:

“Treaty No. 8 was negotiated twenty-three years after Treaty No. 6 and fourteen years after the Northwest Rebellion. During this interval, northern Aboriginal people had learned a great deal about how the Government of Canada dealt with treaty Indians and Métis. Many had personal experience through their own travels to Edmonton, St. Albert, and other southern locations. They also learned about conditions in the south from the Métis freighters who travelled regularly between north and south...Northern Aboriginal people knew the terms of Treaty No. 6, whose northern fringe bordered their homeland, as many were personally acquainted with people in that treaty region” (McCormack, 2010 at 162).

13. Despite these impacts of the reserve system and treaty alignment, the practice of fluid kinship between the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree has operated since time immemorial and continues to this day. And despite their contemporary distinctiveness as autonomous political governments, the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Mikisew Cree Nation, and the Onion Lake Cree Nation have shared legal, cultural, political and governmental principles and practices that structure their distinctive day-to-day governmental and inherent governance practices.

14. While distinctions do exist, the making of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 has artificially amplified the distinctiveness of the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree. The continuation of fluid kinship practices since treaty making has ensured a measure of uniformity in Cree legal thought regarding both treaties. So, while Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 may be distinctive treaty events, the lawful basis for Cree people entering either treaty, and the legal and governmental principles that have structured the treaty relationship since, are shared between the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree.

15. As contemporary institutions of Cree governance, First Nation leadership from Treaty 8 and Treaty 6 continue to foster political alliances based on the historic fluid kinship practices. For example, the Onion Lake Cree Nation in Treaty 6 and the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation in Treaty 8 have entered into an alliance to protect, preserve, enhance and advocate for their collective treaty rights. The shared understandings of Cree law with regard to treaty making allow for this alliance.

## **PART A: References**

Robert Alexander Innes. "Multicultural Bands on the Northern Plains and the Notion of 'Tribal' Histories," *In Finding a Way to the Heart: Feminist Writings on Aboriginal and Women's History in Canada*. Eds. Jarvis Brownlie and Valerie Korinek. (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2012) 123-145.

Patricia Albers. "Changing Patterns on Ethnicity in the North Eastern Plains" in *History, Power, and Identity: Ethnogenesis in the Americas, 1492-1992*, ed Jonathon Hil (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1996) 90-188.

Patricia McCormack, *Fort Chipewyan and the shaping of Canadian history, 1788-1920s: we like to be free in this country.*” (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2010)

<https://doi.org/10.59962/9780774816700>

**PART B: Cree (nêhiyaw) law and governance systems in operation during the treaty-making periods of 1876 and 1899.**

16. Nêhiyaw wiyasowewin (Cree law) has been in operation since time immemorial. It has managed the operation of nêhiyaw pimâtisiwin (Cree way of life) and has informed and guided international relations that Cree people have had with other peoples, nations, and states. Cree law managed and guided the making of treaty with the Crown in the events of Treaties 6 and 8. From my research, education and experiences with Cree law, there are distinctive legal principles that guide and structure Cree ways of living. These principles were in operation before, during and after the treaty-making periods of 1876 and 1899, and have been in operation ever since.

**Wâhkôtowin**

17. The primary principle that structures the treaty relationship between Cree peoples and other nations and societies is wâhkôtowin. The common translation for wâhkôtowin is ‘to relate to, or kinship’. It is the overarching law that governs Cree relations on multiple levels. Depending on the contexts of the relationship, wâhkôtowin is in operation in kinship between individual to individual in a family context, between family and family in a Nation, clan, or intersocietal context, and between government to government in a nationhood or inter-societal context. Harold Cardinal, Cree leader from Treaty 8, notes that wâhkôtowin “is one of the most comprehensive doctrines of law among the Cree people and contains a whole myriad of subsets of laws defining the individual and collective relationships of Cree people.” (Cardinal, 2007 at 74) Cardinal also notes that “[t]hese laws establish the principles that govern the conduct and behaviour of individuals within their family environment, within their communities, and with others outside their communities.” (Cardinal, 2007, at 74) Cardinal and Walter Hildebrandt note that wâhkôtowin sets out: “rules and laws that prescribe and proscribe conduct covering a wide range of relationships” and that these rules and laws “are comprehensive in that they contain detailed codes of behaviour, setting out what is prohibited, what is encouraged, the values that are to be respected and followed in each set of relations.” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt, 2000 at 34).

The centering of kinship is vital in the operation of wâhkôtowin as it ensures a proper relationship between two entities.

18. At the time of treaty making (1876 and 1899) wâhkôtowin was the primary governing principle that organized Cree societies, the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree included. The general structure of Cree communities at the time was based on kinship; individual families and larger family clusters made up nations/tribes under the leadership of an *okimaw* (or leader) or *okimawak* (leaders). Wâhkôtowin, with its inherent sub laws and rules, ensured good living in these communities.

19. This government and governance model was recognized in the making of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8. The Cree leaders who negotiated and made Treaty 6 were representing the collection of families that followed their leadership. This is the primary reason that Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 required multiple treaty events in their making. For example, Treaty 6 had two primary signing events at Fort Carleton and Fort Pitt in the fall of 1876, and multiple events of adherence to the treaty by Cree peoples since. Similarly, Treaty 8 required 6 initial events of treaty and multiple events of adherence ever since. This history is reflective of the operation of Cree governance at the time. Governmental authority was spread across an interrelated network of governmental leaders across Cree territory. These governmental leaders were given legitimacy through wâhkôtowin; they were acting as representatives of their kin.

20. Patricia McCormack notes that kinship, or wâhkôtowin, was open and visible as a governance model in Fort Chipewyan in the lead up to Treaty 8:

“People of town and bush were also joined by ties of kinship, marriage, and friendship. They were two halves of a regional population, and then, as now, nearly every person could trace a genealogical relationship to virtually everyone else....Mary Lawrence, who moved to Fort Vermilion with her husband, Fred, in 1898, recalled many instances when Aboriginal people called her by a kinship term: “You see, the Indian considers it bad manners to address anyone by his actual name and avoids this by using some term of family relationship” (Fort Vermilion 2008:20). But this practice was more than good manners; every kinship term denoted a status and an associated role or behaviour.” (McCormack, 2010 at 127).

21. The practice of fictive kinship is often employed when there are no natural familial ties to place individuals or institutions within a kinship order. As McCormack notes:

“Fictive kinship ties articulated other relationships. For example, the men who worked together on the boats called one another *nistow*, the Cree (male-speaking) term for brother-in-law, which implies a cooperative relationship. (McCormack, 2010 at 127).

22. The term fictive kinship has been used to describe government-to-government relations in other treaty relationships. For example, the decision in *Restoule v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2018 ONSC 7701 recognizes the significance of a fictive kinship between the Anishinaabe and the Crown in the making of the Robinson-Huron Treaty and Robinson-Superior Treaty. Fictive kinship is an apt analogy for the Cree-Crown relations via treaty. *Wâhkôtowin*, in a government-to-government context, realizes the analogous elements of the metaphor as it provides material obligations for members of the treaty.

23. And while there are relatively few Cree First Nations that have, today, turned to written constitutions to express and publicize their fundamental laws, *wâhkôtowin* and kinship are recognized as the internal governing structure for those that do. For example, Sawridge First Nation, a Treaty 8 First Nation, acknowledges kinship governance in its written constitution:

“1. Family is the foundation of our Community...

2. We continue to live in family-based communities in the territory which we have occupied since time immemorial.” (Sawridge First Nation, 2025)

### **Wîtaskêwin**

24. A supporting principle of *wâhkôtowin* within Cree law is *wîtaskêwin*. *Wîtaskêwin* translates into ‘living on the land together’ or ‘living in peace together’. Cree elders will often refer to *wîtaskêwin* as neighborliness. Another interpretation of the term is when “peoples establish relationships that are to be governed by the laws of *wâhkôtowin* and which are reflected in the kind of land-sharing arrangements created between the parties.” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt, 2000 at 41)

25. Like *wâhkôtowin*, *wîtaskêwin* guides differing levels of relationships. In a family-to-family context, it ensures a measure of neighborliness that is based on respect, aid, and support

when members of each family require it. In a community-to-community context, it ensures good relations when territories are shared or are bordering each other. In a government-to-government context, it creates firm responsibilities on land-sharing, respect for each government's autonomy, and binds each government a relationship based on political respect and renewal.

26. It is commonly understood among Cree peoples that treaties with the Crown created a relationship based in *wîtaskêwin* as treaty making inherently involves the operation of the principle. The treaties with the British Crown in 1876 and 1899 are not the only examples *wîtaskêwin* from that period. Around 1867, the *nêhiyawak* made treaty with the *niitsitaapi* (Blackfoot peoples) based on *wîtaskêwin*. This treaty event occurred at what is now known as the City of *Wetaskiwin*, whose name memorializes the treaty event.

27. In the Treaty 8 context, Cree peoples were practicing *wîtaskêwin* prior to the treaty with the Crown as well. The ancestors of the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and the Mikisew Cree First Nation utilized the principles of *wîtaskêwin* in treaties with other Indigenous nations. In particular, the ancestors of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation and the Mikisew Cree Nation made treaty with the Dene. (Lamothe, 1996 at 10) The Peace River derives its name from this treaty event. The location of this treaty event is Peace Point, an area within a reserve of Mikisew Cree First Nation. The Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation acknowledges this treaty as part of its history as well (Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, 2025).

### **Pâstâhowin and pâstâmowin**

28. Within Cree law, the breaking of a law, standard or boundary is understood as committing *pâstâhowin*. Its literal translation means to step over a boundary or a “transgression, or breach of natural order” (Wolvengrey, 2011 at 177). *Pâstâhowin*'s common understanding is breaking laws, or transgressing outside of the boundary's individuals, families, societies and governments are entitled to. It is also understood to be “stepping over” or breaking laws against other human beings. (McAdam, 2014 at 43) or “going outside the boundaries you are entitled to.” (Laboucane-Benson et.al, 2012 at 14) In the context of *wâhkôtowin*, it is commonly understood that a person creates a situation of *pâstâhowin* by not fulfilling obligations according to the kinship or relationship they are obligated to.

29. A related principle is pâstâowin. It is thought of as a sub-law of pâstâhowin. Pâstâowin is speech oriented, as it refers to “a verbal law that addresses the use of language against human beings; misfortune provoked specifically by speech” (McAdam, 2014 at 213)

30. In summary, there are various legal principles related to treaty making within nêhiyaw pimatisiwin, the most significant being the principles of wâhkôtowin (the governance and law of being related), wîtaskêwin (living on the land together or neighborliness), pâstâhowin (overstepping boundaries or transgressing a natural order) and pâstâowin (transgressions through speech). These principles are reinforced through their practice within the treaty relationship, through protocol and ceremonies, and are passed down through oral treaty stories and oral traditions generally.

## **PART B: References**

Harold Cardinal, *Nation Building as Process: Reflections of a Nihiyow (Cree)*, DePasquale (ed.), *Natives and Settlers Now and Then* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2007) at page 74.

Harold Cardinal & Walter Hildebrandt, *Treaty Elders of Saskatchewan: Our Dream is That Our Peoples Will One Day Be Clearly Recognized as Nations* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2000) at 34.

Sawridge First Nation, “Constitution of the Sawridge First Nation” (12 October 2025), online (Sawridge First Nation website): <https://sawridgefirstnation.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Sawridge-Constitution.pdf>

Patricia McCormack, *Fort Chipewyan and the shaping of Canadian history, 1788-1920s: “we like to be free in this country.”* (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2010) at 162.  
<https://doi.org/10.59962/9780774816700>

*Restoule v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2018 ONSC 7701, para. 43-44.

Rene M.J Lamothe, “It Was Only a Treaty”: Treaty 11 According to the Dene of the Mackenzie Valley, (12 October 2025), online (Government of Canada):  
[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2017/bcp-pco/Z1-1991-1-41-154-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/bcp-pco/Z1-1991-1-41-154-eng.pdf)

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, “Revealing Roots: Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation’s Historical Journey” (12 October 2025), online (Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation website):  
<https://www.sturgeonlake.ca/history/>

Arok Wolvengrey, *nêhiyawêwin:itwêwina: Cree to English, English to Cree Dictionary* (Regina: University of Regina Press, 2011) at 177.

Sylvia Saysewahum McAdam, *Nationhood Interrupted: Revitalizing Nêhiyaw Legal Systems* (Saskatoon: Purich Publishing, 2014)

Patti Laboucane-Benson et. al, “Are we Seeking Pimâtisiwin or Creating Pomewin? Implications for Water Policy” 3:3 *International Indigenous Policy Journal* 1 at 14

**PART C: Cree law and governance and the treaty relationship:**

31. In my opinion, the operation of legal principles described above created a governmental kinship between the Crown and Cree peoples during the making of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8, based primarily on the principle of wâhkôtowin. Cree governments have relied upon and have acted in obligation to this governmental kinship since. This governmental relationship is supported by wîtaskêwin. As these legal principles apply to Crown-Cree governmental relations through treaty, there is an overarching obligation to not commit pâstâhowin or pâstâmowin in the treaty relationship.

32. In my experience and research, this is a commonly held and widespread understanding that a governmental kinship obligates the Crown to these principles. Wâhkôtowin sets the bounds of this relationship, as Harold Cardinal notes:

“When we talk about treaty, for example, from a Cree perspective, we are talking about a fundamental Cree doctrine of law called Wa-koo-towin, the laws governing relationships. Wa-koo-towin provided the framework within which the treaty relationships with the Europeans were to function.

We have to be able to understand where the doctrine of Wa-koo-towin comes from and what role it played in the treaty-making exercise...T]hat was a practice that our peoples had for eons of time, in terms of establishing relationships with each other, with other nations.” (Cardinal, 2007 at 74-75)

33. Based on comprehensive research with elders from First Nations in 1996, Harold Cardinal and Walter Hildebrandt note a similar understanding of governmental kinship:

For the Elders, the use of familial terms to describe the nature of the treaty relationship meant, among other things, that the relationship between First Nations and the Crown and their respective peoples would follow the rules and laws governing what is called in the Cree language “wâhkôtowin” (good relationships)...These rules and laws that prescribe and proscribe conduct covering a wide range of relationships. They are comprehensive in that they contain detailed codes of behaviour, setting out what is prohibited, what is encouraged, the values that are to be respected and followed in each set of relations.” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt, 2000 at 34)

34. In the lead up to the treaty in what we now call or refer to as Alberta, Cree people viewed the Crown as coming into the governmental relationship as governmental or political cousins. Peter Waskahat from Frog Lake Cree Nation, utilizing Cree oral history about Treaty 6, states that, “when this Treaty Commissioner [Morris] came here [in 1876], my Elder used to tell me...he came here to offer himself to be our first cousin, line in Cree – niciwin.” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt, 2000 at 34) Similarly, Harold Johnson addresses the Crown and non-Indigenous peoples as political kin when he states:

“Kiciwamanawak, my cousin: that is what my Elders said to call you. When your family came here and asked to live with us on this territory, we agreed. We adopted you in a ceremony that your family and mine call treaty. In Cree law, treaties were adoptions of one nation by another.” (Johnson, 2007 at 13)

35. From my experiences and research with Cree peoples in Treaty 6 and Treaty 8, the governmental kinship created by Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 is foundational in the day-to-day dealings of Cree First Nations in these treaty territories. It is a commonly understood and widely known outcome of treaty; it is trite and settled law in Cree communities. The supporting comments by elders and academics in this affidavit simply express the common view of the treaty relationship according to Cree law. Further, the governmental kinship created by treaty making has been consistent since treaty was made in both instances.

36. The legal principle of wîtaskêwin is inherently involved in the treaties with the Crown. As I discussed previously, Cree peoples from both Treaty 8 and Treaty 6 had prior treaty relationships with other Indigenous nations. Wîtaskêwin is part of the legal tradition involved in Cree treaty making. Aside from setting the bounds of the treaty relationship on the basis of neighbor-like relations, wîtaskêwin has a territorial dimension. Just as the treaty with the Dene set territorial rights and obligations around the Peace River and the treaty with the Blackfoot set

territorial rights and obligations in Central Alberta around the Battle River, Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 did the same in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Or to put it another way, the concept of governmental neighborliness involves territoriality that is beyond the Alberta provincial territory. According to Cree, law a whole treaty territory must be considered in any legal action involving the treaty.

37. Pâstâhowin plays a role in Cree treaties with the Crown. Fundamentally, any breach of the treaty relationship, including the orally agreed upon terms, is committing pâstâhowin. Much like a breach of the internal architecture of the Canadian constitution would fundamentally alter Canada's federalist state, in my opinion, committing pâstâhowin on some of the foundational structures of the treaty relationship would fundamentally alter Cree international governance.

38. In summary, the principles of wîtaskêwin, wâhkôtowin, and pâstâhowin would have informed Cree signatories' actions in entering Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 and have guided the treaty relationship since. Cree people entered Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 with their own legal processes, legal principles, and treaty laws. With this came the expectation that the Crown would have the ability to ensure the good living of the members of its society (namely European settlers) yet would respect Cree autonomy over Cree society and Cree territory. There is an obligation within nêhiyaw pimatisiwin to fulfill these principles in the treaty relationship, and it was the intention of Cree signatories that these principles guide the treaty relationship. The realization of the spirit and intent of the treaty is of utmost importance to the nêhiyawak as smoking of the pipe bound the nation-to-nation relationship through sacred law and ceremony. These laws were entered into with the Creator as the witness the solemn commitments made to one another which also included the oral representations that are not captured in the written text of the Treaty. The principles of wîtaskêwin, wâhkôtowin, and pâstâhowin are foundational to the spirit and intent of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8.

### **PART C: References**

Harold Cardinal, *Nation Building as Process: Reflections of a Nihiyow (Cree)*, DePasquale (ed.), *Natives and Settlers Now and Then* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2007)

Harold Cardinal & Walter Hildebrandt, *Treaty Elders of Saskatchewan: Our Dream is That Our Peoples Will One Day Be Clearly Recognized as Nations* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2000)

Harold Johnson, *“Two Families: Treaties and Government (Saskatoon: Purich Publishing, 2007)*

**PART D: Cree law and governance and alterations, amendments or changes to treaty relationships**

39. Based on my research and experiences, from my observation it is an oral term of both Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 that Cree people retained autonomy to practice Cree law and expected the treaty relationship to be governed by Cree law. The overt assurances that Cree peoples would be able to continue ‘a way of life’ signals that the foundational components of *nêhiyaw pimâtisiwin* or Cree way of life were and are a significant component of the treaty relationship. Historical records of the negotiations of Treaty 8 support this, including assurances of the maintenance of the Cree “way of life” by Crown representatives in the lead up to Treaty 8. Historical records of the negotiations of Treaty 6 support this, including assurances of the maintenance of the “Indian way of life” by Crown representative. The Mikisew Cree First Nation, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and Onion Lake Cree Nation would have understood the way of life promise as a protection of Cree way of living. Or to put another way, the maintenance of a Cree way of life was an oral but express term and promise of the treaty. The Cree laws that give structure to *nêhiyaw pimâtisiwin* are understood to be protected by the treaty relationships.

40. In my opinion, unilateral alterations, amendments, or otherwise changes to the treaty relationship would be a fundamental breach of treaty, and of Cree law in general. It is a common understanding that any change to treaty, without principled engagement in the fundamental elements and processes of Cree treaty-making (namely a process that involves Cree ceremonialism, and a deliberative process that would include representatives from all Cree peoples in Treaty 8 and Treaty 6) would be creating and committing a *pâstâhowin*. Further, it is my opinion that discussions, plans, intentions to break, change, amend or alter the treaty relationship is creating a *pâstâmowin* as it contemplating a transgression of Cree law through speech.

41. Cardinal and Hildebrandt recognize that Treaty 6 “creat[ed] a perpetual familial relationship based on familial conception of *wâhkôhtowin* (good relationships)” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt, 2000 at 33) [emphasis added]. In my opinion, this is a widely accepted truth within Cree communities and with Cree people regarding treaty. It is trite to say that Cree people

believe the treaties will last ‘as long as the sun shines, the grasses grow, and the rivers flow’. This metaphor denotes the perpetuity of the relationship and forms a basis of Cree governance and each treaty’s special position within it.

42. According to Cree law, the Creator is akin within this governmental kinship. As Cardinal and Hildebrandt note:

“The First Nations believe that the relationship is governed by divine laws that define the relations between the Creator and what [they] created. The relationship between the Creator and First Nations peoples is understood to be like that which exists between the various members of a family and is thus governed by wâhkôtowin, laws detailing the duties and responsibilities which take effect for each member of the family unit.” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt, 2000 at 18)

43. Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 are not bilateral relationships. It is a common understanding that treaty is not only human-to-human legal relations but necessarily involve the Cree conception of a Creator in the treaty. This impacts on the treaty relationship, as Danny Musqua notes:

“We have made a covenant with Her Majesty’s government, and a covenant is not just a relationship between people, it’s a relationship between three parties, you [the Crown] and me [First Nations] and the Creator” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt at 32)

44. A deep understanding or adherence to Cree spiritual practices is not necessary to understand the significance of this belief regarding treaty. The infusion of Cree conceptions of a Creator in the relationship signifies a greater legal force than Cree governments or Crown governments. It’s a call to recognize a supremacy of the treaty relationship that moves it beyond simple human alteration without careful engagement with the foundational elements and processes of treaty. It certainly signals as standard beyond unilateral change or amendment.

45. Further, it is my opinion that governmental kinship, by way of the familial relationship it suggests, does not contemplate the unilateral replacement of one treaty partner with another. Or to put another way, the Crown could not be replaced by a separate government, or government representative. In the familial sense, it is impossible to replace an individual within a kinship order. It makes even less sense for a unilateral exchange to occur. This would transgress Crown treaty promises and certainly would be committing a pâstâhowin. The replacement of a

fundamental treaty partner after at least 126 years of political and governmental kinship defies Cree legal logic, even by analogy.

46. According to Cree law, a secession from treaty would be committing *pâstâhowin* with regard to one of the most fundamental relationships within Cree governance. Mitigation or compensation of such a transgression is not contemplated within Cree law; It would fundamentally transgress the boundaries of the governmental kinship treaty has created. It would also fundamentally transgress the territorial boundaries and obligations set in treaty. It would affect one of the foundational elements of contemporary Cree governance.

47. In my opinion, a restructuring of treaty that maintains the legal and political integrity of the governmental kinship it has created cannot be accomplished through an unnamed, unrecognized party in place of the Crown in right of Alberta. Without principled engagement with the law, this would be an unlawful act. Any attempt to secede from Canada, and by nature, from treaty must be undertaken according to Cree law. A fulsome consideration of Cree law leads me to this conclusion.

**PART D: References**

Harold Cardinal & Walter Hildebrandt, *Treaty Elders of Saskatchewan: Our Dream is That Our Peoples Will One Day Be Clearly Recognized as Nations* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2000) at 34.

48. I am swearing this affidavit in support of application for interlocutory relief and for no other improper purpose.

AFFIRMED BEFORE ME in Victoria,  
British Columbia, this <sup>16</sup> day of October  
2025. <sub>173</sub>



**JAMES H. FARLEY**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC**  
138 - 2871 Jacklin Road  
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T. (250) 388-5005

**My Commission is Permanent**

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Dr. Darcy Lindberg

This is Exhibit "1" to the Affidavit of  
Dr. Darcy Lindberg affirmed before me  
at Victoria, BC on October 17,  
2025

JAMES H. FARLEY  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
138 - 2871 Jacklin Road  
Victoria, BC V8B 6P5  
Commissioner: (250) 388-6905

### Exhibit 1: Dr. Darcy Lindberg - Brief Curriculum Vitae

#### Education History:

PhD (University of Victoria, 2020), LLM (University of Victoria, 2017), JD (University of Victoria (2012), BA (University of Alberta 2004)

#### Relevant Publications, Theses and Dissertations:

Lindberg, D. "Nēhiyaw Pimatisiwin and Regenerative Constitutionalism in Lindsay Borrows & Jessica Eisen (guest editors) *Review of Constitutional Studies* (forthcoming in 2025)

Lindberg, D. "Ecological Governance through sacred storying" in Gina Starblanket, David Long (eds) *Visions of the Heart: Issues Involving Indigenous Peoples in Canada* (Oxford University Press, Oxford) (6<sup>th</sup> Edition) (Forthcoming)

Lindberg, D. "Nēhiyaw Hunting Pedagogies and Revitalizing Indigenous Laws" in Hōkūlani K. Aikau, Aimée Craft, and Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark, eds., *Indigenous Resurgence in an Age of Reconciliation* (University of Toronto Press: Toronto, 2023).

Lindberg, D. "UNDRIP and the Renewed Application of Indigenous Laws in the Common Law" (2022) 55:1 UBC LJ (Feb 2022)

Lindberg, D. "Excerpts from Nēhiyaw Āskiy Wiyasiwēwina: Plains Cree Earth Law and Constitutional/Ecological Reconciliation." (2021) 1:1 Rooted Constitutionalism 10.

Lindberg, D. "Drawing upon the Wealth of Indigenous Laws in the Yukon" (2020) 50 *The Northern Review* 179

Lindberg, D. "Passports to an Imaginary Diaspora: Obligations and Limits of Adoption into Indigenous Societies" (2018) in 14:4 *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples* 326.

Lindberg, D. "Miyo nēhiyawiwīn (Beautiful Creeness): Ceremonial Aesthetics and nēhiyaw Legal Pedagogy" (2018) 16/17:1 *Indigenous LJ* 51

Lindberg, D. "Mediated Relations: The *Indian Act* and the Politics of Ignorance" in Ryan Beaton, Robert Hamilton & Josh Nichols, eds., *Wise-practices: Exploring Indigenous Economic Justice and Self-Determination* (University of Toronto Press: Toronto, 2021)

Lindberg, D. "(Re)bundling nēhiyaw āskiy: nēhiyaw constitutionalism through land stories" in Sujith Xavier, Beverley Jacobs, Valarie Waboose, Jeffery Hewitt, and Amar Bhatia, eds., *Decolonizing Law: Indigenous, Third World and Settler Perspectives* (Routledge: Abingdon, UK, 2021)

Lindberg, D. "Wahkotowin and Restoring Humane Relationality Within the Transnational Corporation" (2020) in Oonagh Fitzgerald, ed., *Corporate Citizen: New Perspectives on the Globalized Rule of Law* (McGill-Queens Press: Montreal, 2020).

Lindberg, D. “Transforming Buffalo: “Plains Cree Constitutionalism and Food Sovereignty” in Nathalie Chalifour, Heather McLeod-Kilmurray & Angela Lee, eds. *Food Law and Policy in Canada* (Carswell Publishing: Toronto, 2019).

Lindberg, D. “Wahkotowin, Corporate Separateness, and Potential Futures for Indigenous Laws” in *Environmental Challenges on Indigenous Lands: A CIGI Essay Series* (2019) Online: Centre for International Governance Innovation <https://www.cigionline.org/articles/wahkotowin-corporate-separateness-and-potential-futures-indigenous-laws>

Lindberg, D. [Constitutionalizing Wâhkôtowin: Cree Constitutionalism and Transsystemic Legal Learning in Val Napoleon & Debra McKenzie, eds. *Transsystemic Pedagogy*, (University of Toronto Press: Toronto, Forthcoming)

Lindberg, D. “Nêhiyaw Ceremony, Gendered Protocols, and Nêhiyaw Law” in Val Napoleon & Emily Snyder, eds., *Raven Talks: Indigenous Feminist Legal Studies* (University of Toronto Press: Toronto, Forthcoming)

Lindberg, D. “Indigenous Constitutions and Modern Treaties” in Janna Promislow, David Wright and Robert Hamilton, eds *Modern Treaties and the Law* (accepted, in review).

Lindberg, D. *Nêhiyaw Âskiy Wiyasiwêwina: Plains Cree Earth Law and Constitutional/Ecological Reconciliation* (PhD Dissertation) (2020) [Unpublished]

Lindberg, D. *kihcitwâw kîkway meskocipayiwîn (sacred changes): Transforming Gendered Protocols in Cree Ceremonies through Cree Law* (Master Thesis) (2017) [Unpublished]

Lindberg, D. & Asch, J. *Gender Inside Indigenous Law: Toolkit* (2016) Indigenous Law Research Unit, University of Victoria

Asch, J. & Lindberg, D. *Gender Inside Indigenous Law: Casebook* (2016) Indigenous Law Research Unit, University of Victoria

### **Relevant Courses Taught:**

University of Victoria, Faculty of Law (2021-present):

Law 101I: Transsystemic Constitutional Law: Canadian and Cree Constitutional Traditions (2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26)

Law 343: Indigenous Legal Orders and Ecological Governance (2022, 2023, 2024)

### **University of Alberta**

Law 435 - Constitutional Law (2020-21)

Law 486 - Indigenous Treaties and Treaty making (2020, 2021)

Law 590 - Indigenous Peoples and the Law (2020)

Law 599 - Indigenous Environmental Law (2020, 2021)

Law 486 - Indigenous Laws: Methods and Questions for Engagement (2019, 2020)

**Relevant Scholarly and Academic Activities:**

1. “Revitalizing Indigenous Law within Indigenous Justice: Bringing Our Laws Home” – AFN National Justice Forum – Keynote Presentation (Apr 2025)
2. “Setting the Historical Context: Constitutional Kindness, Abundance and Indigenous Laws”, AFN National Natural Resources Forum – Keynote Presentation (Mar 2025)
3. “nehiyaw askiy: Cree constitutionalism through the land”, University of Alberta, Faculty of Law (Feb 2025)
4. “Circle of Experts on Indigenous Laws Plenary Session”, Assembly of First Nations National Forum on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) (Feb 2025)
5. “Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (*DRIPA*)”, Local Government, Management Association of BC: Local Government and First Nations Workshop (Nov 2024)
6. "Ecological Governance Through Indigenous Legal Orders, BIG Summer Institute 2024: Ecological Border Management, University of Victoria (July 2024)
7. “Making Room For Indigenous Legal Orders in Administrative Justice”, Canadian Council of Administrative Tribunals Annual Symposium (June 2024)
8. “Reconciliation and Indigenous Laws: How They Are Understood and Applied By the Courts” National Judicial Institute: British Columbia All Courts Education Seminar (Nov 2023)
9. “The Intersection of Indigenous Legal Orders with the Canadian Legal System, Whitehorse Bench and Bar (Sept 2023)
10. “Indigenous Laws and Specific Claims”, Assembly of First Nations Indigenous Law Gathering (June 2023)
11. “Introduction to Indigenous Law and Legal Pluralism” with Val Napoleon, National Judicial Institute Indigenous Law Symposium (Mar 2023)
12. Gathering of Experts on Treaty - Chacachas Nation Settlement (Dec 2022)
13. “Reconciliation and Indigenous Laws” National Judicial Institute – Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench Gathering (Sept 2022)
14. “Reconciling Indigenous Laws with Legal Education and Practice”, CBA-BC/Justice Canada Annual Conference (Sept 2022)
15. “Reconciliation and Indigenous Laws” National Judicial Institute – Northern Courts Gathering (Sept 2022)

16. "The Critical Questions within Cree and More-Than-Human Relations", Critical Animal Studies Conference (Aug 2022)
17. "Cree Aesthetics and Cree Law" (Closing Speaker), University of Alberta Indigenous Law Students Association Speaker Series (Mar 2022)
18. "Promises to Keep: Cree Treaties, Cree Ceremonies, and a Pathway to a Shared Constitution" , Robson Hall Distinguished Visiting Lecture Series (Feb 2022)
19. Indigenous Law in Canada's Legal Landscape: Closing Plenary (Co-Panelist), CBA Saskatchewan Mid-Winter Meeting (Jan 2022)
20. "Jurisdictional Issues and Indigenous Laws" (Nov. 2021), Presentation to Senate of Canada (education series)
21. "Primer on Aboriginal Rights and Duty to Consult" (Oct 2021), Osgoode Certificate in ESG, Climate Risk and the Law
22. "Disputed Underpinnings of Crown Land on Indigenous Territories" (May 2021) Presentation to the Senate of Canada (education series)
23. "I am Life: Indigenous Water Sovereignty & AB Coal Policy" (Mar 2021), ILSA Speaker's Series, University of Alberta
24. "Indigenous Ceremonies and the Courts" (Mar 2021), National Judicial Institute: Indigenous Law Seminar
25. "Wahkotowin and humane corporate relations" (Nov 2020), Corporate *Citizen* Book Launch – Center for International Governance Innovation
26. "Nehiyaw legal principles on reciprocity, love, and allyship" (Oct 2020), Indigenous Bar Association Annual Conference
27. "Decolonizing Constitutional Law through Treaty Discourse" (Sept 2020), Decolonizing Canadian Constitutional Law Virtual Symposium
28. "Indigenous Laws Today" (Jan 2020), National Judicial Institute: Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta Seminar
29. "Miyo Pimatisiwin: Plains Cree Legal Ethics" (Jan 2020), Bora Laskin Law School, University of Toronto
30. "Nehiyaw (Plains Cree) Food Sovereignty" (Nov 2019), Canadian Food Law Annual Conference
31. "Indigenous Law: Sources, Resources, and Tools for Engagement" (Sept 2019), Legal Education Society of Alberta: Indigenous Laws Conference

32. “Indigenous Human Rights, UNDRIP, and its Invitation to Learn” (June 2019), Canadian Bar Association Annual Aboriginal Law Conference
33. “Treaty 101: Witaskewin and Treaty 6” (Feb 2019), Law Society of Alberta: Indigenous Law and Legal Issues Conference
34. “Wahkotowin and Potential Futures for Indigenous Laws” (Nov 2018), Indigenous Solutions for Environmental Challenges Conference
35. “(Re)bundling nêhiyaw âskiy: constitutionalism through stories” (Nov 2018), World Indigenous Law Annual Conference
36. “Plains Cree Laws and Human Rights” (June 2018), Canadian Assoc. of Statutory Human Rights Annual Conference
37. “Plains Cree Legal Pedagogies and a Duty to Learn” (June 2018), Law Society of Alberta Annual Benchers Retreat

**Relevant Research Projects:**

1. Realizing Indigenous jurisdiction in environmental decision-making in historic treaty lands: An Alberta Treaty 8 case study (Collaborator) SSHRC – Insight Grant (2024-27)
2. Indigenous Constitutionalism and Plurinational Federalism in the Territories (Co-Applicant), SSHRC-Insight Grant (2021-26)
3. Restoring the Land, Repairing Relations: Indigenous Legal Responses to Harm and Conflict (Collaborator) SSHRC Connections Grant (2023-24)
4. Center for Indigenous Language Revitalization Research (Collaborator, Aspiration Research Cluster Grant (2023-24).
5. Prairie Indigenous Relationality Network (Collaborator) SSHRC Connections Grant (2019)

**Expert Reports:**

1. Expert Report for the Court on Indigenous Legal Orders and Cree Law (R v. Sandfly 2023 SKPC 41)
2. Expert Report on Cree Law and Treaty 8 (Wood Buffalo Tribunal: Subdivision and Appeals Board, SDAB 2024-003)

**Service to Legal Profession:**

1. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Council of Experts on Indigenous Laws – Member (2022-continuing)
2. Federation of Law Societies of Canada Indigenous Advisory Committee Member (2022-continuing)

## **APPENDIX 5**

**Report on nêhiyaw (Cree) Law and Treaty No. 6 & Treaty No. 8**

**Dr. Darcy Lindberg (PhD, LLM, JD, MA)**

**May 1, 2026**

## **Part A: Introduction**

1. I am an assistant professor at the University of Victoria. I hold a PhD from the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria, and my area of expertise My area of expertise is nêhiyaw (Cree) law and governance, nêhiyaw treaty making, and Indigenous laws generally.
2. My previous and current research is focused on nêhiyaw law, nêhiyaw treaty making, the relationship between nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina (Cree laws) and the Canadian constitution, and ecological governance practices through Indigenous laws generally. My master thesis explored ceremonies and nêhiyaw governance. My doctoral research focused on nêhiyaw constitutional and legal traditions in an ecological context, and their implication on the treaty relationship between Canada and the nêhiyawak (Cree people). Aside from my thesis and dissertation. I have written various academic articles and book chapters on nêhiyaw law specifically and Indigenous laws generally.
3. Through my academic work I have developed several courses involving nêhiyaw law. This includes a course that comparatively examines nêhiyaw constitutional traditions and Canadian constitutional law, a course on Indigenous treaties and treaty making, and a course on Indigenous legal orders and ecological governance.
4. I've prepared this Report in relation to the citizen initiative petition in Alberta regarding a referendum question on Alberta' secession from Canada, and how this would impact treaties in Alberta. This Report on nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina answers this question:

How would the nêhiyaw (Cree) understanding of Treaty and nêhiyaw (Cree) law apply to Alberta unilaterally initiating a referendum on secession without First Nations' consent and/or without consultation from the Crown?

### **Summary Answer:**

5. A unilateral initiation of a referendum on secession is a fundamental breach of the treaty, and of nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina. From a nêhiyaw perspective, the nation-to-nation relationship

created by treaties is foundational to its continued operation. It is commonly understood that it is a basic transgression of nêhiyaw treaty law to act without involvement of all the treaty partners.

6. The expected duration of the treaty is in perpetuity or forever, as it is often understood to continue “as long as the sun shines, the grasses grow, and the rivers flow.” Changes or alterations to the treaty are not contemplated within nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina. This includes unilateral change.

7. Treaty-making at the times of Treaty No. 6 (1876) and Treaty No. 8 (1899) was governed by the core nêhiyaw legal principles of wîtaskêwin (neighborliness as it pertains to living on the land together) and wâhkôtowin (kinship). As described further in this opinion, wâhkôtowin and wîtaskêwin are distinctive nêhiyaw legal principles whose operation are at times connected. wâhkôtowin structures obligations at all levels of kinship, ranging from family-to-family to Nation-to-Nation relations. It also enables obligations and responsibilities based on real or fictive kinship. wîtaskêwin governs land-sharing, enables mutual aid and respect, and creates ongoing obligations between neighbouring peoples and Treaty partners. A supporting principle to these two is miyo wîcêhtowin (the obligation of good assistance) that ensures obligations towards mutual aid and respect are enacted in relations based on wâhkôtowin and/or wîtaskêwin.

8. These principles infer non-interference of each government in the other’s living on the shared territories. A unilateral alteration or dismantling of a treaty would be a serious interference. These core nêhiyaw legal principles are guided by the further principles of *pâstâhowin* (overstepping lawful bounds) and *pâstâmowin* (harm through speech), both of which define transgressions and set out their consequences. Overstepping the bounds or failing to fulfill obligations according to wâhkôtowin, wîtaskêwin and miyo wîcêhtowin create a pâstâhowin.

9. Because Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 enabled political relationships between nêhiyaw governments and Crown governments based on wîtaskêwin (neighborliness) and wâhkôtowin (kinship) treaty renewal is a foundational part of the treaty relationship. Further mutual respect is an underlying term of treaty as well, that calls for either treaty partner to refrain from unilateral

alterations or otherwise changes to the treaty relationship as contemplated in 1876 and 1899 respectively.

10. Based on the nêhiyaw legal principles and processes, there is no contemplation of unilateral change or deviation from the promises and assurances made at the treaty negotiations. Unilateral alteration would constitute a pâstâhowin. According to nêhiyaw understandings of treaty making, treaty is made in accordance with nêhiyaw sacred processes and sacred law. For example, it is a common refrain within nêhiyaw societies that only the Creator can alter the treaty relationship. This suggests that any alteration, if possible, can only be achieved through deep engagement with nêhiyaw legal processes, including those that are guided by and include nêhiyaw sacred processes. Alberta's proposed referendum process fails to seek First Nation consent, and falls fundamentally short in according itself with nêhiyaw legal processes.

11. To expand on this summary answer, this Report is organized in the following structure below:

- Part B: nêhiyaw legal principles involved in Treaty making
- Part C: nêhiyaw legal principles in Treaty 6 and Treaty 8
- Part D: nêhiyaw law and alterations of Treaty
- Part E: Conclusion

Note that this Report uses the term 'nêhiyaw' primarily for the term 'Cree'. Also note that it is commonly accepted that nêhiyawewin, or the Cree language, does not use upper case letters. This Report follows this practice.

### **PART B: Cree (nêhiyaw) Legal Principles Involved in Treaty Making**

12. nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina have been in operation since time immemorial. It has managed the operation of nêhiyaw pimâtisiwin (Cree way of life) and has informed and guided international relations that nêhiyawak (Cree people) have had with other peoples, nations, and states. wiyasiwêwina managed and guided the making of treaty with the Crown in the events of Treaty No. 6 (1876) and Treaty No. 8 (1899). From my research, education and experiences with nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina, there are distinctive legal principles that guide and structure Cree ways of living.

These principles were in operation before, during and after the treaty-making periods of 1876 and 1899 and have been in operation ever since.

### **wîtaskêwin**

13. wîtaskêwin translates into “living on the land together” or “living in peace together.” Fisher River Cree Nation historian Dr. Winona Wheeler notes that wîtaskêwin means to “to live together on the land in harmony.”<sup>1</sup> nêhiyaw elders will often refer to wîtaskêwin as neighbourliness, even in a nation-to-nation context. Another interpretation of the term is when “peoples establish relationships that are to be governed by the laws of wâhkôtowin and which are reflected in the kind of land-sharing arrangements created between the parties.”<sup>2</sup>

14. wîtaskêwin governs different levels of relationship. In a family-to-family context, it ensures a measure of neighbourliness that is based on respect, aid, and support when members of each family require it. In a community-to-community context, it ensures good relations when territories are shared or border each other. In a Nation-to-Nation context, it creates firm responsibilities on land-sharing, respect for each other’s autonomy, and binds each treaty partner a relationship based on political respect and renewal.

15. Red Pheasant Cree Nation academic Dr. Shalene Jobin notes that wîtaskêwin, at a community-to-community or nation-to-nation level, is a significant principle in terms of international diplomacy.<sup>3</sup> In this respect the sub-principle of *tipahamtitowin*, meaning “treating each other commensurately”, is significant.<sup>4</sup> It “is understood as an act which involves reciprocal responsibilities to each other that must be fulfilled.”<sup>5</sup> The diplomatic dimensions of wîtaskêwin are obviously relevant in relation to nêhiyaw treaty making and Treaty 6 specifically.

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<sup>1</sup> Winona Wheeler, “Reflections on the Social Relations of Indigenous Oral Histories in Ute Lischke and David McNab (eds) *Walking a Tightrope: Aboriginal People and Their Representations* (Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier Press, 2005) at 189.

<sup>2</sup> Harold Cardinal & Walter Hildebrandt, *Treaty Elders of Saskatchewan: Our Dream is That Our Peoples Will One Day Be Clearly Recognized as Nations* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2000) at 41.

<sup>3</sup> Shalene Jobin, “Cree Peoplehood, International Trade, and Diplomacy” (2013) 43:2 *Revue Generale de Droit* 599 at 624.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

## wâhkôtowin

16. A primary principle that structures the treaty relationship between nêhiyawak and other nations and societies is wâhkôtowin. The common translation for wâhkôtowin is ‘to relate to, or kinship’. It is the overarching and fundamental law that governs nêhiyaw relations on multiple levels. Depending on the contexts of the relationship, wâhkôtowin is in operation in kinship between individual to individual in a family context, between family and family in a Nation, clan, or intersocietal context, and between government to government in a nationhood or inter-societal context. Sucker Creek First Nation leader and academic Dr. Harold Cardinal notes that wâhkôtowin “is one of the most comprehensive doctrines of law among the Cree people and contains a whole myriad of subsets of laws defining the individual and collective relationships of Cree people.”<sup>6</sup> Cardinal also notes that “[t]hese laws establish the principles that govern the conduct and behaviour of individuals within their family environment, within their communities, and with others outside their communities.”<sup>7</sup> Cardinal and Walter Hildebrandt note that wâhkôtowin sets out: “rules and laws that prescribe and proscribe conduct covering a wide range of relationships” and that these rules and laws “are comprehensive in that they contain detailed codes of behaviour, setting out what is prohibited, what is encouraged, the values that are to be respected and followed in each set of relations.”<sup>8</sup> The centering of kinship is vital in the operation of wâhkôtowin as it ensures a proper relationship between two entities.

17. At the time of making Treaty No. 6 (1876) and Treaty No. 8 (1899) wâhkôtowin was the primary governing principle that organized nêhiyaw societies, the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree included.<sup>9</sup> The general structure of nêhiyaw communities at the time was based on kinship; individual families and larger family clusters made up nations/tribes under the leadership of an

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<sup>6</sup> Harold Cardinal, *Nation Building as Process: Reflections of a Nihiyow (Cree)*, DePasquale (ed.), *Natives and Settlers Now and Then* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2007) at page 74

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Cardinal and Hildebrandt, *supra* note 2 at 34.

<sup>9</sup> The Plains Cree (paskwâwiyiniw) and the Woodland Cree (sakâwiyiniw) are distinct but interrelated sub societies of the Cree (or the nêhiyawak) in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Plains Cree (paskwâwiyiniw) inhabit the southern to central part of the province. The Woodland Cree (sakâwiyiniw) inhabit the northern areas of the province. While the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree are recognized as distinctive, individual sub-societies of the nêhiyawak, there are shared legal, cultural, and linguistic practices between the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree. Aside from shared cultural, legal, and linguistic practices, the Plains Cree and Woodland Cree also have parallel and often intertwined histories. Both speak the same dialect of nêhiyawewin, or the Cree language. They also share laws, rules, principles and practices that structure the Cree legal system and Cree governance generally.

*okimaw* (or leader) or *okimawak* (leaders). *wâhkôtowin*, with its inherent sub laws and rules, ensured good living in these communities.

18. This government and governance model was recognized in the making of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8. The *nêhiyaw* leaders who negotiated and made Treaty 6 were representing the collection of families that followed their leadership. This is the primary reason that Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 required multiple treaty events in their making. For example, Treaty 6 had two primary signing events at Fort Carleton and Fort Pitt in the fall of 1876, and multiple events of adhesion to the treaty by *nêhiyaw* peoples since. Similarly, Treaty 8 required 6 initial events of treaty and multiple events of adhesion ever since. This history is reflective of the operation of *nêhiyaw* governance at the time. Governmental authority was spread across an interrelated network of governmental leaders across *nêhiyaw* territory. These governmental leaders were given legitimacy through *wâhkôtowin*; they were acting as representatives of their kin.

### **Relationship between *wâhkôtowin* and *wîtaskêwin***

19. While *wâhkôtowin* and *wîtaskêwin* can operate independently in many contexts within *nêhiyaw* life, in certain circumstances they are intertwined. Where *wâhkôtowin* sets the standard of a relationship as either kin or kin-like, *wîtaskêwin* sets standards in how to live closely on the land together. In a family-to-family or nation-to-nation situation, *wâhkôtowin* binds families or governments in a kin-like relationship. *wîtaskêwin* and its neighborliness orientation obligates sharing of lands and the resources within the lands to enable good living within each society. *wîtaskêwin* also sets limits on families or governments; it obligates a party to refrain from actions that would be harmful or detrimental to the other party to the kin relationship.

20. It is important to note that a relationship based on *wîtaskêwin* can exist where there is no or a weaker kinship relation. *wîtaskêwin* is significant in those situations as it provides a base of involuntary obligations on conduct to neighbors, such as peaceable relations and non-interference. In the treaty context, *wîtaskêwin* implies involuntary obligations based on neighborliness that potentially sets the stage for potential long-lasting kinship relationships, or *wâhkôtowin*, to be discussed and settled.

### ***wîtaskêwin* and *wâhkôtowin* and the treaty relationship**

21. It is commonly understood among nêhiyaw peoples that treaties with the Crown created a relationship based in wîtaskêwin as treaty making inherently involves the operation of the principle. The treaties with the British Crown in 1876 and 1899 are not the only examples wîtaskêwin from that period. Around 1867, the nêhiyawak made treaty with the niitsitaapi (Blackfoot peoples) based on wîtaskêwin. The most well-known of the treaty events with the niitsitaapi during this period occurred in 1867 at the site of the current town of Wetaskiwin in central Alberta.<sup>10</sup> The town gets its name from the wîtaskêwin event that occurred between the nêhiyaw and the niitsitaapi (Blackfoot) on a hill near the town around 1867.<sup>11</sup> What precipitated the 1867 treaty was the closeness that each nation had come to each other in search of buffalo. This occurred just north of the *kasakiykanitiwitihk* or *nôtinito-sipiy* (the Battle River).<sup>12</sup>

22. According to oral history, the nêhiyawak and *niitsitapi* each sent a person to scout and observe where the other community was.<sup>13</sup> As it happened, both leaders approached the same hills at the same time, surprising each other in their encounter. According to the oral accounts, the two leaders decide to fight but also choose to do so unarmed. After fighting for a period, the two leaders decide to take a break. During this pause, the nêhiyaw and Blackfoot leader shared a pipe. Realizing that the sharing of a pipe, according to nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina at least, instigates a friendship, the two men stopped fighting and sought out the rest of their communities. This caused a larger treaty relationship with each other with the intent of having peaceable, neighborly relations with each other. For the nêhiyawak, these hills since then have become known as *wîtaskêwin-sputinow*, or the hills where we live on the land together. This treaty event occurred at what is now known as the City of Wetaskiwin, whose name memorializes the treaty event.

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<sup>10</sup> See Hugh Dempsey, *Maskepetoon: Leader, Warrior, Peacemaker* (Victoria: Heritage House Publishing Company, 2010) at 184-5.

<sup>11</sup> Niitsitaapi is a term in the Blackfoot language.

<sup>12</sup> See Paulina Johnson, *E-kawôtiniket 1876: Reclaiming Nêhiyaw Governance in the Territory of Maskwacis through Wâhkôtowin (Kinship)* (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Western Ontario Graduate Program in Anthropology, 2017) [Unpublished] at 166.

<sup>13</sup> Darcy Lindberg, *Nêhiyaw Âskiy Wiyasiwêwina: Plains Cree Earth Law and Constitutional/Ecological Reconciliation* (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Victoria, 2020) [unpublished] 1-11.

23. The principles of wâhkôtowin and wîtaskêwin were also utilized in treaties with the Dene in woodland Cree territory. A treaty was concluded with the Dene at Peace Point, now known as the Peace River.<sup>14</sup> The Peace River derives its name from this treaty, making the river a territorial boundary between the nêhiyawak and the Dene. Willie Okemow from Sucker Creek First Nation shares the oral history of this treaty:

You are of the fifth generation of Cree who moved into the boreal forest. About five thousand Cree under the leadership of Kinusieou moved into the bush from the South. They came over the Swan Hills (North-central Alberta today) and down the Swan River valley to the South shore of Lesser Slave Lake. There were five hundred and seventy warriors. They pushed the Dene North. There were three battles. The Cree won the first two. The Dene won the third. The Cree retreated south of the Peace River and called for talks. They explained to the Dene what was happening in the South and how to survive the Cree needed clean land away from small pox and other diseases. Although they won the war, the Dene agreed to give the Cree all the lands South and East of the Peace River. Together the Cree and Dene gave the river the name: Peace River. They accepted it as the new boundary between their territories.<sup>15</sup>

24. As Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation member Renee Lamothe notes about this treaty from the Dene perspective:

Both Mrs. Antoine and Mr. Okemow said that after the third battle the Cree called for a talk. They met near the present site of Fort Vermilion Alberta. The Cree explained what was happening on the prairies. They spoke of the smallpox and their need to get away from it. They spoke of the buffalo leaving and of their need for land where they could survive. Although they won the war, the Dene gave the Cree their lands to the south and east of the Peace River. Together, the Dene and Cree accepted the river as the new boundary between their territories. They renamed the river calling it Peace River as the sign of the peace which they had negotiated.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Rene M.J Lamothe, "It Was Only a Treaty": Treaty 11 According to the Dene of the Mackenzie Valley, (12 October 2025), online (Government of Canada): [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2017/bcp-pco/Z1-1991-1-41-154-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/bcp-pco/Z1-1991-1-41-154-eng.pdf) at 10.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid* at 11.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid* at 36.

25. As Muskeg Lake Cree Nation scholar Sharon Venne notes about the perpetuity of this treaty:

The Cree made a peace treaty with the Dene that is still in place. The Cree-Dene Treaty concluded before the coming of the non-indigenous peoples was to demarcate our territories. The demarcation is known as Peace River: north of the Peace River is Dene land, and south of it is Cree territory. When I cross the Peace River going north into Dene territory, I always give thanks to the Dene for letting me come into their territory. I say a prayer to the Cree and Dene Elders who said that we could travel in peace. This is the meaning of a peace treaty. It needs to be lived. It is not an empty phrase or value; it is a living spirit.<sup>17</sup>

26. In this context, we see a land-sharing agreement that sets out each respective territory – Dene territory and nêhiyaw territory – in this arrangement.

### **pâstâhowin and pâstâmowin**

27. The operation of the above principles was guided by other principles within nêhiyaw law. The breaking of a law, standard, or boundary is understood as committing pâstâhowin. Its literal translation means to step over a boundary or a “transgression, or breach of natural order.”<sup>18</sup> pâstâhowin’s common understanding is breaking laws, or transgressing outside of the boundaries that individuals, families, societies and governments are entitled to. It is also understood to be “stepping over” or breaking laws against other human beings.<sup>19</sup> or “going outside the boundaries you are entitled to.”<sup>20</sup> In the context of wâhkôtowin and wîtaskêwin, it is commonly understood that a person creates a situation of pâstâhowin by failing to fulfill obligations arising from kinship or other relationships to which they are obligated.

28. A related principle is pâstâmowin. It is thought of as a sub-law of pâstâhowin. pâstâmowin is speech-oriented, as it “refers to what someone has said which led to something

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<sup>17</sup> Sharon Venne, *Treaties Made in Good Faith* (2007) 34:1 *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* 1 at 2-3 [endnotes omitted].

<sup>18</sup> Arok Wolvengrey, *Nêhiyawêwin: Itwêwina ᓂᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ*. Cree: Words: 25th Anniversary Edition (University of Regina Press: Regina, SK, 2026). at 177.

<sup>19</sup> Sylvia Saysewahum McAdam *Nationhood Interrupted: Revitalizing Nêhiyaw Legal Systems* (Saskatoon: Purich Publishing, 2014) at 43.

<sup>20</sup> Laboucane-Benson et.al, “Are we Seeking Pimâtisiwin or Creating Pomewin? Implications for Water Policy” 3:3 *International Indigenous Policy Journal* 1 at 14.

undesirable happening or is blasphemous or dangerous speech thought to bring misfortune to the speaker”<sup>21</sup>

29. pâstâhowin and pâstâmowin bound intersocietal relationships. Where kinship (wâhkôtowin), neighborliness (wîtaskêwin), and good assistance and aid (miyo wîcêhtowin) provide obligations that each party must follow, pâstâhowin and pâstâmowin define where violations occur when failing to live up to the responsibilities and obligations of the treaty relationship. pâstâhowin and pâstâmowin describe what these transgressions are and what consequences flow from them. To commit a pâstâhowin or pâstâmowin is viewed within nêhiyaw law as creating hardship on yourself that will eventually result in retribution to yourself and your family. There is an accumulative nature to pâstâhowin and pâstâmowin: repeated transgressions have cumulative negative effects on the parties within a relationship.

30. In a treaty context, neighborliness helps explain the logic underlying this belief in cumulative effects. If one person continues an action or conducts that benefits themselves but is ultimately harmful to their neighbors, the cumulative harm is felt by all treaty parties. In this way, pâstâhowin and pâstâmowin serve as an accountability mechanism, not through direct enforcement but of through a proactive duty to avoid the eventual harm. Or as nêhiyaw law professor and writer Sylvia McAdam (Saysewahum) states: [b]reaking these laws can bring about divine retribution with grave consequences.”<sup>22</sup>

### **Part C: Cree legal principles in Treaty 6 and Treaty 8**

#### **wâhkôtowin and the Crown treaties**

31. In my opinion, the operation of legal principles described above enabled a nation-to-nation kinship and neighborliness between the Crown and the nêhiyawak during the making of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8, based on the principles of wîtaskêwin and wâhkôtowin. nêhiyaw governments have relied upon and have acted in obligation to the wâhkôtowin between the governments since. This governmental relationship is supported by wîtaskêwin. As these legal

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<sup>21</sup> McAdam, *supra* note 18 at 43.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid* at 43.

principles apply to Crown-nêhiyaw governmental relations through treaty, there is an overarching obligation to not commit pâstâhowin or pâstâmowin in the treaty relationship.

32. In my experience and research, this is a commonly held and widespread understanding that a governmental kinship obligates the Crown to these principles. wâhkôtowin sets the bounds of this relationship, as Harold Cardinal notes:

“When we talk about treaty, for example, from a Cree perspective, we are talking about a fundamental Cree doctrine of law called Wa-koo-towin, the laws governing relationships. Wa-koo-towin provided the framework within which the treaty relationships with the Europeans were to function.

We have to be able to understand where the doctrine of Wa-koo-towin comes from and what role it played in the treaty-making exercise... [T]hat was a practice that our peoples had for eons of time, in terms of establishing relationships with each other, with other nations.”<sup>23</sup>

33. Based on forums they held with elders from First Nations in 1996, Harold Cardinal and Walter Hildebrandt note a similar understanding of governmental kinship:

For the Elders, the use of familial terms to describe the nature of the treaty relationship meant, among other things, that the relationship between First Nations and the Crown and their respective peoples would follow the rules and laws governing what is called in the Cree language “wâhkôtowin” (good relationships)... These rules and laws that prescribe and proscribe conduct covering a wide range of relationships. They are comprehensive in that they contain detailed codes of behaviour, setting out what is prohibited, what is encouraged, the values that are to be respected and followed in each set of relations.”<sup>24</sup>

34. In the lead up to the treaty in what we now call or refer to as Alberta, the nêhiyawak viewed the Crown as coming into the governmental relationship as governmental or political cousins. Peter Waskahat from Frog Lake Cree Nation, utilizing nêhiyaw oral history about Treaty 6, states that, “when this Treaty Commissioner [Morris] came here [in 1876], my Elder used to tell me...he came here to offer himself to be our first cousin, line in Cree – niciwin.”<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Cardinal *supra* note 6 at 74-75

<sup>24</sup> Cardinal and Hildebrandt *supra* note 2 at 34.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid* at 34.

Similarly, Harold Johnson addresses the Crown and non-Indigenous peoples as political kin when he states:

“Kiciwamanawak, my cousin: that is what my Elders said to call you. When your family came here and asked to live with us on this territory, we agreed. We adopted you in a ceremony that your family and mine call treaty. In Cree law, treaties were adoptions of one nation by another.”<sup>26</sup>

35. From my experiences and research with the nêhiyawak in Treaty 6 and Treaty 8, the governmental kinship created by Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 is foundational in the day-to-day dealings of nêhiyaw First Nations in these treaty territories. It is a commonly understood and widely known outcome of treaty; it is trite and settled law in nêhiyaw communities. The supporting comments by elders and academics in this affidavit simply express the common view of the treaty relationship according to nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina. Further, the governmental kinship created by treaty making has been consistent since treaty was made in both instances.

#### **wîtaskêwin, miyo wîcêhtowin and the Crown treaties**

36. The legal principle of wîtaskêwin is inherently involved in the treaties with the Crown. As I discussed previously, nêhiyaw peoples from both Treaty 8 and Treaty 6 had prior treaty relationships with other First Nations. wîtaskêwin is part of the legal tradition involved in nêhiyaw treaty making. Aside from setting the bounds of the treaty relationship on the basis of neighbor-like relations, wîtaskêwin has a territorial dimension. Just as the treaty with the Dene set territorial rights and obligations around the Peace River and the treaty with the Blackfoot set territorial rights and obligations in Central Alberta around the Battle River, Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 did the same in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Or to put it another way, the concept of governmental neighborliness involves territoriality that is beyond the Alberta provincial territory. According to nêhiyaw law, a whole treaty territory must be considered in any legal action involving the treaty. The principle of wîtaskêwin, or the law of neighborliness, was well practiced. It is common knowledge within nêhiyaw life that neighborliness, both governmental and familial, was contemplated by the nêhiyawak in making Treaty 6. For example, the jurists summarized the testimony of the 40+ elders at Saddle Lake in October of 1983 as this:

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<sup>26</sup> Harold Johnson, “Two Families: Treaties and Government (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2007) at 13.

The [Indigenous treaty partners] agreed to the sharing of the land for guaranteed provisions to be included in the treaty. The [Indigenous treaty partners] realized that they were not entering into a peace treaty: they were not at war and this treaty was not terms of settlement between warring people. The Treaty arose out of the desire of the British to open lands for settlement--with the [Indigenous treaty partners] being prepared to share, subject to provisos.<sup>27</sup>

Treaty 6 was not simply about maintaining a measure of civility with a neighboring nation where there were contemporary hostilities with (like the Wetaskiwin treaty with the Blackfoot or the Peace Point treaty with the Dene) but contemplated political and social life that would have a measure of reciprocity, in terms of reliance on aid and respect for the differing ways of life practiced by both societies at the time. *wîtaskêwin* was intended to operate at a government-to-government level within Treaty 6. To do so, it requires respectful coexistence of *nêhiyaw* and Crown governments. Implicit within this is the recognition of each other's autonomy, and intertwined with *miyo wîcêhtowin*, there are ongoing duties of assistance and restraint.

37. On this point, *nêhiyaw* elder Gordon Oakes states that *wîcêhtowin*, or the law of good assistance, applies to a relationship based in *wîtaskêwin*:

And the relationships between *wîcêhtowin* and *wîtaskêwin*, they are all the same. They all have the same connotation with respect to the relations of the land.<sup>28</sup>

In this manner, *wîcêhtowin* obligates the *nêhiyawak* and the Crown to aid each other in each respective society's good living. The link to the land is significant in *wîcêhtowin* and has relevance in the Treaty 6 relationship. It was understood by the *nêhiyawak* that assistance in good living from the Crown would mean the Crown would refrain from using the land in a way that would harm the good living of the *nêhiyawak*. As both political kin (*wâhkôtowin*) and neighbors (*wîtaskêwin*), it was and is understood that each of the treaty parties would refrain from harming or taking away from the ability of each to have a good living in Treaty 6 territory.

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<sup>27</sup> This gathering took place from October 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, at Saddle Lake Cree Nation. It involved treaty elders and other knowledge holders from across Treaty 6 territory conferencing at Saddle Lake Cree Nation. See Confederation of Treaty 6 First Nations, *Confederation of Treaty 6 First Nations*, Summary of Treaty 6 Gathering at Saddle Lake in 1983 at 57.

<sup>28</sup> Cardinal and Hildebrandt, *supra* note 2 at 41.

38. What it means to be a good governmental neighbor, as is the expectation of the nêhiyawak of the Crown through wîtaskêwin, involves both expectations based on the oral statements, promises, and assurances of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8, as well as the implicit duty to a renewal of treaty relations. Any sharing of territory had to occur commensurately (via the principle of tipaamitowin), with reciprocal responsibilities and benefits for both treaty partners. A primary expectation is the support of the continued practice of nêhiyaw pimatisiwin, or the nêhiyaw way of life.

### **pâstâhowin and Crown treaties**

39. pâstâhowin plays a role in nêhiyaw treaties with the Crown. Fundamentally, any breach of the treaty relationship, including the orally agreed upon terms, is committing pâstâhowin. Much like a breach of the internal architecture of the Canadian constitution would fundamentally alter Canada's federalist state, in my opinion, committing pâstâhowin on some of the foundational structures of the treaty relationship would fundamentally alter nêhiyaw international governance.

### **Part D: Cree law and alterations of Treaty**

40. In my opinion, unilateral alterations, amendments, or otherwise changes to the treaty relationship would be a fundamental breach of treaty, and of nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina in general. It is a common understanding that any change to treaty, without principled engagement in the fundamental elements and processes of nêhiyaw treaty-making (namely a process that involves nêhiyaw ceremonialism, and a deliberative process that would include representatives from all nêhiyaw peoples in Treaty 8 and Treaty 6) would be creating and committing a pâstâhowin. Further, it is my opinion that discussions, plans, intentions to break, change, amend or alter the treaty relationship is creating a pâstâhowin as it contemplating a transgression of nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina through speech.

41. Cardinal and Hildebrandt recognize that Treaty 6 “creat[ed] a perpetual familial relationship based on familial conception of *wâhkôhtowin* (good relationships)” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt, 2000 at 33) [emphasis added]. In my opinion, this is a widely accepted truth within nêhiyaw communities and with nêhiyaw people regarding treaty. It is trite to say that Cree people believe the treaties will last ‘as long as the sun shines, the grasses grow, and the rivers

flow'. This metaphor denotes the perpetuity of the relationship and forms a basis of nêhiyaw governance and each treaty's special position within it.

42. According to nêhiyaw law, the Creator is akin within this governmental kinship. As Cardinal and Hildebrandt note:

“The First Nations believe that the relationship is governed by divine laws that define the relations between the Creator and what [they] created. The relationship between the Creator and First Nations peoples is understood to be like that which exists between the various members of a family and is thus governed by wâhkôtowin, laws detailing the duties and responsibilities which take effect for each member of the family unit.” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt, 2000 at 18)

43. For example, the assurances by Lieutenant Governor Alexander Morris of the perpetuity of Treaty 6 would be understood by the nêhiyaw treaty partners. Morris assured the nêhiyawak of this timeframe during the negotiations as he stated:

“I want you to think of my words, I want to tell you that what we talk about is very important. What I trust and hope we will do is not for to-day or to-morrow only; what I will promise, and what I believe and hope you will take, is to last as long as that sun shines and yonder river flows.”<sup>29</sup>

44. Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 are not bilateral relationships. It is a common understanding that treaty is not only human-to-human legal relations but necessarily involve the nêhiyaw conception of a Creator in the treaty. This impacts on the treaty relationship, as Danny Musqua notes:

“We have made a covenant with Her Majesty's government, and a covenant is not just a relationship between people, it's a relationship between three parties, you [the Crown] and me [First Nations] and the Creator” (Cardinal and Hildebrandt at 32)

45. A deep understanding or adherence to nêhiyaw spiritual practices is not necessary to understand the significance of this belief regarding treaty. The infusion of nêhiyaw conceptions of a Creator in the relationship signifies a greater legal force than nêhiyaw governments or

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<sup>29</sup> See Alexander Morris, *The Treaties of Canada with the Indians of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories* (Toronto: Coles Publishing Company, 1971) at 202.

Crown governments. It's a call to recognize a supremacy of the treaty relationship that moves it beyond simple human alteration without careful engagement with the foundational elements and processes of treaty. It certainly signals as standard beyond unilateral change or amendment.

46. Further, it is my opinion that governmental kinship, by way of the familial relationship it suggests, does not contemplate the unilateral replacement of one treaty partner with another. Or to put another way, the Crown could not be replaced by a separate government, or government representative. In the familial sense, it is impossible to replace an individual within a kinship order. It makes even less sense for a unilateral exchange to occur. This would transgress Crown treaty promises and certainly would be committing a *pâstâhowin*. The replacement of a fundamental treaty partner after at least 126 years of political and governmental kinship defies *nêhiyaw* legal logic, even by analogy.

47. According to *nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina*, a secession from treaty would be committing *pâstâhowin* with regard to one of the most fundamental relationships within *nêhiyaw* governance. Mitigation or compensation of such a transgression is not contemplated within *nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina*; It would fundamentally transgress the boundaries of the governmental kinship treaty has created. It would also fundamentally transgress the territorial boundaries and obligations set in treaty. It would affect one of the foundational elements of contemporary *nêhiyaw* governance.

48. In my opinion, a restructuring of treaty that maintains the legal and political integrity of the governmental kinship it has created cannot be accomplished without the consent of First Nations. It is a fundamental devolution of the treaty relationship to allow non-governmental actors and/or discrete groups of people instigate proceedings that may lead to the dismantling of the treaty relationship.

### **Part E: Conclusions**

49. *nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina* operated long before 1876 and was grounded in the overarching principle of *nêhiyaw pimâtsiwin*, or Cree way of life. The laws of *wâhkôtowin* (laws of kinship/relationship) ensure treaty partners have corresponding roles, responsibilities, and obligations under *nêhiyaw* law. *wîtaskêwin* (living together on the land in peace/neighborliness) and *miyo wîcêhtowin* (good, mutual assistance) give concrete shape to how this kinship is to

operate in practice under Treaty 6. wîtaskêwin frames the treaty as a land-sharing agreement in which nêhiyaw and settler societies live side by side on nêhiyaw âskiy as neighbours, with reciprocal obligations of respect, restraint, and recognition of each other's autonomy. miyo wîcêhtowin activates and renews these relationships by requiring each side to assist the other in living well, to communicate with honesty and kindness, and to avoid conduct that would harm the other's livelihood or legal order. Together, wâhkôtowin, wîtaskêwin, and miyo wîcêhtowin make Treaty 6 a perpetual, kin-based, land-sharing relationship oriented toward good relations.

50. These positive obligations are balanced by principles that define and constrain wrong conduct. pâstâhowin (overstepping lawful bounds) is the law of transgression: stepping beyond the limits of what one is entitled to do, especially in ways that harm relatives or violate obligations arising from wâhkôtowin and wîtaskêwin. pâstâmowin is a related law focused on harmful or dangerous speech that can bring misfortune. In a treaty context, all these principles operated in pre-1876 treaties like that between the nêhiyawak and the Blackfoot and likewise between the Dene. In this way, nêhiyaw legal principles of kinship, neighbourliness, mutual aid, and defined transgression provided the legal framework for treaty-making and land-sharing well before Treaty 6 and Treaty 8.

51. A unilateral change to Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 through a referendum on secession is a violation that goes to the heart of the treaty relationship. It effectively obliterates the treaty relationship and dismantles the nêhiyaw legal principles that provide the foundation for Treaty 6 and Treaty 8. A unilateral secession referendum violates the principles of wîtaskêwin and wâhkôtowin and would be considered a pâstâhowin, or transgression of nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina.

52. Further, calling a referendum that would affect the above alterations to the treaty relationship, without the collective consent of nêhiyaw First Nations, is a violation of wîtaskêwin and wâhkôtowin as well. From a nêhiyaw perspective, treaty renewal through nation-to-nation conduct based on wâhkôtowin and wîtaskêwin is a primary assurance of treaty. To call a referendum unilaterally strikes at the heart of the spirit and intent of these principles in relation to how they enable treaty renewal.

53. Based on the nêhiyaw legal process involved in the creation of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 respectively, including the inclusion of the Creator in the treaty and the assurances by Alexander

Morris that the treaty would last “as long as the sun shines and the rivers flow,” there is an expectation that treaty is an agreement in perpetuity. Because of the governmental neighborliness and kinship these principles bring to the treaty relationship, the renewal of treaty relations is an assurance and promise of treaty. Further mutual respect is an underlying term of agreement as well, that calls for either treaty partner to refrain from unilateral alterations or otherwise changes to the treaty relationships as contemplated in 1876 and 1899. Any action taken by the Crown that is contrary to the oral promises and assurances is creating a *pâstâhowin*, or a violation of *nêhiyaw* law.

54. Initiating a referendum question through a petition that would fundamentally violate the oral terms of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8, namely the perpetuity clauses, is a violation of *nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina*. There is no contemplation or understanding from *nêhiyaw* peoples that the Crown would be able to delegate its governmental responsibilities of maintenance and renewal of solemn treaty relationships to its citizenry.

55. As a final thought, it must be said that, despite what *nêhiyawak* perceive as violations or failures of its treaty partner to uphold the promises and assurances of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8, *nêhiyaw* First Nations still view the treaty as a preeminent and sacred legal relationship. This is a testament to the strength of *nêhiyaw* law and *nêhiyaw* governance, as the *nêhiyawak* still intend to fulfill their treaty promises to their political kin despite this history.

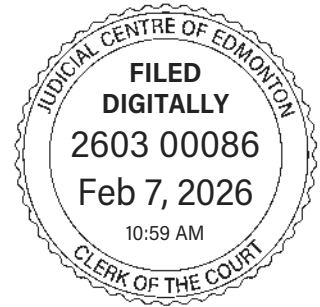
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COURT COURT OF KING'S BENCH OF ALBERTA

COURT LOCATION EDMONTON

APPLICANT/PLAINTIFF STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION

RESPONDENTS / DEFENDANTS HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF ALBERTA, the ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA and CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OF ALBERTA



DOCUMENT AFFIDAVIT

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF PARTY FILING THIS DOCUMENT

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Counsel for the Applicant

### AFFIDAVIT OF TRACEY MCLEAN

Affirmed on February 2, 2026

#### **I, Tracey Mclean, of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, in the Province of Alberta, AFFIRM AND SAY THAT:**

1. I am the duly elected Councillor of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation ("SLCN"). I was first elected in 2022 and was re-elected in 2025. I engage in our ceremony, study our Treaties and am a matriarchal leader. I am a mother and a grandmother. My *mooshum* (grandfather) was Dan McLean who was a witness on our oral histories in the *R v. Badger* case that went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. He was also involved with the Indian Association of Alberta that led the fight against the White Paper in the 1970s.
2. From this perspective, I have witnessed with alarm the misinformation and attacks on our Treaties, enabled by the Alberta government. Because our Treaty is a sacred covenant,

entered into over a pipe ceremony, this misinformation (i.e. that we have no rights outside our reserves and that our say is the same as individual citizens) is extremely disconcerting and undermines my dignity as a First nation woman.

3. I have also witnessed racism towards our people but other new Canadians from the petition posts on social media or the comments against us including claiming we are bought by Ottawa, that our Chief and Councils are corrupt and need forensic audits and more extreme racists comments and tropes about our right to continue to exist under Treaty and alcoholism. I worry about our Chief, Sheldon Sunshine, who has been personally targeted by much of this online vitriol because of this case challenging the petition. We need to protect him.
4. I live in our community which is near Valleyview Alberta. We already have to manage racism towards our kids at hockey games or in schools. Now, while we have many allies, I have witnessed the racism worsen from a group of individuals empowered by this petition process.
5. All of this causes harm to our dignity and self-worth, but also our relations with our non-Indigenous neighbours and Treaty partners.

### **The APP and Petitioner Groups**

6. Prior to January 4, 2026, I witnessed the APP running most communications on the separatist petition brought by Mitch Sylvestre. Attached and marked as **Exhibit 1** is a copy of the notice of APP, which states in part: *“Mitch Sylvestre is the proponent of the petition; as such, he will manage the signature process through the Stay Free Alberta website.”* There are still several posts and videos of and by Sylvestre and his legal counsel Jeffrey Rath on Alberta independence and the petition listed on the APP website. Exhibit 1 is currently is available: . <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/alberta->

[prosperity-project-articles/public-notice-clarification-on-alberta-prosperity-projects-role-in-the-citizens-initiative-petition/](https://prosperity-project-articles/public-notice-clarification-on-alberta-prosperity-projects-role-in-the-citizens-initiative-petition/)

7. Since then, I have witnessed two entities take over: Rise of Alberta and Stay Free Alberta. So far as I have seen online, Rise of Alberta and Keith Wilson sell the same merchandise through links on their websites/YouTube channels, referring to the “Republic of Alberta”. and push the same messaging as APP once did and that is allegedly presented at the signature signing events as further particularized below.

### **Smith’s now Chief of Staff releases Free Alberta Strategy**

8. In 2021, Rob Anderson, co-authored a Free Alberta Strategy, excerpts of which are attached and marked as **Exhibit 2** and a full copy is available here: [https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/albertainstitute/pages/337/attachments/original/1637104983/Free\\_Alberta\\_Strategy\\_-\\_Web\\_Version.pdf?1637104983](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/albertainstitute/pages/337/attachments/original/1637104983/Free_Alberta_Strategy_-_Web_Version.pdf?1637104983) . The fifth and final part of this Free Alberta Strategy refers to “Alberta Independence” after the previous options are tried, such as a Sovereignty Act, Judicial Independence Act and an Alberta Provincial Police force. I am informed by online reports and do believe Rob Anderson has been Premier Danielle Smith’s Chief of Staff and is presently her Chief of Staff.
9. After being elected the party leader of the United Conservative Party (“UCP”), Premier Smith’s first legislation was the *Sovereignty Act*. Many First Nations, including SLCN, opposed the very concept of the sovereignty act and participated in a joint press conference in opposition. Onion Lake Cree Nation (“OLCN”), our Treaty Alliance partner, has filed a claim against the *Sovereignty Act*. I am informed by OLCN and do believe that Alberta brought an application to strike that litigation.

## Smith, Modry and the APP

10. I reviewed an online clip dated August 2022 where Smith appeared at an APP hosted UCP leadership debate. I have reviewed this clip posted online, said to be of this appearance, where I observed someone named Ezra Levant ask Danielle Smith questions. Levant asked about Quebec’s “or else” (i.e. secession referendum) and then asked Smith: “how far are you willing to go? Are you willing to say we want these things ‘or else’?” and asked if she would consider “calling a referendum on the Clarity Act question of secession?” I observed Smith respond as follows:

*The “or else” is Dennis Modry and the Alberta Prosperity Project. It’s true. We proclaimed into law on April the 7th the Citizen Initiative Act, which gives the people the power to collect signatures for a petition campaign to propose an amendment... if it’s a constitutional change, it’s. 20 % threshold. That would mean 600,000 signatures. And as I understand it, Dr. Modry has a million people on his database. So part of when I decided I wanted to run, I know how important it was to make sure that we addressed the issues of autonomy. And I talked to Dr. Modry as one of my first steps. I said “let’s try this together.” “Let’s get as much autonomy as we can.” Full well knowing that he’s got the power. You’ve got the power if we are not successful ... you have the power to be able to be the ‘or else’”*

The APP clip is posted and available here

<https://x.com/TheBreakdownAB/status/1941634254271664463?s=20>  
[https://www.instagram.com/reels/Cs\\_4p7CvO0-/](https://www.instagram.com/reels/Cs_4p7CvO0-/)

11. Other than this 2022 clip, I have not been able to find any other public reference to using the *Citizen Initiative Act* to push a referendum on secession until April 29, 2025 when Bill 54 was introduced by Smith’s UCP government and this issue entered the mainstream public discourse. I did not become aware of the 2022 clip until after Bill 54 was tabled.

12. I have reviewed a 2023 Ethics Commissioner Report which referenced a conversation between Artur Pawlowski, who was convicted during the Coutts blockade, and Danielle Smith, as Premier, all facilitated by Modry. In the report, it quotes from a cellphone conversation of Premier Smith with Pawlowski, where she tells him in February of 2023 “*So Dr. Modry knows .... how to reach me.*” A copy of the reports is available on the Ethics Commissioner’s webpage:  
<https://www.ethicscommissioner.ab.ca/media/3124/allegations-involving-premier-danielle-smith-may-17-2023.pdf>

### **The 2023 Election**

13. In the May 2023 election, so far as I am aware, Danielle Smith did not campaign on sovereignty. Premier Smith said the campaign was going to focus on, for example, daycare and healthcare. During the 2023 election campaign, so far as I am aware, the UCP did not campaign on separatism/Alberta Independence, nor seek a mandate on a separatist referendum. Attached and marked as **Exhibit 3** is a news article first published on May 5, 2023, by the Canadian Press, entitled “*Smith says sovereignty act, RCMP replacement plan not in UCP campaign*”, also available here:  
[https://edmonton.citynews.ca/2023/05/05/smith-sovereignty-act/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://edmonton.citynews.ca/2023/05/05/smith-sovereignty-act/?utm_source=chatgpt.com). Unless called earlier, the next election date will be October 2027.

### **Alberta and Smith on the CIA amendments/process**

14. SLCN has written to Premier Danielle Smith on several occasions and met with her with other Treaty 8 Chiefs since April 29, 2025. The summer of 2025 was the first time the Premier offered to meet with the Treaty 8 Chiefs or SLCN. One meeting was held in Calgary, which our Chief was unable to attend. At the meeting our Chief was able to attend in Slave Lake, Premier Smith did not address our concerns over separatism. As of

February 2, 2026, the Premier has never answered our letters, even though the Chief re-hand delivered these letters to her at the Slave Lake meeting in the summer of 2025, including our letters on Bill 54 referenced in Chief Sunshine's evidence. I am informed by Chief Sunshine and do believe that all of this is true and accurate.

15. I reviewed a video interview dated May 7, 2025 between Vassy Kapelos of CTV news Danielle Smith, including as follows, starting around 4:30:

**Smith:**... You have 30-40 percent of Albertans... saying that they are dissatisfied with the country to the point where they would consider it (separatism) And my job is to try to bring those numbers down. That's what I am doing. That's why I have been told by my caucus and the people that I speak with to give this new Prime Minister a chance, to see if we can get it to a deal and that's what I intend to do is to go into those discussions in good faith and hope that we can get to a resolution and a meeting of the minds..

**Kapelos:** isn't the easiest way to quell that sentiment to say it won't happen?

**Smith:** well, I think that you can see if there isn't an outlet it creates a new party....the Parti Quebecois ... the Bloc Quebecois has many seats, and I don't want to see that happen...

.....

**Kapelos:** Surely though you can recognize Premier that the feasibility even if the vote were to go ahead is incredibly complicated and some of the, for example, Indigenous Peoples in your province have highlighted that, you know, health care transfers, you know, how does the system work without them, ... is it responsible to leave that door open in any way?

**Smith:** Well, I think that's up to constitutional scholars and lawyers to discuss, and at the moment there isn't a petition campaign, there isn't a question, all there is is some good will... trying to be able to resolve some of the issues that have [inaudible] up over the last 10 years. And that's what .... you'll have to talk to legal scholars...

**Kapelos:** I am not even talking legally here. I am picturing Alberta, where you and I both know I lived for almost five years uh, with a healthcare system that does not have health care transfers, like how does that, let's take the law out of it... like shouldn't you be

honest with Albertans who are expressing this sentiment, which is, I understand, not coming from a place that isn't unfounded, that sentiment is not something to be dismissed, but shouldn't you be honest with them about what it would mean if you vote yes and now you vote ... what that would mean for their social services, for their healthcare, for their...

**Smith:** I think you're getting a little ahead of yourself Vassy. There is no question. There is no petition campaign. There is no vote. All there is .. is me saying I support a sovereign Alberta within a united Canada....

**The full interview is available here:** <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/article/alberta-premier-smith-will-respect-the-outcome-of-referendum-on-separation-says-her-job-is-to-bring-the-temperature-down/>

16. On Thursday, May 8, 2025, according to the UCP's constituency page, Danielle Smith attended the Bonnyville Premier's dinner, where she sat beside people I recognize and believe to be Mitch Sylvestre and Dennis Modry (I know this from previous APP postings). Attached and marked as **Exhibit 4** is a copy of this Facebook post, also currently available here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1FTWbFH9HJ/>
17. I reviewed an audio clip on the @thebreakdown Twitter, formerly X, account, said to be dated Jun 14, 2025 and of Dennis Modry, where he stated while referring to the "Bonnyville Premier's dinner" as follows:

*"I want to just mention a conversation that I had at the Bonnyville Premier's dinner where Premier Smith was sitting next to me and on the other side was Mitch Sylvestre, I asked her a question but I said 'when are you gonna get out in front of this parade and we've already got at that point 220,000 members and uh I said when are you gonna get out in front of this parade' and she said well give me six months. Okay well, we're gonna give her six months and see and see what happens but I left her with this thought, and I want you all to think about this. You can win with us. You can't without us."*

A screen shot of this clip is attached and marked as **Exhibit 5**, and available here: <https://x.com/TheBreakdownAB/status/1948190826695373011?s=20>

18. On November 27, 2025, Alberta entered into an MOU with Canada and there are deadlines for compliance by April 1, 2026. The MOU is publicly available here: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ceb83f4b-25ba-4781-b09d-5b6ac7725972/resource/1c9a9826-fd06-4150-ad54-5c2a94ea8383/download/exc-mou-goc-and-go-a-energy-collaboration.pdf>
19. On November 28, 2025, I saw reports that Smith was at the UCP annual general meeting, where, according to news reports, Jeffrey Rath attended and received applause and where Smith was booed. A copy of this news report is attached and marked as **Exhibit 6**, and available here: <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/free-and-independent-alberta-question-draws-loud-applause-at-ucps-annual-general-meeting>.
20. On December 4, 2025, Bill 14 was tabled.
21. On December 5, 2025, Justice Feasby issued his decision.
22. I listened to a clip from Premier Smith's radio show, dated December 6, 2025, where the Premier stated in relation to Justice Feasby's decision

*“the will of Albertans is not expressed by a single judge appointed by Justin Trudeau and never faces any kind of recall campaign never. That’s what we’re talking about is that in a lot of these cases through our consultation through our elections the kind of things they want us to do and then the court can override it and the court uh again most of the judges are appointed by Ottawa not by us and why should I mean, I think that’s the it is not synonymous to have an unelected judge .. an unelected judge is not synonymous with democracy. Democracy is when elected individuals who have to face the electorate every four years make decisions. That’s what democracy is. So I think that that things are getting a little bit muddled. ...*

Premier Smith continued the trans rights legal cases/anti-trans laws as follows;

*“.... we believe that in the in the actions that we have taken particularly when it comes to protecting kids right to be able to have kids of their own one day so that they do not make premature decisions, um to affect their fertility. We believe that girls and women have a right to participate in sport without having to compete against born male athletes. and we believe that parents should have a right to know what’s going on with their kids at school. Those are very strong strongly supported policies, well above 70 percent of Albertans, so we believe we’re the ones being democratic. The court stepped in and wanted to put an injunction on one of those bills, we suspected the other two were coming and that’s part of the reason we used the notwithstanding clause.”*

**This clips is excerpted from the Your Province; Your Premier broadcast, available here, and dated December 6, 2025:**

**<https://globalnews.ca/edmonton/program/your-province-your-premier>**

21. On December 11, 2026, Bill 14 received Royal Assent, and the petition was issued on January 2, 2026, to begin on January 3, 2026. We filed this litigation on January 5, 2026 when the Courts reopened.
22. On or about January 23, 2026, I am informed and to believe that our counsel asked Alberta’s counsel whether the province would consent to an Order staying any of the statutory timelines under the *Citizen Initiative Act* and the response was that Alberta’s lawyer had no instructions to agree to a stay that may have allowed this matter to proceed with less urgency.
23. I am informed and do believe that counsel for Alberta stated in an email to all counsel on January 23, 2026: *“There are no statutory timelines on the Minister to send to LGIC or LGIC to hold a referendum (aside from the fact that a referendum must be held before/at the next election, which is October 2027)... We are seeking instructions on the possibility of voluntarily holding off on initiating the referendum once CEO sends to Minister – presumably this would only be for a couple months. We*

*have asked but may not have a response by Tuesday.”* From this, I take that our issues are not urgent or of any concern to the Premier, but those of the minority separatists are. As noted below, Smith has publicly indicated she is prepared to move full steam ahead to a referendum this fall and, according to her statements on January 31, 2026, appears to assume our proceedings will fail. The fact that our rights and interests are ignored, while those of the minority separatists are elevated and enabled through statutory changes, on two occasions, affects my worth and dignity as a First Nation person.

24. On January 29, 2026, when asked about BC Premier Eby labelling visits of Sylvestre, Rath and/or Modry to the meet with the Trump administration as treason. I witnessed multiple news outlets reporting from the First Ministers Meeting where Danielle Smith stated:

*“I have always been clear that our United Conservative caucus and I are supportive of a strong and sovereign Alberta, within a united Canada. That is one of the bills that we passed when I first came in. I think we always have to be realistic. Ten years under Justin Trudeau’s government, our province was relentlessly attacked. Our economy was relentlessly attacked, not only for our economy but our provincial rights and our personal freedoms and our way of life,” ...*

*“So if you look at the polls, they suggest as many as 30 per cent of Albertans have lost hope, that’s about a million people. I’m not going to demonize or marginalize a million of my fellow citizens, when they’ve got legitimate grievances. What we need to do, is we need to give Albertans hope. We need to show them, not just tell them, not just with words but with actions, that Canada can work. That’s what I’ve been doing.*

*”That’s why I signed an agreement with the Prime Minister in November so that we could work toward a common cause on correcting some of the mistakes of the Trudeau government. And it’s why we participate in these kinds of first ministers’ conferences, so that we can find the things that we agree on and work together for the betterment of the country.”*

**This statement is taken from this particular news source and reflects what I witnessed on TV: <https://vicnews.com/2026/01/29/smith-wont-demonize-albertans-as-eby-points-to-treasonous-actions/>**

25. On or about January 31, 2026, I observed clips of an interview between Rosemary Barton of CBC News and Danielle Smith as follows:

**Barton:** *Premier Doug Ford said you should denounce it and you did not do that.*

**Smith:** *You know that there's just a lot of hurt people here, I mean we have, when I look at the movement, I see, that 30 percent or more of Albertans have given up on the country and it's distressing and that is a sign I think of a loss of hope and it's my job to restore hope but I am not going to demonize a million people...*

**Barton:** *You're not demonizing them but... why can't you say this is the path forward.*

**Smith:** *[inaudible, keeps talking over Barton] I just feel like it's my job to allow for a bit of a pressure release valve. If people feel this way, they need an avenue to be able to express it so I am going to watch and see how this petition plays out. We will know by the end of May if they have enough signatures to go to a vote and, if so, then we'll schedule that for probably for the fall.*

**Barton:** *But that seems risky, that seems risky, particularly at a time when there are real threats to our sovereignty that are coming from the south side.*

**Smith:** *I don't know if you have the same questions in Quebec, like the Parti Quebecois leader...*

**Barton:** *Yes sure, there too, I ask questions there too.*

**Smith:** *I think it's far more risky to have this question drag on for years. if this is an acute issue that we are facing because of the last 10 years of being treated badly by Trudeau. Ah there is a new government. There is a new sort of recognition of whether or not he is moving in the right direction. I think he is doing many things in the right direction. I think he will do a lot more with the help of a strong opposition leader but that to me is a demonstration of why there is some urgency. We've got to address the issue of getting the MOU implemented and demonstrating the we are going to develop our resources again and we gotta address some of the big issues like the gun buy back....*

...

**Barton:** *Do you not think you are somehow enabling the conversation around separatism? By allowing it to play without you saying, I am not saying demonize them, saying, “this isn’t the way forward, I’m going to make things better for you as Premier hang tight?”*

**Smith:** *That’s what I have said. That’s exactly what I have said. I believe in a sovereign Alberta within a united Canada. A federal government that stays in its area of jurisdiction. That honours and respects our areas of jurisdiction. Treats us with respect. Allows us to develop our wealth. So we can all benefit.*

**Barton:** *But you are also allowing the idea of referendum to forward...clearly because, I don’t know what, you think that once they have a kick at the can the story will be over or?*

**Smith:** *As you know, I also inherited citizen initiative referenda...*

**The clips of this January 31, 2026 CBC interview are available here:**  
<https://x.com/sarobertsonca/status/2017994302832386342?s=20>

26. The publicly available polls from January 2026 that I have found, which are collectively marked and attached as **Exhibit 7**, state as follows
- a. A Pollara Strategic Insights survey shows 19 percent would **vote** for separation and 75 per cent would vote against it. (January 9, 2026):  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-separation-poll-9.7039022>
  - b. Ipsos Reid says 28 percent support independence, and almost half of the 28 percent are not “committed”. The pollster explains: “However, new Ipsos research which “stress-tested” these sentiments by introducing real-world consequences reveals that actual committed support for separation is roughly half these levels in both provinces, with only 15 to 16% of Albertans and Quebecers maintaining their support after considering possible costs. This means that for roughly half of separatist supporters in both provinces,

independence is more a political message than a plan they are prepared to endure costs to achieve.” <https://www.ipsos.com/en-ca/support-independence-alberta-reaches-levels-similar-quebec>

- c. A poll from “Research Co.” dated January 8, 2026, shows that 17 percent strongly support “Alberta becoming a country independent from Canada” and 14 per cent “moderately support” Alberta becoming a country independent from Canada, for a total of 31 percent: [https://researchco.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Tables\\_Separation\\_AB\\_08Jan2026.pdf](https://researchco.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Tables_Separation_AB_08Jan2026.pdf).

27. The last one, from January 8, is the only one that shows a combined number of above 30% that I have been able to locate.

28. On February 1, 2026, Premier Smith was asked about Treaty rights on her “Your Province. Your Premier Show.” Q: “*How do you respond to treaty rights and the constitutional challenges raised by First Nations here in Alberta?*” A: “*I think it’s prejudging an outcome. I think you need to have a pressure release valve on issues people care about and this is something that clearly a motivated group of people care about., They wanna.. ummm. go out get signatures. They have I think 120 days to do it and so I’ll wait and see if they’re successful that bar by I think the end of April.*” This clip that I reviewed is available here:

<https://x.com/TheBreakdownAB/status/2018081336171315513?s=20>.

29. I have seen no statements from Premier Smith or her government that she has considered that this “pressure release valve”:

- a. is not wanted by a large majority of Albertans

- b. is leading to racism against First Nations
- c. is simultaneously leading to individuals spreading inaccuracies on Treaty.
- d. is with a proposal that is unconstitutional according to Justice Feasby.
- e. could bring risks of foreign interference

30. Neither Premier Smith nor the UCP government have:

- a. denounced the racism coming from petition events.
- b. denounced the separatists' visits with the Trump administration.

31. At every turn, between May 2025 and February 2026, Smith defers the questions. If this continues and based on our experience improving relations with our Treaty partners, the harms we allege will be irreversible, at least for decades to come.

#### **Treaty statements related to petition process.**

32. I read Justice Feasby's decision including paragraph 245: "Alberta cannot succeed to the Numbered Treaties without the consent of First Nations. " Moreover, this decision has concluded that the transformation of provincial and territorial borders into international borders would contravene the Numbered Treaties by significantly impairing the exercise of Treaty rights by First Nations. First Nations in Treaties 6 and 8 and the Blackfoot Confederacy in Treaty 7. attended a press conference in Edmonton on January 29, 2026. After the press conference, the following messages of support from Treaties 6, 7 and 8, as well as some First Nations, were posted online, all attached and marked as **Exhibit 8**.

#### **Race-based comments and statements related to petition process**

33. I have witnessed the statements made at Sylvestre's signing events, as reported in the *Edmonton Journal*.

34. On or about January 16, 2026, I reviewed the Edmonton Journal Article entitled *Anti-racism watchdog fields complaint arising from comments made at separatist town hall*, *Edmonton Journal*, attached and marked as **Exhibit 9** and available here: <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/anti-racism-watchdog-field-complaint-arising-from-immigration-comments-made-at-separatist-town-hall>

*“The very concept of a nation founded by European settlers is offensive to me. Old stock white Canadians are an unpleasant relic and, quite frankly, replaceable. And we will replace them.”*

*“Old stock white Canadians, and that’s us, and we don’t have to apologize for this room being filled with white people,” [...] “This used to be what Alberta was. We’re not apologizing for being ourselves.”*

35. This statement implies that First Nations/Indigenous people never existed here. The concept that Alberta has always been “old stock white” indirectly relies on the doctrine of discovery, i.e. *terra nullius*, which our people had requested the Vatican to reject during the papal visit in 2022. It is this kind of open and flagrant misinformation and racism that we have not had to face for several years.

36. At an event in Edmonton, after a Court appearance on this matter, the *Edmonton Journal* reported that speakers, including Jeffrey Rath, referred to immigrants and stated, without facts, that fast food workers need to speak a “South-Asian” language. Attached and marked as **Exhibit 10** is a copy of the January 26, 2026 article, also available here: <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/edmonton-separatist-event-carney>.

### **Trump Administration**

37. I have reviewed an interview transcript between the National Observer and Mitch Sylvestre, where the following was transcribed

**Kopecky**

*Good morning, Mitch. There was a question I meant to ask you yesterday and then ran out of time because I had to run. I was just wondering if you had gone to the US with Jeffrey Rath as part of that delegation.*

**Sylvestre**

*I'm not even talking about that anymore. That is the stupidest goddamn trail of ... that is so insignificant, if you only knew. [Laughs] It's the stupidest goddamn conversation. I'm not even talking about that anymore.*

**Kopecky**

*What's stupid about it?*

**Sylvestre**

*I just want you to understand you're talking about a lawyer, a shopkeeper and a retired heart surgeon going down to the US to talk to government people, and everybody's making a big deal out of it. Like, really? Come on — like, put that in context. Fuck. Pardon me, but it was so goddamn stupid that it's almost hard to believe. Like, I'm not mad at you for asking, but everybody's so focused on us and the Americans. I want to ask you a question. Pick three random people from your hometown. And imagine them — like the Beverly Hillbillies going to the US, and talking to these guys, as if there could be any consequence come out of that. It makes me laugh. It literally makes me laugh.*

**Kopecky**

*Were you one of the "hillbillies" though?*

**Sylvestre**

*Yeah, I was. I went once. I went once and chose not to go back. I mean there's been three trips. I declined the first one, went on the second one, and declined the third one.*

**Kopecky**

*Why did you decline the third one?*

**Sylvestre**

*Well, because what's the point of going there? We're just a casual conversation. We got no power. Like we're three regular Alberta citizens — a small businessman, a lawyer and a retired doctor. Like, come on, we're not elected. We have no power to make any decisions for anybody. Yeah, we're running a movement of people, but you know what? I started this by running rooms of 300, 400 people and basically ended up as being the leader because nobody else would do it and nobody else could. I mean, that's basically the only reason that this has happened. And it's just a very large collection of disgruntled Albertans, is what it is. And you know what, I just happen to be the lucky guy that gets to represent them. These disgruntled Albertans may change the course of history, however.*

**Kopecky**

*But, you're certainly rocking the boat in a very major fashion, you know.*

**Sylvestre**

*I'm humbled by the fact that people actually believe that we could actually do any of that kind of stuff. I mean, that's totally Danielle Smith's area. I've talked to the premier on a regular basis. What they can do and what they wanna do or what they can accomplish is entirely up to them. They're the people in power to do it. I just don't understand why they're not doing it. There's nothing holding them up. Like what's holding them up from going down there?*

**Kopecky**

*I think the argument is people are worried that Trump and his team will invade Alberta the way they want to invade Greenland, and they will hold up the desire for independence as an excuse and say, "hey, look, there's folks that want to [separate], we're going to come and rescue those folks."*

**Sylvestre**

*They're gonna come and rescue Alberta. So I'm gonna ask you a question. Who do we need rescuing from?*

**Kopecky**

*Well, you're telling me that it's Ottawa.*

**Sylvestre**

*Oh, I totally agree with you. So why isn't Ottawa rescuing?*

**Kopecky**

*I guess people don't think Alberta needs rescuing, that it's doing pretty well.*

**Sylvestre**

*I think they should take five minutes and pay attention to what's going on. Maybe we should put my video all out there for Albertans and Canadians to see how crooked the Canadian government actually is and how they're absolutely raping Alberta and with no intent to stop anytime in the near future. So how are we in a position that we need rescuing from our own government?*

38. The full transcript of the Sylvestre interview is attached and marked as **Exhibit 11**

and presently available here:

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2026/01/29/news/world-according-man-behind-albertas-separatism-petition>.

39. I reviewed a statement reported on January 23, 2026, in which the Trump's Treasury Secretary Bessent called Alberta a "natural partner for the US" and stated "Alberta has a wealth of natural resources, but they won't let them build a pipeline to the Pacific... I think we should let them come down into the US, and Alberta is a natural partner for the US. They have great resources. The Albertans are very independent people." This comment is reported in article, which is attached and marked **Exhibit 12**, available at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8ylqx0zw4o>

40. In response, I witnessed Jeffrey Rath stated <sup>OK</sup> in an interview with Vassy Kapelos on or about January 31, 2026: "If Secretary Bessent wanted to end Canada tomorrow, it would take one memo to all of the bond rating agencies to say that Canada is the poor risk because of all the various things that the United States is going to do with Canadian credit, and Canada would be over." This clip is available at:

<https://x.com/sarobertsonca/status/2018036848044483064?s=20>

41. I make this affidavit in support of the SLCN application for an injunction and for no other purpose.

AFFIRMED before me at Edmonton,  
in the Province of Alberta, this 2nd day of  
February, 2026.

Commissioner for Oaths, Justice of the  
Peace or Notary Public in and for Alberta

Tracey McLean

*Orlaugh O'Kelly  
Barilka + Slicker*

019



**ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT**  
#fortheLoveofalberta

This is Exhibit 1 referred to in the Affidavit of  
Tracey McLean

Sworn before me this 2 day  
Of February A.D., 20 26

  
A Notary Public, A Commissioner for Oaths  
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**ORLAGH O'KELLY**  
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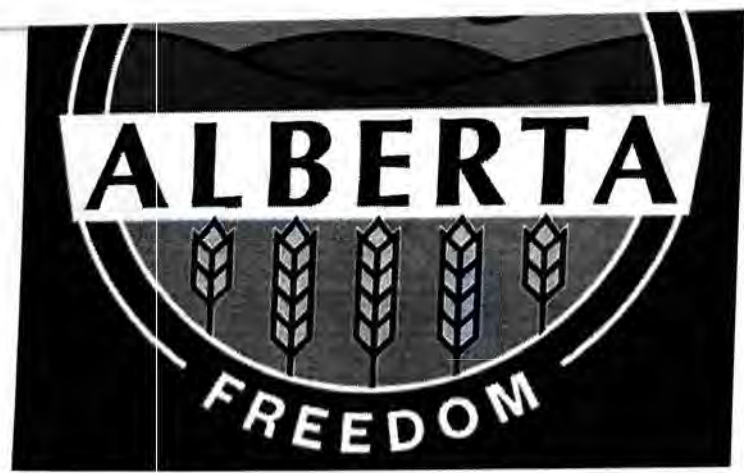
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**IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Alberta Prosperity Project is a committee of the board of the non-profit Alberta Prosperity S we are not a registered 3rd party advertiser for the Citizens Initiative Petition, where Mitch ! individual citizen, is the proponent.

3

Mitch Sylvestre is the proponent of the petition; as such, he will manage the signature proc Stay Free Alberta website.

Elections Alberta started accepting applications for canvassers on January 2nd. Applicator reviewed and approved or rejected. The identification badges for canvassers are then sent before signature collection can begin.

4

Information relating to the petition, how to become a canvasser, donations, **events** and pet locations will be posted on <https://stayfreealberta.com>. We suggest you follow this website campaign.

5

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This is Exhibit 2 referred to in the Affidavit of

Tracey McLean

Sworn before me this 2 day

Of February A.D., 20 26

  
A Notary Public, A Commissioner for Oaths  
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**ORLAGH O'KELLY**  
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# FREE ALBERTA STRATEGY

A STRONG, FREE & SOVEREIGN  
ALBERTA WITHIN CANADA

**ROB ANDERSON  
BARRY COOPER  
DEREK FROM**

28 SEPTEMBER 2021

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Alberta's treatment within Canada has become intolerable. Successive Federal Governments in Ottawa have relentlessly attacked our province's economic interests, stifled our prosperity, and pillaged the resources and wealth of Alberta's citizens to purchase electoral support in other parts of the country.

Though Albertans have tolerated the expropriation of our wealth for decades, the federal government has now advanced its anti-Alberta agenda a bridge too far, posing an existential threat to our Province's economic viability and the core freedoms of our people.

Ottawa has fundamentally breached its constitutional agreement with Alberta. The Alberta government, therefore, has a right and duty to repudiate this arrangement on behalf of its people, to renegotiate its terms of membership in Confederation and, if Canada's federal and provincial leaders refuse to negotiate, to form an independent nation.

We call upon the Government of Alberta to implement the following package of legislative and other reforms, which we summarize as follows:

1. Passing into law the Alberta Sovereignty Act, granting the Alberta Legislature absolute discretion to refuse any provincial enforcement of federal legislation or judicial decisions that, in its view, interfere with provincial areas of jurisdiction or constitute an attack on the interests of Albertans. This would include Alberta prohibiting any provincial enforcement of the federal carbon tax,<sup>1</sup> the No New Pipelines Act,<sup>2</sup> and attempts by federal agencies to regulate our Province's energy sector in any manner.<sup>3</sup>

This would necessitate establishing an Alberta Provincial Police Force to replace the Royal Canadian Mounted Police ("RCMP"), and passing into law the Alberta Independent Banking Act designed to expand significantly the number of provincially regulated financial institutions for the purpose of providing Alberta businesses and citizens with protection from enforcement of federal legislation or judicial decisions designated as unenforceable by the Alberta Legislature.

2. Effectively ending federal equalization transfers from Alberta through passing into law the Equalization Termination and Tax Collection Act. In addition to establishing an Alberta Revenue Agency to collect all provincial taxes, this Act would also grant the Provincial Government authority to recover the total amount of equalization confiscated by the Federal Government from Alberta each year, by withholding from the Canada Revenue Agency (“CRA”), an equal amount of federal tax source deductions that are collected by all provincial agencies, municipalities and, at their option, private corporations banking with provincially regulated financial institutions.
3. Opting out of all federal programs that interfere with provincial areas of jurisdiction, including health, education, resource development, environmental regulation, and property rights. This would include replacing the Canada Pension Plan (“CPP”) and Employment Insurance (“EI”) with an Alberta Pension Plan and Alberta Unemployment Insurance designed to deliver to Alberta pensioners and those who become unemployed higher benefits using lower premiums from Alberta workers.
4. Declaring that the Provincial Government will replace the Federal Government as acting authority to negotiate Alberta’s international trade and market access relationships; and further, granting the Provincial Legislature authority to make all future judicial appointments in Alberta through passing into law, the Alberta Judicial Independence Act.

These proposed reforms constitute the key elements of a strategic plan for Alberta to assert its sovereignty, offload the burden of Ottawa’s tyrannical economic policies against the Province, and secure self-determination for the people of Alberta within a reformed confederation, or if necessary, as an independent nation.

We call this proposal, the *‘Free Alberta Strategy’*.

# V. FINAL RESORT: NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Political tyrannies are unpredictable when their power and authority is threatened. Although, in Canada, it is difficult to imagine Ottawa considering the use of force to bring Alberta back into line should it embark on the Free Alberta Strategy, there is really no telling what tactics the federal government might resort to in such circumstances.

In the event that Ottawa refuses to recognize Alberta's provincial rights of sovereignty, and instead continues its strategy of economic tyranny, co-opted management of our resource sector, and the marginalization of our citizens, it may leave our province with no other recourse but to leave Confederation entirely.

Although national independence is a path of last resort, living under the rule of a cabal of eastern political elites that Albertans have not and will never elect, and whose goals and agenda mean economic and societal devastation for our people, cannot possibly be an option worth entertaining.

## **Republic of Western Canada**

Albertans are Western Canadians. Central and Eastern Canadians do not own exclusivity rights over Canada's history, culture, or name. If Alberta wishes to continue to call themselves Canadians - Western Canadians - they have every right to do so.

The challenges and impediments to separating from the rest of Canada are indeed numerous<sup>57</sup>. It is not in anyone's interest to deny the existence of the many questions that will need to be addressed prior to establishing an independent nation. This proposal is not meant to answer these questions at this time. The Free Alberta Strategy is, after all, a proposal to see a reinvigorated and sovereign Alberta remain within a repaired and united Canada.

The Strategy does, however, propose an outline for a process that should be considered in the event that Ottawa's reaction to the Free Alberta Strategy leaves the province with no other recourse but national independence.

An ancillary feature of the Free Alberta Strategy is that it will better prepare Alberta for national political sovereignty should it become necessary. The Strategy's cornerstone initiatives involve recovering and consolidating the majority of all economic, environmental and resource governance, revenue collection, social services, law enforcement, judicial powers, and other institutions, and placing them firmly under the authority of the Provincial Government. It also involves a great expansion of our provincially regulated financial institutions and intergovernmental affairs, which would naturally be required should independence become the only viable option for the province. In short, it sets up Alberta for independence in the event that independence must be considered.

## **A Democratic Independence Process**

Given the gravity of the decision, it is imperative that Alberta's population be entirely involved in and, indeed, approve any plan for independence. If confronted with the issue of independence, Albertans will require a clear question and a detailed roadmap outlining how such a transition would take place. After all, the only reason for independence is to improve the lives and opportunities of Albertans. If there is no clear path to that objective, why would any rational thinking woman or man agree to such a risky course of action?

We believe the following steps would place effective control of the independence process in the hands of Albertans:

1. Firstly, a provincial 'Pre-Referendum' on establishing a blue-ribbon panel Committee for Provincial Secession, should be held. If approved, this Committee, made up of members of the private and public sectors, public policy experts, and community and legal leaders, would draft a blueprint document outlining a plan for the independence of Alberta. This would almost certainly include proposals for:
  - a. An Alberta Constitution outlining the role of government and the rights of citizens, including the recognition of existing First Nations sovereignty and treaties;
  - b. A judicial and legal system incorporating the majority of our current laws, regulations, and legal processes, in order to retain legal stability and rule of law;
  - c. Transition of our existing social programs, again to retain stability and certainty for the Albertans who depend on them;
  - d. Monetary policy and currency;
  - e. Border protection and regulation;
  - f. Taxation;
  - g. The invitation and eventual incorporation of neighbouring provinces into the Republic of Western Canada should it be requested by them (i.e., Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and/or all or parts of B.C.);

- h. International relations, trade and commerce; and
  - i. Other questions and challenges involved in a transition to independence.
2. Once the Committee develops its proposal, Albertans would be given a full year to discuss and debate its merits. This period would also provide the federal government with a final opportunity to rethink its positions and, perhaps, enter good faith negotiations with Alberta to have it continue its membership within Canada (albeit as a largely sovereign jurisdiction).
  3. After a year has elapsed, and Albertans have had time to debate the merits of the Committee's proposal, a provincial referendum on independence and the Alberta Constitution would be held, requiring a 60% or higher vote of approval from the general population.
  4. If that final vote were successful, a declaration of Alberta's independence would be made to the international community, and the implementation of the Committee's proposal would commence, beginning with an election, under Alberta's new constitution, to elect a federal Western Canadian Government, based in Edmonton, Alberta.

This is Exhibit 3 referred to in the Affidavit of

Tracey Mclean

Sworn before me this 2 day

Of February A.D., 2026

[Signature]  
A Notary Public, A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

### Smith says sovereignty act, RCMP replacement and pension plan not in UCP campaign

ORLAGH O'KELLY  
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United Conservative Leader Danielle Smith says she won't be campaigning on some of her party's more contentious ideas – sovereignty legislation, a provincial police force and an Alberta pension plan – ahead of the May 29 election.

Smith was interviewed on Global's morning show in Calgary on Friday and fielded a variety of questions on revitalizing the city's downtown, public safety and health care.

Smith, after she became premier last year, introduced the sovereignty act as centrepiece legislation

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to pursue a more confrontational approach with the federal government on issues deemed to be an overreach in provincial areas of responsibility.

Smith has also had her ministers looking into replacing the RCMP with a provincial police service, setting up a provincial revenue agency and leaving the Canada Pension Plan.

“They’re not in our campaign because I think we’ve got so many things that we have done that we’re excited about. We’re bringing in \$10-a-day daycare,” Smith said.

“We have a partnership with the federal government to be able to bring that through, and we expanded it out to both non-profit and private spaces. We’ve also undertaken a significant improvement in the health-care system.”

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Smith said things like the pension plan and replacing the RCMP can be revisited after the election.

“We have said that we’re going to do consultation on a number of these issues. I think our sheriffs, for instance, are doing a great job,” she said.

“The other ones, we are waiting for a couple of reports. And I’ve said as soon as those reports are available, we’ll make them public.”

Days before the election call, Smith announced a \$330-million provincial investment in a new arena and entertainment district project in Calgary.

She said there is also a need to address the “public safety crisis.” Alberta has a plan to ensure more publicly funded treatment beds and long-term supports are available for people with addictions, she said.

Calgary police were investigating a report of a stabbing on a downtown light-rail transit platform Thursday evening, the latest in a series of attacks on transit in recent months.

“We’re just not going to tolerate public disorder. So this is part of the reason why we invested for another hundred police officers in Calgary and Edmonton,” Smith said.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published May 5, 2023.

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This is Exhibit 4 referred to in the Affidavit of <sup>035</sup>

Tracey Mclean

Sworn before me this 2 day

Of February A.D., 20 26

7:04



< Bonnyville Cold Lake St Paul UCP Associatio

Notary Public, A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

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### Bonnyville Cold Lake St Paul UCP Association's Post



**Bonnyville Cold Lake St Paul UCP Association**

May 10, 2025 · 🌐



Our Bonnyville-Cold Lake- St.Paul, United Conservative Party Constituency Association Hosted our third Annual Leader's Dinner this past Thursday.

Thank you everyone for coming out to the Leader's Dinner! It was a great event, great atmosphere, great food and great company.

Thank you to everyone that helped make this happen!



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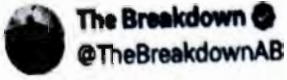
**Lynn Hambly**

Fantastic event 🍷🍷🍷

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LEI



The Breakdown  
@TheBreakdownAB



According to Modry...

When he asked how long until Danielle Smith started leading the separatism parade...

*This is exhibit 5*  
This is Exhibit 5 referred to in the Affidavit of  
Tracey Mclean

She said, "Give me six months".

Sworn before me this 2 day  
Of February A.D., 2026

And then he reminded her of his "or else".

*[Signature]*  
A Notary Public, A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

#abpoli #ableg #cdnpoli

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7:17 PM · Jul 23, 2025 · 21.9K Views

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# 'Free and independent Alberta' question draws loud applause at UCP's annual general meeting

Smith said the province is considering modifying the rules when it comes to recall when asked about it by members.

By Cindy Tran  
Published Nov 28, 2025 Last updated Nov 29, 2025 3 minute read 146 Comments



Delegates gather at the UCP annual general meeting's first day at the Edmonton Expo Centre on Friday, Nov. 28, 2025. PHOTO BY CINDY TRAN /Postmedia

UCP members erupted in cheers and applause when a leader of the Alberta separatist movement posed a question on the province's independence on the first day of the United Conservative Party's annual general meeting.

Jeffrey Rath with the Alberta Prosperity Act received loud cheers and a standing ovation during Friday evening's bearpit session with Premier Danielle Smith and her cabinet ministers when he asked the room of thousands of UCP members if they are in favour of a "free and independent Alberta."

This is Exhibit 6 referred to in the Affidavit of  
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STORY CONTINUED BELOW

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“That so called MOU was signed yesterday, the ink wasn’t dry on the paper and Mark Carney went out and gleefully announced a 600 per cent increase to the industrial carbon tax in Alberta. My question for the room is how many of all of us favour a free and independent Alberta,” Rath said.



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In response, Smith said, “I support an independent Alberta within a United Canada,” a line both she and her cabinet have said repeatedly when asked about separation. It earned her a mix of booing, heckling and cheers from the same crowd.

But that wasn’t the first instance separation came forward throughout day one of the three-day annual general meeting at the Edmonton Expo Centre.

During Smith’s opening talk with UCP president Rob Smith, a question that received positive cheers from the crowd was when a different member of the Alberta Prosperity Project asked if Smith had read the group’s document saying “an independent Alberta would reshape its fiscal environmental landscape.”

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

## TRENDING

1 Separatists



**'This will crater our economy': Edmonton city councillors say talk of Alberta separatism creates instability**

2



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None of Saturday's resolutions include separatism.

## Recall amendments being considered

Recall, independent policing and auto insurance were some key issues brought forwarded by UCP members. Despite the news of the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Smith and Ottawa Thursday, there weren't many questions from the crowd on it or strong response in support.

Smith said the province is considering modifying the rules when it comes to recall when asked about it by members. So far, 14 UCP MLAs are currently facing recall petitions.

The cost of the recall petitions is one of the factors Smith said her caucus is considering. Validating the signatures for each of the current recall petitions could cost more than one million dollars, according to Smith.

"If they manage to get recall petitions for all 87 of us, it's gonna be \$100 million just to validate the petition. That doesn't even talk about the process going to recall, that doesn't even talk about the process for byelections," Smith said.

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“That’s another factor that we have in our minds because we didn’t expect this abusive process.”

## Independent police officers on the ground by spring

Constables are expected to be on the ground by the spring, Public Safety and Emergency Services Minister Mike Ellis said during a bearpit session.

He said the province is making progress with the Alberta Sheriffs Police Service and said he has one more piece of legislation coming in the spring which would be the “lift and shift” in the Crown corporation previously created.

“We’re working on a memorandum of understanding with municipalities all throughout this province right now,” Ellis said.

Ellis added that on Dec. 1 the province’s promised Alberta police review commission, an organization that will handle complaints against municipal police officers across the province, will be fully operational.

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### 'please nobody claim him please!': Hockey world reacts to Oilers waiving fan fave Pickard

Social media in Edmonton ramped up today with news that the Edmonton Oilers had waived back-up  
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Edmonton Journal

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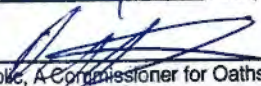
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Calgary

# New poll suggests one in five Albertans would vote to separate

Separatists pushing for referendum says polls don't reflect what they're seeing on the ground

Kelsea Arnett · CBC News · Posted: Jan 09, 2026 7:10 PM MST | Last Updated: January 10

This is Exhibit 7 referred to in the Affidavit of  
Tracey McLeon  
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**ORLAGH O'KELLY**  
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A new poll from Pollara Strategic Insights suggests fewer than one-fifth of Albertans surveyed would vote for separation in a referendum. (CBC News)

Although Alberta separatists are organizing for an independence referendum and say they're gaining momentum, a new poll released Friday suggested that only one-fifth of Alberta respondents would vote to separate.

The Pollara Strategic Insights survey found that 19 per cent of the 1,000 Albertans surveyed say they would vote for separation, and 75 per cent would vote against it.

“It’s always a bit surprising when we do this to see how low the separatism vote is, because it does often feel like it’s bigger, because I think largely of the influence that sentiment has in Alberta,” said Matt Smith, the western executive vice-president with the polling firm.



“It’s a very vocal minority and a very quiet super majority,” he said, adding the firm’s data consistently shows support has never been above 20 per cent.

Elections Alberta recently approved the group’s proposal for a citizen initiative petition on independence.

The group began collecting signatures earlier this month. If the petition receives at least 177,732 approved signatures by May, Albertans could vote on a separation referendum as soon as this fall.

- [Proposed referendum question on separation from Canada approved by Elections Alberta](#)
- [How a UCP bill renewed Alberta separatist bid to force referendum, after court shot it down](#)

The Pollara survey’s findings also suggest that 43 per cent of Albertans feel the province’s interests are represented well by federal decisions.

While that number indicates the majority of respondents still feel alienated, Smith said it is higher than in September when only 37 per cent felt Alberta was represented at the federal level.

The poll was conducted from Dec. 5 to Dec. 20, 2025.

As an online survey, a margin of error does not apply. However, a margin of error for a comparable probability sample would be plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The Pollara poll comes a day after the release of another survey, conducted earlier this month by Vancouver-based firm Research Co., that suggested considerably stronger support for separation – in particular among younger respondents.

It found 31 per cent of the 703 Albertans it surveyed at least support the idea of the province going its own way.

That poll, conducted between Jan. 4 and Jan. 6, also found 40 per cent of young adults between the ages of 18 and 34 support an independent Alberta, indicating young people lead the way in supporting the movement.

However, the Pollara survey suggested that only 16 per cent of young people would vote for Alberta to leave Canada.

Like the Pollara survey, a margin of error does not apply for the Research Co. survey. However, a margin of error for a comparable probability sample would be plus or minus 3.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

## Separatist group says movement is growing

Jeffrey Rath, co-founder of separatist group the Alberta Prosperity Project, believes the Research Co. survey better reflects what he's seeing on the ground, though he's generally skeptical of such polls.

"I don't think any of these polls are truly reflective of our support or where we're at," he said.

Mitch Sylvestre, the separatist group's CEO, acknowledged his group still has a lot of work to do to bolster enough support for separation to win a referendum. But he said efforts are underway, including weekly town halls across the province and recruiting canvassers for door-knocking campaigns.

A different citizen-led petition for a referendum to keep Alberta in Canada — known as the "Forever Canadian" petition — [recently received](#) more than 438,000 signatures.

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# Support for Independence in Alberta Reaches Levels Similar to Quebec

Committed Separatists Attribute Their Support for Independence to Optimism About the Future

01.23.26

## INITIAL SUPPORT AROUND THREE IN 10 IN BOTH PROVINCES

Would vote yes...



When asked if they would vote for their province to begin the process of separating from Canada and seeking a new agreement to define its future relationship with the country, approximately three in 10 residents of both Alberta (29%) and Quebec (31%) say yes. This includes those who say they would definitely or probably vote yes, and those who say they would lean toward voting yes.



However, new Ipsos research which "stress-tested" these sentiments by introducing real-world consequences reveals that actual committed support for separation is roughly half these levels in both provinces, with only 15 to 16% of Albertans and

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Quebecers maintaining their support after considering possible costs. This means that for roughly half of separatist supporters in both provinces, independence is more a political message than a plan they are prepared to endure costs to achieve.

## STRESS TEST REVEALS THREE DISTINCT TYPES OF SEPARATISTS

Among those who would vote "yes" for independence...



*Committed: Maintain support despite costs | Conditional: Support wavers with some conditions | Symbolic: Support collapses when costs appear*

The stress test methodology, which asked separatist supporters whether they would maintain their position under five different challenging conditions unique to each province, reveals nearly identical patterns.

In Alberta, 55% of initial separatist supporters are "committed," willing to pay serious economic and social costs for independence. Another 25% are "conditional," maintaining support under some but not all conditions, while 20% are "symbolic," using the independence threat primarily to express frustration rather than genuine intent to leave.

Quebec shows a similar distribution (49% committed, 28% conditional, 23% symbolic), suggesting that the psychology of separatism operates similarly regardless of language, culture, or specific grievances.

The finding that only about half of self-declared separatists in each province remain committed when asked to consider costs such as standard of living declines, pension losses, or trade renegotiations suggests confederation is dealing with a core of genuinely committed separatists representing 15 to 16% of each province's population, surrounded by another cohort using the threat of separation to signal alienation and demand attention from Ottawa.

### COMMITTED SEPARATISTS ATTRIBUTE THEIR SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE TO OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE

Albertan and Quebecer separatists cite different reasons for wanting to vote for independence. Quebecers are more likely to say their reason for voting "yes" is that Quebec's future would be served better outside of Canada, while Albertans are more likely to say that their reason for voting "yes" is that Alberta has historically been mistreated within confederation.

However, in both cases, belief that the province would be better off in the future outside of Canada grows the more committed the respondent is to voting "yes." Committed separatists in both provinces were more likely to refer to future prosperity as their reason for being a "yes"

voter than conditional or symbolic separatists.

Which of the following best describes the main reason for why you would consider voting yes to your province separating from Canada?



#### What it means

As Canada confronts issues high on Canadians' priority list such as affordability, housing, and crime, while also charting a response to global events, the question of national unity will remain at the forefront of discussion in 2026. Groups in Alberta are currently trying to gather enough signatures to trigger a referendum on the province's future in Canada, while in Quebec the Parti Québécois has promised to hold a third referendum on separation in their first term should they win the provincial election expected in the fall of 2026.

Ipsos' research reveals that those seeking independence in both Alberta and Quebec are not a homogeneous group, and a single policy response from governments is unlikely to be effective at changing support for independence. Further, this research suggests different motivations for supporting independence, and that those most strongly committed to it believe the future of their province is better off outside of Canada, while those less committed cite past treatment as their reason.

These different motivations will demand different responses from governments who seek to unite the country and make the case for both Alberta and Quebec's future in Canada.

### ABOUT THE STUDY

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between January 9 and 14, 2026, as part the Confederation Stress Test study. For this survey, a sample of n=2,000 Canadians aged 18+ was interviewed online via the Ipsos omnibus using our proprietary iSay panel. The survey included samples of n=500 each in Alberta and Quebec. Separatist supporters constituted n=153

of the Alberta sample and n=171 of the Quebec sample, unweighted. Quotas and weighting were employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the Canadian population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos polls which include non-probability sampling is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the national poll is accurate to within  $\pm 2.7$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadians aged 18+ been polled. The Alberta and Quebec samples are accurate to within  $\pm 5.4$  percentage points. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error. Ipsos abides by the disclosure standards established by the CRIC, found here:

<https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/>

For more information on this news release, please contact:

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CEO, Ipsos Global Public Affairs  
+1 416 324 2001  
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Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has been listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120, Mid-60 indices, STOXX Europe 600 and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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### Media Release

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## The author(s)



**Darrell Bricker**  
Global CEO, Public Affairs  
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## Related news



Poll conducted by Research Co. in Alberta - January 8, 2026

Do you support or oppose each one of the following ideas?



	Alberta	GENDER		AGE			REGION			VOTE IN 2023 PROVINCIAL	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Calgary CMA	Edmonton CMA	Rest of AB	UCP	NDP
<b>Alberta joining the United States</b>											
Strongly support	7%	8%	6%	11%	5%	6%	7%	6%	9%	14%	2%
Moderately support	17%	17%	17%	21%	20%	12%	18%	16%	18%	15%	6%
Moderately oppose	6%	5%	6%	4%	11%	5%	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%
Strongly oppose	65%	67%	64%	60%	59%	72%	64%	67%	63%	63%	85%
Not sure	5%	3%	7%	5%	5%	5%	6%	4%	6%	4%	3%
<b>Alberta becoming a country independent from Canada</b>											
Strongly support	17%	20%	14%	26%	11%	14%	17%	15%	20%	27%	4%
Moderately support	14%	14%	14%	16%	16%	11%	14%	14%	14%	13%	7%
Moderately oppose	13%	11%	13%	8%	23%	11%	13%	14%	11%	9%	5%
Strongly oppose	49%	51%	48%	44%	43%	57%	48%	51%	46%	47%	80%
Not sure	7%	4%	9%	6%	7%	8%	8%	6%	8%	4%	4%

This is Exhibit B referred to in the Affidavit ofTracey McLeonSworn before me this 2 dayOf February A.D., 2026**Blood Tribe Communications - Tsinikasini**

January 30 at 5:11 PM · ③

COMMUNITY NOTICE - ALBERTA SEPARATIST PETITION - January 30, 2026

In my capacity as Chief of the Blood Tribe, and following the ~~press conference~~ <sup>A Notary Public / A Commissioner for Oaths</sup> of Alberta's Treaty Chiefs which took place yesterday, I wish to address the Government of Alberta's inaction in relation to the current petition for secession of Alberta.

**ORLAGH O'KELLY**

Barrister &amp; Solicitor

Long before Alberta existed as a province, the Blood Tribe entered into the Blackfoot Treaty of 1877 with the Crown. This Treaty - often referred to as Treaty 7 - is a sacred covenant based on the Blackfoot concept of Treaty-making, Innaihtsiyissini, which is when two powerful nations come together into a peace agreement.

The Blood Tribe had no intention of selling or giving away our traditional territory by entering into the Blackfoot Treaty. In the ways of our people, it is not possible to sell our traditional territory - it is part of who we are culturally, spiritually, and as a Nation.

The Blackfoot Treaty was an agreement to share the land and to live together in a spirit of respect and balance. These understandings remain alive today.

Our Treaty rights are non-negotiable. They cannot be set aside by petitions, referendums, or political movements—whether citizen-led or government-enabled. Any attempt to separate Alberta from Canada directly engages our Treaty relationship with the Crown. We do not consent to separation, and our consent is not optional.

Over the past months, the Blood Tribe has made repeated, reasonable requests of the Government of Alberta. We have asked Alberta to publicly affirm that Treaties remain binding solemn obligations unaffected by any citizen-led initiative or proposal for separation. We have asked Alberta to publicly acknowledge that it has no authority to alter Treaty relationships or the constitutional status of First Nations. We have asked Alberta to engage directly with Treaty Nations to reaffirm its commitments and responsibilities within the Treaty framework.

To date, Alberta has failed to respond to these requests in any meaningful capacity. There has been no engagement between Alberta and the Blood Tribe in respect of the issue of separation, despite the seriousness of the issue and the clear constitutional implications. Even more concerning, momentum behind the separatist movement appears to be encouraged—not challenged—because the Alberta government remains silent in the face of this petition. Silence in the face of unconstitutional action is not neutrality. It is complicity.

The law on this matter is clear. The courts have already spoken. Justice Feasby found that petitions for Alberta separation are unconstitutional and confirmed that separation would directly contravene Treaty rights. This decision was not a suggestion or a political opinion. It was a legal conclusion grounded firmly in constitutional law.

Alberta's failure to respect this decision is alarming. That the Chief Justices of Alberta took the extraordinary step of publicly condemning political interference with the judicial process is a testament of how the Government of Alberta's recent political maneuvering is eroding the rule of law. That warning should concern everyone who believes in democracy, fairness, and our constitutional principles. Courts exist to interpret the law without fear or pressure. When governments undermine judicial independence, the harm is felt by all people, not just ours.

Alberta cannot pick and choose which parts of the Constitution it will respect. Treaties are part of the constitutional fabric of Canada. Ignoring them destabilizes not only Indigenous-Crown relationships, but the legal foundation of the province itself — at a time when real social, economic, and political threats to stability already exist.

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Accordingly, the Blood Tribe reiterates its calls on the Government of Alberta to act immediately. We call for an emergency session of the Legislature to repeal those portions of the Citizen Initiative Act that gives this petition for separation false legitimacy. We further call on the Minister of Justice to seek or agree to an injunction to pause the Alberta Prosperity Project's petition while this law is being repealed.

Yesterday, I stood alongside Chiefs of Alberta's First Nations to publicly voice our concerns relating to these issues. In the face of our press conference, Premier Smith reiterated that she refused to "demonize or marginalize" citizens who are advancing the goal of Alberta's separation. This morning, it was reported that some UCP MLAs have actually signed the petition for Alberta's separation from Canada.

These developments signal an overt shift in the public-facing policy and mandate of our democratically elected provincial government. Unless Alberta immediately abandons this reckless course of action, the damage created by this shift will be irreversible.

The Blood Tribe remains committed to peace, to the rule of law, and to the Treaty relationship that made this province possible. Alberta must immediately abandon its policy of silence and publicly honour those same commitments.

Blood Tribe Communications & Community Engagement on behalf of:

Chief Traveller Plaited Hair  
BLOOD TRIBE/KAINAI CHIEF AND COUNCIL



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**FROM CHIEF TRAVELLER PLAITED HAIR**  
**RE: ALBERTA SEPARATIST PETITION**  
**January 30, 2026**

For the past several years, the Blood Tribe has made significant requests to the Government of Alberta. We have asked Alberta to publicly affirm the Treaty relationship, reject legislative initiatives that are detrimental to the Treaty relationship. We have asked Alberta to publicly acknowledge that it has no authority to alter Treaty relationships or the constitutional status of First Nations. We have asked Alberta to engage directly with First Nations to reaffirm its constitutional and treaty obligations under the Treaty Framework.

In doing so, Alberta has failed to respond to these requests in any meaningful way. There has been no engagement between Alberta and the Blood Tribe in respect of the issue of legislative initiatives, the restoration of the rule of law, and the constitutional relationship. There have been no meaningful discussions between the Blood Tribe and Alberta to be meaningful and meaningful. Instead, the Alberta government continues to act in the face of the public. Because of its lack of constitutional and treaty obligations, it is unconstitutional.

The law on this matter is clear. The courts have already spoken. Justice Feasby found that petitions for Alberta separation are unconstitutional and confirmed that separation would directly contravene Treaty rights. This decision was not a suggestion or a political opinion. It was a legal conclusion grounded firmly in constitutional law.

Alberta's failure to respect the decision is alarming. That the Chief Justices of Alberta took the extraordinary step of publicly condemning political interference with the judicial process is a testament of how the Government of Alberta's recent political maneuvering is eroding the rule of law. That warning should concern everyone who believes in democracy, fairness, and our constitutional principles. Courts exist to interpret the law without fear or pressure. When governments undermine judicial independence, the harm is felt by all people, not just ours.

Accordingly, the Blood Tribe reiterates its calls on the Government of Alberta to act immediately. We call for an emergency session of the Legislature to repeal those portions of the Citizen Initiative Act that gives this petition for separation false legitimacy. We further call on the Minister of Justice to seek or agree to an injunction to pause the Alberta Prosperity Project's petition while this law is being repealed.

Yesterday, I stood alongside Chiefs of Alberta's First Nations to publicly voice our concerns relating to these issues. In the face of our press conference, Premier Smith reiterated that she refused to "demonize or marginalize" citizens who are advancing the goal of Alberta's separation. This morning, it was reported that some UCP MLAs have actually signed the petition for Alberta's separation from Canada.

These developments signal an overt shift in the public-facing policy and mandate of our democratically elected provincial government. Unless Alberta immediately abandons this reckless course of action, the damage created by this shift will be irreversible.

The Blood Tribe remains committed to peace, to the rule of law, and to the Treaty relationship that made this province possible. Alberta must immediately abandon its policy of silence and publicly honour those same commitments.

Blood Tribe Communications & Community Engagement on behalf of:

Chief Traveller Plaited Hair  
BLOOD TRIBE/KAINAI CHIEF AND COUNCIL



Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations

January 29 at 2:25 PM · 🌐



CONFEDERACY OF TREATY NO. 6 STANDS WITH TREATY NO. 7 & NO. 8 IN OPPOSITION TO SEPARATISTS



## Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations STATEMENT

### CONFEDERACY OF TREATY NO. 6 STANDS WITH TREATY NO. 7 & NO. 8 IN OPPOSITION TO SEPARATISTS

**January 29, 2026 (Treaty No. 6 Territory)** – The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 is united in our support for Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, the Blackfoot Confederacy, and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation in their legal proceedings against the province over Bill 14. We're united in rejecting the petition to hold a referendum on Alberta independence, and reject the idea of separation as illegal and dangerous.

To protect our Treaties from the threat of separatism, the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 intervened with other Alberta Treaty Nations in the Court of King's Bench.

After being defeated in the Court, the UCP government changed the rules with Bill 14 to make sure a vote on Alberta independence could still happen. The UCP government needs to stop encouraging and supporting these separatists.

Alberta sovereignty is an illusion. Without Treaty, Alberta as we know it wouldn't exist. Our ancestors entered into Treaty in friendship -- to share our Territories and maintain our sacred responsibilities to our Lands in peace. The Treaties come first. The "prosperity" separatists talk about is built on Treaty and the wealth of our Lands. Those Lands aren't going anywhere, and neither are we.

The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 stands united with Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 Peoples in protecting Treaty, lands, waters, and the rights of present and future generations.

**Grand Chief Joey Pete**

Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations



Joellen Haywahe and 816 others

17 comments 405 shares

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## MCFN Band Government & Administration's Post



MCFN Band Government & Administration

January 29 at 3:36 PM · 🌐



### First Nations Leaders Call on Albertans to Stand Against Separatist Movement, Urge Action on Treaty Rights and Public Health

Today, we are speaking out about our deep concerns regarding Alberta's separatist movements and the ongoing failures of the provincial government. Across Alberta, including within Indigenous Nations, toxic water continues to flow through community water systems, water our families rely on every day to drink, cook, and bathe. At the same time, we are witnessing a disturbing rise in cancer diagnoses among our people. These are not coincidences; they are the consequences of long-standing neglect, broken promises, and unfulfilled responsibility.

We are deeply concerned that while these urgent issues remain unresolved, the Government of Alberta, under the UCP, has chosen to promote and legitimize separatist rhetoric rather than address the real crises affecting people on the ground. Our message is simple, "Fix what is in your own backyard first," says Chief Billy Joe Tuccaro.

Our concerns extend beyond water. Education systems are under strain. Healthcare access is deteriorating. Homelessness is increasing. These are not abstract policy debates; they are lived realities for families, elders, and youth across this province, including Indigenous Nations who have already endured generations of systemic harm.

We must also speak plainly about the truth of this country's foundations. Treaties were not fully honoured. In many cases, they were misrepresented, ignored, or outright violated. Racism against Indigenous Peoples continues to be embedded within institutions, policies, and decision-making structures. These realities demand accountability, not denial.

For this reason, we are calling for a formal statement of claim against Alberta and Canada to address Treaty breaches, environmental harms, and the ongoing failure to uphold constitutional and fiduciary obligations to First Nations.

Today, Mikisew Cree Nation stands in solidarity with the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort McKay First Nation, and the Blackfoot Confederacy. Our unity is rooted in shared history, shared responsibility, and shared resolve. We are here to defend and uphold Treaties 6, 7, and 8, not as historical artifacts, but as living agreements that continue to carry legal, moral, and constitutional force. We are filing a statement of claim opposing Alberta separatism.

We also warn Albertans that the separatist movement raises serious concerns, including ties to the U.S. and the illegality of any provincial referendum on separation. Elections Alberta is not equipped to prevent potential foreign interference in such a referendum.

Our call is clear:

Respect Treaty rights, uphold the Constitution, and address the urgent needs of people before entertaining divisive rhetoric

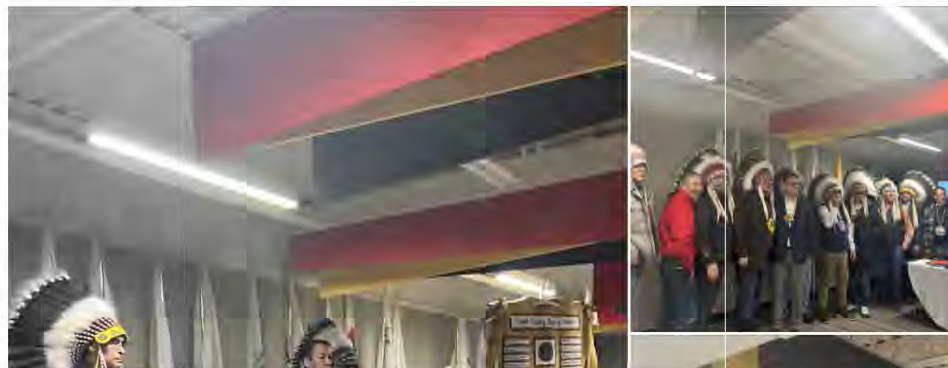
We will not be silent while our people are made sick.

We will not accept excuses in place of action.

And we will not allow our rights, our lands, or our futures to be negotiated away.

Wiy Hiy,

Chief Billy Joe Tuccaro







Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

January 29 at 4:13 PM · 🌐



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Fully Supports Legal Action Opposing Alberta Separation



### Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

*To Protect, Promote, Bring to Life, Implement, and Sustain the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8 "as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, the rivers flow and until such time as Yidah should reverse"*

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Edmonton, AB T5T 7E7 [www.treaty8.org](http://www.treaty8.org)

**SUB OFFICE**  
10457 184 Street NW, Edmonton AB, T5S 1G1  
Tel: (780) 444-9366 Fax: (780) 484-1465

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Fully Supports Legal Action Opposing Alberta Separation

**January 29, 2026 (EDMONTON, AB)** - Earlier today, Chiefs from Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, and Treaty No. 8 held a joint press conference at the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta office in Edmonton to publicly oppose the Government of Alberta's approval of a separation petition and to affirm the inherent, constitutional, and Treaty-based foundations of their Nations' rights. Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta express our full and unequivocal support for the legal action brought by Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Siksika Nation, Piikani Nation, and the Blood Tribe to challenge Alberta's decision, which directly undermines Treaty rights, constitutional order, and the rule of law. We also recognize and support Mikisew Cree First Nation, which has confirmed it will be filing its own legal challenge.

Alberta is situated on Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, and Treaty No. 8 lands. The province exists here only because our Nations entered solemn Treaties with the Imperial Crown, agreeing to share these lands for settlement under clearly defined terms. Alberta did not create that authority, and it does not possess the legal or constitutional power to revoke, alter, or override it.

"Alberta came *after* Treaty 8, that matters," said Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi. "The province is a tenant on this land, not the landlord. Any talk of separation or so-called provincial sovereignty is not just political theatre; let me be clear: it's also a proposal to break Treaty. Alberta does not have the authority to ask that question, let alone act on any answer."

Treaty No. 8 is a binding and living agreement between our First Nations and the Imperial Crown, protected by the Canadian Constitution. While the Province has obligations to uphold the honour of the Crown, it has no jurisdiction to unilaterally undermine or disregard Treaty rights. Efforts to advance separation while ignoring these constitutional realities are deeply disrespectful, legally unsound, and without force or effect.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta stand in full solidarity with the Chiefs and Nations from Treaties 6, 7, and 8 that are pursuing legal action and call on Albertans to stand with us to defend Treaty 8, the Canadian Constitution, and the rule of law that protects us all.

Trevor Mercredi, Grand Chief

**Head Office:**  
Beaver First Nation  
P.O. Box 270  
High Level, Alberta T0H 1Z0



Gareth Williams, Joshua Eberhart and 12K others

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**Sharon R Baptiste**  
Call the PM

1d Like Reply

## Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's Post



**Russel Chandler**

Alberta needs to remain a part of Canada. I'm in support of Treaties 6, 7, and 8.

3d Like Reply

238

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**Yvonne Penn**

We, true Albertans are not separating from Canada. True nation strong Albertans will never run away from "Our home and Native land"!

2d Like Reply

200



**Kate Allen**

I support my indigenous brothers and sister in their fight against separation.

3d Like Reply

156



**Michael Robert Price**

When Alberta separates, nothing will change for treaty rights or reservation lands. All rights pertaining to use of land, harvest rights, and any other rights granted by the treaty will remain intact. First nations, on an individual basis, will have the right to choose one of three options.

1. Nothing changes. Your reservation lands remain property of the federal Canadian government. The arrangement between the first nation and the federal government does not change, funding does not cease, rights do not change.
2. The first nation can choose to transfer their existing arrangement with the federal Canadian government to the federal Albertan government. Again, nothing changes. The Albertan government will simply step into the shoes of the Canadian government and assume all of its responsibilities, and continue to ensure the rights of first nations are not infringed or restricted in any way.
3. The first nation may choose to negotiate a new, modern agreement with the federal government of Alberta. The treaties are almost 150 years old. There is much to gain for any first nation that would want to negotiate a new deal.

With these options to choose, it is extremely difficult to make the case that any rights will be infringed, any treaties broken, or that anything bad or unsavory will happen whatsoever. For first nations people and their band council, the ball is in their court. They hold the power to decide the path of their future and they have everything to gain when Alberta separates from Canada to become a free and prosperous nation state.

2d Like Reply

234

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**Blackwolf Den**

I'm a proud Métis and I'll stand with first nations anytime ...

2d Like Reply

118



**Candy Holland**

As a member of the Witset tribe, I stand with the Treaties  
You wanna leave Canada, then leave but you take what you brought. Nothing.

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**Jon Lawrence**

I think it would be poetic justice were Alberta to succeed in meeting the criteria of the Clarity Act & Canada conceding to Alberta seceding, only then for Canada to turn over Alberta's land & governance to the relevant First Nations groups under



## Siksika Nation Tribal Administration

January 29 at 5 54 PM · ⚙️

...

Siksika Nation Chief Samuel Crowfoot joins other First Nation leaders at press conference opposing Alberta separation petition

Chief Samuel Crowfoot of Siksika Nation joined leaders from the Blackfoot Confederacy, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation today to speak in unified opposition to the Alberta separation petition. If successful, the petition would trigger a referendum on Alberta's independence. Siksika Nation, along with other First Nations, has launched legal action against the petition and the province's Bill 14.

In December 2025, the Alberta government passed Bill 14: Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, which amends the Citizens' Initiative Act to remove the requirement for petitions to comply with the Constitution Act, 1982. This change could allow referendums that challenge Treaty rights. Siksika Nation strongly opposes this legislation, calling it an erosion of constitutional protections and an infringement on First Nations rights.

Chief Crowfoot stated:

"We remind everyone that all statutory decision-makers are bound by the Constitution, including the protection of Aboriginal rights under section 35(1). The duty to consult and accommodate applies to all statutory decision-makers empowered to make decisions that may affect Aboriginal rights, and arises when the Crown knows, or ought to know, of potential impacts.

We were not consulted on this issue. Our rights are threatened today. Siksika Nation rejects any attempt to illegitimately transfer or surrender Blackfoot Territory or any action that affects our rights without consultation and without consent. We adamantly oppose all Alberta secession initiatives. Despite clear warnings from First Nations, Alberta's passage of Bill 14 signals a willingness to support unconstitutional land transfers that disregard Treaty obligations and the honour of the Crown.

The courts have affirmed that secession initiatives constitute a derogation of Treaty rights. Treaties are binding agreements not subject to provincial authority or public opinion.

Siksika Nation calls on the Alberta Government to:

- Publicly reaffirm the binding nature of Treaties
- Acknowledge its lack of authority to alter Treaties
- Engage directly with Treaty Nations
- Repeal Bill 14 as it applies to the Citizens' Initiative Act
- Seek an injunction to pause related petitions

Standing in solidarity with other First Nations, Siksika Nation will consider all measures of redress to protect Treaty and Aboriginal rights. Treaties remain the living foundation of peaceful and respectful coexistence — and it is because of our sacred Treaties that Alberta exists today.

As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the water flows. Alberta has an affirmative duty to uphold the Treaty relationship — not circumvent or ignore it for convenience. Kyun."

MORE INFORMATION: <https://siksikanation.com/siksika-nation-chief-samuel.../>





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# Anti-racism watchdog fields complaint arising from immigration comments made at separatist town hall

The complainant said Alberta Prosperity Project CEO Mitch Sylvestre made a number of inflammatory comments about immigrants during the town hall at the Didsbury Memorial Complex

By Steven Sandor  
Published Jan 16, 2026 Last updated Jan 16, 2026 4 minute read  290 Comments



Mitch Sylvestre, CEO of the Alberta Prosperity Project, displays an image taken during the Holocaust while drawing comparisons between the current economic situation in Alberta and Nazi Germany. Sylvestre spoke at an event hosted by the Alberta Prosperity Project on March 18, 2025, in Strathcona County. PHOTO BY THEODORA MACLEOD /Postmedia

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This is Exhibit 9 referred to in the Affidavit of Tracey Mclean  
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Of February A.D., 2026  
  
A Notary Public, A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

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Alberta hate-crimes watchdog StopHateAB has received a complaint arising from the Alberta Prosperity Project's Jan. 7 town hall in Didsbury.

The APP has been holding town halls across the province to rally support and gather signatures for a petition that could force a referendum on Alberta independence. If the APP gets 177,000 verified signatures, it can trigger a referendum, though there are outstanding court challenges from Indigenous groups about the validity of the petition, as they claim it ignores treaty rights.

The complainant, whose identity is protected by StopHateAB's protocols, said Alberta Prosperity Project CEO Mitch Sylvestre made a number of inflammatory comments about immigrants during the town hall at the Didsbury Memorial Complex, located 233 kilometers south of Edmonton and about 80 kilometers north of downtown Calgary.



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The complainant flagged comments Sylvestre made about white Albertans being replaced by immigrants. The complaint also suggested Sylvestre said Christianity will soon be a crime in Canada, and that white Albertans shouldn't have to apologize for themselves.

StopHateAB president Sunpreet Singh Johal said the organization has not opened a formal investigation into the Didsbury

town hall, but will keep an eye on the Alberta Prosperity Project.

"We are closely monitoring any further reports related to Alberta Prosperity Project town halls that may come in, and we have taken the necessary steps to bring this information to the attention of our partners," he said.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

**TDENNINC**

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'This will crater our economy': Edmonton city councillors say talk of Alberta separatism creates instability

### 2

Calvin Pickard goes from saving the Edmonton Oilers in NHL playoffs, to waivers

Postmedia staff have watched video footage of the Jan. 7 meeting and both Sylvestre and lawyer Jeffrey Rath touched on the topics of race, immigration and what it would all mean in an independent Alberta.

### 3

Separatists' math doesn't add up, warns Edmonton business leaders

### 4

'Dictates homelessness': Housing cost, poverty linked, former Calgary councillor tells Edmonton crowd

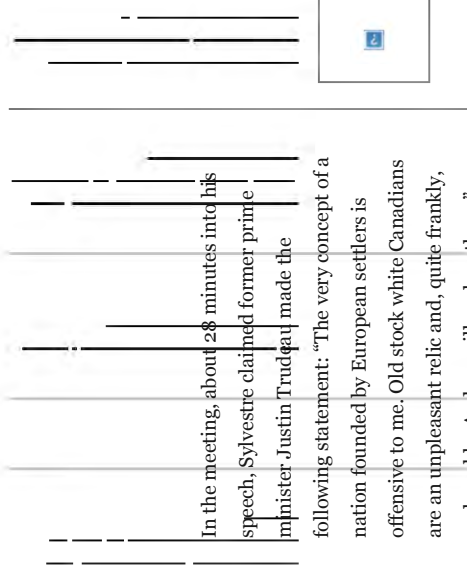
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**Alberta separatist lawyer threatened 'war crimes,' 'murder' charges over COVID vaccine, law society claims**



In the meeting, about 28 minutes into his speech, Sylvestre claimed former prime minister Justin Trudeau made the following statement: "The very concept of a nation founded by European settlers is offensive to me. Old stock white Canadians are an unpleasant relic and, quite frankly, replaceable. And we will replace them."

A number of Internet watchdog sites have identified this as a meme with a fake quote. There is no verifiable, documented proof Trudeau said this.

## 'This used to be what Alberta was'

But Sylvestre followed up the claim by saying APP shouldn't apologize for being a white movement.

"Old stock white Canadians, and that's us, and we don't have to apologize for this room being filled with white people," said

Sylvestre. "This used to be what Alberta

Sylvestre. This used to be what Alberta was. We're not apologizing for being ourselves."

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Sylvestre went on to say Albertans welcome immigrants, and that they too are getting a raw deal out of Confederation. But he followed that up by saying "the replacement theory is real" — and that means the federal government's immigration policy is designed to replace white Canadians with those of other races.

"They're going to replace the people of Alberta," said Sylvestre.

He also claimed it will soon be a hate crime in Canada to possess a Bible or Quran.

Later in the meeting, Sylvestre said an independent Alberta will be one with a very different makeup.

"Don't forget that there's a whole bunch of people here that are going to leave," he said, to loud applause from the audience.

"If we have control over immigration, we can control who comes here."

Sylvestre said in the two to three years following statehood, their vision of an independent Alberta is a place where citizenship rights are granted "only to people who are born here."

## **Freedom of religion, freedom from religion**

Rath said an independent Alberta will offer a better deal for the Indigenous population,

and that First Nations would receive triple the amount of support they currently receive from the federal government. He said the federal government have kept Indigenous people in “abject poverty for decades” and described Prime Minister Mark Carney as an “existential threat” who is “destroying our relationship with the United States.”

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

He said an independent Alberta will have leverage over pipelines, as it basically cuts off British Columbia from the rest of the country, at least in a direct east-west fashion. And he added Alberta could use its border as leverage. If B.C. doesn't play ball, he said, trucks could face two-week waits to clear the border and make their way to Saskatchewan and points east.

As for religious freedom in an independent Alberta, Rath said “we don't want anyone else imposing their religion on us.” And he said the new country would grant freedom of religion, but also freedom from religion.

However, at the Alberta Prosperity Project event in Red Deer Wednesday night, the town hall kicked off with the King James version of Our Father.

It comes as Johal confirmed results of StopHateAB investigations into a September 2025 Alberta Next panel in Medicine Hat and separatist movements in Peace County would soon be released. Online reports could be made public in the next two weeks.

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Edmonton Journal

by Taboola

“Our anti-hate provincial outreach project also has done hate-related community assessments in Medicine Hat,” Johal said.

“Also, in our community assessment in Peace Country, specific residents shared that they were experiencing increased

levels of hate. Indigenous in particular, due to Alberta’s separatist movement.”

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## Calvin Pickard goes from saving the Edmonton Oilers in NHL playoffs, to waivers

Edmonton Journal

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## 'please nobody claim him please!': Hockey world reacts to Oilers waiving fan fave Pickard

Social media in Edmonton ramped up today with news that the Edmonton Oilers had waived back-up goalie Calvin Pickard, beloved by many fans for his solid playoff performances two years running.

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## 'Not a Canadian anymore': Separatist event in Edmonton takes aim at Mark Carney, immigrants

*'We will move forward in a positive way to get Alberta out of Canada and free ourselves from this tyranny we've been living under as a resource colony for Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal'*

By Steven Sander  
Published Jan 28, 2026. Last updated 4 days ago 5 minute read  408 Comments



Jeffrey Rath, the lawyer for the Alberta Prosperity Project, poses for a photo in a hotel lobby, before an Alberta Independence speaking event in west Edmonton on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026. PHOTO BY DAVID BLOOM /Postmedia

The Days Inn in west Edmonton has a large Canadian flag hung behind the front desk. Throughout the lobby, a visitor can't escape the signs declaring that the hotel is "proudly Canadian owned and operated," with red maple leaves to match.

But, on Tuesday night, the conference rooms were filled with separatist supporters. One room was reserved to sign a Stay Free Alberta petition that calls for the province to hold a referendum on independence. In the neighbouring room, lawyer Jeffrey Rath, one of the loudest

This is Exhibit 10 referred to in the Affidavit of

Tracey Mclean  
Sworn before me this 2 day  
Of February A.D., 2026

[Signature]  
A Notary Public, A Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

ORLAGH O'KELLY  
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voices of the “leave” movement, spoke to about 100 supporters.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Rath said the Stay Free Alberta movement’s internal reserach shows very different numbers than what the big-time pollsters are releasing to the public. An Ipsos poll from earlier the week showed that “leave support” is at 29 per cent, but that number drops in half when respondents were asked to consider the financial hardships that might come with living in a newly minted country.



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Rath said that his group is showing 40 per cent support for separatism province wide. In rural areas, Rath claimed support is at 60 per cent. He gushed about a Calgary event Monday which he said attracted 4,960 supporters.

“And we haven’t even started the referendum campaign yet,” Rath said.

“The only thing keeping Canada from being bankrupt is Alberta, right?” he said. “And we’re all sick and tired of (Prime Minister Mark) Carney cashing or writing cheques with his mouth, cheques that Albertans are sick and tired of paying for. And, now, enough is enough. We will move forward in a positive way to get Alberta out of Canada and free ourselves from this tyranny we’ve been living under as a resource colony for Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. We’re done with it.”

## TRENDING

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Rath said that separatists were less than impressed with Carney's speech in Davos, and Canada's signing of strategic partnerships with China in exports and imports ranging from electric vehicles to agricultural goods.

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**Braving the cold: Alberta separatists line up to sign referendum petition in Stony Plain**

By taking on U.S. President Donald Trump, supporting NATO and Denmark in opposing American incursion into Greenland, Carney entered a fight he can't win, Rath believes. The Alberta Prosperity Project, of which Rath is a member, has met with U.S. State Department officials three times, and has repeated the message that an independent Alberta will be supported by Americans. He said the key is to work with America, and to not try and stare down our neighbours to the south.

“But there's Carney, he's literally like a mouse biting on the toenail of an elephant,” said Rath, as children played mini golf on a series of holes set up through the hallway adjoining the conference room. “He's talking about going to war with the United States of America. I can't imagine anyone doing anything more asinine than that.

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“Do you think Donald Trump gives a crap if Carney said ‘but I got elbows?’ Does anyone see anything more pathetic, more ridiculous

and more embarrassing to the country of Canada? And, again, for that reason I am really happy. I am not a Canadian anymore. I'm an Albertan, so this s-t doesn't embarrass me."

At one point during Rath's speech, a cellphone rang. The ringtone? The theme to *The X-Files*.



A man with an Alberta flag shield and flag pole opens the door for Albertans arriving to sign a petition calling for provincial independence, at a hotel in west Edmonton, Tuesday Jan. 27, 2026. PHOTO BY DAVID BLOOM /Postmedia

## From Buenos Aires to Budapest

Rath said that Alberta would need to have its nationhood recognized by not only its American friends, but "like minded" governments in Israel, Argentina and Hungary.

On Monday, provincial NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi said that Premier Danielle Smith has been cozying up to Trump, and warned of the president's desire to make Canada the 51st state.

"Separatism scares away investment," said Nenshi. "It costs us jobs. It makes life more

expensive and it makes life more uncertain, and as we've seen just in the last few days,

separatism is also a national security threat. It makes Albertans more vulnerable in intensely fragile times. But perhaps most important to Albertans today, separatism is a distraction from the real problems we're facing every day. So let me be clear, separatism doesn't lower the cost of living. Separatism doesn't build hospital beds. Separatism doesn't hire more teachers or address classroom complexity."

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

But Rath said that any MLA signing a loyalty pledge to Canada would be committing political suicide.

"We have a lot of people, believe it or not, who vote NDP, who belong to unions in this province, that are supporting Alberta independence," said Rath.

### 'No vacancy'

An independent Alberta would immediately put up a "no vacancy" sign for potential immigrants, Rath said.

"There is no way on God's green earth that we need any temporary foreign workers in this province," Rath said to applause.

"There are international mobility program workers, all being subsidized by the federal government to compete with your kids for rent, compete with your kids for housing, plug our emergency rooms. They stuff our classrooms full of children who do not speak English, they're English as a second language students, and they're driving our teachers to distraction."

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**Alberta Premier Danielle Smith focused on united Canada amid stated U.S.**

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**After Carney's Davos speech, Conservatives ponder how Poilievre can meet the**

Edmonton Journal

by Taboola

He said Alberta would also have a strong deportation program. He decried the fact that many immigrants now work entry-level jobs.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

“It used to be that working in a fast-food restaurant was an entry-level job for a 16-year-old. My first job, believe it or not, was here in Edmonton, at a little Kentucky Fried Chicken/burger joint in Riverbend. Now, you can’t get that job. It’s like, ‘no, you don’t speak whatever Southeast Asian language all the rest of our employees speak, so we can’t hire you.’ That’s literally being told to our kids when they apply for jobs at these places.”

Rath’s promise to get tough on immigration resounded with supporters, who cheered his sentiments.

Pam Charlet, the former co-owner of Hathaway’s Diner, an Edmonton dining scene staple, said Canada is being overrun

by minority groups.

“The way I look at it, I am most scared of Sharia Law,” said Charlet. “We’re going to say that we’re going to be secular, but then DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) and minority groups get priority, and we’re not a free country at all.

“I don’t want the government owning our grocery stores. I don’t want the government deciding that my \$100 to the truckers’ convoy was a bad thing.”

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Charlet is still raw over needing to close down the diner to comply with COVID protocols. She said it is unfair that small businesses were forced to close, then later

forced to police customers if they wanted to remain open. She didn’t feel it was her business to ask for vaccination records in order for a diner to be seated.

“Was I going to be the Gestapo for our government?” she said.

“The government has overreached. And if you’re asking why I am here, why I am helping out and promoting this, it’s because Canada is done.”

*-With files from Cindy Tran*

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In a season where so much has gone wrong for the Edmonton Oilers, the return to play of Mattias Ekholm is one thing that has most definitely gone right.

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Tracey McLean

Sworn before me this 2 day

Of February A.D., 20 26

[Signature]  
A Notary Public & Commissioner for Oaths  
in and for Alberta

ORLAGH O'KELLY  
Barrister & Solicitor

# 'They're trying to replace us': the conspiracy theories driving the man behind Alberta separatism

By Arno Kopecky | News, Politics | January 29th 2026



Albertans line up at the Big Four Building in Calgary to sign a petition triggering a referendum asking if Alberta should secede from Canada on Jan. 26, 2026. Photo by Dayne Patterson / The Canadian Press



*This weekend, as delegates gather in Calgary, Alta. for the Conservative Party of Canada convention, Alberta separatism has become a key question in the party's Prairie stronghold.*

*Mitch Sylvestre, the man behind the petition that could lead to a referendum on separation, won't be there: he says he's "cured of federalism" and moving on from federal politics. But his movement is certain to be present onstage and behind the scenes this weekend, particularly given [explosive new revelations](#) that the movement has been directly seeking help from an expansionist Trump administration.*

*Arno Kopecky spoke with Sylvestre twice this week — once before, and once after the reporting.*

*These conversations have been edited for clarity and brevity, and contain language that isn't for everyone.*

*And a note: Sylvestre's views are often on the extreme end of the political spectrum, and some of his assertions, such as claiming the Liberal Party are "criminals," that Canada is headed toward a totalitarian communist state in the coming years or that the United Nations has targeted the "Caucasian world" are unproven. We have left them in the transcript because we feel their value in explaining Sylvestre's worldview is significant, not because we endorse them.*

### **Arno Kopecky**

I'm curious to hear about you and the Alberta Prosperity Project — what your relationship is to the Conservative Party and you feel about this convention coming up. Are you going?

### **Mitch Sylvestre**

No. I've been cured of federalism here after the last election. I was always an "independent Alberta within Canada" guy — until April 28th, I believe is the date of the last election, and that swung me hard and actually fired up the independence movement here in Alberta.

**Mitch Sylvestre, the man behind the petition that could lead to a referendum on Alberta's separation, won't be at the Conservative Party of Canada's convention. He says he's "cured of federalism" and moving on from federal politics.**

### **Kopecky**

So if the election had gone otherwise, I take it things might be different right now — if

Conservatives were to take power again and form a government, would you feel differently about Alberta leaving? Or is it too late?

**Sylvestre**

I think it's too late now. I think there's so many reasons — pro-Alberta reasons — why we should leave the Confederation that I would be wary of the deal that Ottawa would have to come back to Alberta with to make them stay here. It would have to be substantial. I don't even think it's an issue at this point because all the trust is gone.

**Kopecky**

With the Liberal Party, but what about with the Conservatives?

**Sylvestre**

Well, the Conservatives — Mr. Poilievre is not going to take equalization and cancel it. So that's going to be a problem. Pierre says lots of really good things up to this point about the oil patch and about all the things that he would do that the Premier, that the prime ministers of the last 10 or 11 years have not and are not doing for Alberta.

The basic facts are Ottawa's been sabotaging Alberta oil for a long, long time, but it's very, very noticeable in the last 11 years. We're seeing a federal government actually sabotaging the biggest industry in the country and hurting the people of this province with no regard to anything but themselves as far as I can see and we also see a very corrupt Liberal government there.

We're at the point where we don't trust the system. We don't believe that the system can produce a government that's not corrupt. You cannot negotiate with criminals, so it becomes very difficult for us to understand why there would be a path for us to stay here. Does that make sense?

**Kopecky**

I just keep coming back to the idea that Pierre Poilievre would agree with almost everything you've said. (I think obviously he would disagree with the last part.) Do you not believe that, or do you just think he'll never get back into office to even try?

**Sylvestre**

I don't think he'll ever get back into office, actually, to tell you the truth.

**Kopecky**

Have you ever had a chance to speak with Poilievre or Conservative MPs and get their sense of things?

**Sylvestre**

I have not. I have never even met my own MP. She lives an hour and a half drive from me. They don't seem to be too concerned about regional politics.

—

*Having arrived in Alberta amid news breaking of more contact between the separatists and US officials than previously reported, Kopecky called Sylvestre back on Jan. 29 to ask about the new revelations.*

—

**Kopecky**

Good morning, Mitch. There was a question I meant to ask you yesterday and then ran out of time because I had to run. I was just wondering if you had gone to the US with Jeffrey Rath as part of that delegation.

**Sylvestre**

I'm not even talking about that anymore. That is the stupidest goddamn trial of ... that is so insignificant, if you only knew. [Laughs] It's the stupidest goddamn conversation.

I'm not even talking about that anymore.



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What's stupid about it?

**Sylvestre**

I just want you to understand you're talking about a lawyer, a shopkeeper and a retired heart surgeon going down to the US to talk to government people, and everybody's making a big deal out of it. Like, really? Come on — like, put that in context. Fuck. Pardon me, but it was so goddamn stupid that it's almost hard to believe. Like, I'm not mad at you for asking, but everybody's so focused on us and the Americans. I want to ask you a question. Pick three random people from your hometown. And imagine them — like the Beverly Hillbillies going to the US, and talking to these guys, as if there could be any consequence come out of that. It makes me laugh. It literally makes me laugh.

**Kopecky**

Were you one of the "hillbillies" though?

**Sylvestre**

Yeah, I was. I went once. I went once and chose not to go back. I mean there's been three trips. I declined the first one, went on the second one, and declined the third one.

**Kopecky**

Why did you decline the third one?

**Sylvestre**

Well, because what's the point of going there? We're just a casual conversation. We got no power. Like we're three regular Alberta citizens — a small businessman, a lawyer

and a retired doctor. Like, come on, we're not elected. We have no power to make any decisions for anybody. Yeah, we're running a movement of people, but you know what? I started this by running rooms of 300, 400 people and basically ended up as being the leader because nobody else would do it and nobody else could. I mean, that's basically the only reason that this has happened. And it's just a very large collection of disgruntled Albertans, is what it is. And you know what, I just happen to be the lucky guy that gets to represent them. These disgruntled Albertans may change the course of history, however.

**Kopecky**

But, you're certainly rocking the boat in a very major fashion, you know.

**Sylvestre**

I'm humbled by the fact that people actually believe that we could actually do any of that kind of stuff. I mean, that's totally Danielle Smith's area. I've talked to the premier on a regular basis. What they can do and what they wanna do or what they can accomplish is entirely up to them. They're the people in power to do it. I just don't understand why they're not doing it. There's nothing holding them up. Like what's holding them up from going down there?

**Kopecky**

I think the argument is people are worried that Trump and his team will invade Alberta the way they want to invade Greenland, and they will hold up the desire for independence as an excuse and say, "hey, look, there's folks that want to [separate], we're going to come and rescue those folks."

**Sylvestre**

They're gonna come and rescue Alberta. So I'm gonna ask you a question. Who do we need rescuing from?

**Kopecky**

Well, you're telling me that it's Ottawa.

**Sylvestre**

Oh, I totally agree with you. So why isn't Ottawa rescuing?

**Kopecky**

I guess people don't think Alberta needs rescuing, that it's doing pretty well.

**Sylvestre**

I think they should take five minutes and pay attention to what's going on. Maybe we should put my video all out there for Albertans and Canadians to see how crooked the Canadian government actually is and how they're absolutely raping Alberta and with no intent to stop anytime in the near future. So how are we in a position that we need

rescuing from our own government?

**Kopecky**

I don't think Trump thinks that, but I think he would love to come in and seize Alberta's oil and take it for himself — that's what people are worried about.

**Sylvestre**

What's stopping him from doing it now?

**Kopecky**

Less and less every day.

**Sylvestre**

Well, it's not my fault. That's not my fault or our fault.

**Kopecky**

I'm not saying it is, Mitch.

**Sylvestre**

Why don't you write something along those lines for me? Write something along those lines and put it out there and send it to me and say, you know what, this is their perspective. Their perspective is, we're not making a deal with Donald Trump. If Donald Trump wanted to come to Alberta, he's got the most powerful army in the world, and we have no army here, dismantled completely by the Liberals. And the equipment is antique. I'm right by Cold Lake. They're still flying ancient jets. They're 40 years old. And uh the Americans are, you know, the, the F-18s are ancient. They're up to F-35 now, and I think there's a sequential number there, so you know how antiquated our stuff is.

This could never possibly be a fight. So the Americans have to understand that there's no logical reason that they just couldn't walk in here and take over already. And I'm gonna share something with you. I'm going to Cardston tonight. Half the people in Cardston have dual citizenships.

**Kopecky**

As do I.

**Sylvestre**

Oh, there you go! So are you gonna fight your brothers in the USA?

**Kopecky**

I'm an Albertan first, so, if they tried to invade us, I would probably fight that. But, I'm just curious if you're worried about an independent Alberta — are you worried that that would be more vulnerable to a US hostile takeover?

**Sylvestre**

I don't think it would change the situation one iota. What would be different? We have a different government. That's the difference between an independent Alberta and Canada is that Canada sure as hell ain't gonna protect us. They've been doing nothing but sabotage what we're doing for the last 100 — 100 years — literally. I mean, it, it, well, right, I, I just don't understand the concern, and I've said this multiple times.

I'm gonna, I'm gonna get mad at some point. I haven't blown up on the group like I just did with you because from my perspective, from the 2,000-foot view, I look at this like, what's stopping them from doing it now? They [Ottawa] don't wanna do anything to fix it, so they're actually pushing us towards this, right? They couldn't do more to further the conversation on Alberta independence. What else could they do?

I mean, what else could they do to push us down the line to help us out? It's like they're on speed dial for us. It's like, OK, so the next thing you should do is line up with the communist Chinese and go to Beijing and have a press conference and announce that now we're going for the New World Order. Like, really? Did you see Scott Moe? Scott Moe wanted to crawl under the table.

**Kopecky**

Well, that speech raised a lot of eyebrows.

**Sylvestre**

And I wanna ask you a question. Why don't you go after those assholes at the convention here this weekend, all those Federalists, and ask them what is, exactly, the New World Order? What does that mean? You wanna talk about traitors? New World Order in my world is one world government. That means no more Canada. Right?

**Kopecky**

I'm on my way there, right after this phone call.

**Sylvestre**

You ask them. Ask the MPs. Ask the guys that are already in government. How are you not screaming your fool fucking heads off? Like, really, what is the New World Order? Define that. I want a definition on that. Does that mean that we get to elect and run our own country? I mean, the United Nations has been anything but a friend to the Caucasian world. I mean, you're seeing disruptions in Europe, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia. Very little anywhere else. New World Order is after white Christianity by the looks of it, it seems to me. They're trying to replace us.

**Kopecky**

Have you traveled outside of Canada?

**Sylvestre**

Well, I go to the US. I've never been to Europe.

**Kopecky**

Not South America or Africa or Asia?

**Sylvestre**

I go to Central America. I go fishing. I go fishing in Panama and Costa Rica.

**Kopecky**

Yeah, they've got good fishing down there.

**Sylvestre**

Yeah, the best deep sea fishing in the world. But, no I've never been all over that place, you know why?

**Kopecky**

Why?

**Sylvestre**

I'm too busy working to pay my taxes.

**Kopecky**

You and me, both.

**Sylvestre**

So are you not getting a little tired of that?

**Kopecky**

I like the education and the roads and the infrastructure and the healthcare that comes with it.

**Sylvestre**

That's smoke. It doesn't cost nearly as much as they're telling you it costs.

**Kopecky**

Yeah, well, you could be right. You could be right.

**Sylvestre**

You will remember this conversation maybe one day. You err on the side of caution and stay where you are, I believe we're gonna end up in flat-out communism here in the next three, four, five years. And once they get that digital box around you that they're building right now, there's only one way out of that. It's gonna be awful. Communism comes in with the promise and out with the bullets. It's best right now to slow the train down so that everybody understands what's going on so that competent, intelligent, well-informed people, they will make the right decisions.

But it's your job to inform them. That's historically been your job as a journalist, is to keep an eye on government and make sure that you salvage and keep our democracy. That's a heavy burden as far as I'm concerned.

### **Kopecky**

One question for you. The \$500 billion line of credit that Jeffrey Rath has said he's asking the [US] Treasury for. Do you know anything about that?

### **Sylvestre**

I know no more than you. But I also want you to put a caveat on that. I also know that a free and independent Alberta could get money to function from anywhere.

I've talked to Canadian bankers about that. Of course we have no power to do anything about that. So, a \$500 billion loan has to come from somewhere if that's what's required to run this and that's what's going to be required to smooth the transition. There will be, there will be money involved. I've asked the Premier personally: have you guys got a plan in the event of a successful referendum and [Alberta] becoming free and independent, and their answer is no. So if they have not got a contingency plan, they're being irresponsible and therefore as far as I'm personally concerned, are leaving it up to somebody else to get it done.

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January 29th 2026

[Arno Kopecky](#)

National Politics Reporter

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Louis Bertrand | January 30th 2026, 05:32 am

The reporter handled it well. He gave the guy a chance to speak his mind, but didn't engage in an argument when provoked.

The east-west divergence of perception about the role of the federal government in the oil and gas sector is almost unbridgeable. 30-something billion for a pipeline, yet the industry is oppressed.

---

D'Arcy Rattray | January 30th 2026, 08:51 am

Trudeau gave Alberta their pipeline to tidewater. Trudeau!

And yet, we watched/ heard Danielle Smith blame Trudeau for all Alberta's woes!

Instead of taking responsibility for the disaster that is the Alberta Healthcare system, and the fact that it is Smith herself ' that fueled the continued unrest in the Alberta School System , after using the Notwithstanding Clause against the Alberta Educators/Teachers.

Everything is Trudeau's fault. Sound familiar? Pierre Poilievre has done the exact same thing for years!

Trudeau Trudeau Trudeau ...

What blaming Mr. Trudeau did for Smith yesterday, was get her out of truly admitting she' has fueled/encouraged/enabled the Separatist movement in Alberta . Period.

What I did-not hear from Danielle Smith yesterday? Was Smith fully stating her loyalty and love for her country, Canada ....

---

Geoffrey Pounder | January 30th 2026, 10:53 am

Alberta's oilsands industry would never have got off the ground without federal govt investment and R&D. Never mind billions in subsidies.

Under Trudeau, AB's O&G industry enjoyed record profits on record production.

Max Fawcett: "The oil and gas sector will miss Justin Trudeau. No, really"

"... while Canada was 'closed' for oil and gas business, the industry increased its oil production by more than a million barrels per day. Its biggest companies posted record profits in 2022, and then almost did it again in 2023.

Meanwhile, in 2024 the federal govt completed the construction of the first pipeline to Pacific tidewater in decades, one that immediately (and significantly) increased oil prices received by the same companies complaining so bitterly about Trudeau's reign.

"... Justin Trudeau has been the best prime minister their industry has seen in decades. He has done more to advance their interests, often at the cost of his own political capital, than any of his living predecessors."

---

Tris Pargeter | January 31st 2026, 09:07 am

Seems Poilievre isn't the only super-righteous one fixated on Trudeau, AND Max Fawcett actually....

---

Geoffrey Pounder | January 31st 2026, 10:22 am

On this point, Fawcett is correct. Contrary to the delusional claims of Alberta separatists, Trudeau's government enabled dramatic growth in O&G production and profits. My quotation is perfectly apt.

With enemies like Trudeau, the O&G industry does not need friends.

With friends like Trudeau, the climate movement does not need enemies.

---

Alex Botta | January 31st 2026, 11:03 am

One pipeline down. It was approved a decade ago.

If another one materialized today it would be a miracle, an exercise in promoting bankruptcy, of being led by magical thinking over competent risk assessment and long term planning.

---

Alex Botta | January 30th 2026, 11:44 am

This interview only confirms my suspicions. These separatists are too far down the rabbit hole to be convinced of anything outside of their own myopic views. Their sight of the outside world is occluded by small minded precepts like "white Christianity."

The idea that a club of Alberta separatists could secure a \$US500B loan to carry out carving the province from the confederation is so completely far fetched that it defies reality.

The US is \$US38 trillion in debt to its international creditors (via US treasury bonds). They are now starting to pull out of US dollar denominated transactions, selling their US T-bills, failing to buy any more of them and thus rejecting further US loans, and extending their motives to get away from the US to include their purchasing power.

Trump is fast erasing the international trust the world put into the American financial system that underpinned the US for 80+ years.

So, a half trillion loan to a clutch of Alberta separatists? Not gonna happen.

---

Alex Botta | January 30th 2026, 12:03 pm

The only way the US could inject more energy into the separatist cause in Alberta is to take over more of the Alberta economy to benefit American private economic interests.

Well, the Alberta oil industry is already 80% foreign owned, mainly by US-headquartered oil companies. So the effort to complete the circle would be quite easy.

At least Silvestre is being honest about his hatred of federalism. He mocks the efforts to separate by those who would suck up to Trump's version of Americana. But he is woefully unprepared to assume the huge economic and legal challenges to first separate, then build a new entity (it won't be a big 'province' once it's carved up by powerful competing interests) and then govern it.

None if them, not one, has a plan --or even a concept of a plan. Like a new pipeline coupled to CCS tech and amorphous overseas demand, it remains a fantasy based on magical thinking.

But the propaganda will be huge. That needs to have an equal counterpunch of truth.

---

Richard Asselin | January 30th 2026, 12:02 pm

If you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it. Similarly, if a honest politician speaks the truth often enough, people will also believe it.

What is the Alberta NDP saying about the state if their province under the rule of the federal government?

---

Tris Pargeter | January 31st 2026, 09:18 am

I simply can't bother even following this idiot, the reluctant "hero" as usual who can't see past his own tedious and predictably oversized ego AS USUAL, never mind the truth.

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Tris Pargeter | January 31st 2026, 09:18 am

I simply can't bother even following this idiot, the reluctant "hero" as usual who can't see past his own tedious and predictably oversized ego AS USUAL, never mind the truth.

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A Notary Public, A Commissioner for Oaths  
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ORLAGH O'KELLY  
Barrister & Solicitor

# 'A natural partner': US treasury secretary weighs in on Alberta separatism

23 January 2026

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US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has weighed in on a separatist movement in Alberta, saying the western Canadian province is a "natural partner for the US".

"Alberta has a wealth of natural resources, but they won't let them build a pipeline to the Pacific," Bessent told an American right-wing commentator in

an interview on Thursday.

"I think we should let them come down into the US, and Alberta is a natural partner for the US. They have great resources. The Albertans are very independent people."

The top US official's comments come amid strained ties between US and Canada, and as signatures are being collected in the province seeking an independence referendum.

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In comments to conservative host Jack Posobiec, Bessent went on to say there is a "rumour that they may have a referendum on whether they want to stay in Canada or not".

A group in Alberta has until May to collect at least 178,000 signatures - or 10% of eligible voters - for a referendum campaign.

Asked about Bessent's remarks on Friday, federal Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said he'd tell him "thanks but no thanks, we will do our own things".

He said Canadians are "able to develop our natural resources at home" and pointed to a deal recently inked by Prime Minister Mark Carney with Alberta that opens the door for an oil pipeline to the Pacific. It's a project long pushed for by Canada's oil heartland but one which faces significant hurdles.

A spokesman for Alberta Premier Danielle Smith said in a statement to the BBC that the province supports new pipelines "west, east, north, and south, and we will continue to work with our US partners on building more pipeline capacity to US markets".

"But the premier also believes the overwhelming majority of Albertans are not interested in becoming a US state".

Late last year over 430,000 signatures were gathered for a petition calling for a united Canada to counter the separatist push, and polls indicate a majority of Albertans want to stay in Canada.

Many supporters of separatism have also told media they are seeking independence from Canada - not to join the US.

Mitch Sylvestre, who is spearheading the referendum petition, **told the CBC on**

~~Friday he doesn't think anyone in his movement is eyeing the US.~~

He said he thought Bessent's comment on Alberta and the US being "natural partners" was obvious given the energy trade between them.

Still, some organisers of the movement have said they have travelled to Washington to meet officials from the Trump administration.

Meanwhile, trade talks between the US and Canada are on ice, and President Donald Trump has expressed irritation with the prime minister over a blunt speech he **delivered at the World Economic Forum in Davos** calling out "great powers" for weaponising their economic might.

Trump **responded in his own speech with:** "Canada lives because of the United States. Remember that, Mark, the next time you make your statements."

Other US officials have also criticised Carney's speech, including Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who this week accused Canada of being "arrogant" and Carney of pandering to a domestic audience by adopting an anti-US stance.

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**'We have more in common with America than the rest of Canada'  
'Canada lives because of US' - Trump digs at Carney in Davos speech**

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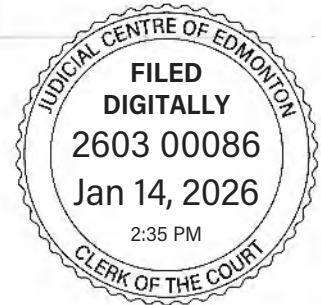


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 File No. 125-00118

**AFFIDAVIT OF WESLEY WARK**

Affirmed on January 14, 2026

I, WESLEY WARK, of Ottawa in the Province of Ontario, Canada AND SAY THAT:

1. I am a Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, an independent Canadian think-tank headquartered in Waterloo, Ontario; a Fellow at the Basillie School of International Affairs, and a Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto's Munk School of International Affairs, where I taught from 1988 to 2013.
2. My area of expertise relates to national security, intelligence and security policy in both a Canadian and international context.

**The scope of my expert opinion report**

3. On January 6, 2026, I agreed to be retained by O'Kelly Law as an independent expert witness to provide a report on the potential for foreign interference, or any other national

security risks, arising from the “petition process” and the harms, if any, which could result from foreign interference.

4. I certify that I am aware of my duty as an expert witness to assist the Court and not to be an advocate for any party. I have made this affidavit and have given this written testimony in conformity with that duty. If I am called to give further testimony, it will be in conformity with that duty.

5. I further certify that the opinion evidence set out in this report is restricted to matters that fall within my area of expertise. My report is based solely on my professional expertise and knowledge. The text of this report was written by me and is free of AI-generated content.

#### **Dr. Wesley Wark, Professional Background & Qualifications**

6. I have been engaged in studies of national security and intelligence issues, in both an academic and public policy environment, for over forty years, starting in the late 1970s.

7. I am currently a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), an independent, non-partisan public policy think tank. As part of my work for CIGI, I conduct research and write on issues relating to national security and intelligence. I am also a fellow at the Balsillie School of International Relations, where I mentor graduate students and serve as the chief instructor for professional courses offered by the Balsillie Executive Institute on national security and intelligence for federal public servants, primarily from the Canadian security and intelligence community.

8. My academic credentials include a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, an MA from Cambridge University, and a B.A. from Carleton University. My academic teaching appointments include the London School of Economics, McGill University, the University of Calgary, the University of Toronto, and the University of Ottawa. I spent the majority of my academic career at the University of Toronto/Munk School of International Affairs, where I taught for twenty-five years from 1988 to 2013. While at the University of Toronto I offered unique courses on intelligence history at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

9. My public policy work includes an assignment by the Privy Council Office to write a classified history of the Canadian intelligence community, work which I undertook between 1998-2002. I was appointed to the Prime Minister’s Advisory Council on National Security for two terms, from 2005 to 2009. I also served on the Advisory Committee to the President of CBSA from 2006 to 2010. At times throughout my career I have held a high-level security

clearance, equivalent to Enhanced TS/Gamma in the current clearance system (New Standard on Security Screening).

10. I have been involved in successive public inquiries into national security and intelligence issues, beginning with the Arar inquiry, where I advised Justice O'Connor on Part 2 recommendations regarding national security and intelligence review. I was commissioned to write a report for Justice Major's Inquiry into Air India on RCMP-CSIS intelligence sharing and cooperation. More recently I was commissioned to write a research paper on the role of intelligence in public order emergencies for the Public Order Emergency Commission headed by Justice Rouleau. I also played a leading role with CIGI in terms of the standing granted to it for the policy phase of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference. I was the lead author for CIGI's submission to the Foreign Interference Inquiry during its Part Two "policy" phase.<sup>1</sup>

11. I have been engaged in consultations with national security and intelligence officials and Ministers in Ottawa on numerous files. These consultations date back to 2003-2004, when I was asked to advise on the Government's first National Security Policy, issued in April 2004. These consultations have also included more recent work with the Privy Council office on enhancing the government's open-source intelligence capabilities, and discussions with IRCC officials on improving its intelligence sharing with CBSA. In the period leading up to the tabling of Bill C-59, national security framework legislation, in 2017, I advised the then-Minister of Public Safety, The Honourable Ralph Goodale, on aspects of its provisions. More recently I was involved in stakeholder discussions held by the Department of Justice and the Department of Public Safety to consider legislative changes which became Bill C-70, "An Act Respecting Countering Foreign Interference." Bill C-70 was given Royal Assent on June 20, 2024, and included the creation of a Foreign Influence Transparency Registry, which is still being established.

12. I have been asked to write expert opinion reports for the Federal court and provincial superior courts. These included expert witness testimony in several cases under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA), including three security certificate cases before the Federal Court. In more recent years, I wrote an expert opinion report and testified

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<sup>1</sup> Written submission of the Centre for International Governance Innovation, as a party with standing in the Part 2 phase on policy, to the Foreign Interference Inquiry, [https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/foreign\\_interference\\_commission/Documents/Submissions/Final\\_Submissions/2024-11-04 - Centre for International Governance Innovation.pdf](https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/foreign_interference_commission/Documents/Submissions/Final_Submissions/2024-11-04_-_Centre_for_International_Governance_Innovation.pdf)

in a case involving IRPA s.34(1) allegations of inadmissibility (Elena Crenna and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration). The judicial review in this case was granted and the matter was sent back for redetermination to be carried out in accordance with the reasons (2020 FC 491; Reasons April 6, 2020). I also provided, via an affidavit, an expert opinion report in another recent s34(1) case. This case, Oleksandr Neshchadym and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, IMM-12584-24, also involved a Ukrainian man deemed inadmissible to Canada because of alleged membership ties to the KGB. The matter was settled and sent for redetermination.

13. I also wrote an expert opinion report and testified in the sentencing hearing at the Nova Scotia superior court for Sub-Lieutenant Jeffery Delisle, who confessed in 2011 to engaging in espionage on behalf of Russia.

14. I have been called on numerous occasions over the past two decades to testify before Parliamentary committees on national security and intelligence issues. Going back to beginnings, I was called to testify in the Fall of 2001 on Canada's first anti-terrorism legislation. The most recent occasions involved testimony before the Senate Standing Committee on National Security and Defence on Bill C-70 in June 2024 and testimony before the House of Commons Procedure and House Affairs Committee (PROC) on foreign interference and the creation of the foreign influence transparency registry on December 2, 2025.

15. My most recent book is an edited volume, Secret Intelligence: A Reader (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2020). I co-led a major CIGI study on "Reimagining Canadian National Security Strategy" and co-authored its capstone report, issued in 2021. I also co-authored for CIGI a study on Health Security in the context of COVID-19. I am a contributing writer for the Canadian national affairs magazine, The Walrus.

### **Case Materials Reviewed**

16. I have been provided by O'Kelly Law with a copy of the statement of claim they have filed on behalf of the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.

17. I have also been provided by O'Kelly Law with background information on the "Citizen Initiative Act, 2021-2025," and on the Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) and statements that it has issued in the public domain.

18. I do not opine on any legal matters as they are not in my area of expertise, and utilise public domain information on the APP only in connection with my analysis of the potential for foreign interference in the petition process and any harms that may arise.

19. Other relevant sources that I refer to are cited in footnotes in the opinion report. Attached and marked as **Exhibit “1”** to my affidavit are screenshots, unofficial transcripts and PDF documents of the sources that I relied on other than news articles, government documents and academic sources, also referenced in links below with corresponding tab numbers.

### **Summary of Key Findings in my Expert Opinion**

20. The key findings in my expert opinion are:

- i. Foreign interference targeting Canada is a long-standing national security concern
- ii. Foreign interference is persistent, evolving and escalating in keeping with changes in the geopolitical and technological environments
- iii. Foreign interference targeting Canadian federal elections and democratic processes was a focus of media, political and Parliamentary attention through 2022-2023
- iv. The Foreign Interference Inquiry headed by Justice Hogue allowed for an intensive, public scrutiny of foreign interference threats
- v. Justice Hogue identified information manipulation as an “existential threat to Canada” in her final report in January 2025
- vi. Foreign interference actors with the capabilities and intent to target Canada have been identified, to include the People’s Republic of China, Russia and India
- vii. Since the onset of the second Trump presidency in January 2025, the threat of foreign interference operations by the United States has grown. The US has significant capacities to conduct foreign interference operations, has conducted such operations to effect regime change in Venezuela, and threatened to do so against other countries in the Western Hemisphere.
- viii. The White House National Security Strategy, released in December 2025, provides a strategic rationale for foreign interference operations by the US in the Western hemisphere

- ix. The Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) has aligned itself with Trump policies, including the US National Security Strategy, and sought financial and political support from the Trump Administration
- x. The actions of the APP could operate as a ‘welcome mat’ for US foreign interference in the petition process
- xi. Plausible scenarios have been publicly identified for US foreign interference respecting Alberta separatism
- xii. It does not appear that the Alberta government or the federal government have taken any concrete steps to monitor or respond to the potential for foreign interference during the petition process
- xiii. Foreign interference operations can cause widespread harm to democratic processes, to faith in governance, to societal resilience, to economic security, and to the ability of Canadians to make free and informed choices
- xiv. Foreign interference from the US, and possibly other foreign countries, will be determined by their national interest, and by the decisions of their leadership, but are foreseeable.

### **The Petition Process:**

21. I have been provided by O’Kelly Law with a copy of the statement of claim they have filed on behalf of the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation. I have also been provided by O’Kelly Law with background information on the “Citizen Initiative Act, 2021-2025,” and on the Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) and statements that it has issued in the public domain.

22. On January 2, 2026, Alberta’s Chief Electoral Officer issued the citizen initiative petition for the constitutional referendum proposal, “A Referendum Relating to Alberta Independence.”<sup>2</sup> The proposed referendum question is:

**“Do you agree that the Province of Albertas should cease to be a part of Canada to become an independent state?”**

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<sup>2</sup> Elections Alberta, “New Citizen Initiative Petition Issued,” January 2, 2026, <https://www.elections.ab.ca/new-citizen-initiative-petition-issued-2/>

The signature collection period runs from January 3 to May 2, 2026. A total of 177,732 signatures (representing 10% of the votes cast in the 2023 Provincial General Election) is required for a successful petition.

23. Signatures are collected by a registered canvasser, who must ascertain the proof of identity and status of an elector and witness a written signature.

### **Part One:**

#### **An Evolving Understanding of the Foreign Interference Threat in Canada**

24. Foreign interference has long been a national security concern for Canada. Assessing the threat posed by foreign interference and advising the government on such threats was one of four mandated missions set out for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service with its founding legislation in 1984. In section 2(b) of the CSIS Act we read that threats to the security of Canada include “foreign influenced activities within or relating to Canada that are detrimental to the interests of Canada and are clandestine or deceptive or involve a threat to any person.”<sup>3</sup> Section 12(1) of the CSIS Act authorizes CSIS to collect, analyse and retain intelligence on such threats and report to the government.<sup>4</sup>

25. In the aftermath of Russian state-sponsored efforts to interfere with the US Presidential election in 2016, documented in a US intelligence community assessment, the Government took steps to build protections against any similar efforts targeting Canada.<sup>5</sup>

26. These steps involved mechanism to better detect, report and take action to respond to interference threats against federal elections, as well as increased capacity for CSIS to collect

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<sup>3</sup> Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-23.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> US Intelligence Community Assessment, “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections,” declassified version, January 6, 2017, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GOVPUB-PREX28-PURL-gpo76345/pdf/GOVPUB-PREX28-PURL-gpo76345.pdf>

intelligence on foreign influenced activity aimed at Canada’s democratic institutions, and authorization for CSIS to expand public reporting.<sup>6</sup>

27. In response, in July 2021, CSIS released a major public report, the first of its kind, entitled, “Foreign Interference Threats to Canada’s Democratic Process.”<sup>7</sup> The report was designed to explain the basics of foreign interference as it affected Canada—the what, why, and how elements—in order to raise awareness and “sensitize Canadians to the threat.”<sup>8</sup>

28. To explain what foreign interference is, CSIS used the reference point of its Act, which emphasizes harm to Canada’s interests, deceptive and clandestine activities, and threats to any person. CSIS also distinguished such activity from normal diplomatic conduct or acceptable foreign state lobbying. There is a line drawn between the clandestine, deceptive and threatening, and above-board efforts to influence the views of Canadians. Foreign interference can take both a traditional approach, using person-to-person contacts including through proxies, or it can operate in the digital realm through the spread of disinformation, the amplification of misinformation (often referred to as malinformation) or foreign influence campaigns.

29. Why do foreign interference actors target Canada? CSIS’s answer is that Canada is a natural target because of our advanced economy and allied relationships. Canada’s multiculturalism also makes it a target for foreign state actors engaged in transnational repression or efforts to win over diaspora or other distinct communities to a foreign state’s policy objectives.

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<sup>6</sup> National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians, “Special Report on Foreign Interference in Canada’s Democratic Processes and Institutions,” Chapter 3, “The Government’s Response,” June 2024, <https://www.nsicop-cpsnr.ca/reports/rp-2024-06-03/03-en.html>

<sup>7</sup> Canadian Security Intelligence Service, “Foreign Interference Threats to Canada’s Democratic Process,” unclassified, July 2021, <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/csis-scrs/documents/publications/2021/foreign-interference-threats-to-canada%27s-democratic-process.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, Executive summary, p. 3; p. 14

30. When it comes to foreign interference specifically targeting elections and democratic processes, CSIS notes that these efforts can be directed at the federal government, but also at provincial and municipal governments “as they determine investments in the economy, infrastructure, resources and the environment, as well as the health and education of citizens and residents.”<sup>9</sup> To be more inclusive they should have added territorial and indigenous governments. CSIS could not, of course, in July 2021, have been thinking about the impacts of foreign interference on a referendum for Alberta independence, but its broader concerns capture some of the potential harms.

31. CSIS noted that foreign state actors and proxies can have a range of goals for interference operations across the short, medium, and long terms. What unites these goals is a desire to advance strategic interests, undermine and discredit democratic practices and erode confidence in outcomes.<sup>10</sup>

32. The conduct of foreign interference operations—the how—revolved, in CSIS’s view, around exploiting vulnerabilities in the Canadian public, among voters, among elected and public officials, with lobby groups and community organizations and in the media. It is a wide canvas. Of particular relevance to the circumstances of concerns about foreign interference in the 2026 petition process involving a referendum on Alberta independence, is this statement from the 2021 report:

*“State actors may also attempt to covertly mobilize others involved in the democratic process. Donors, interest or lobby groups, or community organizations may be used, wittingly or unwittingly, to carry out interference activities to support a foreign state’s preferred candidate, or discredit or attack candidates that threaten their interests. For donors, some may have connections to foreign states or be pressured or coerced into making donations to specific candidates. For candidates receiving the donations there may be ‘strings attached’ and an expectation that a candidate will act in the state’s best interest.”*<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p. 7

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, p. 9

33. What the CSIS report provided was a general overview of the foreign interference threat. It identified no specific foreign interference actors and offered no case studies. But the year 2022 would begin a process whereby much greater public and political attention would be paid to foreign interference threats and more alarming details of their manifestation would come into the public sphere.

34. The process began with the Freedom Convoy protests of January and February 2022 that eventuated in a significant occupation of the downtown core of Ottawa, ultimately cleared through the unprecedented invocation of the Emergencies Act by the federal government, and blockades at key border crossings between Canada and the United States which harmed cross-border trade and damaged Canada's reputation as a safe trading partner. One of the key triggers for the federal government's decision to invoke the Act resulted from the discovery by an RCMP-led INSET investigation of a cache of weapons and related military-grade gear near the Coutts, Alberta, border blockade.<sup>12</sup> Deliberations at the Cabinet level included fears of violence at Coutts, the possible spread of violence to other Freedom Convoy protests and the over-stretch of policing resources across the country.

35. Two key foreign interference concerns were identified during the Public Order Emergency Commission in relation to the Freedom Convoy protests. One involved questions of potential foreign involvement in information operations depicting and supporting the Freedom Convoy. The other concerned the sources of funding for the Freedom Convoy. These issues were canvassed in the course of the proceedings and report of the Public Order Emergency Commission (POEC), mandated by the Emergencies Act, and presided over by Justice Paul Rouleau.

36. Justice Rouleau found that social media played a critical role in shaping the Freedom Convoy. As he stated, social media platforms were used to support the organization of the Freedom Convoy, but they also allowed what he called an important dynamic before and

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<sup>12</sup> Report of the Public Inquiry into the 2022 Public Order Emergency (hereafter cited as POEC), Final Report, vol. 1, section 13.5, <https://publicorderemergencycommission.ca/files/documents/Final-Report/Vol-1-Report-of-the-Public-Inquiry-into-the-2022-Public-Order-Emergency.pdf>

during the Convoy: “hate speech, propaganda, conspiracy theories and lies,” all of which could “spread farther, faster and cheaper than ever before.”<sup>13</sup> He described social media as an “accelerant for misinformation and disinformation,” which, he found, “clearly played a role in the protests.”<sup>14</sup> He described it as a “pervasive” phenomenon, even if its overall impact could not be precisely identified.<sup>15</sup>

37. Justice Rouleau was presented with evidence from the Government of Canada that there was no basis to believe that the Freedom Convoy was the *product* of a foreign disinformation campaign. But he also regarded this as a potential over-simplification, given the extent to which foreign state actors had already seeded the information space with so much disinformation during COVID-19, “as a means to sow mistrust in democratic governments.”<sup>16</sup>

38. In my own commissioned research paper for the Inquiry, which focused on the role of intelligence in public order emergencies, I noted the evidence from one investigation into the Freedom Convoy’s “Facebook ecosystem.” This study, by The Verge organization, found that by the time demonstrations had converged in Ottawa, the Convoy’s Facebook activities were being run by five administrators with U.S. ties. The Verge analysis concluded that the Freedom Convoy’s social media activity began with “a small collection of local conspiracy theorists,” but was “given a megaphone by America’s powerful right-wing disinformation machine.”<sup>17</sup> Foreign content mills and deceptive sites also played a role in amplification of misinformation and disinformation during the Freedom Convoy protest, including ones run from Bangladesh

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<sup>13</sup> POEC Final Report, volume 1: Overview, February 2023, p. 29, <https://publicorderemergencycommission.ca/files/documents/Final-Report/Vol-1-Report-of-the-Public-Inquiry-into-the-2022-Public-Order-Emergency.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, p. 142

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, p. 30

<sup>17</sup> Wesley Wark, “The Role of Intelligence in Public Order Emergencies,” commissioned research paper, pp. 13-14, <https://publicorderemergencycommission.ca/files/documents/Policy-Papers/The-Role-of-Intelligence-in-Public-Order-Emergencies-Wark.pdf>

and Bulgaria, and a stolen account belonging to a Missouri woman (which Facebook moved to disable).<sup>18</sup>

39. The Rouleau commission took an even deeper look at the question of financial support for the Freedom Convoy, something that was more susceptible to forensic examination, and aligned with government efforts to target the sources of funding and use Emergencies Act powers to enact asset freezes, as a deterrent, based on a list of “designated persons” provided by the RCMP.

40. The picture that emerged had two elements: one was the sheer amount of funds that the Freedom Convoy was able to acquire quickly through donations to online platforms. The other was the ability of Convoy organizers to switch fund-raising platforms as problems emerged. The initial platform used was “GoFund Me.” When that platform ultimately refused to allow its use by the Freedom Convoy, Convoy organizers created a new channel for funds to flow to it, through a US-based platform, “GiveSendGo.” It, too, was eventually blocked, primarily by injunctions issued by the Ontario government.<sup>19</sup>

41. The Rouleau commission was also able to identify, in general, where the money came from. The funds that flowed through the initial “GoFundMe” channel, amounting to over \$10 million, came primarily from donors in Canada. Once the funding switched to “GiveSendGo,” in February 2022, the picture changed. This channel had far fewer donors, and raised less money (c. \$0.5 million), but the majority of it came from the United States.<sup>20</sup> A method for raising funds using cryptocurrencies was also created for the Freedom Convoy. It raised

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid, p. 14; Emily Laidlaw of the University of Calgary provided a map of the various social media platforms utilised by the Freedom Convoy in another commissioned research paper, “Mis-Dis-and Mal-Information and the Convoy: An Examination of the Role and Responsibilities of Social Media,”

<https://publicorderemergencycommission.ca/files/documents/Policy-Papers/Mis-Dis-and-Mal-Information-and-the-Convoy-Laidlaw.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Report of the Public Inquiry into the 2022 Public Order Emergency (hereafter cited as POEC), volume 1: Overview, February 2023, pp. 96-101, <https://publicorderemergencycommission.ca/files/documents/Final-Report/Vol-1-Report-of-the-Public-Inquiry-into-the-2022-Public-Order-Emergency.pdf>; an Overview report was prepared by Commission counsel on “Fundraising in Support of Protestors,” which provided more details, see <https://publicorderemergencycommission.ca/files/overview-reports/COM.OR.00000005.pdf?t=1667488145>

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, p. 101

relatively little money (\$7,685.90) but 50 % of the funds were never accounted for, according to the RCMP.<sup>1</sup>

42. While the vast majority of donations for the Freedom Convoy were identified as coming from Canadian sources, an independent study made available to POEC noted the extent to which the “GoFundMe” campaign was promoted by US-based, right-wing groups, including white supremacist channels, over Facebook. The same study noted that “GiveSend Go,” was “highly popular among right-wing communities in the US and beyond.”<sup>21</sup>

43. Justice Rouleau called the Freedom Convoy, “a singular moment in history, in which simmering social, political and economic grievances were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, shaped by a complex online landscape rife with misinformation and disinformation and unleashed in a torrent of political protest and social unrest.”<sup>22</sup>

44. No sooner than the Freedom Convoy had been brought to an end by the use of the Emergencies Act, another “singular” moment erupted, this time on the world stage, but with implications for Canada.

45. On February 24, 2022, after months of military preparation and threats, Russia launched a multi-front invasion of Ukraine. Given Canada’s long-standing support for Ukraine, including through involvement in the NATO training mission to the Ukrainian armed forces, the express determination by the government to help Ukraine defend itself, and the presence of a large Ukrainian diaspora community in Canada, fears emerged about the possibility of Russian interference operations targeting Canada in the form of a state-sponsored campaign of

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<sup>21</sup> Institute for Strategic Dialogue, London, UK, “Examining US Support & Funding for the Canadian Trucker Convoy,” February 7-9, 2022, <https://publicorderemergencycommission.ca/files/exhibits/OPS00009429.pdf?t=1668648486>

<sup>22</sup> Report of the Public Inquiry into the 2022 Public Order Emergency (hereafter cited as POEC), volume 1: Overview, February 2023, p. 248, <https://publicorderemergencycommission.ca/files/documents/Final-Report/Vol-1-Report-of-the-Public-Inquiry-into-the-2022-Public-Order-Emergency.pdf>

mis-and disinformation.<sup>23</sup> The Global Affairs Canada website stated, “The Kremlin continues to use disinformation to justify and garner support for its illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine. Russia conceals, blurs and fabricates information to gain military advantage, demoralize Ukrainians, divide allies and sow confusion and division.”<sup>24</sup>

46. Studies have attempted to analyse the nature, traction and impact of a Russian disinformation campaign since the onset of the war. One team at the University of Calgary led by Jean-Christophe Boucher has undertaken a study of pro-Russian narratives in the Canadian Twitter universe (the study utilised an AI analysis of 6.2 million tweets).<sup>25</sup> They identified three broad themes in Russian influenced messaging: that the Ukraine war was a product of aggressive NATO expansionism; that Russia aimed to deal with “fascists” in Ukraine; and thirdly, that democratic institutions, especially the Liberal government, were not to be trusted to tell the truth.

47. The study found that the propagation of these pro-Russian messages came from two general sources—the US and Russia. In the case of US-influenced sources, these involved prominent right-wing influencers.

48. A study published in 2024 in the *International Journal*, a Canadian academic publication on foreign affairs, went further by identifying a Russian disinformation strategy in Canada, what it described as the “weaponization of Canada’s far-right and far-left movements to undermine international support for Ukraine.”<sup>26</sup> This study utilised an analysis of 200,000 X accounts, the overwhelming majority (c. 92.6%) could be characterized as either far-right or

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<sup>23</sup> Global Affairs Canada, “Russia’s use of disinformation and information manipulation,” [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_developpement-enjeux\\_developpement/response\\_conflict-reponse\\_conflits/crisis-crisis/ukraine-disinfo-desinfo.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_developpement-enjeux_developpement/response_conflict-reponse_conflits/crisis-crisis/ukraine-disinfo-desinfo.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> Jean-Christophe Boucher et al, University of Calgary School of Public Policy, “Disinformation and Russian-Ukrainian War on Canadian social media,” June 2022, <https://journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/index.php/sppp/article/view/75449/55875>

<sup>26</sup> Brian McQuinn et al, “Russia Weaponization of Canada’s Far Right and Far Left to undermine support for Ukraine,” *International Journal*, 2024, vol. 79(2), 297-311, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00207020241257635>

far-left. One important finding was about how a small network of pro-Putin narratives “can co-opt and engage passive followers.”<sup>27</sup> The research also demonstrated, not surprisingly, that significant sharing occurred between Canadian and US twitter ecosystems.<sup>28</sup> The authors advance a series of policy recommendations spurred by the belief that “Canadians should be able to discuss and debate the nature of support to Ukraine without malicious influence by foreign states.”<sup>29</sup>

49. A survey of Canadians published by Disinfowatch in 2024 attempted to assess vulnerability to pro-Russian disinformation narratives, according to party political affiliation.<sup>30</sup> Among its findings were that, of Canadians polled, a high percentage had been exposed to pro-Russian narratives. The narratives it identified included arguments that Russia was defending itself against Ukrainian Nazis; that NATO (with Ukraine a puppet state) was responsible for the war; that financial aid sent to Ukraine was pocketed by corrupt officials; that weapons sent to Ukraine were being sold on the black market instead; that Ukraine should give up its eastern provinces because they are inhabited by Russians; and that Russia will win eventually, so sending aid to Ukraine is pointless.

50. Belief in the truthfulness of these pro-Russian influence operations skewed heavily, in every case, towards conservative supporters. The Disinfowatch study concluded that: “Russian disinformation exploits existing political divides to achieve its objectives.”<sup>31</sup>

51. Events surrounding the Freedom Convoy protests and the conduct of the Russian war against Ukraine were a prelude to an ever-deepening concern about foreign interference in Canada that began to emerge in media stories in the Fall of 2022. These stories focused on

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<sup>27</sup> Ibid, p. 305

<sup>28</sup> Ibid

<sup>29</sup> Ibid, p. 309

<sup>30</sup> Disinfowatch, Disinfodigest, “Canadian vulnerability to Russian Narratives about Ukraine,” 8 July 2024, <https://disinfowatch.org/canadian-vulnerability-to-russian-narratives-about-ukraine/>; Global News, “Conservative supporters more susceptible to Russian false narratives: report,” July 8, 2024, <https://globalnews.ca/news/10611001/conservative-supporters-russian-false-narratives-report/>

<sup>31</sup> Disinfowatch, *ibid*

allegations of foreign interference campaigns by the People's Republic of China against Canadian federal elections. Media narratives were led by two mainstream Canadian media outlets, Global News and The Globe and Mail. Initially the stories focused on foreign interference campaigns targeting the 2019 federal election. But in early 2023, the focus shifted to the 2021 federal election. The sources for these stories often involved anonymous officials or select, classified documents made available to the media outlets, but never published by them.

52. A key moment in the reporting by the media came with the publication of a Globe and Mail story on February 17, 2023, under the headline "CSIS documents reveal Chinese strategy to influence Canada's 2021 election."<sup>32</sup> Reporters Bob Fife and Steve Chase described a "sophisticated strategy" employed by China to "disrupt Canada's democracy in the 2021 federal election campaign." This strategy allegedly involved Chinese diplomats and proxies working to back the re-election of Justin Trudeau's Liberals, but only to a minority government, and also featured efforts to defeat Conservative politicians "considered to be unfriendly to Beijing." According to the reporters, this Chinese interference operation was "laid bare in both secret and top-secret Canadian security intelligence service documents viewed by the Globe and Mail."<sup>33</sup>

53. The Globe and Mail story accelerated a process of highly partisan political debate about foreign interference in Canadian elections. The Conservative party leader, Pierre Poilievre, immediately accused the Trudeau government of a "cover-up," alleging that the Trudeau Liberals knew all about the People's Republic of China (PRC) campaign but chose to say or do nothing about it because they were the beneficiaries.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Robert Fife and Steven Chase, The Globe and Mail, "CSIS documents reveal Chinese strategy to influence Canada's 2021 election," February 17, 2023, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-china-influence-2021-federal-election-csis-documents/>

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

<sup>34</sup> CBC News, "Poilievre accuses Trudeau of ignoring election interference by China," February 17, 2023, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/china-interference-concerning-analyst-1.6752577>

54. The government, in turn, tried to deal with what quickly became a political crisis of confidence, first by turning to the two independent review bodies, the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians and the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency, to conduct their own investigations.<sup>35</sup> But it also recognised that these reviews may not be seen as sufficient on their own, so the Government also established a new mechanism, an “Independent Special Rapporteur” on Foreign Interference, to conduct a separate public study. The Right Honourable David Johnston, a former Governor-General and Dean of the Law Faculty at McGill University, was chosen by the Government to serve as Independent Special Rapporteur.<sup>36</sup> The Special Rapporteur was to have access to classified intelligence reports, study the threat of foreign interference and the government’s response, provide reports to the PM that would be shared with opposition leaders and also consider whether a formal public inquiry would be necessary.

55. The Special Rapporteur function was dogged with controversy from the outset, and never accepted by opposition parties.

56. Mr. Johnston managed to publish a first report on May 23, 2023, which contained criticism of how the government had handled intelligence reporting, but also criticised media reporting for lacking context and being sensational and misleading on occasion. Mr. Johnston also recommended against holding a formal public inquiry, largely on the grounds that it would not achieve anything beyond his on-going study (scheduled to be completed in October) and would be hampered by its inability to discuss in a public forum the material at the heart of the investigation, namely highly classified intelligence reporting. None of this won him many friends. In the face of fierce, on-going political opposition, including a Commons committee demand that he step down, and a campaign of personal assaults on his reputation and integrity,

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<sup>35</sup> Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), New release, “Taking further action on foreign interference and strengthening confidence in our democracy,” March 6, 2023, <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2023/03/06/taking-further-action-foreign-interference-and-strengthening>

<sup>36</sup> Independent Special Rapporteur on Foreign Interference, Terms of reference, <https://www.canada.ca/en/democratic-institutions/services/independent-special-rapporteur/terms-conditions.html>

Mr. Johnston resigned from the role on June 9, 2023.<sup>37</sup> He blamed a highly partisan political atmosphere for his inability to continue.

57. What followed next, after a months-long process of discussions between the Government and opposition political parties, was a decision to create a public inquiry, headed by Quebec court of appeals justice, Marie-Josée Hogue. The Hogue Inquiry, formally known as the “Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions,” was launched in September 2023. Its terms of reference required it to focus on questions of foreign interference with the 2019 and 2021 federal elections, and democratic processes related to these federal elections. It did not examine other scenarios involving citizen engagement and voting, such as separation petitions and referenda.<sup>38</sup> The Hogue inquiry produced its final report on January 28, 2025. It involved a robust judicial process, including the granting of standing to accepted applicants to allow for cross-examination of witnesses, the holding of two sets of televised public hearings in 2024, access to a huge pool of classified records, and the publication of declassified materials and a host of reports on the Commission’s website.<sup>39</sup>

58. The Commission process, its public hearings, culminating in testimony by the Prime Minister, and its final report represented a major milestone in understanding the threat of foreign interference.

59. The Commission’s final report comprised seven volumes of material, but the essence was to be found in Volume 1, the Report summary, which was 121 pages in length and included the Inquiry’s list of 51 recommendations.

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<sup>37</sup> CBC, “David Johnston resigning as special rapporteur on foreign interference,” June 9, 2023, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/david-johnston-resigns-1.6871761>; David Johnston’s resignation letter can be found here: <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/23840319/2023-06-09-eng-resignation-letter-to-the-rt-hon-justin-trudeau-from-the-rt-hon-david-johnston.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference, Terms of Reference, <https://www.canada.ca/en/democratic-institutions/general/terms-reference.html>

<sup>39</sup> Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference (hereafter PIFI) website, <https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/about/the-commission>

60. The report found, broadly, that the threat of foreign interference was real, and that the government had often not acted quickly enough, not used intelligence sufficiently well, nor been sufficiently transparent with its own public. Justice Hogue did not find that foreign interference had affected the outcomes of either the 2019 or 2021 federal elections. She did find, however, that despite the lack of any significant impact on electoral outcomes, “all foreign interference impacts the right of Canadians to have their democratic institutions, including electoral processes, free from covert influence and their right to vote freely and in an informed manner.”<sup>40</sup>

61. Justice Hogue identified the key foreign state actors involved in foreign interference activities against Canada, based on the government’s intelligence holdings. These included China, identified as “the most active perpetrator of foreign interference targeting Canada’s democratic institutions.”<sup>41</sup> But they ranged beyond the PRC, which had been the focus of so much media and political attention during the 2022-2023 period, to include India, regarded as “the second most active country engaging in electoral foreign interference in Canada,” as well as Russia, Pakistan, and Iran. Some of these states engaged primarily in transnational repression, such as Iran.<sup>42</sup> Some, including China and India, mixed foreign interference and transnational repression activities targeting diaspora communities.

62. “In assessing the overall impact of foreign interference, Justice Hogue concluded that “our fear of foreign interference—has taken its toll.”<sup>43</sup>

63. That comment seemed to look back, and was balanced in the Commissioner’s view with a confidence that Canada’s democratic institutions were resilient, tempered with a cautionary note that “our democracy is strong, but it is not invulnerable.”<sup>44</sup> The relevance of this

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<sup>40</sup> PIFI, Final report, Volume 1, Report Summary, p. 38, [https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/report\\_volume\\_1.pdf](https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/report_volume_1.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> Ibid, p. 39

<sup>42</sup> Ibid, pp. 39-42

<sup>43</sup> Ibid, p. 16

<sup>44</sup> Ibid, p. 13

comment, of course, extends beyond Commissioner Hogue’s examination of events impacting the 2019 and 2021 federal elections and can be deemed applicable to all forms of citizen engagement in democratic practices, including in the course of petitions and referenda.

64. The greatest vulnerability, and the most alarmist note in Justice Hogue’s report, concerned the impact of information manipulation, the effort to seed lies and distort the public information environment through disinformation and the amplification of misinformation. “Information manipulation,” she argued, “poses the single biggest risk to our democracy. It is an existential threat.”<sup>45</sup>

65. If the Hogue Inquiry final report looked back with some confidence in Canadian democracy, but peered into the future with some alarm, it has also to be noted that it published its final report just as Donald Trump was installed in the White House for his second presidential term.

### **What we Learned, A Summary:**

66. Before we move to consider the specific context for foreign interference concerns arising from the Alberta Prosperity Project’s petition process in 2026, what can we learn in summary from developments since 2021 and the first CSIS public report, to the Hogue Inquiry report in January 2025? These observations stand out:

- i. Foreign interference attempts are persistent, can accelerate, and adapt to new political circumstances
- ii. A key characteristic of foreign interference is its deceptive and clandestine nature. It can be aligned with open political influence operations
- iii. Foreign interference can involve both state and non-state actors
- iv. Foreign interference targets all levels of government
- v. Foreign interference can be operationalised through traditional people-to-people contacts but increasingly operates in the digital information space
- vi. Foreign interference feeds on political polarisation and partisan divides in a society

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid, p. 6

- vii. Disinformation operations are a tool to pollute the information environment and render informed choice difficult, even impossible
- viii. Distrust in existing Governments and democratic institutions is a persistent theme of information manipulation
- ix. The ease of online funding for political campaigns and causes is a significant threat, especially in the face of nonexistent or lax regulations. Foreign funding can be a major concern, especially if it is beyond the reach of any domestic jurisdiction or is deceptively transmitted (“grey zone” funding).

## **Part Two:**

### **Alberta Prosperity Project and the “petition process.”**

67. According to the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation statement of claim, the passage of Bill 14, the Citizenship Initiative Act, “breaches Treaty and will enable foreign interference from the most powerful Nation to the south, the United States of America, already stating its intention to annex this Treaty land, Canada, as the so-called 51<sup>st</sup> state” (para 6). The statement of claim goes on to say that “the foreseeable foreign interference threats are not limited to the USA, but include other foreign adversaries who would wish to see the breakup of Canada.” (para 50). The statement of claim also argues that Alberta “knew or ought to have known of the foreseeable risks of foreign interference, including from the public claims of Trump meetings and support...” (para 88(c))

68. I am aware that the defendants in this claim, the province of Alberta, the Attorney General of Canada, and the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta, have not yet responded.

69. I have independently reviewed public domain statements made in association with the Alberta Prosperity Project to assess their potential for foreign interference.

70. On its website, the Alberta Prosperity Project describes itself as an “educational initiative” committed to securing Alberta independence. It states that the Project is not politically aligned and that Alberta sovereignty is not a “right” or “left” issues. At the same time, it introduces language about freedom from claimed persecution from federal control as

well as from that of the UK, Europe and China, and the World Economic Forum (WEF) and World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>46</sup>

71. In a section of the website dedicated to explaining what Alberta sovereignty means, it lists “cultural grievances” including:

*“The Federal Government’s unilateral stated decision to change Canada to a Socialist/Marxist Post National State...”*

*“The Federal Government’s stated intention to relinquish the sovereignty of Canada to an unelected supranational organization/community, the United Nations”*

*“The Federal Government’s support of wokeness, cancel culture, critical race theory, the rewriting of history and the tearing down of historical monuments.”*

72. The website also describes COVID-19 as a “questionable public health crisis.”<sup>47</sup> I note that as of September 21, 2024, the total count of deaths from COVID-19 in Canada was 60,871. The province of Alberta accounted for 6,613 of those deaths.<sup>48</sup>

73. The APP website describes the COVID-19 pandemic as something used to “infringe on basic constitutional freedoms.” The APP website also decries what it calls the “elimination of the supremacy of God” and wants this supremacy to be enshrined in a new Alberta constitution, following independence.<sup>49</sup>

74. In the section of the website devoted to “Frequently asked questions” (FAQ), it notes that while the APP is not a political party, its vision of Alberta would ensure that it would not be part of the WEF, the WHO, or the UN.

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<sup>46</sup> <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/about-us/> (TAB 1)

<sup>47</sup> <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/what-does-alberta-sovereignty-mean/> (TAB 2)

<sup>48</sup> Government of Canada, “COVID-19 epidemiology update: Current situation” (September 2024), <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/> (TAB 3)

<sup>49</sup> Ibid

75. It seems clear from the APP's website pronouncements, that however much it may wish to disassociate itself from any position on the political spectrum, its political and societal ambitions for Alberta go beyond a desire for independence and removal of Alberta from alleged political and economic constraints placed on it by Canada's federation. Many of the views it advances on its website are in clear alignment with right-wing sentiment in US politics and with Trump administration policies, including those pre-figured in the Heritage Foundation's massive "Project 2025," designed to serve as a playbook for the incoming administration.<sup>50</sup>

76. The general description of the APP on the cover or home page of its website under the heading, "About Us," makes no mention of any ties to or alignment with US political parties or movements, to the Trump administration, or to President Trump's own values. The website cover or home page also makes no mention of an independent Alberta possibly joining the United States or reorienting its economy in line with US needs or demands.<sup>51</sup> This is addressed elsewhere in other sections of the website.

77. The leadership of the APP has made various public statements, including on social media, that it seeks a close partnership with the US, that it wants US support for its aims, even in the form of monetary donations, and that it adopts various statements of US policy, especially with regard to the Trump administration's approach to western hemisphere issues. APP leaders' statements of alignment with the US may appear to be in full view, yet a casual observer or someone who has not invested time and energy in exploring APP views in detail, may not be able to completely appreciate its policies.

78. The APP's expressed policy of seeking support from and close ties with the United States must be regarded as an open door to US political influence and potential interference. For other foreign states active in foreign interference operations, such as Russia or China, who may see opportunities in the petition process to seek ways to undermine Canada, distinctions between

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<sup>50</sup> The Heritage Foundation, "Project 2025," [https://static.heritage.org/project2025/2025\\_MandateForLeadership\\_FULLL.pdf](https://static.heritage.org/project2025/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULLL.pdf)

<sup>51</sup> <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/about-us/> (TAB 1)

right and left-wing politics are of no moment. It is political extremism and a climate of deep political partisanship that offer these states opportunities to do harm to Canada and its people, especially through disinformation online.

### **Part Three:**

#### **Understanding the potential threat of US foreign interference in the petition process**

79. To properly assess this threat, it is important to understand both the nature of APP outreach efforts to the Trump administration, and the Trump administration's own expressions of policy. Insights are possible because of public statements made by APP leaders as well as by the Trump administration. Such insights, of course, may be incomplete.

#### **APP outreach to Washington:**

80. There is extensive documentation on the APP website about its “diplomatic” engagements with Washington in 2025.<sup>52</sup> The website notes that APP representatives have made several “strategic” trips to Washington, and mention Mitch Sylvestre, Jeff Rath and Dennis Modry (a non-practicing medical MD) by name as having been involved. An upcoming trip in 2026 by Jeff Rath is noted. The website states: “Far from seeking interference, these visits emphasise building partnerships with our closest neighbour and largest trading partner—the United States—to ensure a smooth transition to sovereignty.”<sup>53</sup>

81. The material includes multiple screenshots of X posts by Jeffrey Rath, discussing his visits to Washington, as well as an embedded YouTube video interview of Rath with Rachel Parker, a YouTuber and journalist with True North media, on December 24, 2025; a YouTube video with Keith Wilson, the lawyer for the Freedom Convoy protests; and a Xpost thread document written by APP to respond to claims that the APP seeks to become the 51<sup>st</sup> state.

82. Rath explains in his X posts that any Alberta independence movement would require US support, to combat the inevitable harsh response by Ottawa, that Alberta and US interests,

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<sup>52</sup> <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/featured/independence-movements-around-the-world-seeking-international-support/> (TAB 4)

<sup>53</sup> Ibid

economic and political are aligned, and that unnamed senior officials at the State Department, with whom he has been meeting, have direct access to the White House. Rath also claims that a meeting in Washington in late December took place, for some reason, in a SCIF (misspelled in the video). SCIF stands for “Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility,” used by intelligence and policy officials to conduct meetings safe from any electronic interception when highly classified information is being discussed. Rath claims that there is agreement between APP and his alleged US interlocutors that the federal government in Ottawa is controlled by the Chinese Communist party, a distinctly odd allegation in the context of the “Two Michaels” affair, the attention paid to Chinese foreign interference in multiple fora discussed earlier in my report, and the freezing of Canada-PRC relations for many years.<sup>54</sup>

83. In the same YouTube interview in late December, Rath mentions a plan to acquire a US \$500 billion line of credit from the United States to help back the independence movement’s negotiations with Ottawa and give it fiscal freedom to manoeuvre. He also discusses converting Alberta pension plan funds into US dollars to shield them from any decline in the value of Canadian currency following an independence vote.<sup>55</sup>

84. The Keith Wilson video discusses the legal path to independence for Alberta, mentioning aspects of Supreme Court decisions.<sup>56</sup> Mr. Wilson, the Freedom Convoy lawyer, is convinced that the US will recognize Alberta as an independent country following an independence referendum, which he believes will happen in October 2026. He calls this alleged, planned US recognition “very exciting.” Mr. Wilson elsewhere indicates he does not believe that the US congressional branch would permit the admittance of Alberta as a state. Yet a recent bill has been advanced in Congress, “The Greenland Annexation and Statehood Act,” by a Republican

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<sup>54</sup> YouTube interview with Rachel Parker December 24, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voRmBN-JF2k&t=3s> (TAB 5) – Unofficial Transcript.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid

<sup>56</sup> Keith Wilson embedded YouTube video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CoLUYP0xs8> (TAB 6) – Unofficial Transcript)  
<https://albertaprospertyproject.com/featured/independence-movements-around-the-world-seeking-international-support/> (TAB 4)

representative from a Florida district, aiming to make Greenland a 51<sup>st</sup> state.<sup>57</sup> Mr. Wilson also makes reference to the release of the Trump administration’s National Security Strategy in December 2025, but mistakenly suggests it shows how “uncomfortable” the US is with Canadian foreign policy actions by the Mark Carney government. In fact, the US National Security Strategy mentions no such thing and contains almost no references to Canada and none to the Carney government. Its relevant discussion addresses US approaches to Western hemispheric security, which I will discuss below.

85. The thread post that APP put together to counter claims that it plans for an independent Alberta to become a 51<sup>st</sup> state is centred on this argument:

*“In the ongoing debate over Alberta’s future, one unfounded claim continues to surface repeatedly: the assertion that the Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) and the independence movement seek to make Alberta the 51st state of the United States. This narrative, frequently promoted by those deeply invested in preserving the existing federal arrangement, lacks any basis in fact. It distracts from APP’s clear and consistent goal: achieving full sovereignty for Alberta as an independent nation, free from control by Ottawa or any other external power. Those who repeat this claim overlook—or deliberately ignore—the explicit statements from movement leaders and experts, revealing a pattern of misinformation that serves to maintain the status quo benefiting distant interests.”*<sup>58</sup>

86. The key to this assertion is **“free from control by Ottawa or any other external power.”**

87. I have no independent knowledge of whether or not the APP seeks to make an independent Alberta the 51<sup>st</sup> state. I also assert that disputation over this claim has little real

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<sup>57</sup> The Hill, “Republican Introduces bill seeking to make Greenland 51<sup>st</sup> state,” January 12, 2026, <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5685118-fine-introduces-greenland-bill/>

<sup>58</sup> APP, “Debunking the ‘51<sup>st</sup> State’ Myth: A Persistent Fabrication undermining Alberta’s True Path to Sovereignty,” December 24, 2025, <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/misinformation-disinformation-and-wild-conspiracies/debunking-the-51st-state-myth-a-persistent-fabrication-undermining-albertas-true-path-to-sovereignty/?referrer=grok.com> (TAB 7)

bearing on the potential threat of foreign interference from the United States. It does not require the APP to ask or wish the US to interfere, or fail to ask or wish, for foreign interference from the United States to take place. The US will act accordingly to the dictates of its own interests, capabilities and policies.

88. It is worth noting in the context of the APP's own statements of its outreach to Washington—for which we have no corresponding responses from the Trump administration side, and not even any indication of who APP leaders met with—that the APP wants to align the Alberta economy with that of the US; wants Alberta natural resources, especially oil and gas, to flow exclusively to the US; shares ideological positions with the Trump administration; supports the US National Security Strategy; seeks financial backing from the US for its independence stance; and desires first-mover recognition from the US for Alberta independence. To put it succinctly, the APP seeks to move Alberta firmly into the embrace of the United States.

89. Given such policy statements from the APP, assuming the US felt that the independence of Alberta and its separation from Canada was in their interests, it provides, in fact, powerful incentives to US actors (state and non-state) to engage in foreign interference during the petition process to try to ensure a favourable outcome for the referendum petition and vote, and to denigrate and even silence critics. It also offers the Trump administration a powerful wedge to use against Canada in discussions over trade relations in the context of CUSMA renewal, and on broad-ranging foreign and security policy questions.

#### **Part Four:**

#### **Understanding US western hemisphere policy under Trump; and the implications for the conduct of foreign interference**

90. The evolving attention to foreign interference threats chronicled in an earlier section of this report focused on the activities of foreign state adversaries such as Russia, China, India, and Iran. No consideration was given to the idea that the United States government might also pose a foreign interference threat to Canada. While the US certainly possessed the capability in terms of covert operations using human sources, intelligence resources, and digital

information manipulation, the assumption was that it didn't have the intent. The United States surely would not wish to target a close ally and security partner in both NATO and NORAD, an economic partner in an integrated North American economy, nor a country with which it had such strong people-to-people ties.

91. This fundamental assumption, rooted in decades of US-Canada relations, has been upended by the rhetoric and actions of the Trump administration after Donald Trump returned as President for a second term in January 2025. Canada has faced calls from the President and Trump administration officials to become the 51<sup>st</sup> state, has had to endure punitive sectoral tariffs on key Canadian export industries, such as steel, aluminum and lumber, issued under White House executive orders as an alleged response to emergency national security concerns, and has been told that automobiles manufactured at Canadian assembly plants are no longer wanted in the US market. The Canadian government faces a year ahead that will be marked with difficult negotiations with the US over renewal of the CUSMA (Canada-US-Mexico agreement) on free trade, with impossible to predict outcomes. The Canadian Prime Minister warned in April 2025, in light of all these actions from the US, that the "old relationship" between the two countries was over.<sup>59</sup>

92. The APP clearly sees things very differently. APP lawyer Jeffrey Rath has been quoted as saying that Trump's policies are "100 per cent correct," and that "if the United States is creating a new world order, we want to be part of that order. We don't want to be on the outside...and that's part of why we're meeting with the US and the very strong message we want to convey to them is that we will be a very, very strong ally and partner to the United States of America."<sup>60</sup> The power imbalance between Alberta (population in 2025, c. 5 million) and the United States of America (population in 2025, c. 340 million) would be striking. The exercise of power is one of the core principles of US national security doctrine under Trump.

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<sup>59</sup> CBC, "Carney hits back at Trump auto tariffs, warns US trade actions will 'rupture the global economy,'" April 3, 2025, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/carney-hits-back-trump-1.7500990>

<sup>60</sup> Politico, Canada Playbook, "Carney's Alberta Problem," January 9, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/canada-playbook/2026/01/09/carneys-alberta-problem-00718557>

93. In an interview given by President Trump to the New York Times in early January, 2026, he said that the only limits on his exercise of global power was “my own morality. My own mind. It’s the only thing that can stop me. I don’t need international law.”<sup>61</sup>

94. Whether the old relationship is over or whether the APP believes in whatever it understands to be a US-led “new world order,” either way, the door has been opened for the previously unimaginable—the possibility of US foreign interference in Canada.

95. This cannot be considered a purely hypothetical concern for Canada.

96. The “new world order” that Rath is referring to is encapsulated in the December 2025 White House publication of the “National Security Strategy of the United States of America.” It is also reflected in recent US administration actions and threats in the western hemisphere, notably against Venezuela, Columbia, Mexico, Cuba and, to the north, Greenland. There is both doctrine and action in play.

97. Consider what we know of US actions against the Maduro regime in Venezuela. Escalating pressure leading to regime change in the country included the authorization of CIA covert action, military strikes against alleged drug smuggling boats, military deployments including a US aircraft carrier, the imposition of a blockade and the seizure of sanctioned oil tankers. The US pressure on the Maduro regime culminated in a raid against Maduro’s fortified compound, which resulted in the capture of the Venezuelan dictator and his wife.<sup>62</sup> Subsequent to Maduro’s capture and extradition to the US to face trial, the Trump administration has indicated it has plans to “run the country” and to control Venezuela’s vast oil wealth. The implications for US control of Venezuelan oil on Canada’s oil exports remain to be seen and are disputed. The Canadian Prime Minister has tried to be reassuring by saying that Canadian

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<sup>61</sup> New York Times, “Trump Plays out a Vision of Power Restrained only by ‘Myt Own Morality,’” January 8, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/08/us/politics/trump-interview-power-morality.html>

<sup>62</sup> PBS, “A timeline of US military escalation against Venezuela, leading to Maduro’s capture,” January 3, 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/a-timeline-of-u-s-military-escalation-against-venezuela-leading-to-maduros-capture>; New York Times, “Trump said to authorize CIA plans for covert action in Venezuela,” November 18, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/18/us/politics/trump-covert-action-venezuela.html>

oil exports will remain competitive and low risk, that the country would be diversifying its markets, and that a new pipeline to the west coast would help.<sup>63</sup>

98. Closer to home, a renewal of US threats to take over Greenland (Trump made such threats during his first Presidential term in 2019) has roiled NATO allies, including Canada.<sup>64</sup> The Kingdom of Denmark controls Greenland's security, foreign policy and currency, and is a long-standing NATO member. Canada is the closest Arctic neighbour to Greenland, with whom we have a maritime boundary and even a land boundary (on Hans Island). Canada and Denmark fought side by side in the NATO deployment to Afghanistan. There are close ties between the Greenland government and that of Nunavut, and a long history of cooperation in the Arctic Council. Canadian determination to ensure the security and sovereignty of the Canadian Arctic was at the heart of the new Defence Policy, "Our North, Strong and Free," issued in May 2024.<sup>65</sup>

99. The Kingdom of Denmark, of which Greenland is a semi-autonomous territory, has rejected the US pressure on Greenland. It had previously warned of US covert operations on Greenlandic territory. According to media reporting, Danish intelligence identified US operatives engaged in "influence operations" in Greenland. The Danish foreign minister summoned the US ambassador in Copenhagen in late August 2025, to protest these actions.<sup>66</sup> At the end of the year, in an unprecedented move for a NATO partner, the Danish intelligence service warned in their annual public threat assessment, "Intelligence Outlook, 2025," that the United States is "leveraging economic power, including threats of high tariffs, to assert its will

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<sup>63</sup> The Globe and Mail, "Carney says Canadian oil is competitive, in key shift in rhetoric," January 6, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-carney-says-canadian-oil-is-competitive-thats-an-important-shift/>

<sup>64</sup> The New York Times, "Tremulous NATO Allies Grope for a Response on Greenland," January 10, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/10/world/europe/trump-greenland-europe.html>

<sup>65</sup> Department of National Defence, "Our North, Strong and Free," May 2024, <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/north-strong-free-2024.html>; Global Affairs Canada, "Canada-Denmark relations," <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/denmark-danemark/relations.aspx?lang=eng>

<sup>66</sup> CBC/Thomson Reuters, "Denmark summons top U.S. diplomat after reports of American influence operations in Greenland," August 27, 2025, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/denmark-us-greenland-diplomatic-row-1.7618702>

and the possibility of employing military force—even against allies—is no longer ruled out.” Danish intelligence also warned that the risks of espionage—including cyber espionage—and attempts at influence operations targeting the “entire” Kingdom of Denmark will only grow.”<sup>67</sup>

100. What links US regime change in Venezuela, and US pressure to take over Greenland, is a strategic concept laid down in the US National Security Strategy (NSS), issued by the Trump White House under the President’s signature, in December 2025. The NSS has many striking features, including its denigration of Europe as a continent facing “civilizational erasure” because of mass immigration and what the strategy calls restrictions on civil liberties. The strategy suggests the US will play a role in restoring Europe to an American vision of its greatness through US political intervention.<sup>68</sup>

101. It also lays down a doctrine of great power influence in the world, calling this the “timeless truth” of international relations.<sup>69</sup>

102. Of greatest direct concern for Canada are the sections dealing with US policy towards the “western hemisphere” (geographically defined as stretching from the Arctic in the north to the southernmost tip of Latin America and thus including Canadian sovereign territory). The NSS outlines US demands on states in the western hemisphere, including prevention of mass migration, cooperation against narco-terrorists, drug cartels and other transnational criminal organizations; a hemisphere “free” of hostile foreign incursion or ownership of key assets” that support “critical supply chains.” The United States wants, it says, “to ensure our continued access to key strategic locations.” This policy is defined as the “Trump Corollary” to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Monroe Doctrine, or, more colloquially (but to the obvious pleasure of the US President), the “Donroe” doctrine.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Kingdom of Denmark, “Intelligence Outlook 2025, “ December 2025, <https://www.fe-ddis.dk/globalassets/fe/dokumenter/2025/-fe-intelligenceoutlook-25-.pdf>

<sup>68</sup> The National Security Strategy of the United States of America, November 20925 (released on December 17), pp. 25-27, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-National-Security-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>69</sup> Ibid, p. 10

<sup>70</sup> Ibid, p. 5

103. US security interests in the western hemisphere will be the overriding concern. As the NSS states, “The United States must be preeminent in the Western hemisphere as a condition of our security and prosperity.”<sup>71</sup> The US will readjust its military presence to emphasize dominance in the region and will use “tariffs and reciprocal trade agreements as powerful tools.”<sup>72</sup> The use of US economic muscle is stressed, particularly over countries that “depend on us most and therefore over which we have the most leverage.”<sup>73</sup> The NSS talks about the need for sole source contracts for “our companies.” “At the same time,” it says, “we should make every effort to push out foreign companies that build infrastructure in the region.”<sup>74</sup>

104. The US doctrine that the APP celebrates is an expression of a desire for US military and economic dominance over the entire western hemisphere, a dominance designed to serve a policy of American First and US national interest. It is not a doctrine friendly to Canadian national interest.

105. The US National Security Strategy potentially green lights US foreign interference in any part of the western hemisphere, including Canada, to ensure US military, security and economic needs.

106. Whether the US under Trump would implement foreign interference against Canada in keeping with the National Security Strategy cannot be known or foretold. But the potential threat has to be taken seriously.

107. Multiple plausible scenarios have been advanced for US foreign interference in the petition process and Alberta separatist movement.

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<sup>71</sup> Ibid, p. 17,

<sup>72</sup> Ibid, p. 16

<sup>73</sup> Ibid, p. 19

<sup>74</sup> Ibid, p. 19

108. In an opinion piece for the Globe and Mail, two senior academics at the Cascade Institute at Royal Roads University, Thomas Homer-Dixon and Adam Gordon, have drawn attention to one scenario, which they deem “plausible.” It involves the threat of US military force against Canada, ultimately to seize control of Canadian oil resources. They sketch out a process whereby an independence referendum in Alberta involves a “huge infusion of grey MAGA money.” A majority vote to remain part of Canada, but with 30% or so voting for separation. Trump declares the results as fake. Alberta separatists then appeal for help to the US, claiming “various kinds of oppression.” The US moves troops to the northern Montana border and issues a statement that Alberta must be allowed to join America as the 51<sup>st</sup> state.<sup>75</sup>

109. This is, of course, nothing more than a scenario, though one drawing on the US national security strategy and US action against Venezuela. But it intersects with the APP’s documented appeal to the US for support for its efforts, for financial backing, and for US willingness to declare Alberta an independent state to protect its fledgling endeavour.

110. Nor are the Cascade Institute writers alone in their effort to imagine worst-case scenarios. An Opinion column by Tony Keller published in The Globe and Mail’s Report on Business section raised the examples of the Brexit referendum in the UK and Quebec’s 1995 referendum to make the point that once a referendum “gets rolling, a referendum can be unpredictable.” He said that “a strong majority of Quebecers have always opposed outright separation, yet a charismatic leader, a heavy diet of fairy tales and a feverish atmosphere nearly carried the Yes side to victory.” He did state that he was confident that “most Albertans will vote for Canada,” based on recent polling numbers. What he was less confident about was the White House’s actions. Here is the scenario, as Mr. Keller painted it: “The mere existence of an Alberta independence movement is an opportunity for U.S. President Donald Trump to make mischief, to jump into the campaign, to claim that the vote isn’t fair, and to bluesky on Alberta as the 51<sup>st</sup> state.” Mr. Keller went on to say, “He could claim, as he has done with Greenland, that incorporation into the US is strategically necessary, regardless of how Albertans vote. All that

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<sup>75</sup> Thomas Homer-Dixon and Adam Gordon, Opinion, “Canada should get ready for possible U.S. military coercion,” The Globe and Mail, January 5, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-we-need-to-prepare-for-the-possibility-that-the-us-uses-military/>

land, all that oil.” Mr. Keller concluded, “He already has a motive. He is about to be presented with an opportunity.”<sup>76</sup>

111. In a year-end interview with the CBC, the US ambassador to Canada, the MAGA supporter Pete Hoesktra, downplayed concerns that the US national security strategy could lead to his government supporting political movements in Canada. He urged Canadians just to sit back and “see how this plays out.”<sup>77</sup>

112. Former senior Canadian officials have expressed real concerns and an unwillingness to sit back. Bob Rae, the veteran politician and recently retired Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, has written:

“We have been put on notice that the current United States government will be actively supporting political parties and movements in our country that align themselves with Trumpian policies. We should make it clear that any such intrusions into our domestic political affairs are unacceptable.”<sup>78</sup>

113. While Rae did not mention the Alberta Prosperity Project specifically, it certainly fits the profile of a “political movement that aligns with Trumpian policies.”

114. In addition to Ambassador Rae, Artur Wilczynski, a former senior intelligence official and Canadian ambassador to Norway, has been quoted in the media as saying that the US NSS is “deeply problematic” and may signal US support for actors aligned with Trump’s Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement or actors “overtly hostile to Canada.” Wilczynski also noted that the US ambassador had not said clearly that the US would not meddle in Canadian domestic politics. He believes that wording in the national security strategy suggests that the US would consider “using various instruments of trade craft of their broader national security apparatus to achieve their objectives in the hemisphere.” To put a point to it, he

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<sup>76</sup> Tony Keller, Opinion, “A referendum in Alberta could be Trump’s 51<sup>st</sup> state moment,” January 13, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-a-referendum-in-alberta-could-be-donald-trumps-51st-state-opportunity/>

<sup>77</sup> CBC/Canadian Press “U.S. ambassador downplays fears of Trump administration meddling in Canadian politics,” December 10, 2025, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/hoekstra-us-meddling-9.7010577>

<sup>78</sup> Bob Rae, Policy Magazine, “A National Security Strategy that Isn’t,” December 9, 2025, <https://www.policymagazine.ca/a-national-security-strategy-that-isnt/>

indicated that US action could manifest in lots of ways, including by “aiding separatists and groups that support Trump’s goal of having Canada become the 51<sup>st</sup> state.”<sup>79</sup>

115. Both Wilczynski and Rae know that the US has many foreign interference capabilities, ranging from intelligence assets and espionage operations, to covert political interference and overt political influence tools, to economic pressure and coercion, and threats of the use of military force. In a lengthy essay for *The Walrus* magazine, published on May 6, 2025, I referred to the totality of these instruments as constituting forms of hybrid warfare and argued that Canada must be prepared to meet them all.<sup>80</sup>

116. The challenge of meeting US coercive pressures against Canada across a spectrum can, of course, be undermined by weakness, lack of resolve, lack of confidence in our governing institutions, lack of leadership, political division, partisanship, and even deliberate subversion.

117. The ultimate threat of foreign interference is posed to the resilience of democratic institutions and processes, as many studies of foreign interference have shown. At its sharpest end, foreign interference can have as its objective regime change. It also invites opportunism on the part of other actors with foreign interference capabilities whose goals may simply be to disrupt democratic processes and weaken the foundations of a democratic society.

118. The threat of US foreign interference in the petition process ultimately comes down to decisions made in Washington. The recent US National Security Strategy and threats made or enacted in the context of US pursuit of western hemispheric dominance provide a framework, but not a prediction, for such interference. Guardrails that might temper the Trump administration’s use of foreign interference, whether in international law or domestic politics, do not appear to be strong. What can be said is that the APP’s approach to engagement with the Trump administration opens a door to US foreign interference and offers no signs of resistance.

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<sup>79</sup> CBC/Canadian Press “U.S. ambassador downplays fears of Trump administration meddling in Canadian politics,” December 10, 2025, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/hoekstra-us-meddling-9.7010577>

<sup>80</sup> Wesley Wark, “How to Save Canada,” *The Walrus* magazine, May 6, 2025, <https://thewalrus.ca/how-to-save-canada/>

119. What harms might foreign interference during the petition process entail? These harms depend on the nature of the interference activities undertaken and their severity. They rest on potential scenarios and cannot be pinpointed with any certainty. What is clear is that any foreign interference actions by the United States, or other opportunist actors, weakens Canada's democracy, and threatens to widen political polarization. It harms people's confidence in governance and robs Canadians of an ability to make a meaningful, free and informed choices. It can weaken economic security in ways that affect people and communities directly.

120. The conclusions of Justice Hogue are worth recalling. When it comes to information manipulation, a key tool of foreign interference, the threat can be "existential" for Canada and Canadians. Remember, also, the words of Justice Rouleau who described the events surrounding the Freedom Convoy protests and the federal government's invocation of the Emergencies Act as taking place amidst an environment of grievances, "shaped by a complex online landscape rife with misinformation and disinformation and unleashed in a torrent of political protest and social unrest."

121. Existing efforts at the Federal government level to protect against foreign interference are aimed at safeguarding federal elections and byelection contests. While these capabilities, such as the Rapid Response Mechanism at Global Affairs Canada, which monitors foreign disinformation campaigns, can sometime detect foreign interference efforts in near real-time, the reality is that the overall shape and impact of a foreign interference campaign may only be detected in retrospect, when it might be too late to mitigate its impacts.

122. I am not aware of any evidence that either the Alberta government or the Federal government have taken any concrete steps to monitor or respond to potential foreign interference threats during the petition process. Nor, to the best of my knowledge, has the APP taken any steps to counter foreign interference.

123. The Alberta Prosperity Project's referendum effort is certainly shaped, as its pronouncements suggest, by grievances, political, economic, societal and cultural. Foreign

interference could easily be directed at creating that turbulent and divisive “online landscape” described by Justice Rouleau. The APP outreach to the Trump Administration creates conditions that amount to a welcome mat for US foreign interference by encouraging financial support, by aligning the APP’s political vision so closely with that of the Trump administration, and by giving full-throated support to the US national security strategy. The rest is up to the United States. The US has the capabilities, the doctrine, and may have the intent to engage in foreign interference during the petition process. The threat is real. It is also, without resorting to a crystal ball, foreseeable.

AFFIRMED before me at Ottawa, )  
 in the Province of Ontario, this 14 day of )  
 January, 2026. )  
 )  
 )

*Charlotte Connolly*  
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**This is Exhibit "1" to the Affidavit of Dr. Wesley Wark, affirmed before me on January 14, 2026**

*Charlotte Connolly*  
**Charlotte Connolly, Barrister & Solicitor**

## About Us

Empowering Alberta to pursue prosperity, self-determination, and so through education, policy advocacy, and public mobilization.

## ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT

**The Alberta Prosperity Project** is an educational initiative focused on garnering support for a future that determines its destiny, ensuring prosperity and freedom for future generations.

The Alberta Prosperity Project strives to bolster Alberta’s prosperity, self-determination, and independence. We believe sound policy is the bedrock of prosperity, and we advocate for the need to explore avenues for greater sovereignty within or outside the Canadian federation.

### The Rationale for Restructuring Alberta's Relationship with Canada

#### What does Alberta Sovereignty

Alberta sovereignty is NOT a “Right to Life” issue. All Albertans will benefit, regardless of political leanings.

Alberta sovereignty pragmatically addresses economic persecution; political, economic, and cultural freedom from the UK, Europe, China, the US

### OUR PURPOSE

To educate, inspire and unite all Albertans, businesses, and organizations on the rationale, merits and benefits of Alberta sovereignty, as well as alleviate any concerns.

### OUR FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

1. Alberta will hold a referendum on sovereignty.
2. Alberta will be strong, free and prosperous (Laissez-Faire et Libre).
3. Alberta will gather unto itself all those who desire their own sovereignty.
4. Alberta will create the conditions for a new Alberta.

and with Albertans.

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## OUR VISION

For prosperity and the protection of individual freedoms and rights for all Albertans, codified by a new 'Constitution of Alberta' that recognizes the Supremacy of God as foundational to Civil Society and the Rule of Law, wherein:

1. Alberta becomes the most free and prosperous nation in the world to live, work, raise a family, or start a business.
2. Alberta becomes the least governed, least regulated and lowest taxed nation in the world with the highest Average Real GDP per capita.
3. Pensions, Old Age Security and Veterans Benefits are secured and markedly enhanced.
4. First Nations participate as 'Equal Founding Partners' with constitutional protection of Treaty Rights and revenue sharing from the development and transport of our natural resources.
5. No Albertan is left behind.
6. Workers' rights are protected, and all businesses are allowed to thrive, including

## OUR MISSION

1. To use all available media and educational material to inform Albertans on the important benefits of Alberta sovereignty.
2. To review the legal process of the Clarity Act, the Citizen's Questionnaire, the Supreme Court's analysis of the Secession Reference (See the Clarity Act).
3. To define the transition process to Sovereign Nation status, not limited to:
  1. an interim governing structure, a Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities (already in place) to be followed by a full conference to be voted on by the people;
  2. citizenship;
  3. national debt, pension security, veteran benefits,
  4. healthcare and education;
  5. immigration;
  6. business relocation to

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businesses are allowed to thrive, including Alberta's resource sector.

7. Social programs are compassionate and effective.
8. Healthcare and education are of the highest quality and delivered timely and efficiently.
9. Every Albertan enjoys an enhanced quality of life and standard of living; and
10. All property rights are definitively protected.

7. investment in Alberta
8. banking, currency, cit
9. energy and natural re  
and transport;
10. agriculture, manufact  
technology;
11. environment;
12. justice system;
13. policing, military, borc  
traffic control;
14. freedom of mobility.

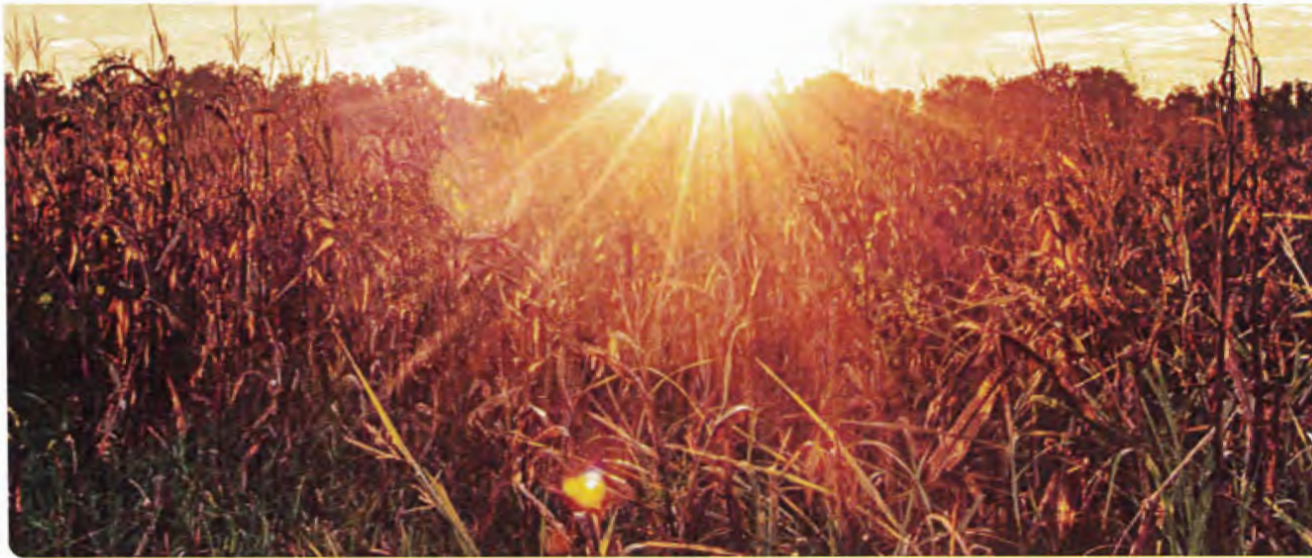
## OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Our strategic plan includes advocating for policies aligned with our objectives, such as establishing an Alberta Pension Plan and an Alberta Police Force, and asserting the province's right to manage areas like natural resource development, taxation, immigration, and employment insurance. These initiatives, which are contingent upon negotiations with Ottawa and public support, will increase Alberta's sovereignty, whether within or outside the Canadian framework.





<https://albertaprospertyproject.com/about-us/>



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**The Referendum Movement for a Sovereign Alberta**



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## What does Alberta sovereign

Alberta, a land of untapped potential and resilient spirit. Today, we stand at a crossroads, facing a future where our province's destiny is in our hands. This is our story, our path to sovereignty and prosperity. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, **sovereignty signifies freedom from external control.**

By definition, Canada is a federation. In a federation, regions delegate certain powers to a central government while retaining other powers for themselves. So the federal government of Canada has authority over matters that affect

the entire country (e.g., the military, money, citizenship, telecommunications, mail), while the provincial governments have authority over more local matters (e.g., education, healthcare, natural resources, social services). Each level, in theory, has their own "lane" to stay within.

Alberta sovereignty, in the context of its relationship with Canada, refers to the aspiration for Alberta to gain greater autonomy and control over provincial areas of responsibility, distinct from the federal government's areas of responsibility. However, a combination of economic, political, cultural, and human rights factors, each highlighting the province's unique position within Canada, has resulted in many Albertans defining "Alberta sovereignty" to



ALBERTA PROSPERIT



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Canada, has focused in many Albertans defining Alberta sovereignty to mean Alberta becoming an independent country and taking control of all matters that fall within the jurisdiction of an independent nation.

## Economic Factors

Economically, Alberta has long been one of Canada's most prosperous provinces, largely due to its abundant natural resources, especially oil and gas. However, this prosperity hasn't always translated into equitable returns within the federation. Calls for greater sovereignty stem from disproportionate financial contributions to federal programs and perceived unfair treatment in resource distribution.

*Example of economic grievances include the following:*

- Canada's National Energy Policy (NEP) and the economic equalization formula has transferred over \$700 billion from Alberta to the eastern Canada, with approximately 2/3rds (>\$500 billion) of this amount going to Quebec.
- Federal transfers of our own money for healthcare, education, social services, and infrastructure developments (i.e., provincial responsibilities) are granted by the federal government to Alberta via negotiation and results in less than half (approximately \$27 billion) of the \$60 billion per year Ottawa receives through federal taxation coming back to fund provincial expenses.
- For the past 60 years, the Liberal and Conservative federal parties have won federal elections by promising and implementing policies that transfer wealth from resource-rich/voter-poor Alberta to purportedly poorer regions – most especially Quebec. This strategy was immortalized by the memorable words of Pierre Trudeau's 1980 campaign strategist Keith Davey: "Screw the West. We'll take the rest."
- The loss of over \$200 billion of investment planned for Alberta subsequent to 2006 due to unreasonably restrictive federal regulatory policies which, via the multiplier effect, has
- Likely cost Alberta more than \$1 trillion of increased economic activity, which would have significantly benefited both Alberta and all of Canada.
- Illegitimate or "odious" debt; i.e., money borrowed by the federal government. not for the benefit of the people of Alberta or Canada. but to

fund a political party's ideology or causes that most Albertans would not want to fund (e.g., foreign NGOs, other countries, dictators, terrorist groups, foundations, etc.).

## Governance and Legislation Factors

From a governance perspective, sovereignty for Alberta means having the authority to make legislative decisions without federal intervention, especially in areas deemed critical to the province's prosperity and way of life. This includes energy development, environmental policies, and taxation. Many federal initiatives in these areas have been viewed by Albertans as overreach into provincial jurisdiction and detrimental to the provincial economy. Increased sovereignty would allow Alberta to craft policies more closely aligned with its own interests and economic realities.

There are a number of examples of governance and legislation that have or will impact the prosperity of Albertans:

- The restrictive Bill C-69 (Impact Assessment Act), which would effectively block the development of new pipelines and limit Alberta's export of oil and gas.
- The Oil Tanker Moratorium Act (Bill C-48), which bans oil tankers carrying more than 12,500 metric tonnes of crude oil from docking along British Columbia's north coast, significantly limiting Alberta's ability to export its crude oil via one of the most economical and efficient routes available to the Asia-Pacific markets.
- The federal carbon tax on oil and gas, which constrains the development and transport of Alberta's natural resources and the sustainability of Alberta's agricultural sector (which relies on the hydrocarbon industry to produce fertilizer).
- The inability to market Alberta oil and gas to countries other than the United States, which costs Alberta at least \$25 billion annually, with the resultant loss from the multiplier effect of approximately \$125 billion of economic output.
- The Federal Government's plan to phase out Alberta's oil and gas industry by 2050, while importing foreign oil from countries with lower environmental standards and social values.

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- The federal government's failure to acknowledge that Alberta's oil and gas industry provides not just energy for transportation, heating, cooling, and electricity, but also for the development of over 6000 other products that we use routinely and cannot do without, such as medications, anesthetic agents, and fertilizer.
- The Canada Health Act, which interferes with Alberta's authority over healthcare as provided in the Constitution (Section 92, Constitution Act, 1867) and prevents creative solutions to improve access, quality, and cost. (Globally, the Canadian healthcare system now functions in the lowest quartile of quality at the highest quartile of cost.

## Cultural and Identity Factors

Culturally, the sovereignty movement reflects a broader sense of Western alienation, where Alberta's distinct identity and values feel marginalized within the national dialogue. Grievances range from historical injustices against Indigenous communities to cultural impositions by the federal government.

Some examples of cultural grievances include:

- The federal control and oppression of Alberta's Indigenous citizens as evidenced by unresolved historical grievances, as well as the Indian Act.
- The Official Languages Act of 1969 by Pierre E Trudeau, which included cultural change that promoted social engineering, imposed the cost of bilingualism, and prevented federal government employment for those who are not bilingual.
- The Federal Government's unilateral stated decision to change Canada to a "Socialist/ Marxist Post National State" without consultation with the provinces and/or the People of Canada.
- The Federal Government's stated intention to relinquish the sovereignty of Canada to an unelected supranational organization/community, the United Nations (UN).
- The Liberal Government stating that Canada has no identity.
- The Federal Government's support of wokeness, cancel culture, critical race theory, the rewriting of history, and the tearing down of historical monuments.

## Human Rights Factors

Sovereignty concerns extend from infringements on basic rights and freedoms, such as during the recent public health crisis and with proposed legislative changes. Albertans are also resistant to the perceived erosion of the moral and ethical foundations of governance.

Examples include the following:

- Using a questionable public health crisis to infringe on basic constitutional freedoms (e.g., freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom to travel) and mortgage the futures of our children with grossly wasteful spending and crippling debt.
- The Federal Government's plan to eliminate the right to self-defence (including the right to use whatever force is available to defend life, liberty, and property) and the right to own and bear arms.
- The elimination of the supremacy of God, which provides a moral and ethical foundation for a civil society, the rule of law, policies, and governance, as well as for the development of a "Constitution" that protects individual freedoms and rights, and which is foundational to the success of Western civilization.

Alberta sovereignty encompasses economic, governance, cultural, and human rights dimensions, fueled by grievances against perceived federal overreach and neglect. It's a multifaceted aspiration driven by a desire for greater self-determination and fair treatment within or outside of the federation of Canada.

**Register Your Intent to Sign "YES" on a Referendum  
on Alberta Sovereignty Today**

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# COVID-19 epidemiology update: Summary

Last updated: 2024-10-01 [Download PDF](#)

Summary of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths, testing and variants of concern, and outbreaks across Canada and over time. Older versions of this report are available on the [archived reports page](#).

This page was last updated on October 1, 2024, 2 pm ET.

## Change in report

As of October 4, 2024, this webpage will no longer be updated. Information on COVID-19 can now be found on the [Canadian respiratory virus surveillance report](#), where it is presented along other respiratory viruses including Influenza, and RSV.

## Weekly highlights

For information on other respiratory viruses circulating in Canada, and comparisons with COVID-19, please visit the [new Respiratory Virus Detections dashboard](#), and the [weekly Fluwatch report](#).

### General trends

- Nationally, COVID-19 indicators are stable at elevated levels compared to the spring. However, trends vary across the provinces and territories.
- In the latest reporting week, two reporting provinces reported high COVID-19 Activity Levels that were stable or increasing, while three reporting provinces and territories reported low to moderate Activity Levels that were stable or decreasing.
- Since April 2024, COVID-19 outbreaks have been slowly increasing with some periods of stabilization. Following a period of stable trends in June 2024, outbreak incidence has been steadily increasing, up to the beginning of the accumulating data period on August 24, 2024.

### Hospitalizations and deaths

- [Weekly COVID-19 deaths](#) remain low overall.

### Variants

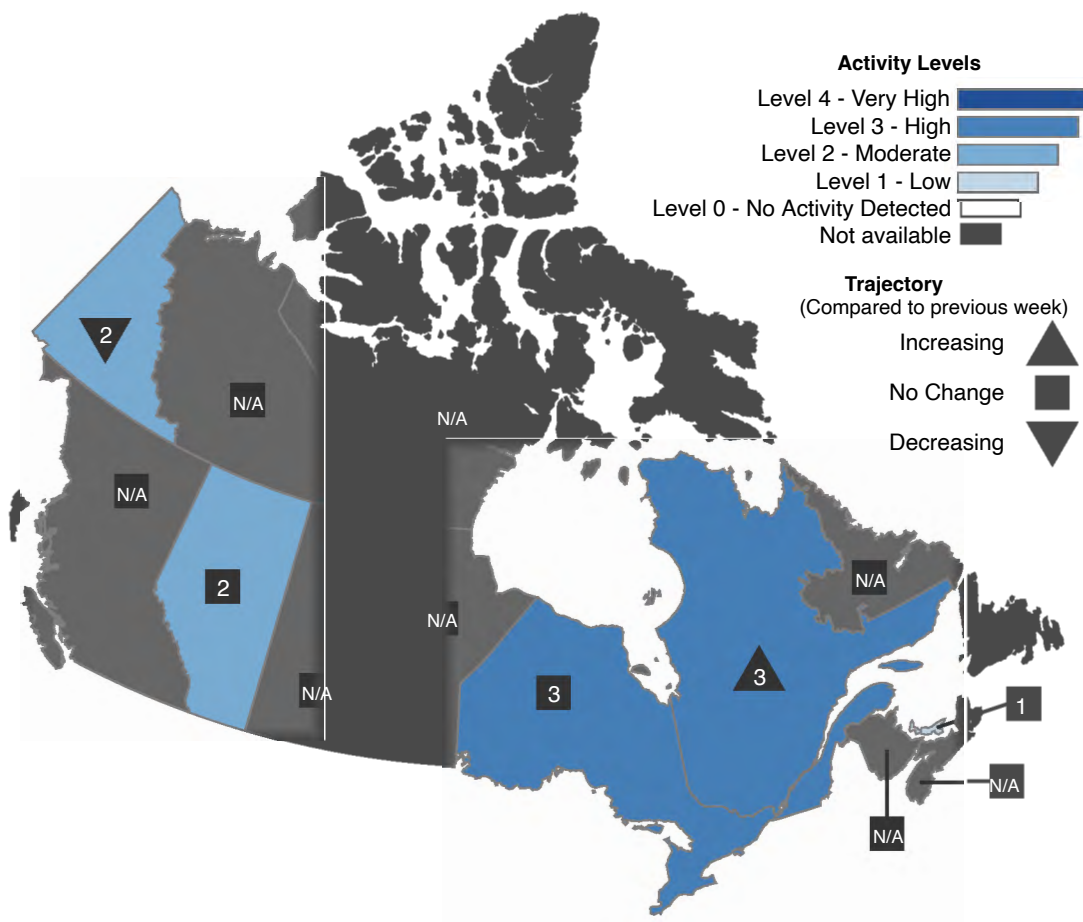
- Nationally, [the JN.1\\* group continues to be the dominant lineage group in Canada](#), with KP.3\* sub-lineages like KP.3.1.1 being the primary sub-lineages showing growth.
- On September 14, KP.3.1.1 is projected to have represented 68% of sequences, with the next closest lineage being KP.2.3 at only 6%.
- While the data we publish in the Current Situation tab may include provincial or territorial data corrections or backfill (sometimes described as bulk reporting) in the week they are reported, the weekly highlights account for these data corrections and focus on recent trends.
- \* Includes all descendant lineages, unless otherwise specified.

## COVID-19 Activity Levels

COVID-19 activity levels provide a high-level summary to describe when and where COVID-19 is circulating across Canada. The level of COVID-19 activity for each jurisdiction is determined by provincial and territorial ministries of health. The weekly COVID-19 activity level is based on:

- percent positivity
- long-term care facility outbreaks per 1,000,000 population, and
- wastewater trends.

**Figure 1. Map of COVID-19 activity levels in Canada, by province or territory for the week of September 15 to September 21, 2024** (Last updated October 1, 2024, 2 pm ET)



## COVID-19 activity levels in Canada, by province or territory for the week of September 15 to September 21, 2024 (Last updated October 1, 2024, 2 pm ET)

Province or territory	Overall COVID-19 activity level	Overall change
British Columbia	Not available	Not available
Alberta	Moderate Activity (2)	No change
Saskatchewan	Not available	Not available
Manitoba	Not available	Not available
Ontario	High Activity (3)	No change
Quebec	High Activity (3)	Increasing
Newfoundland and Labrador	Not available	Not available
New Brunswick	Not available	Not available
Nova Scotia	Not available	Not available
Prince Edward Island	Low Activity (1)	No change
Yukon	Moderate Activity (2)	Decreasing
Northwest Territories	Not available	Not available
Nunavut	Not available	Not available

- a. COVID-19 activity level assessments are based on data from provincial and territorial partners for the week of September 15 to September 21, 2024. For more information on public health recommendations or risk assessments, please refer to the [provincial and territorial websites](#). More information on COVID-19 activity levels, how they are calculated, and relevant data caveats, can be found in the [Technical Notes](#).

COVID-19 activity levels are based on data from provincial and territorial (PT) partners. National COVID-19 activity levels were developed with PT partners to monitor COVID-19 activity at the national and PT levels using a standard set of core indicators. Based on these indicators, COVID-19 activity can range from level 0 (no activity) to level 4 (high activity). They are presented with the overall change (increase, decrease, no change) from the previous week.

**Indicators:** The overall COVID-19 activity level is assessed based on the following three indicators, where available:

### 1. Weekly percent positivity

Weekly number of lab positive tests / Weekly total number of tests x 100.

Note: This indicator is only incorporated into overall assessment if the testing rate is greater than or equal to 100 tests per 100,000 population per week. This indicator is used to provide information about overall activity level and trajectory.

### 2. Weekly long term care facility (LTCF) outbreaks per 1,000,000 population

Weekly number of LTCF outbreaks / Total population in jurisdiction x 1,000,000.

Note: This indicator is used to provide information on overall activity level and trajectory.

### 3. Weekly COVID-19 wastewater trajectory

Trajectory of weekly COVID-19 wastewater viral levels compared to the previous week.

Note: This indicator is used to provide information on overall trajectory only.

**Assessment process:** The overall COVID-19 activity level is assessed based on the following three indicators, where available:

- Each indicator is assigned a level ranging from 'no activity detected' (level 0) to 'very high activity' (level 4), based on established thresholds (increasing, decreasing, or no change) of a change of 10% or more compared to the previous week.
- Overall activity level is then determined using the average level of the available indicators (rounding to the nearest whole number).
- Overall trajectory, or the direction of change (based on 10% change compared to the previous week), is calculated based on the mode of the trajectories from available indicators.

056

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**Data assessment caveats:** The overall COVID-19 activity level is assessed based on the following three indicators, where available:

- This information is based on data from PT partners. For more up to date information and for public health recommendations or risk assessments, please refer to PT websites.
- Weekly changes in tests performed, and LTCF outbreaks reflect changes in counts between the end of the latest epidemiological week and the end of the previous epidemiological week. Data are updated on an ongoing basis and are subject to change.
- PT testing practices, data sources and reporting to PHAC vary across jurisdictions.
- There may be variations in the COVID-19 activity across a jurisdiction. It's possible that if there are outbreaks occurring in one area, it may result in a higher level of COVID-19 activity. Weekly activity level assessments are intended to provide a high-level overview of COVID-19 spread using standard indicators at the national and PT level. They may not reflect the true extent of geographic spread of COVID-19.

## COVID-19 data products

### COVID-19 surveillance

- [COVID-19 wastewater surveillance dashboard](#)
- [Interactive data map of COVID-19 cases around the world](#)
- [Viral respiratory infection data \(CNISP \(Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program\)\)](#)

### COVID-19 vaccination

- [Reported side effects following vaccination](#)
- [Number of people vaccinated in Canada](#)
- [Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in Canada](#)
- [Vaccines distributed in Canada](#)

### COVID-19 and mental health

- [Mental Illness during the Pandemic: Survey on COVID-19 and Mental Health \(Cycles 1 and 2\)](#)
- [Map of Canadian mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Inequalities in the mental health of adults before and during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

### Impacts of COVID-19

- [Frequency and impact of longer-term symptoms following COVID-19 in Canadian adults](#)
- [Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Canadian Children with Cognitive, Behavioural or Emotional Disabilities](#)

### COVID-19 inequalities

- [Social inequalities in COVID-19 deaths in Canada](#)

## Provincial, territorial and international reporting

For more information, please refer to provincial or territorial COVID-19 webpages:

- [British Columbia](#)
- [Alberta](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Manitoba](#)
- [Ontario](#)
- [Quebec](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [New Brunswick](#)
- [Nova Scotia](#)
- [Prince Edward Island](#)
- [Yukon](#)
- [Northwest Territories](#)
- [Nunavut](#)

For more information, please refer to international COVID-19 webpages:

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

### You might also be interested in



#### [COVID-19 wastewater surveillance dashboard](#)

Trend data about the levels of COVID-19 in the wastewater.



#### [COVID-19 vaccination](#)

Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses that have been administered in Canada.

[All Health Infobase data products](#)

Did you find what you were looking for?

#### What was wrong?

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found in the [Understanding the data section!](#)

The answer I need is missing

058

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- The information isn't clear
- I'm not in the right place
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# ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT



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## Alberta Prosperity Project's Diplomatic Engagements in Washir Building Alliances for a Sovereign Future

written by Alberta Prosperity Project • 2 weeks ago



060

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In recent months, APP representatives have undertaken several strategic trips to Washington to foster discussions on Alberta's potential as an independent nation. These engagements, led by Mitch Sylvestre, Jeff Rath, and Dr. Dennis Modry, underscore our commitment to securing international support and alliances that align with Alberta's interests. Far from seeking interference, these trips emphasise building partnerships with our closest neighbour and largest trading partner—the United States—to ensure a smooth transition to sovereignty.

### The Trips: Key Participants and Objectives

APP's diplomatic outreach has included multiple visits to engage U.S. officials on matters of mutual interest, with Jeff Rath recently completing his third trip and planning a fourth in January 2026.

**Jeffrey Rath**  
@JeffreyRWRath · Follow



A west coast pipeline through Montana, Idaho and Washington was on the agenda today in DC.

THIS IS HAPPENING!

Alberta will be free!

[#Albertaindependence](#)

061

061

2:20 PM · Dec 16, 2025



3.1K Reply Copy link

Read 253 replies

Jeffrey Rath

@JeffreyRWRath · Follow



I met with senior US officials.

They understand Alberta oil threatens Chinese interests.

Ottawa keeps blocking it anyway.

There's more support for Alberta energy in Washington than in our own capital.

That should alarm every Albertan.

We need Alberta Independence.

Watch on X

11:30 AM · Dec 18, 2025



2.4K Reply Copy link

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Jeffrey Rath

@JeffreyRWRath · Follow



062

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We have just returned from another great meeting with the Trump Administration in Washington DC.

The interest in [#Albertaindependence](#) is palpable.

We all agree that Alberta must be freed from the destructive forces of the Communist Chinese adjacent Canadian Government in [Show more](#)

7:36 PM · Sep 30, 2025



3K Reply Copy link

[Read 310 replies](#)

The objectives are clear: to educate U.S. counterparts on Alberta's vast resources and how would eliminate federal barriers hindering market access.

### Addressing Common Questions and Concerns

We've heard questions about why APP engages with the U.S. if Alberta can "go it alone." C "So you all say there's no interference from outside of Alberta and Alberta can go it ALONE & Modry going to the US for Money and now Rath is going to Latin America for support ??? Alberta CAN'T do it on its own."

Let us clarify: Alberta absolutely can stand independently, leveraging our abundant resource workforce, and innovative spirit. However, sovereignty does not mean isolation. The United States is our biggest trading partner, accounting for the majority of our exports. Seeking alliances with them and exploring support from like-minded nations in Latin America—strengthens our position without compromising our autonomy. These are strategic partnerships, not dependencies, aimed at ensuring economic stability and security from day one of independence.

**Ryan Jespersen**   
 @ryanjespersen · [Follow](#)



Not elected. No mandate. Not even an actual leader of a legit political party. [@JeffreyRWRath](#) may dupe some gullible Albertans into believing they'd pay no income tax and enjoy tariff-free trade split from Canada, but this snake oil pseudo-diplomacy deserves to be called out. 🇨🇦

**Jeffrey Rath** @JeffreyRWRath

On my way to Washington DC for another of APP's ongoing meetings with the US administration.

Reflecting on the joint benefits to Alberta and the USA when we finally free Alberta from Communist Chinese controlled governments in Ottawa.

For Albertans - no federal income tax.

9:31 PM · Dec 15, 2025



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063

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063


**Stephen Maher** 

@stphnmaher · [Follow](#)




If this is true, which is no sure thing, then we should start to think of Alberta as Donbas

**Rise Of Alberta**  @RiseOfAlberta

 **BREAKING:** Alberta independence meetings are happening at the highest levels in Washington with the US State Department.

The U.S. views a free and independent Alberta as aligned with its national security interests.

Key points:

-  U.S. recognition of an Independent Alberta

12:54 PM · Dec 25, 2025



 288  Reply  Copy link

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**Clay Thompson.**

@harryt59\_harry · [Follow](#)



This should be investigated. Smith is a foreign agent for MAGA.

Someone gave him the authority. Who?

[@CBCNews](#)

064  
@CBCNEWS  
@CTVNews  
@TorontoStar

**Rise Of Alberta** @RiseOfAlberta

**BREAKING:** Alberta independence meetings are happening at the highest levels in Washington with the US State Department.

The U.S. views a free and independent Alberta as aligned with its national security interests.

Key points:

- ✓ U.S. recognition of an Independent Alberta

12:09 PM · Dec 26, 2025



374 Reply Copy link

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(This post questions the authority behind the meetings and tags media outlets, while replying with unfounded claims of treason and U.S. statehood aspirations.)

**Ryan Jespersen** · Dec 26, 2025



@ryanjespersen · Follow

In a lot of countries, this tomfoolery would get you strung up for treason.

**Rise Of Alberta** @RiseOfAlberta

**BREAKING:** Alberta independence meetings are happening at the highest levels in Washington with the US State Department.

065

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The U.S. views a free and independent Alberta as aligned with its national security interests.

Key points:

- ✓ U.S. recognition of an Independent Alberta

**Alberta Prosperity Project** 

@ABProsperityPrj · [Follow](#)

You're correct. Brutal dictatorships punish those seeking independence, like for example:

- Tibet: China wanting to arrest the Dalai Lama for gaining international support to free Tibet.
- Xinjiang (East Turkistan): China suppresses Uyghurs seeking autonomy through mass [Show more](#)

albertaprospertyproject.com  
 Alberta Prosperity Project's Diplomatic Engageme...  
 In recent months, APP representatives have undertaken several strategic trips to Washington, ...

4:18 PM · Dec 27, 2025



 61  Reply  Copy link

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Jespersen is correct. Countries like China, for example, when it comes to the Dalai Lamas international support to free Tibet, would string up the Dalai Lama for his "Tomfoolery".

Such rhetoric overlooks the democratic and constitutional basis. No one is acting as a "fore

066

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these are voluntary, educational discussions initiated by APP as a non-profit advocating for Authority stems from our mandate to explore sovereignty options legally under Canadian constitutional lawyer Keith Wilson (@ikwilson) notes, the Supreme Court of Canada has a legitimate process for secession if pursued clearly and fairly. Claims of treason are baseless and peaceful, democratic, and focused on empowering Albertans through a referendum.

## Our Asks and What Has Been Agreed To

In a recent interview, Jeff Rath provided detailed insights into the ongoing discussions with officials, including those connected directly to the Oval Office under the Trump administration.

### Trump's INSANE PLAN for Alberta Independence (Jeff Rath Interview, December 24,



Rath explained that U.S. officials are “very enthusiastic about Alberta becoming an independent nation, viewing it as a way to free the third-largest oil reserves in the world from what they see as a chokehold influenced by communist China, which aim to keep Alberta’s resources landlocked.

Key asks from APP and the positive responses received include:

- **Diplomatic Track:** U.S. support and potential recognition of Alberta as an independent nation when timing conditions are met.
- **National Security Alignment:** Framing Alberta’s independence as aligned with U.S. national security and energy strategy, including doctrine and current policy priorities.
- **Immediate Recognition:** U.S. recognition of Alberta as an independent nation right after a referendum.
- **Strategic Energy Corridors:** Strong U.S. support for new pipelines, including a West-to-East pipeline through U.S. states like Idaho, Montana, and Washington/Oregon to reach Asian markets, and a North-South pipeline to the Gulf Coast to increase routing options and overcome legacy constraints.

- **Financial Backstop:** A \$500 billion line of credit, collateralised by Alberta’s oil and gas backed by the U.S. Treasury, to provide leverage in negotiations with Ottawa, strength negotiating position post-referendum, and protect against potential fiscal retaliation. Fe are underway.
- **Stability Measures:** Transition stability measures to protect pension value in the even dollar instability during independence.
- **Currency and Pensions:** Support for converting Alberta pensions at par from Canadian dollars, addressing concerns over a potential collapse of the Canadian dollar; permissi U.S. dollar in the interim, with a 1:1 exchange rate, as we develop an Alberta resource
- **Foreign Influence Risk:** Raising concerns about foreign interference and external infl Canada’s policy direction as a security and market-access issue.
- **International Election Observers:** U.S. observers to ensure the referendum’s integrit
- **Trade:** A simple reciprocal free trade agreement with zero tariffs on all goods and serv Alberta to U.S. industries while ensuring unfettered energy exports.

Rath emphasised that these supports align with U.S. national interests in energy security a foreign influences, with officials assuring “robust support” and ongoing weekly communicati

**Key outcomes from high-level U.S. State Department talks:**

**Rise Of Alberta**

@RiseOfAlberta · [Follow](#)

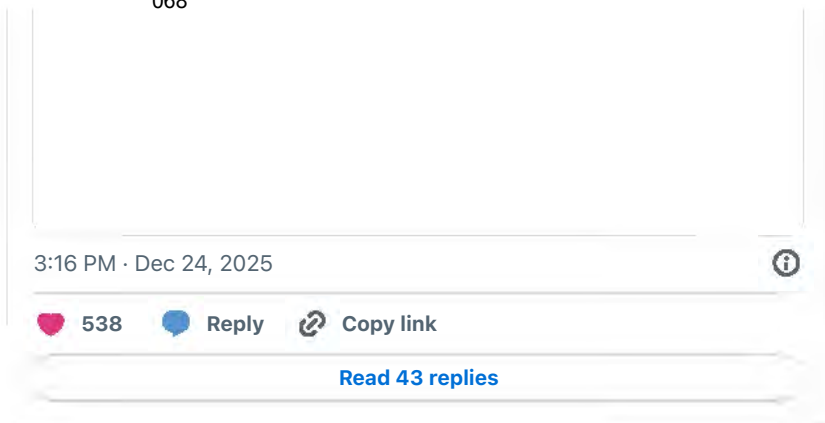
High-level U.S. State Department talks with Alberta independence leaders covered:

- support and potential recognition
- U.S. national security alignment
- Asia & Gulf pipeline corridors
- financial & pension stability measures

And no, Alberta is not becoming the 51st state.

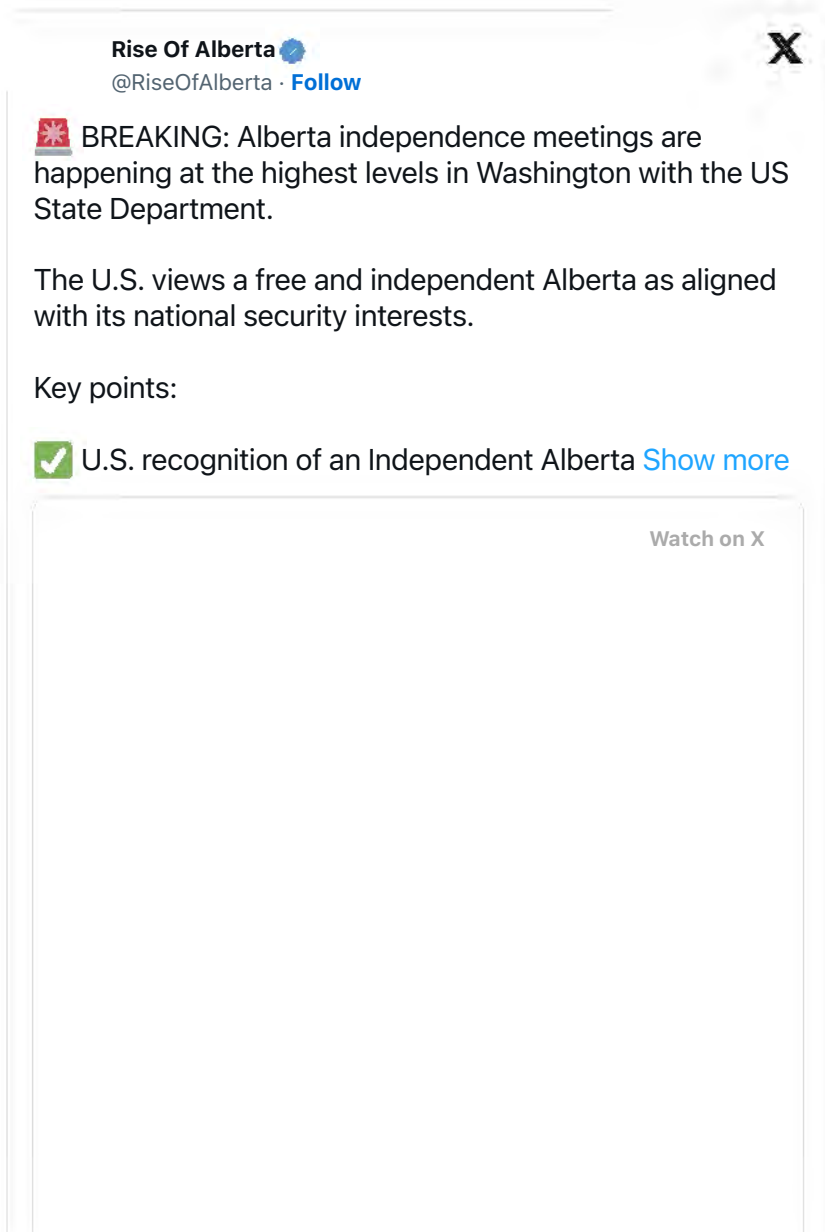
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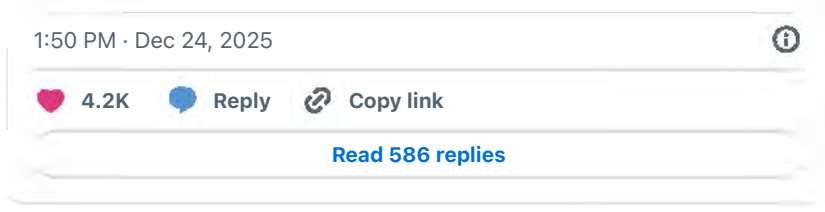
(This post features an infographic summarising the discussions, including diplomatic supp security alignment, energy corridors, financial backstop, stability measures, and foreign infl while firmly stating “Alberta is not the 51st state.”)

**Breaking news on meetings with US State Department:**



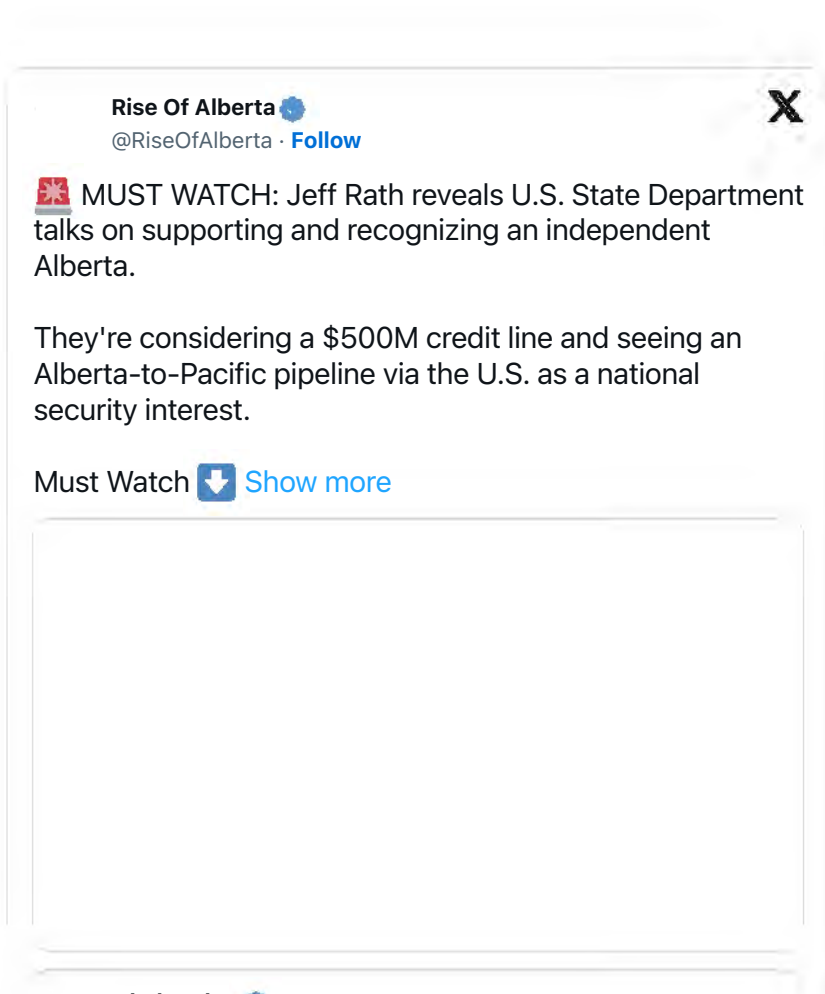
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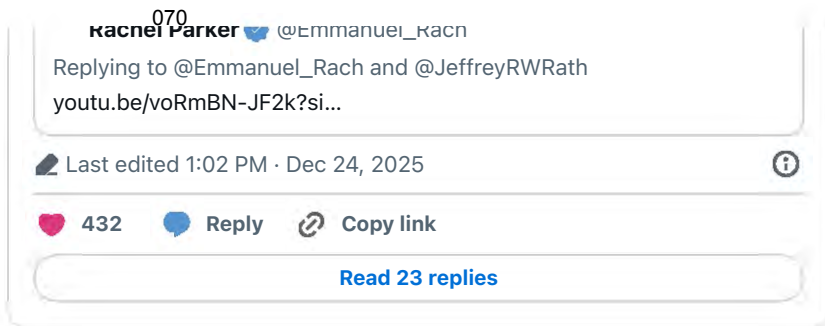
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(This post includes a video clip highlighting U.S. recognition, West Coast pipeline via US, \$ credit, and pension stability measures as aligned with U.S. national security interests.)

**Must-watch on U.S. State Department talks:**





(This post shares an image and urges viewers to watch Jeff Rath reveal support for recognizing credit line, and Alberta-to-Pacific pipeline as a U.S. national security interest.)

Prominent constitutional lawyer Keith Wilson K.C. recently addressed the significance of U.

### The U.S. Will Recognize Alberta's Independence — If We Vote Yes

#### The U.S. Will Recognize Alberta's Independence

Keith Wilson K.C. | Constitutional Lawyer



Watch o

In this video, Wilson explains the U.S. preparedness to recognize Alberta's independence following a democratic referendum, drawing on historical precedents and the constitutional pathway.

For additional details from Jeff Rath's interviews:

- EXCLUSIVE: Alberta delegates head to D.C.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef5j/>
- Will Alberta Become A US State?: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcK\\_3S72eVo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcK_3S72eVo)
- Inside Alberta's Independence Movement (with Mitch Sylvestre and Jeffrey Rath): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSs4TJMt4mg>

These discussions stress U.S. support enhances leverage without loss of control.

### Clarification on Recent National Post Coverage

A recent article published in the *National Post* — “After U.S. outreach, Alberta separatists v America to rattle up support for their cause” — provides valuable attention to the growing c

071  
 America to rustle up support for their cause — provides valuable attention to the growing movement around Alberta's sovereignty but unfortunately blends distinct initiatives within the broader independence movement.

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To clarify for readers:

- The Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) has concentrated its diplomatic efforts on multiple visits to Washington, D.C., where representatives including Jeff Rath, Mitch Sylvestre, and Dr. Cameron Davies have engaged U.S. officials on matters of mutual energy security, trade, and potential international recognition. These visits focus exclusively on strengthening ties with our largest trading partners to ensure economic stability in a sovereign future.
- The planned outreach to Latin America (specifically Argentina and El Salvador in early 2026) is a separate initiative led by Cameron Davies of the Republican Party of Alberta, an entirely separate organisation. APP has no involvement in, nor detailed knowledge of, these plans.

Different groups within the Alberta independence movement are free to pursue their own strategies while still sharing the common goal of achieving greater autonomy and prosperity for our province.

**Alberta Prosperity Project's Diplomatic Engagements in Washington: Building Alliances for a Sovereign Future**

Seeking international awareness and goodwill is a well-established and entirely legitimate part of the independence determination movements worldwide — it is neither novel nor controversial.

Notable examples include:

- The Government of Québec maintaining permanent delegations in dozens of countries to advance its distinct interests.
- Québec sovereignists actively courting international attention and preparing recognition since both 1980 and 1995 referendums.
- The Scottish National Party regularly engaging European institutions and international parliaments for support for Scottish independence.
- Catalan independence leaders travelling extensively across Europe to gain sympathy from governments and parliaments.
- The Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government-in-exile engaging world leaders, parliaments and international organisations for over sixty years to advocate for meaningful autonomy for Tibet.

A diversity of approaches only strengthens the overall cause, and accurate distinction between them helps Albertans engage in informed, constructive debate.

### Debunking the 51st State Myth

The notion that we seek to become the 51st state is unfounded—Rath explicitly states that there is no viable path for statehood and that APP's focus is full independence. APP advocates for a sovereign nation, as clearly stated in our proposed referendum question: "Do you agree that Alberta should cease to be part of Canada to become an independent state?"

This misinformation often spreads through social media and mainstream outlets, using tactics such as mongering infographics or misleading imagery, such as superimposing the American flag on Alberta. Critics, including Gil McGowan of the Alberta Federation of Labour and journalist Stephen I repeatedly twisted our engagements with U.S. officials into allegations of annexation, ignoring our rejections of such ideas.

### No 51st State for Alberta:

**Rise Of Alberta**

@RiseOfAlberta · [Follow](#)

X

No, Alberta is not becoming the 51st state.

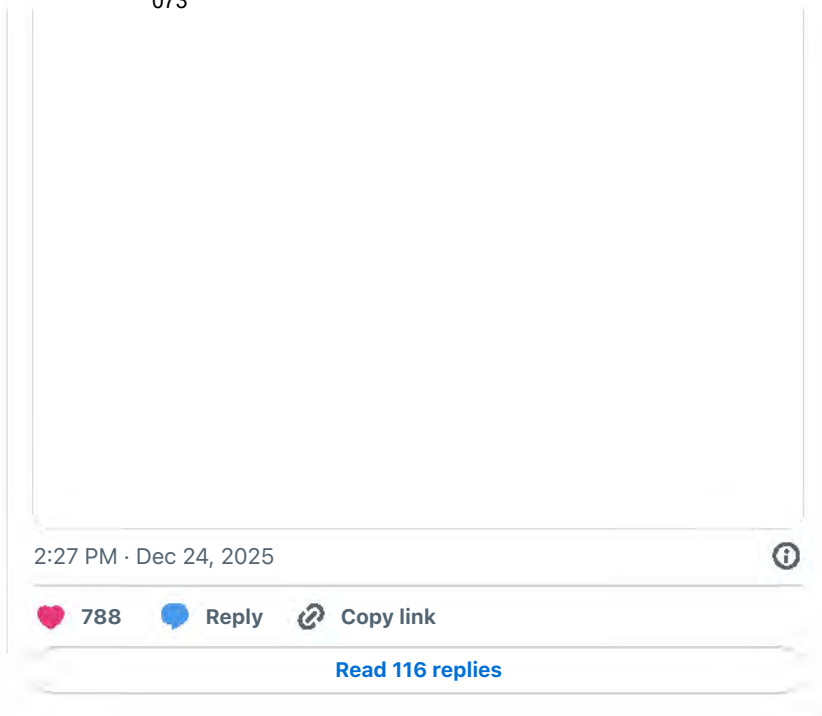
Alberta joining the U.S. as the 51st state is off the table.

U.S. State Department discussions have proceeded on the basis of Alberta as an independent country, because statehood is seen as an impossibility in the U.S. Senate.

Watch on X

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(This post includes a video clip confirming that U.S. State Department discussions proceed an independent country, as statehood is impossible in the U.S. Senate. It quotes Rath: “The majority of the Alberta Independence movement favour Alberta Independence and DO NOT Statehood,” and Wilson explaining the political realities making statehood unfeasible.)

As Jeff Rath has affirmed, the majority of Albertans favour independence, not U.S. statehood. Lawyer Keith Wilson (@ikwilson) further explains that Alberta’s admission as a U.S. state is impossible and contrary to our goals: “The Supreme Court has affirmed that secession is a democratic process if pursued clearly and fairly.” This myth appears to be part of an organized effort to confuse and divide, distracting from real issues like Ottawa’s resource policies that subsidize at Alberta’s expense.

For a detailed debunking, read our full article: [Debunking the '51st State' Myth: A Persistent Myth Undermining Alberta's True Path to Sovereignty](#).

### Join the Movement: Attend an Event Near You

The path to Alberta’s prosperity lies in action. Attend one of our upcoming events to learn more about the process involved. Check our events page: <https://nb.albertaprosperty.com/events>. Together, we can build an independent future for Alberta.

The Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) is dedicated to educating Albertans on the merits of sovereignty and independence from Canada. As a non-partisan, non-profit organisation, we strive to empower Albertans to achieve true prosperity free from federal overreach. For more information on our mission, visit [www.albertaprospertyproject.com](http://www.albertaprospertyproject.com). Our comprehensive education resources are available at <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/education/>, and our policy framework can be explored in <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZS1U179FHmlaqMvEFa5Lx0ze9e5QBmNH/edit>.

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### The Referendum Movement for a Sovereign Alberta



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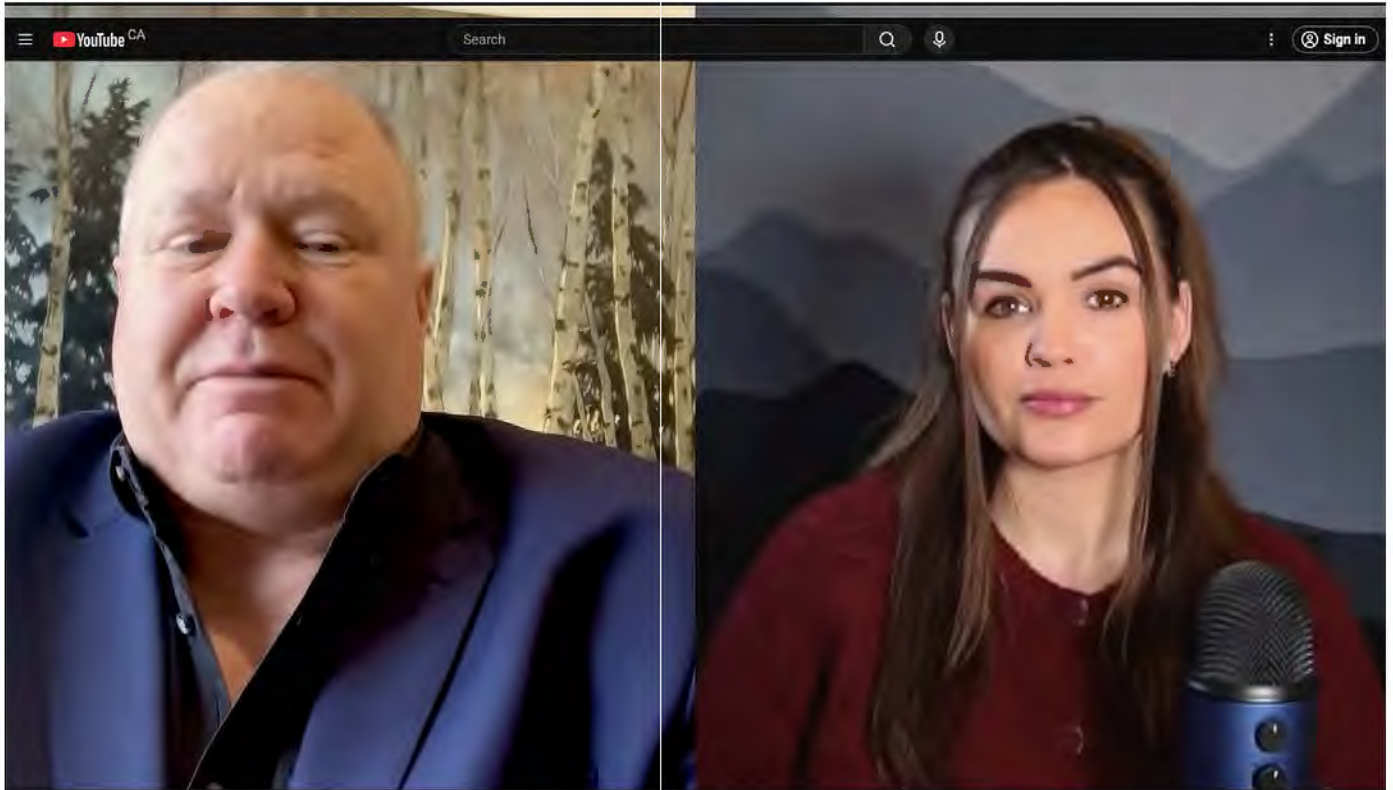
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***On December 24, 2025, Rachel Parker,  
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**Trump's INSANE PLAN for Alberta Independence**

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Rachel Parker is back! Today on the show, Rachel explains her absence.

She is then joined by Alberta Prosperity Project's legal counsel Jeffrey Rath to explain the latest in the Alberta Independence movement.

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RACHEL PARKER

*[Personal introduction]  
 Begin at 4:20*

But obviously I know everyone wants an update on Alberta independence, so I just finished talking to Jeff Rath a few days ago, and he was in Washington, DC for the third time, as I said, and so he's going to join us today and umm give us an update on what he's been working on. And there's some exciting stuff there, so I'll head to him now.

Okay, Jeff, so we spoke just a few days ago, and you were back in Washington, DC, meeting with your secret contacts in the Trump administration. Can you give us a little update on how that visit went?

JEFFREY RATH

Well, it's becoming less and less secret. I mean, we're meeting we're meeting with seniors at the top of the US State Department. I think when that could suss that out through his own contacts, we can say that the people we're meeting with go directly from our meetings to the Oval Office, and the assurances that we have from the people that we're meeting with the last the last meeting was very strange, We actually met in a SCIF, of all things, but that was interesting. But the people that we're meeting with go directly from our meetings to the Oval Office. So that's the level, you know, that's the level that we're meeting at. So we're very, very pleased about that. We had a, you know, as a long meeting. We were, you know, we were at it for several hours, you know, going through all of the ways in which the United States government could support Alberta independence when the timing was right, they are very enthusiastic about Alberta becoming an independent country. I mean, the one thing that we all fervently believe and have in common is that the government in Ottawa and the land locking of Alberta's resources is being done by Ottawa at the behest of the Communist Chinese and the Americans, You know, see it within their national interest under, you know, you know, both under the Monroe Doctrine that's been around forever and their new National Security Strategy to support Alberta independence and freeing the third largest oil field in the world from control by the China, the Communist Chinese.

I mean, one of the things that we were talking about is that the reason that the Chinese want to keep Alberta Oil and Gas landlocked is because they don't want Japan and South Korea to have a steady and stable supply of oil and gas coming out of the third largest oil field in the world, right?

They don't want, you know, and from the US side, the US would like to see, you know, much more products, you know, being available on the global market to keep oil and gasoline prices down for the benefit of the American consumer, which is right in the sweet spot or the strike zone of, you know, of Donald Trump's, you know, policies to make life more affordable for working men and women in the United States.

So there's obviously a lot of synergies there that we were talking about in terms of why it is that the United States is so supportive of a free and independent Alberta. So we were excited about that.

We talked about a West Coast or a West Coast pipeline being one of the things that Alberta would like to see immediately upon independence, and that would be a pipeline going from Alberta through Idaho or Montana, Idaho and either Washington or Oregon, umm, you know, to the west coast to supply that Asian market. And the Americans are very supportive of that. They're also very supportive of another north, south pipeline running down to the Gulf of America that doesn't go through the Midwest hub. So, you know, we had discussions in and around that.

And, you know, and I want to say how exciting it is for an Albertan and how amazing it is for an Albertan to go to the center of government for a country where the center of government for that country is extremely supportive of the Alberta Oil and gas industry and is supportive of Alberta's aspirations to become a global economic superpower, you know, as opposed to our old, you know, to what's currently our own government In Ottawa that doesn't want to see any of that happen. I mean, it's just bizarre that, you know, for Albertans to be treated with respect, you know, to be able to discuss the aspirations of, you know, Alberta on a going forward basis, that to have those conversations with people that are honest, that are enthusiastic, that are supportive, that want to see these things happen. It's just bizarre that we have to go to Washington, DC, and we can't go to Ottawa to do that, right?

So that was, you know, one of my, you know, one of my big takeaways from the meeting, right? We also talked about, you know, you know, things that the independent Alberta would need, and it is an independent country, currency support for one, because we all know that the day that Alberta declares itself independent from Canada, the Canadian dollar will be trading on par with the polish lottie [sic]. So we were talking to the US government about support for our pensioners and converting, you know, Alberta pensions at par from Canadian dollars to US dollars, you know, things like that.

We're also talking about doing a feasibility study, which we're going to get working on right away to establish a \$500 billion line of credit for the country of Alberta, so that immediately upon a successful referendum result, Alberta could trigger a \$500 billion line of credit so that when we negotiate with Ottawa, you know, we'll be negotiating from a position of strength and not from weakness, I think too often discussions or negotiations between Alberta and Ottawa go along the lines of these, this is what we want, and this is what our aspirations are. And then Ottawa's response is, well, you can't have that, and if you don't shut up and behave yourself, we're going to cut off your transfers. We're going to cut off your health funding. We're going to cut off this. We're going to cut off that. We're going to keep taking all of your tax dollars, but now you're going to get none of it back, right?

So you know, we want to be able to sidestep, you know, what's, you know, the what we see, the inevitable response from Ottawa will be to Alberta becoming an independent country, which is to try to screw with us as much as they can on the fiscal and monetary side. So, I mean, if we're backed by the full faith and credit of the US Treasury, you know, collateralized with, you know, the Alberta Oil Field, you know, oil and gas resources.

We've got no reason not to be able to succeed in our negotiations with Ottawa and successfully removing Alberta from Canada and becoming an independent country. And again, you know, for some of your viewers, I know the first time you talked about it, we were saying we were sending a delegation down to the states to explore what kind of deal would be on the table for Alberta statehood as a US state. Everybody needs to know that's completely off the table. So it's only the smallest portion of our movement in Alberta that favors statehood. And then on top of it, you know, all of our discussions with the Americans have moved forward on the basis that Alberta will become an independent country.

You know, one of the issues for the Americans is they don't think that they could ever get Alberta approved as a state in the United States through the US Senate. I mean, Puerto Rico has been sitting in the waiting room for years. And you know, the people we're speaking with, you know, within the Trump administration are saying, Look, you know, the anybody that thinks that we have eyes on Alberta as the state, need to understand what the dynamic is down here, and that is the Democrats would insist on Puerto Rico coming in as a state to counterbalance what would be a conservative or republican Alberta coming in as a state. And that, you know, they've been really frank that they have no interest in that, and it's not going to happen.

Their primary interest is in, you know, having a rational government governing the third largest oil field in the world, and specifically not having, you know, a Communist Chinese adjacent government in Ottawa continually doing everything they can to shut in. You know, the amazing resources that we have in this province that should be developed fully for the benefit of the entire world, which currently

RACHEL PARKER

I am just gonna interrupt you Jeff, already [interrupts]... start to lose my train of thought. I've got already so many questions for you. Oh, yeah, very interesting. So your contacts are saying, yeah, yeah, we're not interested in statehood. That's totally off the table then, for the reasons that you mentioned, because they don't want to have to let Puerto Rico and as a state, essentially,

JEFFREY RATH

well. But on top of it, we're also responsive to people in our in our movement. I mean, as the momentum has been picking up, and as we've been running, you know, moving forward towards independence, with all of the massive support that we now have in Alberta, I think we're polling over 40% right now in Alberta. Last poll I saw was we're 41% so you know, as all of this momentum is growing, it's clear that the people in our movement are not interested in freeing themselves from the clutches of the federal government and the clutches of the Canada Revenue Agency just to put ourselves under yet another government 3500 miles away that doesn't understand us. And you know is, you know, you know is going to make tax policy in Washington. You know that doesn't make sense for Albertans, because we're

confident that a free and independent Alberta, within literally months of independence, could become a zero income tax regime where we have no income tax, GST, corporate income tax, etc, and that Alberta would be able to, you know, operate as one of the lowest tax, lowest regulated regimes in North America, which is our goal in all of it, right?

RACHEL PARKER

Yeah. I mean, I think some of us like the thought maybe of you know US President Donald Trump, but we have to remember that it wasn't that long ago that long ago that we had President Biden, and that could happen again

JEFFREY RATH

in this oh god, can you imagine President Kamala Harris? You know, we've been, I don't think anyone we've been governed by gibbering idiots long enough we don't need to sign up for we don't need to sign up for that, that's for sure.

RACHEL PARKER

So you've talked a lot about how you know your contacts, they support this idea of Alberta independence, and some of the ways that they could leverage support for you once Alberta has had basically a successful referendum and referendum, and we're, you know, in the negotiation stage with Ottawa, but I'm wondering if there's been any talks about how they could offer support during this, this interim period where we, basically, people like yourself, are going around and ramping up support in hopes of having a successful referendum.

JEFFREY RATH

I mean, we've been discussing, you know, we, you know, we one of the, you know, we're we've now moved on from the first meeting, which was introductory, to the second meeting, you know, which was more Okay, let's try to, you know, get our heads around how this is going to look and how it's work. You know, the third meeting where we're now, you know, literally, you know, working at a very high policy level to discuss, you know, communication plans and so on. You know, suffice it to say that those plans are being made and that there's a plan in place. I don't want to comment on them. You know, much further, you know, at this point in time. And I think people you know will see the communication, you know, as it rolls out, you know, in the appropriate manner, at the appropriate times. But we're, you know, there's definitely a communications plan in place and that, you know, we, you know, we're being continually reassured with all of our meetings in Washington, that there's a, you know, there's very robust, robust support for free and independent Alberta in Washington, DC,

RACHEL PARKER

you also spoke about how, if there was to be a successful independence referendum, that Alberta would move into the negotiation stage that you had talked about, you know, Alberta essentially having this massive line of credit while they go into those negotiations. I can't help but wonder, I mean, Donald Trump is someone who, you know, as he often puts pressures on foreign governments to get what he wants. Do you think we could see a situation in which the Ottawa is making the negotiations very difficult for Alberta, and we see Donald Trump begin to put pressure on the Canadian federal government to help Alberta secure a better deal for itself in that separate union.

JEFFREY RATH

I don't even know that that point that it's going to be necessary. I mean, Ottawa is either, you know, if we have a \$500 billion line of credit, I mean, Ottawa either behaves itself, or the, you know, the negotiating negotiating table and behaves appropriately, or, you know, **or Alberta could literally issue a unilateral declaration of independence outside of the scope of the Canadian Constitution.** (16:00) So I mean Canada, I think, needs to behave itself and needs to, you know, needs to negotiate in good faith. In fact, the clarity Act and the secession reference of the supreme court requires them to negotiate in good faith. But you know about, by having a \$500 billion line of credit in place, you know, it would allow Alberta to simply walk away from the table the minute it became apparent that Ottawa wasn't acting in good faith. I mean, you know, over the course of my career, I've done many, you know, 100 million dollar slash billion dollar negotiations that I've been involved in, you know, on various large files, and it's all about leverage.

So we want to, you know, we want to create the conditions to be able to negotiate from a position of strength and not like you know, Kenney and other you know governments have done over the years. Rachel Notley, God help us, you know, please, Ottawa, please, may we please have some more? Could we please keep some of our money like, you know, that's not how these that's not how these discussions and negotiations are going to go.

RACHEL PARKER

Now on the topic of, basically, you know, begging Ottawa, I have to ask you if this memorandum of understanding that Danielle Smith signed with Mark Carney's government came up in your meeting because you're saying they want another pipeline built to give, you know, sell, sell Alberta energy to Asia, which is essentially what was signed in this memorandum of understanding that Danielle Smith signed with Mark Carney that would get another pipeline built across the coast of BC. Obviously, you know, this is just basically saying that the governments are basically saying we're going to look at doing something. And I always say it's not really worth to spend a lot of time talking about things that

governments say they're going to talk about doing, because it never ends up resulting in anything. And we still have, you know, the legislation in BC, the BC tankers ban.

Well, how are we going to get the ships to come pick up this energy.... And so what I have to ask, Did that come up in the meeting at all?

JEFFREY RATH

No, because we saw, all of us see it as irrelevant. I mean, it's, you know, everybody refers to it as the pipe dream. Mou, not the pipeline MOU, I mean, you know, it's, you know. So \$50 billion carbon sucking machine. We're going to add \$10 a barrel to the cost of production of oil in Alberta. And maybe, if we're really, really good little boys and girls, they'll let us have a pipeline. They will let us have a pipeline in 2040 so, you know, we didn't discuss it at all. We, you know both the US State Department and our you know, you know our team see that MOU is being nothing but a bad joke on Albertans, you know. And quite frankly, if it was fully implemented, I think would be worse for Alberta than the national energy program, you know, in terms of killing investment in the province. Like who would want to invest here? If, you know, we just added \$10 a barrel to the price of price of oil production in Alberta, like nobody.

So, you know, it's a job, killing investment, killing bad deal with

RACHEL PARKER

I was just saying, I think, like a decade of Justin Trudeau killed the hopes of any investment in Canada for a long time.

JEFFREY RATH

Yeah. And the only way to revitalize investment in Alberta is for Alberta to leave Canada and have a very good you know. And one of the things we did talk about in the States is, you know, is that when President Trump says reciprocal trade agreements, he means reciprocal trade agreement. So Alberta will have the shortest free trade agreement ever in the history of the world. There will be zero tariffs on the Alberta side of the border on all goods and services, and zero tariffs on the US side of the border on all Alberta. Goods and services will be wide open to American dairy will be wide open to American banks, financial institutions. You know, we'll be open for business, and we won't be having Ottawa doing everything they can to shut in our oil field for the benefit of Communist China.

Like I don't know if you saw it this morning, but there was an announcement somewhere that Carney is now using the breakdown of trade negotiations with the United States over dairy as an excuse for strengthening our economic ties with Communist China. Oh, we can't deal with the evil Americans, so we're going to become Communist Chinese like you thought they were electing that, right? So I mean,

every week that goes by, I mean, Carney just makes Alberta independence more and more likely, and I think strengthens the business case on the US side for supporting Alberta independence. Because, you know, who wants Communist China controlling the third largest oil field in the world, certainly not the US.

RACHEL PARKER

So it sounds like you said you've been down there to meet with these officials three times. Now, is there a fourth meeting planned on the books?

JEFFREY RATH

Yeah, yeah. We'll be going back down in in January. And if anything, you know, if anything comes up between now and then, we'll be in, you know, we'll be in contact with them. I'm basically in contact with them, you know, weekly. Now, you know, whether by email or other forms of communication. So, you know, we're, you know, we're moving things forward. Like I said, the US is very supportive of a free and independent Alberta. I thought it was really interesting that our meeting in the states and talk about a US pipeline deal has now got Danielle considering it as an option, right? So, you know. But I think it's really interesting that that, you know, Alberta prosperity project has better contacts with the Trump administration, apparently, than she does, and we've had more conversations, and I'm confident that we had more conversations with the US about a pipeline through the US Northwest than Danielel Smith government has, you know. So I'm hoping, I'm hoping that they pick up their socks a little bit and start going after that a lot more aggressively.

RAACHEL PARKER

Yeah, they have a trade representative in DC, like we pay to have someone live in DC full time to negotiate and to, you know, advance Alberta's interests. Anything moving on there did ...

JEFFREY RATH

...our trade representative? You know, again, this is quite a while ago. I heard this, but you know that our Trade Representative, you know, isn't really given the time of day on a going forward basis, you know, because for years, Alberta was using, you know, former Obama administration officials as their lobbyists and as their liaisons to the Trump administration, which makes less than zero sense. I mean, this is just, you know, I don't have the receipts on that. This is just what I've heard from people in Washington and elsewhere. But, I mean, you know, it wouldn't surprise me that that's the, you know, the level of intelligence being brought to bear on this relationship by bureaucrats in Edmonton. You know, they have their friends and they have the contacts, and you know, and you know, whoever it is that buys

them hockey tickets or whatever else, and I'm sure that that's how they're doing business. But it's, I think, I personally think right now, APP has a far stronger and better relationship with the US government than the Smith government, which I think it's really interesting.

RACHEL PARKER

So I want to talk now about the actual referendum petitions that have been put forward. So of course, the over to prosperity project has one in motion, and then we've got Thomas Lukaszuk Group forever Canada. I know that yours was held court for a period, and Thomas Lukaszuk actually, actually hit the Forever Canada group successfully got all the signatures they needed. So it's my understanding that we're basically waiting to hear from the Danielle Smith government if they're going to allow the Forever Canada referendum to go forward. Maybe you can just give us a little update on what do you expect?

JEFFREY RATH

Yeah, literally, the minute Bill 14 passed. Eva Chipiuk is a representative of Rath and Company, was there with Mitch Sylvester to file a statement of intent to file an application, which is the new process that has to be followed, I guess, because we filed immediately. Oh, and then on the Friday, it says, Get within 30 days, you then have to file your application. So on the Friday, we filed our application. So I guess we weren't [sic] by the change of the legislation to up the filing fee to \$25,000 because we got in, you know, under the old legislation, that being said, I mean, for this project. I mean, we could have, you know, we could have the \$25,000 in place in 10 seconds, ...

25 grand wasn't gonna stop us, but, but anyway, so that's done, and now we're just waiting to hear back from elections Alberta, you know, on the, you know, on the triggering of the petition signature gathering process. So what we're actually anticipating is somewhere in mid January, we're going to unleash our, you know, the 50,000 volunteers that we have lined up to canvass. And, you know, we're setting a very lofty goal for ourselves. I don't know if we'll make it, but we're going to try to get one point, at least 1.5 million signatures in favor of this referendum, you know, knocking on every single door in the province, having an 87-constituency campaign, and talking to every single Albertan that we can you know about the benefits of Alberta independence. You know ending federal income tax, ending GST, ending carbon tax. You know industrial carbon tax. You know corporate tax. You know any future cash grabs by the bankrupt Canadian government to tax away your home equity, tax away your savings. You know all these little trial balloons that were floated by Chrystia Freeland when she was finance minister. You know, we need to get Alberta the hell away from, you know, Mark Carney and the government in Ottawa, which, right now is basically a burning dumpster fire.

RACHEL PARKER

So do you think that we're, excuse me, do you think that, like the Forever Canada referendum? Do you think we're going to have that referendum in 2020, referendum in 2026?

JEFFREY RATH

I would be very surprised if you know, when we have our signatures, that they would allow two referendums on the same question. And I would think that a constitutional referendum would trump a policy referendum. That's simply saying, you know, we would like, you know, we would like to vote on reaffirming the government of Alberta's existing policy, right? And, you know, I think that there would be holy hell to pay with Danielle's base, if that what happened, right?

RACHEL PARKER

So I don't, I don't just to clarify, for instance, the Forever Canada referendum, which basically would vote on keeping things as they are, Alberta continuing to stay in Canada, that is considered a policy referendum, and the government can choose whether it goes forward. Referendum which talk, which asks if Alberta should leave Canada, is a constitutional referendum, and because it's a constitutional referendum, it has to go forward.

JEFFREY RATH

Our question is, do you agree that Alberta, Alberta shall cease to be a province in Canada, an independent state, right? So that is the exact wording of Section 1(3) of the clarity act. So that's, you know, that would make it a constitutional question. Lukaszuk's question. I mean, he was even backpedaling, saying that he didn't want a referendum. Oh, no, I didn't do this to get a referendum. I did this because I just want the legislature to vote on it, right? So, you know, I mean, who knows what's wrong with us? Like, I mean, does he even have a question? I mean, he said he doesn't want a referendum. So does that mean that, you know that there's not even a referendum to consider with regard to his question. Who knows? I mean, it's all so goofy, like it's hard to say what's going on as far as, as far as Lukaszuk goes, right?...

RACHEL PARKER

So he is good word to use here for sure. And then on the topic of, you know Danielle Smith, you're saying, if they were to let his referendum go forward, essentially blocking ours, because you can't have a same a referendum going forward on the same question within five years, although then the profession becomes, is it really the same question, I think?

JEFFREY RATH

And, well, it's not the same they're not the same question because his is a mere policy question and ours is a constitutional question. They're entirely different.

RACHEL PARKER

So you could have both then go right after each well,

JEFFREY RATH

but again, why would you? Why would you do it, unless you're just trying to completely confuse the issue, like I say, she's doing having all of her goofy Alberta next panel questions on a referendum ballot at the same time. I mean, that's a fight. We'll have another day. But, you know, needless to say, you know, I've been very unimpressed with that strategy for some time, and I've been of the view that the strategy of having all these what's next questions heard at the same time, you know, on the on a ballot at the same time as our question is nothing more or less than an attempt to subvert Albertans having a clear vote on a clear choice, you know, to lead Canada and become an independent country, right?

Because, let's face it, I mean, you know, like, in effect, by putting all those questions in place would force us to clean sweep all of those questions, you know, oh, if you don't want policing, you know, police, how could you be an independent country if you don't want a pension plan? How can you be an independent country if you don't want, if you don't trust us to collect all the taxes in Alberta? How can you be an independent country? So, you know, in us, in essence, I see that as an attempt to block, confuse, you know, obfuscate and undermine what we're trying to accomplish, but, you know, we'll leave that fight for another day. I mean, that's one of the reasons I've been so critical of Danielle lately.

But I guess at this point we'll just thank her for letting us go gather our questions or gather our signatures to our question, and we'll go from there.

RACHEL PARKER

Well, yeah, and I just want to add because I know, like a large portion of my audience is in the States, and they probably are not following this nearly as closely as yourself, but Danielle Smith is not pro Alberta independence, and she said as much repeatedly over the last year. And you know, when she was recently at the United Conservative Party Annual General Meeting, which happens every year, she was talking about, well, Alberta signed this great memorandum of understanding, which is basically, as I said before, our government and the Canadian federal government are going to look at and talk about maybe building another pipeline. And she gave this as an example at this convention, as an example that Canada is still working for Alberta. And when she said this, she was booed. She was booed at the party convention for her own party, of which she sits as the party leader and as Premier. That's pretty

significant, because just a year ago, at the same convention, she received support from 94 I believe it was 94% of the of the party, essentially.

But what we're seeing is so much of the United Conservative Party base, especially the people that are involved enough to go to a convention are pro independent, and she's way out of sync with the party on this one. So yeah, I suspect it is causing a lot of maybe problems for yourself Jeff and for the Alberta prosperity project, but it's also going to be causing a lot of problems for herself as party leader, and it's going to be interesting to see how that plays out in 2026

JEFFREY RATH

Yeah, and I don't want to get into because there's been no shortage of people attacking me for allegedly, you know, attacking Danielle Smith. I don't mean to attack her. I mean, I just have some real questions with regard to what I consider some really bad policies that are coming out of the government. Obviously, a lot of us are thrilled with a lot of the things that she's doing. I mean, you know, it was a tough call, but, you know, legislating the teachers back to work had to happen, the legislation that she's passed to protect our children. I mean, everybody's very enthusiastic about that. You know, she's done a lot of really, really good things, right?

You know, you know, we'll see how well they've managed to amend bill for how far the bill, 14 amendments go, and clearing the roadblocks, you know, out of our way moving forward to a referendum, you know, lots of people think that there's still some, you know, some holes in the legislation that could have been fixed and should have been fixed, that weren't and that were certainly brought to the attention of the government during the, you know, the reading period of the bills. So, you know, we'll see where we end up on all of that. I'm trying, you know, in the spirit of Christmas, not to be critical of Danielle, s

RACHEL PARKER

... plenty of time. There'll be plenty of time.

JEFFREY RATH

Yeah, you know, I think, I think, I think that's fair.

RACHEL PARKER

I will, I have to say this, it's eating me up, but like, there's a real cowardice on the right to not criticize conservative leaders. And I mean, that's why Canadian conservatism looks the way it does. It doesn't

look the way that does in the States. They've got real conservatism down there. We struggle to have it here. So I'm gonna there.

JEFFREY RATH

I, you know, I obviously have the same issue. I mean, it's, you know, just because you're criticizing policy doesn't mean you're attacking somebody personally. And I think people need to stop clutching their pearls, always lots of criticism, and I take it as people want to show better, you know, and I'm you know, and I get more than my fair share as well. So we just move forward and do what we think is best for everybody in Alberta.

RACHEL PARKER

So okay, so I just want to on that note. I mean, this issue blew up. I believe it was February of this year, and you know, you've kind of just been riding the train ever since. I obviously, basically riding the train.

JEFFREY RATH

I've been driving the train. Let's be free.

RACHEL PARKER

All right. Fair question, yeah, fair correction, for sure, I, on the other hand, disappeared off the face of the earth for the better part of the year. And as someone who has not been out and about, I have to ask you, where does the momentum of the independence movement stay right now?

JEFFREY RATH

Well, I mean, I think it just continues to grow. I mean, you know, we're planning, like, literally. I mean crazy 2026 is going to be crazy for all of us. I mean, Mitch is going to run us all into the ground. I mean, you know, we're looking at, you know, doing at least 100 town halls a month. You know, we're going to be door knocking on every door and every constituency in the province. You know we are, you know, are bound and determined, you know, to at least break the million mark for signatures on our petition going forward, you know, etc, etc. So it's going to be a really, really busy first month or six months of 2026 and, you know, we won't see anything except the growth of more and more and more more momentum, right?

RACHEL PARKER

I mean, you know, we're now also just we need to state how significant that 1 million signature mark is, because when I moved here, that was four years ago, the population of Alberta was 4 million. I know it's growing rapidly. Maybe you know the exact number where it's at, but you guys are looking at getting signatures from like 25% of the Alberta population.

JEFFREY RATH

Oh, yeah, and then, but on top of it, if you look at the last provincial election, I don't think you know. I think if you had a million votes, you would have won, you know, won the majority, right? So, you know, in terms of voter turnout. So, you know, I think, yeah, I would be, because 177,000 is 10% of the last voter turnout. So if we have a million signatures, you know, that means that we've got more than 50% well more closer to 60% of the voter turnout in the last election, which is hugely significant. I mean, it'll rock the political establishment in both Alberta, Ottawa out of the core, right? You know, because it'll, he'll demonstrate the strength of our movement, and the fact that people in Alberta aren't buying it, and you aren't buying, you know, any of this nonsense coming out of Mark Carney anymore?

RACHEL PARKER

Well, listen, it's Christmas Eve. We've been going for about 30 minutes here. I think we'll leave it there for today. I'm excited for 2026 my commitment to the audience is I'm going to get back out there. I'm going to be going to some of these town halls. We'll interview some people. We're going to have some great content now that I'm well and healthy again. There might be a little baby straps to to my chest for it, but what you got to do So Josh, for taking some time today. And

JEFFREY RATH

Merry Christmas to you and David. How exciting is it going to be for you guys to have a baby under the tree, along with along with your other one? And you know the joy of Christmas and all of that. So Merry Christmas. A blessed a blessed Christmas to you and your family. And best regards to David and the babies. And have a great time. Enjoy Christmas with your family. And thank you very much for speaking to me every prayer conversation.

RACHEL PARKER

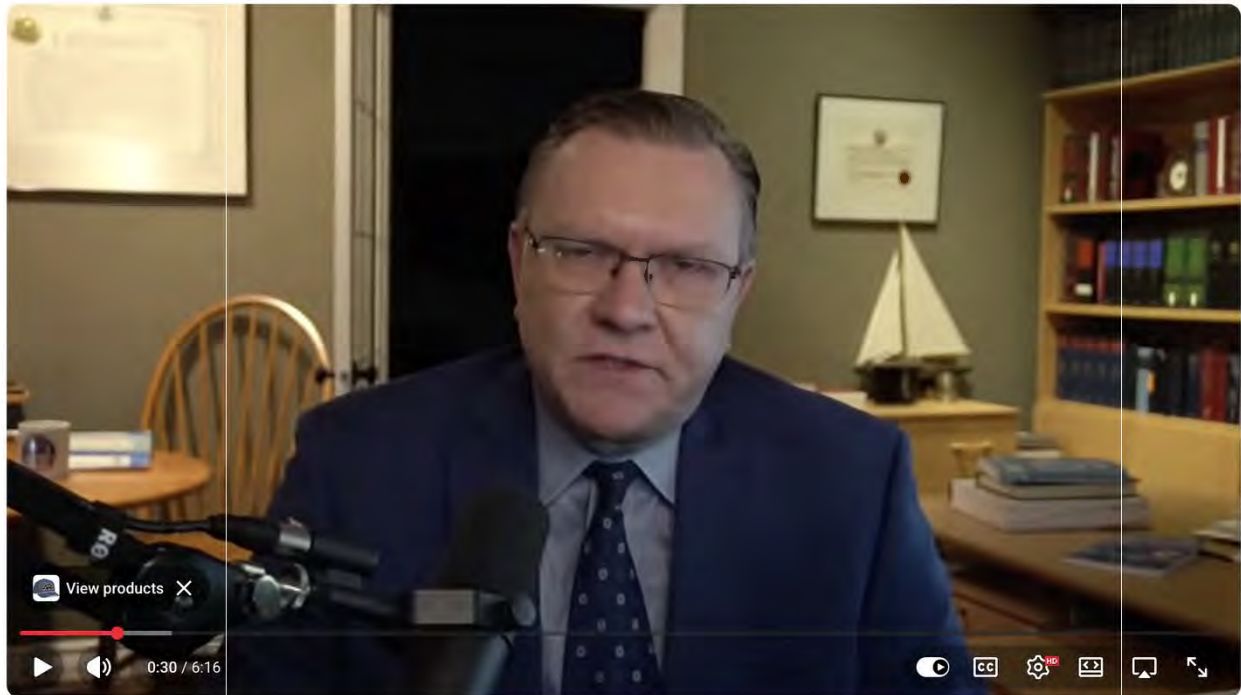
I'm glad to be back, glad to have you back. And yeah, thanks guys for your patience over this year while I was gone. And know, we've got a bit of an update for you today, and there's obviously going to be lots more coming. So Merry Christmas to you all, and enjoy your enjoy your holiday celebration. God bless. Thanks, Rachel. All right, everyone, that is all we have for today. I hope that you guys have some really great Christmas plans. Maybe it's just a more casual year for you. It is for us. We obviously just have a new baby at home. No one's coming to visit this year just didn't work out. So pretty relaxed Christmas in

the Parker household. Kind of nice. Usually, Christmas is very busy for us, and I do love the Christmas season, but it's just been, yeah, we potty trained our toddler. That feels great to have that under our belt. And I've obviously been focused on getting my show up and running, so that's been taking a lot of time, so a bit of a different Christmas season for us. But yeah, just remember the sacrifice that Christ made coming down to earth in the form of human and eventually an Easter will recognize the sacrifice that he made on the cross for us. So I'm wishing you all a very blessed Christmas season. Remember the Reason? Reason for the Season? It's Christ. Always look back to Christ. Okay, guys, Merry Christmas and God bless it's

**Keith Wilson Youtube,**  
**The US Will Recognize Alberta's Independence,**  
**December 26, 2025, available**

<https://youtu.be/8CoLUYP0xs8?si=Iya2mrTtEFSzWHvb>

## Transcript



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### The U.S. Will Recognize Alberta's Independence

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**Keith Wilson K.C. | Constitutional Lawyer**

In this video, I explain why Alberta's independence referendum in October 2026 has international implications. I discuss U.S. ...

Keith Wilson:

One of the most significant factors that makes the prospect of Alberta actually becoming independent after the referendum on independence that Alberta will be holding in October 2026 is our proximity and relationship to the United States of America, the largest economy in the world.

And what I mean by that is there's a number of ways.. in which a country comes into existence. Countries have come into existence. Have ebbed and flowed throughout the history of man. This is not a novel concept. Countries don't necessarily and their boundaries remain static. In all of our lifetimes, we've witnessed countries form and countries disappear.

So one of the ways in which Alberta can become an independent country, according to the Supreme Court, in the 1998 reference case. Because remember, the Supreme Court of Canada laid out a constitutional pathway for a province like Alberta to hold a province wide referendum on a clear question and if a clear majority say yes we want to become an independent country and a nation state, then that sets a legal process in motion. One way to finalize that process and complete the process of becoming a nation to have negotiations between Alberta, the other provinces and the federal government on the details of the divorce so to speak. There

There's no certainty that those negotiations will be successful. The Supreme Court of Canada recognized this in paragraph 155 of the decision, and 154 they talk about the concept of unilateral recognition by other nation states, and Canada has set a very important precedent supportive of Alberta going that route of being recognized by other countries as an independent country through Mark Carney's unilateral announcement last September, in September of 2025, where he had the Government of Canada unilaterally recognize the state of Palestine, despite not having borders, as being an independent country, nation state. So one of the things that could well happen after the referendum is the United States will recognize Alberta as an independent country. And in fact, there have been ongoing meetings between the Alberta prosperity project representatives and the State Department in the US and as recently as a few weeks ago where they continue to dialog on the situation in Alberta. And it's clear that the US government is prepared to recognize Alberta independence, if it occurs in a democratic referendum vote, it recognizes the US has a history of recognizing that free people have the ability to choose their form of government. And so this is really significant because it's Alberta's largest trading partner. They're our closest geographic trading partner. And so it's very exciting to have us going into 2026 with the United States and its growing economy showing a willingness to to recognize Alberta, and the fact that the Carney government cleared the way for this and legitimized it through the Carney government's actions of reference recognizing Palestine.

What I expect is going to happen is I think we're going to win this vote in October, and I think we're going to win it handily, and Then I think what's going to happen is there's going there's going to be discussions with the United States concurrently and simultaneously, with discussions with the other provinces and Canada. And I think we're going to seek to negotiate trade pacts

with both the other provinces and Canada, but importantly with the United States, which will bring immediate prosperity and stability to Alberta, we will be freed from the constraints.

You know, what was so remarkable is we have the third largest reserve of oil in the world. We have all these other resources, and we have a federal government that has deliberately passed the laws and policies to keep our oil and gas in the ground, holding back prosperity, depriving our children and grandchildren of prosperous and healthy future, increasing the cost of living. It's just spectacular. Why would any thinking people that have a choice, as Albertans will have in October when they go to vote in the referendum, not choose to seek prosperity and greater freedoms for their kids and their grandkids, their community, their neighbors.

So and there's been one other development that's really important for those who like to do a deep dive in these things. On December 5, the US government released its national security strategy, and if you go through and read that 39 page document, you will see how uncomfortable the US administration is about these really weird steps that troubling actions of the Carney liberals in seeking to align themselves in Canada with China, rather than embrace and try and develop and enhance our relationship with the largest economy, our largest customer, and the most powerful military country in the world, how our Prime Minister has come out and said on a number of occasions that our relationship with the United States has come to an end. Really reckless position for the leader of Canada to take, and it'll be Albertans who'll suffer from that recklessness, but we have an ability to correct it and free ourselves from it by voting yes in the referendum for Alberta independence that will be coming Soon, in October of 2026.

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Misinformation, Disinformation, and Wild Conspiracies

## Debunking the '51st State' Myth: A Persistent Fabrication Undermining Alberta's True Path to Sovereignty

written by Alberta Prosperity Project • Published: December 24, 2025 • Updated: December 25,





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In the ongoing debate over Alberta’s future, one unfounded claim continues to surface repeatedly: the assertion that the Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) and the independence movement seek to become the 51st state of the United States. This narrative, frequently promoted by those deeply invested in preserving the existing federal arrangement, lacks any basis in fact. It distracts from APP’s consistent goal: achieving full sovereignty for Alberta as an independent nation, free from control by any other external power. Those who repeat this claim overlook—or deliberately ignore—statements from movement leaders and experts, revealing a pattern of misinformation that maintains the status quo benefiting distant interests.

A recent illustration of this tactic appeared in a post by @voice\_2020, featuring an infographic comparing aspects of life for women in Canada versus the United States, such as maternity leave and child care. The post, captioned “Don’t let the Alberta Separatists fool you, joining the U.S.A. will be bad. The numbers don’t add up,” falsely equates Alberta’s independence efforts with a push for U.S. annexation.

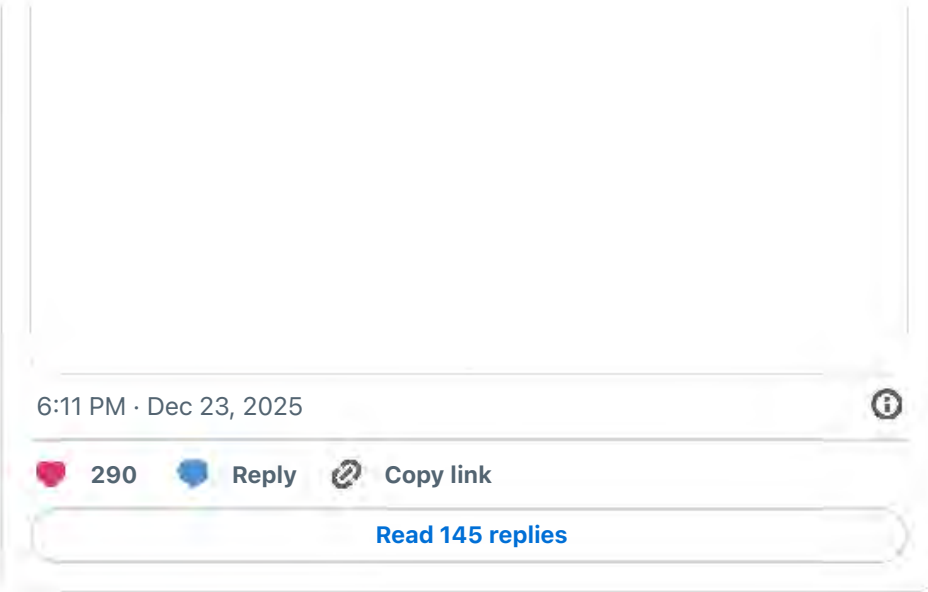
**Fire the UCP** X  
 @voice\_2020 · Follow

Don't let the Alberta Separatists fool you, joining the U.S.A. will be bad. The numbers don't add up.

#ForeverCanadian  
 #CanadaStrong

096

096



And Global News using an image of someone holding an American flag:



Such posts rely on fear rather than facts, assuming readers won't verify the movement's actual reality, APP's proposed referendum question is unambiguous:

"Do you agree that the Province of Alberta should cease to be part of Canada to become an independent state?"

Another prominent voice amplifying this distortion is Gil McGowan, president of the Alberta Labour, whose repeated claims conveniently mirror federal narratives aimed at stifling Alberta's self-determination. McGowan has consistently portrayed the independence movement as a step toward U.S. annexation, ignoring evidence to the contrary while promoting views that undermine Alberta's resource-driven economy and align suspiciously with Ottawa's priorities over those of everyday Albertans. For instance, on December 15, 2025, he posted: "The so-called 'Alberta independence' movement is just an effort to turn Alberta into the 51st state in Donald Trump's America. The mask isn't just being pulled off entirely," attaching a screenshot of an APP-related post that discusses trade benefits without mentioning statehood.

**Gil McGowan**

@ailmcgowan · [Follow](#)



098

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The so-called "Alberta independence" movement is really an effort to turn Alberta into the 51st state in Donald Trump's America. The mask isn't just slipping, they've pulled it off entirely.

1:58 PM · Dec 15, 2025



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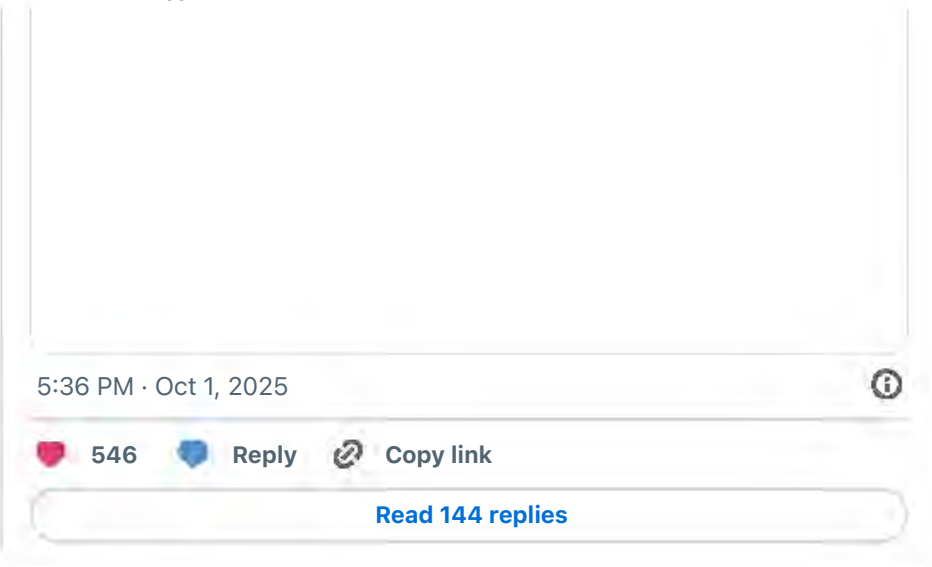
This pattern persists in McGowan's rhetoric. On October 1, 2025, he claimed: "The proponents of separatism clearly don't really want an independent Alberta — they want to turn us into the 51st state (under control by Trump's Republican Party). Why else would they continue meeting with Trump's administration, again twisting discussions of alliances into allegations of annexation."

**Gil McGowan**

@gilmcgowan · [Follow](#)



The proponents of Alberta separatism clearly don't really want an independent Alberta — they want to turn us into the 51st state (under control by Trump's Republican Party). Why else would they continue meeting with Trump official's? [nationalpost.com/news/alberta-s...](https://nationalpost.com/news/alberta-s...)



Even more recently, on December 19, 2025, McGowan doubled down, referring to “Trump-separatists” and claiming the referendum is “really aimed at turning us into the 51st state in America.”



These unsubstantiated assertions not only spread falsehoods but also divert attention from federal overreach, which drains Alberta’s wealth while imposing burdensome policies on ou —issues McGowan’s commentary often sidesteps in favour of federal-friendly talking points

Here’s yet another striking example of this persistent fabrication came just days ago from S long-time Mainstream Media (MSM) journalist and self-styled Laurentian proletarian who s embedded in Ottawa’s political circles, growing cozy with the federal establishment he cover December 23, 2025, Maher—a veteran commentator who relocated from Ottawa to Nova S decades of reporting from the capital—directly replied to the Alberta Prosperity Project’s co

Global News' misleading U.S. flag imagery, insisting: "Do not be deceived by this. Alberta is about joining the USA."

**Stephen Maher**

@stphnmaher · [Follow](#)

X

Do not be deceived by this. Alberta separatism is about joining the USA.

**Alberta Prosperity Project** @ABProsperityPrj

Look at how dishonest @GlobalNews is. As their main photo they use a picture of the US flag. As we have said many times, APP and the current Whitehouse administration reject the idea of 51st state. [globalnews.ca/news/11588446/...](https://globalnews.ca/news/11588446/)

10:35 AM · Dec 23, 2025 i

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Coming from someone so deeply enmeshed in the Ottawa bubble for much of his career, the claim fits a familiar pattern: Laurentian voices reflexively dismissing Alberta's legitimate sovereignty aspirations by recycling the tired "51st state" trope, as if to protect central Canada's grip on power ignores APP's crystal-clear rejection of any U.S. annexation and the referendum question's framing of independence as a sovereign nation. Replies to Maher's post quickly filled with pushback and supporters who set the record straight, underscoring that genuine independence means rejecting Ottawa's overreach—not trading one master for another. Such interventions from entrenched and aligned media figures only highlight how threatened the Laurentian consensus remains by charting their own future.

Key figures in the movement have repeatedly refuted this distortion. Jeffrey Rath (@JeffreyRath), legal counsel, stated clearly on December 24, 2025 (Mountain Standard Time): "It is clear that an overwhelming majority of the Alberta Independence movement favour Alberta Independence over favour US Statehood."

**Rise Of Alberta**

@RiseOfAlberta · [Follow](#)

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No, Alberta is not becoming the 51st state.

Alberta joining the U.S. as the 51st state is off the table.

U.S. State Department discussions have proceeded on the basis of Alberta as an independent country, because statehood is seen as an impossibility in the U.S. Senate.



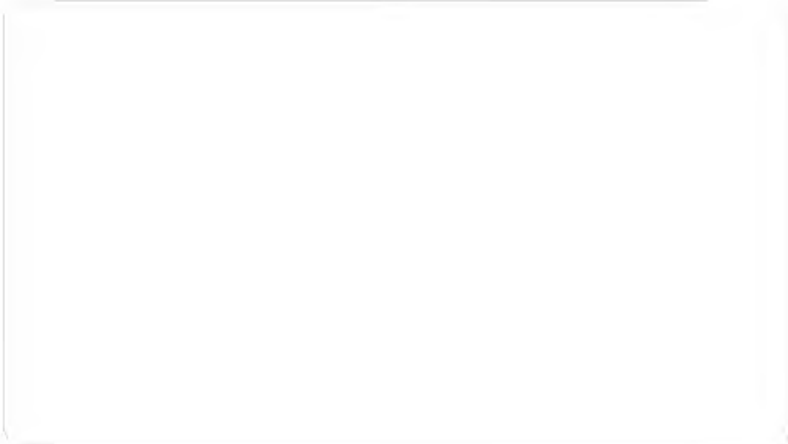
Constitutional lawyer Keith Wilson (@ikwilson), though not affiliated with APP, has provided analysis debunking the feasibility of statehood. In response to the same misleading infogra on December 24, 2025: a thorough explanation of U.S. political realities making Alberta's a state impossible.

**Fire the UCP** · Dec 23, 2025

@voice\_2020 · [Follow](#)

Don't let the Alberta Separatists fool you, joining the U.S.A. will be bad. The numbers don't add up.

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**Keith Wilson, K.C.**

@ikwilson · [Follow](#)

In the U.S., adding a new state is never neutral. Every state gets two senators, House seats, and votes for president, so statehood directly shifts political power.

That's why Republicans, including the Trump administration, oppose statehood for Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico: [Show more](#)

2:57 PM · Dec 24, 2025



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**Keith Wilson, K.C.**

@ikwilson · [Follow](#)



Heading into Christmas Eve dinner tonight. I put together a video called "Alberta Independence Myths Debunked" to tackle the most common myths and lay out the case clearly in favour of independence. Watch it before you sit down, and bring facts to the table. [Show more](#)

youtube.com  
 Alberta Independence Myths, Debunked: Christma...  
 Over Christmas and New Year's, you'll be around family and friends who don't all think the same wa...

1:17 PM · Dec 24, 2025



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The repeated circulation of this '51st state' claim, despite clear evidence to the contrary, su organised effort to confuse and divide Albertans. It echoes federal priorities, discouraging s inequities that drive our movement—where Alberta's wealth subsidises other regions while are sidelined.

**Rise Of Alberta**

@RiseOfAlberta · [Follow](#)



High-level U.S. State Department talks with Alberta independence leaders covered:

- support and potential recognition
- U.S. national security alignment

105

- ASIA & GULF pipeline corridors
- financial & pension stability measures

And no, Alberta is not becoming the 51st state.



3:16 PM · Dec 24, 2025



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Stay vigilant against attempts to infiltrate and sow discord within our ranks. Ottawa's interest in confusion and division; unity is our strength as we pursue true independence.

To support the Alberta Prosperity Project and help us counter these distortions, please contribute today at <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/>. Your contribution fuels education, petition efforts for our future.

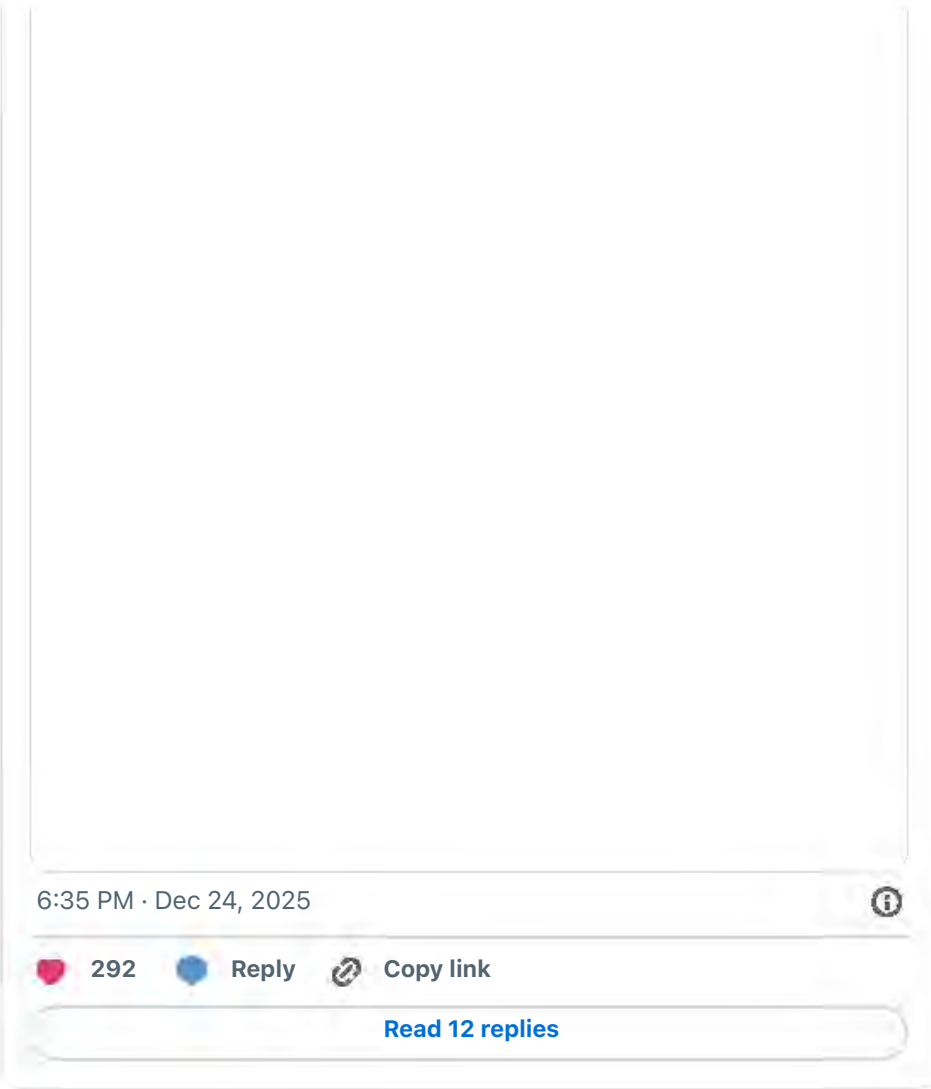
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You can download and read our Value of Freedom document here:

[albertaprospertyproject.com/wp-content/upl...](https://albertaprospertyproject.com/wp-content/upl...)



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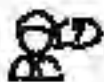
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## APPENDIX 8

### ADDENDUM

#### Report of Dr. Wesley Wark

d. April 30, 2026

I have been retained by Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and Mikisew Cree First Nation, to produce this addendum report to my expert opinion affidavit in the case of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation v. His Majesty The King in Right of Alberta, the Attorney General of Canada and the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta. My affidavit was filed on January 14, 2026.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this addendum is to address new developments and new information bearing on the potential for foreign interference in the context of the Alberta separatist petition and in light of the prospect of a referendum on Alberta independence being formally initiated as early as the Fall of 2026.

In submitting this addendum, I remain cognizant of my duty as an expert witness and not to be an advocate for any party.

I further assert that the information contained in this addendum is restricted to matters that fall within my area of expertise. My report is based solely on my professional expertise and knowledge. The text of this addendum report was written by me and is free of AI-generated content.

#### **The scope of this Addendum report**

There are several new developments that have occurred regarding the potential for foreign interference, particularly from the United States, in the Alberta separatist petition and prospective official referendum. These developments add significant weight to concerns that the Alberta government lacks the capabilities to monitor and act in the face of foreign interference. Moreover, information has emerged to suggest that the Alberta Prosperity Project, a leading backer of the separatist movement in the province, is unwilling and/or unable to police any foreign interference impacting on its efforts.

The scope of this addendum report thus covers the following:

1. New developments relevant to foreign interference
2. Additional information regarding the Province of Alberta's security capabilities to deal with foreign interference

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<sup>1</sup> Affidavit of Wesley Wark, Court of King's Bench of Alberta, Court file 2603 00086, January 14, 2026 (hereafter "Wark Affidavit").

3. Additional information on the federal security architecture for dealing with foreign interference and its disconnect from foreign interference affecting the separatist petition and independence referendum
4. New information indicating that the Alberta Prosperity Project and its successor the “Stay Free Alberta” movement are unwilling and/or unable to police any foreign interference affecting its efforts
5. New information on inauthentic accounts promoting Alberta separatism
6. Sensitivities and unpreparedness: heightened risks of foreign interference in a binary referendum process
7. Conclusion

## **1. New developments on foreign interference threats**

During January 2026, the Trump administration escalated a campaign to take over or annex Greenland, a semi-autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark. These demands caused a crisis for NATO and were a direct attack on the principle of sovereignty and self-determination, targeting a NATO ally. President Trump subsequently indicated in his speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos on January 21, 2026, that he would not use force to acquire the island but would keep other options open.<sup>2</sup> Negotiations to resolve the issue between the US, Denmark and Greenland are on-going. It has recently been stated that one of the concerns raised in the negotiations involves the question of US basing rights in Greenland should Greenlanders decide to pursue independence from the Kingdom of Denmark.<sup>3</sup>

Reporting led by the Wall Street Journal, based on anonymous sources, has indicated that the office of the US Director of National Intelligence issued a classified intelligence collection directive asking US intelligence agencies to identify people in Greenland who support US

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<sup>2</sup> President Donald Trump address to the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, January 21, 2026, <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2026/01/davos-2026-special-address-donald-trump-president-united-states-america/?ref=nl-huff-a-occ>

<sup>3</sup> Public address and Q and A by the NATO Secretary-General, Mark Rutte, at the Ronald Reagan Institute, Washington, D.C., April 9, 2026, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRj0iuZU7Ks>

objectives for the island.<sup>4</sup> Such an intelligence effort would be the starting point for a full-on clandestine interference campaign in Greenland. The government of Denmark responded by summoning the US ambassador to Denmark to discuss the issue.<sup>5</sup>

Threats aimed at Greenland and the special forces raid on Venezuela that led to the capture of President Nicolas Maduro on January 3, 2026, and a form of regime change in the country, are recent indicators of the extent to which the United States would go to use various capabilities for foreign interference.

They also underscore a dynamic set out in the US National Security Strategy published in December 2025, with its express determination to reconstitute the 19<sup>th</sup> century Monroe doctrine to ensure the dominance and protection of US interests, including economic interests, throughout the Western hemisphere.<sup>6</sup>

Unsurprisingly, senior Trump administration officials have been paying attention to the Alberta separatist movement. On January 22, 2026, the US Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent appeared on a right-wing TV station called “Real America’s Voice,” and answered a question about Alberta’s separatist movement by saying that Alberta is a natural partner for the US and mentioning a “rumour” about a referendum “on whether they want to stay in Canada or not.” Bessent refused to be drawn about what he knew about the referendum but said, “people are talking. People want sovereignty. They want what the US has got.”<sup>7</sup> The Treasury Secretary will be aware of the visits that representatives of the Alberta Prosperity Project have made to Washington and discussions they have had with State Department officials with close ties to the White House.<sup>8</sup>

Following the Treasury Secretary’s remarks, a Republican congressman from Tennessee, Andy Ogles had this to say:

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<sup>4</sup> Wall Street Journal, “US Orders intelligence agencies to step up spying on Greenland,” May 6, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/world/greenland-spying-us-intelligence-809c4ef2>

<sup>5</sup> The Guardian, “Denmark to summon US envoy over report of Greenland spying directive,” May 7, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/07/greenland-spying-surveillance>

<sup>6</sup> The White House, The National Security Strategy of the United States of America, November 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-National-Security-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> The Canadian Press/CBC, “Trump Cabinet member weighs in on Alberta separatism,” January 23, 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/trump-cabinet-member-weighs-in-on-alberta-separatism-9.7058082>; BBC News, “‘A natural partner’: US Treasury secretary weighs in on Alberta separatism,” January 23, 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy8ylqx0zw4o>

<sup>8</sup> Wark Affidavit, paras 80-89

“I think the people of Alberta would agree with the sentiment that they would prefer not to be part of Canada and to be part of the United States because we are winning day in and day out.”<sup>9</sup>

While it is perhaps unlikely that a Tennessee republican knows anything about opinion in Alberta or Canada, his remarks do echo sentiment expressed by US President Donald Trump when he aired his annexation/51<sup>st</sup> state threats against Canada.<sup>10</sup> The President’s then National Security Adviser, Mike Waltz, had also weighed in with a claim that Canadians would love to join the US.<sup>11</sup>

Rising concerns about the potential for foreign interference in the Alberta separatist movement have led the Alberta Premier, Danielle Smith, to take the step of requesting a security clearance from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service so that she can get briefings on any foreign interference happening in Alberta.<sup>12</sup> The Premier has also told the legislature that neither the RCMP nor CSIS have been “forthcoming” about security issues involving the separatist movement.<sup>13</sup>

Other Alberta Cabinet Ministers with security responsibilities for the province, including the Public Safety and Emergency Services Minister, and the Minister of Justice, have indicated they were not seeking to gain security clearances from the federal government. The Public Safety Minister, Mike Ellis, added that the procedure was “not as simple as people think. It’s not a phone call.”<sup>14</sup> He mentioned the need to build a secure facility to receive classified documents and briefings and to store protected material.

This new initiative on the part of the Premier is separate from any take-up that might have been contemplated as result of a July 2024 invitation on the part of the then-Clerk of the Privy

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<sup>9</sup> CBC, “The more Trump allies covet Alberta, the less popular separatism may get,” January 24, 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/analysis-alberta-separatism-scott-bessent-9.7059168>

<sup>10</sup> France 24 (English) news program, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHZ2dLMnYMU>

<sup>11</sup> The Daily Beast, “Trump Aide boldly claims Canadians would ‘love’ to join the US,” February 9, 2025, [https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-aide-boldly-claims-canadians-181041411.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAFcli-CuhbybQaV3Ej0LJ52kZKXys-4rkJdPpXRTpoGeMzL1LBLqFmYHfcDmI5teZCLAp\\_wrt2Kz9x-UEycVREjzE8fFBSRKHTxYUxRBa5j4CPW5fQX6\\_iUHGZW2VTqwk0xy891Clj9j2hbB7M-VbH4DG325sojcag2-tE5GX7](https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-aide-boldly-claims-canadians-181041411.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAFcli-CuhbybQaV3Ej0LJ52kZKXys-4rkJdPpXRTpoGeMzL1LBLqFmYHfcDmI5teZCLAp_wrt2Kz9x-UEycVREjzE8fFBSRKHTxYUxRBa5j4CPW5fQX6_iUHGZW2VTqwk0xy891Clj9j2hbB7M-VbH4DG325sojcag2-tE5GX7)

<sup>12</sup> Matthew Scace, The Globe and Mail, “Danielle Smith seeking national-security clearance from Canada’s spy service,” March 18, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/alberta/article-danielle-smith-national-security-clearance-from-csis-foreign/>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> CBC/The Canadian Press, “Alberta Premier Daniel Smith wants security clearance to be briefed about foreign interference,” March 19, 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-premier-security-clearance-9.7135541>

Council, John Hannaford, to his provincial and territorial counterparts, inviting them to apply for a top-secret level clearance.

In his letter, a copy of which was provided to the Canadian Press, Hannaford wrote that Canada was a target for foreign interference and other threats such as terrorism and cyber attacks and that:

“Addressing the growing threats posed by a rapidly evolving global security environment will require a whole of society response, hence it is now even more important that our governments begin to build a healthy, transparent dialogue informed by intelligence.”<sup>15</sup> Hannaford’s letter closed by saying:

“A security clearance will provide you with a significant opportunity to obtain relevant intelligence relating to Canada’s safety and security and help your organization to be positioned to address threats within your jurisdictions and provide the best advice in service to Canadians.”<sup>16</sup>

Judging from the Premier’s complaints about the RCMP and CSIS not being forthcoming, it seems clear that Alberta has yet to take advantage of the Clerk’s July 2024 offer, or try to contribute to building the “whole of society” response for foreign interference and other threats that Mr. Hannaford extolled.

As I have written, Premier’s Smuth’s request for a security clearance combines both a naivete about the reception and use of intelligence and, effectively, a confession that provincial security bodies “have no capacity to understand the potential of foreign interference targeting Alberta.”<sup>17</sup>

## **2. Additional information regarding Alberta’s security capabilities to deal with foreign interference**

In my affidavit report, I wrote that: “I am not aware of any evidence that either the Alberta government or the federal government have taken any concrete steps to monitor or respond to potential foreign interference threats during the petition process.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Jim Bronskill, The Canadian Press/CBC, “Senior civil servants at provincial, territorial level invited to seek top secret clearance,” September 19, 2024, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/provincial-clerk-privy-council-security-briefing-1.7327723>

<sup>16</sup> Copy of the Hannaford letter in my possession

<sup>17</sup> Wesley Wark, “So you want intelligence on foreign interference,” March 19, 2026, <https://wesleywark.substack.com/p/so-you-want-intelligence-on-foreign>

<sup>18</sup> Wark Affidavit, para 122.

I would extend this same concern to cover any subsequent holding of an official referendum on Alberta independence.

I testified on the limited information in the public domain about the province's own security apparatus, in particular the Provincial Security Intelligence Office (PSIO). It has no public website and produces no public reports. Its size and competencies are not known.

The only description of its organization known to me comes from testimony before the Alberta legislature on March 22, 2022, from the Assistant Deputy Minister for Public Safety, Martin Degrand.<sup>19</sup> In responding to a budget question, he noted that the provincial security and intelligence office consists of 3 “discrete units” and a “relationship” to a fourth. The three units included one responsible for advice on the physical security of personnel and buildings. A second was called the provincial intelligence office (or intelligence bureau), a threat assessment group. The third dealt with domestic violence issues. Then there is a relationship between the domestic violence unit and the chief firearms office. A recent job advertisement (October, 2025) referred to a position in the intelligence bureau. The job description was for an intelligence analyst, the “Intelligence collator,” with widespread duties in the PSIO intelligence bureau.<sup>20</sup>

Some PSIO records were released to the Public Order Emergency Commission, including a series of situation reports (sitreps) prepared by the Intelligence Bureau for Alberta government officials to provide current reporting on the series of protest actions that were part of the Freedom Convoy protest, including the Coutts, Alberta border blockade.<sup>21</sup> None of the reports, mostly based on open source intelligence and information provided by the RCMP, dealt with any foreign interference concerns affecting the convoy protests. They constituted what are often referred to as “spot,” or “tactical” intelligence and did not include any strategic outlooks or forecasts.

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<sup>19</sup> Legislative Assembly of Alberta, The 30<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 3<sup>rd</sup> session, Standing Committee on Families and Communities, Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General, “Consideration of Main Estimates,” March 17, 2022, [https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR\\_files/docs/committees/fc/legislature\\_30/session\\_3/20220317\\_0900\\_01\\_fc.pdf](https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/committees/fc/legislature_30/session_3/20220317_0900_01_fc.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> [https://mydocs.wfd.alberta.ca/media/bbbaspu3/jr76683\\_intelligence\\_collator\\_analyst\\_jd.pdf](https://mydocs.wfd.alberta.ca/media/bbbaspu3/jr76683_intelligence_collator_analyst_jd.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> The PSIO Intelligence bureau sitreps on the Freedom Convoy protests (#0 through #22, February 5-16, 2022), can be found on the website maintained by the Public Order Emergency Commission, by searching under Documents/Exhibits, Presentations and Reports and using the document search keyword “PSIO.” The first of the sitreps for February 5, 2022, is: <https://publicorderemergencycommission.ca/files/exhibits/ALB00001740.0001.pdf?t=1777432464>. The last details the end of the Coutts border blockade following RCMP arrests and the seizure of a weapons cache, as well as the overall impact of the invocation of the Emergencies Act.

On the same issue of capabilities and attention to foreign interference, it is worth noting that the province’s cyber security strategy, published in May 2024, makes no mention of foreign interference threats.<sup>22</sup>

As Premier Smith’s outreach to CSIS to acquire a security clearance indicates, the provincial government is fundamentally dependent on the federal government’s security and intelligence community to provide a capacity for monitoring and responding to foreign interference. The province has no substantial, dedicated capacity of its own. Nor would the provincial government be in a position to use its representation to Washington to press US officials on issues regarding foreign interference, given the fact that it does not have the capacity to generate its own threat warnings and analysis. Even were the provincial government to have some access to intelligence reporting from federal government agencies, it would not be able to use that material independently in discussions in Washington without the approval of the originators of that reporting—a principle known in intelligence and security circles as “originator control.”

### **3. Additional information on the federal security architecture for dealing with foreign interference**

The federal government maintains a robust capacity to deal with foreign interference threats. Some of that capacity is of long standing, including the role of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) to address threats of foreign influence activities, as set out in s2 of the CSIS Act.<sup>23</sup> The Communications Security Establishment (CSE) dates back to the immediate post-World War Two period. Its mandate includes both foreign signals intelligence and cyber security for the federal government and private sector infrastructure deemed of national importance.<sup>24</sup> The RCMP combines contract policing with a federal policing national security law enforcement mandate.<sup>25</sup>

More recent additions to the federal security and intelligence architecture were designed specifically to address foreign interference concerns in federal elections. These were a product of what was called the “Plan to Protect Canadian Democracy,” set out by the federal government in

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<sup>22</sup> Alberta’s Cyber Security Strategy, May 2024, <https://cyberalberta.ca/system/files/Government-of-Alberta-Cybersecurity-Strategy-2024.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> The Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-23/>

<sup>24</sup> The Communications Security Establishment Act, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-35.3/>

<sup>25</sup> RCMP Federal Policy, National Security, <https://rcmp.ca/en/federal-policing/national-security/about-federal-policing-national-security>

2018, largely driven by concerns about Russian interference attempts in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. These concerns were documented in a US intelligence community assessment, the classified version of which would have been shared with Canadian officials.<sup>26</sup> The two key elements of the plan were the establishment of the “Critical Election Incident Public Protocol (CEIPP),” and the Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force, commonly abbreviated as SITE TF.<sup>27</sup> The CEIPP created a process whereby, during a federal election writ period, with the government in ‘caretaker mode,’ a panel of five senior public servants, headed by the Clerk of the Privy Council, would convene to consider election security threats and were empowered to issue public warnings about such threats if they met the criteria for a public announcement. This process was designed to insulate any public warning from political direction or entanglement. The “Panel of Five,” in turn would be provided with a coordinated intelligence threat picture by the SITE TF, who were also empowered to brief security-cleared representatives of the political parties. The SITE TF was an intelligence fusion centre with representatives from CSIS, CSE, the RCMP and Global Affairs Canada, including the GAC Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).<sup>28</sup>

The GAC RRM is a unique unit, established in 2018, that deploys data scientists to detect foreign information threats (primarily disinformation) that are detrimental to the interests of Canada. These enumerated interests include Canada’s national sovereignty; elections, democratic institutions and national independence; defence and national security; economic security, territorial integrity and diplomacy; and Canada’s economic, scientific, industrial, societal or foreign policy interests.<sup>29</sup> It’s a very broad mandate but the RRM has limited resources and its capacities have been used almost exclusively to monitor foreign disinformation campaigns targeting federal election processes.<sup>30</sup> The extent to which it might be applied in an Alberta provincial context would depend on a number of factors, including direction from GAC, requests from the Alberta government for assistance, and the highly politically sensitive issue of monitoring foreign disinformation efforts with a US nexus. Even if GAC RRM assistance was requested by the provincial government, the federal government and Canada’s security and

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<sup>26</sup> US Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/3259051/Document-12-National-Intelligence-Council.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Elections, Final Report, Volume 1: Report Summary, January 2025, chapter 12, [https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/report\\_volume\\_1.pdf](https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/report_volume_1.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force, <https://www.canada.ca/en/democratic-institutions/services/protecting-democracy/security-task-force.html>

<sup>29</sup> Rapid Response Mechanism: Global Affairs Canada, <https://www.international.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/rapid-response-mechanism-mecanisme-reponse-rapide/index.aspx?lang=eng>

<sup>30</sup> See successive GAC G7 RRM annual reports, starting in 2021, available at: [https://www.international.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/rapid-response-mechanism-mecanisme-reponse-rapide/index.aspx?lang=eng#G7\\_RRM\\_annual](https://www.international.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/rapid-response-mechanism-mecanisme-reponse-rapide/index.aspx?lang=eng#G7_RRM_annual)

intelligence community would be hesitant to be labelled as engaging in an online monitoring effort, which could easily attract strong criticism and even drive conspiracy theories.”<sup>31</sup>

The GAC RRM did conduct one early experiment in collecting open-source data on an Alberta provincial election in April 2019. This early exercise was largely designed to learn lessons in advance of a projected Canadian federal election in October 2019. The RRM analysis found that while no significant foreign interference campaigns were detected, it did detect “coordinated inauthentic activity.” Among that activity, the RRM identified a “small group of anonymous [online] accounts pushing a pro-separatist movement in Alberta and the Prairies.” In its report, the RRM commented that “creating false separatist movements or amplifying domestic ones is a known tactic in foreign interference.”<sup>32</sup> It also indicated the difficulties attached to trying to link such accounts to a foreign actor.

This 2019 finding by RRM seems a striking prelude to news of inauthentic accounts recently uncovered regarding the separatist movement and the referendum issue in Alberta in 2026. These new findings will be discussed in **Section #5** below.

Legislation passed in June 2024, the “Foreign Interference and Security of Information Act,” tightened criminal sanctions against foreign interference, amended the CSIS Act to allow for the sharing of CSIS intelligence with entities other than the federal government, and introduced a Foreign Influence Transparency Registry (FITR).<sup>33</sup>

The efficacy of the FITR regime, designed to ensure transparency around persons engaged in foreign influence activities on the part of a foreign power has yet to be established. A proposed Commissioner, Anton Boegman, has only recently been announced, regulations are not in place, and the registry must be stood up.<sup>34</sup> While FITR might be a valuable tool in dealing with future referendum situations, it will not be operational in time to deter foreign interference operations prior to the potential calling of a referendum on Alberta’s independence in the Fall of 2026.

Amendments to the CSIS Act in the legislation provide the Service with a useful mandate to share intelligence beyond the federal government, including with the provinces and territories, but nothing in the new mandate overrides the requirement for the recipients of shared

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<sup>31</sup> Patrick Lennox, “Alberta’s Separatist Movement is a threat to national security,” *The Walrus*, February 2, 2026, <https://thewalrus.ca/albertas-separatist-movement-is-a-national-security-threat/>

<sup>32</sup> RRM Canada, unclassified, “Alberta Election Analysis,” released May 1, 2019, included in the records database of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference, [https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/foreign\\_interference\\_commission/Documents/Exhibits\\_and\\_Presentations/Exhibits/CAN043104.pdf](https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/foreign_interference_commission/Documents/Exhibits_and_Presentations/Exhibits/CAN043104.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> The Foreign Interference and Security of Information Act, June 2024, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/o-5/>

<sup>34</sup> Public Safety Canada, news release, “Minister Anandasangaree names proposed Foreign Influence Transparency Commissioner, March 13, 2026, <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2026/03/minister-anandasangaree-names-proposed-foreign-influence-transparency-commissioner.html>

intelligence to have systems in place to properly protect classified information. Nothing alters the principle of “need to know,” which determines whether an intelligence consumer has the right to access to certain intelligence reporting. Both of these constraints impact on the ways in which CSIS might be able to share intelligence on foreign interference threats with the province of Alberta.

Another constraint on CSIS with regard to sharing intelligence on foreign interference threats concerns its lawful authority to collect such intelligence in the first place. Section 2 of the CSIS Act makes clear that CSIS cannot collect intelligence on any of its enumerated threats, including foreign influence operations, if the activities in that space are deemed to constitute lawful advocacy.<sup>35</sup> The CSIS Director made this point during an interview with the CBC’s Power and Politics show on November 13, 2025.<sup>36</sup>

A newly tabled bill in the House of Commons, called the “Strong and Free Elections Act,” is designed to amend some aspects of the system in response to a small sub-set of the recommendations of the Public Inquiry on Foreign Interference. The proposed amendments primarily give Elections Canada more powers to police nomination contests and federal election campaigns.<sup>37</sup>

#### **4. New information indicating that the Alberta Prosperity Project and the “Stay Free Alberta” movement are unwilling and/or unable to police any foreign interference affecting its efforts**

If the available evidence points to the fact that the province of Alberta has a very limited capacity to monitor and respond to foreign interference threats in any referendum process, and no known policy, and that the interface with the federal government security and intelligence system is problematic and may be limited, to what extent are the leaders of the Alberta separatist movement prepared to police themselves to ensure their integrity and legitimacy?

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<sup>35</sup> Wesley Wark, “So you want intelligence on foreign interference,” March 19, 2026, <https://wesleywark.substack.com/p/so-you-want-intelligence-on-foreign>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6978393>

<sup>37</sup> Bill C-25, “The Strong and Free Elections Act,” <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/45-1/bill/C-25/first-reading>; Wesley Wark, “Ottawa’s Election Security Act is too little, too late,” <https://www.cigionline.org/articles/ottawas-election-security-fix-is-too-little-too-late/>

In any “whole-of-society” effort to counter foreign interference, this is an important question.

Up until early 2026, the Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) was the lead organization behind the Alberta separatist movement. It has subsequently ceased most activities and the campaign has switched, under the same leadership (e.g. Jeffrey Rath and Mitch Sylvestre), to a new group called “Stay Free Alberta” which is driving the effort to collect the necessary 178,000 signatures to force an independence referendum.<sup>38</sup> The underlying reasons for the switch have not been fully explained and a post that appeared on the APP website about it has been taken down.<sup>39</sup> The switch may have been prompted by a desire to remove from public attention and scrutiny some of the more controversial statements posted on the APP website about the APP’s right-wing politics, conspiracy theories, alignment with the US, support for the US National Security Strategy, and desire to seek US financial and political support for Alberta independence.<sup>40</sup>

Stay Free Alberta has its own website with links to Instagram posts.<sup>41</sup> One clear contrast with the APP website is that Stay Free Alberta posts much less about its political views.

In the meantime, Jeffrey Rath, on behalf of the Alberta Prosperity Project, is attempting to resist an injunction from the Alberta Elections Commissioner to produce financial and other records relating to its advertising in support of the referendum petition.<sup>42</sup> Rath has referred to “baseless allegations” and accused the Elections Commissioner of “bias.”<sup>43</sup>

Not only does Mr. Rath resist allowing for any transparency around financial donations to the APP, he has also simply dismissed the idea that foreign interference could have an impact on the separatist petition or subsequent referendum question on Alberta independence. He stated that the concerns around foreign interference amounted to nothing more than an argument about “Orange Man Bad.” Rath suggested that any arguments raised about the potential for foreign interference impacting the separatist petition were “embarrassing” to the Alberta Court of King’s Bench proceedings, and “shouldn’t be considered in any way whatsoever.”<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Matthew Scace, Globe and Mail, “Elections Alberta seeks injunction to force prominent separatist group to disclose finances, donors,” April 20, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/alberta/article-elections-alberta-seeks-injunction-for-prominent-separatist-group-to/>

<sup>39</sup> Exhibit 1 of Affidavit of Tracey McLean sworn February 1, 2026

<sup>40</sup> Wark affidavit, paras 69-78; Charles Rusnell, The Tyee, “The Wild Claims of Jeff Rath, Separatist Firebrand,” January 26, 2026, <https://thetyee.ca/News/2026/01/26/Wild-Claims-Jeff-Rath-Separatist-Firebrand/>

<sup>41</sup> Stay Free Alberta, <https://ayfreealberta.com>

<sup>42</sup> Charles Russell, The Tyee, “Alberta Prosperity Project faces court date over separation referendum role,” April 17, 2026, <https://thetyee.ca/News/2026/04/17/Alberta-Prosperity-Project-Court-Date-Separation-Referendum-Role/>

<sup>43</sup> Ibid

<sup>44</sup> Jonny Wakefield, The National Post, “Separatist lawyer fires back at claims Alberta independence petition breaches treaty rights,” April 9, 2026, <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/separatist-lawyer-fires-back-at-claims->

Similarly, Mitch Sylvestre, who is featured on the “Stay Alberta Free” website and is a leading proponent of the separatist petition, has argued that “this foreign interference thing, as far as I’m concerned, is a fairy tale up to this point.”<sup>45</sup>

Given that the leading figures in the Alberta separatist petition simply deny any possibility of foreign interference impacting on the petition and on a possible referendum question, they clearly cannot be relied on for any vigilance or self-policing to respond to any foreign interference attempts.

Concerns about lack of vigilance on behalf of separatist proponents have been further ratcheted up by news that an Alberta separatist group, the “Centurion Project,” gained access to the province’s voter database and posted this information publicly.<sup>46</sup> This creates a huge risk and a huge opportunity for any foreign interference actors to gain detailed contact information for Alberta voters which could be used for malicious disinformation and malinformation campaigns. It is an open door to access.

## 5. New information on inauthentic accounts promoting Alberta separatism

One of the strongest pieces of evidence to recently emerge to counter any suggestion that foreign interference in the Alberta separatist petition or subsequent referendum is purely hypothetical, comes from a recent forensic examination conducted by authors associated with the Canadian Digital Media Research Network (CDMRN). The CDMRN is part of the Media Ecosystem Observatory, a joint project of the University of Toronto and McGill University. The authors analysed a network of inauthentic YouTube accounts promoting Alberta separatism which had acquired nearly 40 million views. One of the key takeaways from their report is that this network:

“...is targeting Alberta audiences, exploiting genuinely held grievances and repurposing them to advance narratives that normalize the prospect of secession and US annexation.”<sup>47</sup>

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[alberta-independence-petition-breaches-treaty-rights](https://x.com/JeffreyRWRath/status/2043030115446411483?s=20); Jeffrey Rath post on X, <https://x.com/JeffreyRWRath/status/2043030115446411483?s=20>

<sup>45</sup> Andrew Jeffrey, CBC News, “Alberta separatist leader unconcerned about influence of YouTube ‘slopaganda’ videos,” April 22, 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/slopaganda-youtube-alberta-separatism-9.7171993>

<sup>46</sup> The Globe and Mail, “Alberta separatist group ordered to pull down list of voters following court injunction,” April 30, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/alberta/article-elections-alberta-confirms-potential-data-breach/>

<sup>47</sup> Canadian Digital Media Research Network, CDMRN Incident Report, “Slopaganda: The Inauthentic YouTube Network selling secession to Albertans,” April 21, 2026,

The report also found that the YouTube videos were using AI avatars, deep fakes, and paid American voice actors, and were replete with lies, thus amounting to a disinformation campaign designed to skew messaging in favour of Alberta secessionism and union with the United States.<sup>48</sup>

The authors state that they are flagging their report as a potential “covert influence operation,” given the lack of identifiers in the videos that would link them to real individuals or organizations. Production of the YouTube videos, they contend, involved a “significant production effort.”<sup>49</sup>

More concrete findings on who might be behind the production of these coordinated videos is difficult without the cooperation of social media platforms.<sup>50</sup> However, YouTube’s response to the controversy was simply to claim that “YouTube doesn’t allow spam, scam or other deceptive practices that take advantage of the YouTube community.”<sup>51</sup>

A Radio Canada International (RCI) investigation managed to dig deeper and found Dutch YouTube content creator accounts behind several of the YouTube videos.<sup>52</sup> But the individuals RCI unearthed are clearly only part of a content creation chain, and not the originating ‘masterminds.’ Even if ultimate authorship or sponsorship cannot be ascertained, the intent of this disinformation campaign is clear—to deliberately mislead Albertans and to interfere in the petition and referendum process.

It is a warning sign.

## **6. Sensitivities and unpreparedness: heightened risks of foreign interference in a binary referendum process**

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[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65427f5b140649321cd829e9/t/69e6b6909a2cee6840c02f6d/1776727696427/incident\\_slopaganda\\_final.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65427f5b140649321cd829e9/t/69e6b6909a2cee6840c02f6d/1776727696427/incident_slopaganda_final.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> Ibid, Key Takeaways, p.1; p. 6

<sup>49</sup> Ibid, p. 6

<sup>50</sup> Ibid, p. 10

<sup>51</sup> Quoted in Radio Canada International (RCI), “Dutch YouTube creators behind Alberta separatist videos getting millions of views,” April 23, 2026, <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/rci/en/news/2248640/dutch-youtube-creators-behind-alberta-separatist-videos-getting-millions-of-views#:~:text=Berry%20provided%20CBC%20News%20with,when%20asked%20for%20further%20details>.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid

In 2016, the UK government launched a citizen referendum on whether the UK should exit the European Union. The referendum was overseen by the UK Electoral Commission. The Conservative PM who called the referendum, David Cameron, campaigned for the “Remain” side. The UK electorate voted by a slight majority (51.9%) to leave the EU. PM Cameron subsequently resigned. It took four years for exit arrangements to be fully in place. Subsequent polling has shown an upswing to a majority polling in favour of a UK return to the EU.<sup>53</sup>

The Electoral Commission’s report on the conduct of the Referendum noted that its public opinion research found that 52% of respondents disagreed that the conduct of the referendum campaign was fair and balanced. 32% disagreed strongly. A high proportion of respondents (44%) also disagreed that the spending and funding of campaigning entities was open and transparent. The Electoral Commission urged stronger rules and guidelines for any future referenda.<sup>54</sup>

The UK’s Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC), on which the Canadian National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians is modelled, issued a report in July 2020 on the threats posed by Russia to the UK. It found that the UK was “clearly” a target for Russia’s disinformation campaigns and political influence operations.<sup>55</sup> As part of its report the ISC conducted a case study of Russian interference in the 2016 EU Referendum. It found that the British intelligence community exercised “extreme caution” around involvement in the contentious EU referendum, which the ISC condemned as “illogical.”<sup>56</sup> The ISC also condemned the failure of the UK government to properly assess the question of potential successful interference in the EU referendum, especially when it came to the use of open-source intelligence on which the UK intelligence community could have augmented (‘stood on the shoulders of’) with more sensitive collection capabilities.<sup>57</sup> It argued that the UK intelligence community should have produced a post-referendum assessment of Russian attempts at

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<sup>53</sup> The Guardian, “More than half of Britons support rejoining the EU 10 years after Brexit,” 17 April 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/apr/17/half-britons-support-rejoining-eu-10-years-brexit-vote>

<sup>54</sup> Electoral Commission, “Report: 23 June 2016 Referendum on the UK membership of the EU,” <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/research-reports-and-data/our-reports-and-data-past-elections-and-referendums/report-23-june-2016-referendum-uks-membership-european-union>

<sup>55</sup> Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament, “Russia,” July 21, 2020, para. 31, [https://isc.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CCS207\\_CCS0221966010-001\\_Russia-Report-v02-Web\\_Accessible.pdf](https://isc.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CCS207_CCS0221966010-001_Russia-Report-v02-Web_Accessible.pdf)

<sup>56</sup> Ibid, para 40

<sup>57</sup> Ibid, para 46

interference, similar to that conducted by the US Director of National Intelligence in the aftermath of the US presidential election in 2016.<sup>58</sup>

The approach of the UK intelligence community to the sensitivities of the 2016 UK EU referendum may well be replicated in the Canadian system in response to foreign interference concerns in the Alberta separatist petition and potential Fall referendum. This sensitivity was on display during an interview conducted by the CBC with the CSIS Director, Dan Rogers, in November 2025. Mr. Rogers pointed out that CSIS was forbidden by its mandate to collect intelligence on any lawful advocacy associated with the separatist movement in Alberta.<sup>59</sup> He mentioned the need for government agencies to be “attentive” to the prospect of foreign interference and talked about the role of the SITE TF and the GAC RRM. But as I have discussed above, the mandates of the SITE TF and the GAC RRM are focused on interference in federal election processes. When the CSIS Director was pressed on whether binary referendum question posed an extra vulnerability, he said he couldn’t quantify this.<sup>60</sup>

As UK voters experienced during the Brexit referendum, passions can run high and political polarization can be acute. This offers a perfect space for foreign interference, especially online.

The reality is that a contentious binary referendum question offers a highly concentrated and accessible target, allowing for a malign foreign actor to engage by measuring societal vulnerabilities to information operations. Such a referendum is the juiciest of targets for foreign interference and we have in this country no experience of the vulnerabilities opened up to the online information universe in the course of a secessionist referendum.<sup>61</sup>

## Conclusion

The threat of foreign interference, animated by US or other foreign threat actors, in the separatist petition and in any subsequent referendum question, is real and has intensified since the beginning of 2026.

The Alberta government has not demonstrated any capacity or policy to address the threat and its outreach to the federal government for assistance appears limited.

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<sup>58</sup> Ibid, para 47

<sup>59</sup> CBC, Power and Politics, interview with Daniel Rogers by David Cochrane, November 13, 2025, timestamp 8:13 to 9:45, <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6978393>

<sup>60</sup> ibid

<sup>61</sup> Patrick Lennox, “Can Alberta Protect its Secession Vote from Trump,” *The Walrus*, April 14, 2026, <https://thewalrus.ca/can-alberta-keep-foreign-meddling-out-of-its-secession-vote/>

The federal government possesses capabilities that could assist the Alberta government to identify and respond to foreign interference threats but there is no evidence that these capabilities have been substantially called upon or mobilized.

The Alberta government appears to be sleep-walking into a situation where their direct democracy processes could be fundamentally interfered with by malign foreign actors. Something similar occurred in the context of British government inaction during the Brexit referendum in 2016.

A binary referendum question offers a highly concentrated, easily identified target for foreign interference. It requires good intelligence and strong defences, not non-existent ones. It requires express policy and a willingness, ability, and non-partisan system, similar to the federal one, to issue warnings to the public.