

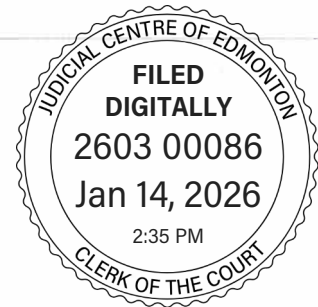
COURT FILE NUMBER 2603 00086

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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 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.¹

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

¹ 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

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 (2nd 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.”² 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?”

² 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.”³ Section 12(1) of the CSIS Act authorizes CSIS to collect, analyse and retain intelligence on such threats and report to the government.⁴

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.⁵

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

³ Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-23.pdf>

⁴ Ibid

⁵ 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.⁶

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."⁷ 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."⁸

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.

⁶ 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>

⁷ 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>

⁸ 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.”⁹ 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.¹⁰

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.”*¹¹

⁹ Ibid, p. 7

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ 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.¹² 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

¹² 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.”¹³ He described social media as an “accelerant for misinformation and disinformation,” which, he found, “clearly played a role in the protests.”¹⁴ He described it as a “pervasive” phenomenon, even if its overall impact could not be precisely identified.¹⁵

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.”¹⁶

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.”¹⁷ 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

¹³ 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>

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 142

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid, p. 30

¹⁷ 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).¹⁸

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.¹⁹

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.²⁰ A method for raising funds using cryptocurrencies was also created for the Freedom Convoy. It raised

¹⁸ 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>

¹⁹ 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>

²⁰ Ibid, p. 101

relatively little money (\$7,685.90) but 50 % of the funds were never accounted for, according to the RCMP.[\]

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.”²¹

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.”²²

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

²¹ 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>

²² 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.²³ 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.”²⁴

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).²⁵ 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.”²⁶ This study utilised an analysis of 200,000 X accounts, the overwhelming majority (c. 92.6%) could be characterized as either far-right or

²³ 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

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Jean-Christopher 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>

²⁶ 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.”²⁷ The research also demonstrated, not surprisingly, that significant sharing occurred between Canadian and US twitter ecosystems.²⁸ 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.”²⁹

49. A survey of Canadians published by Disinfowatch in 2024 attempted to assess vulnerability to pro-Russian disinformation narratives, according to party political affiliation.³⁰ 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.”³¹

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

²⁷ Ibid, p. 305

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Ibid, p. 309

³⁰ 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/>

³¹ 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.”³² 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.”³³

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.³⁴

³² 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/>

³³ Ibid

³⁴ 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.³⁵ 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.³⁶ 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,

³⁵ 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>

³⁶ 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, 2023.³⁷ 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.³⁸ 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.³⁹

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.

³⁷ 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>

³⁸ Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference, Terms of Reference, <https://www.canada.ca/en/democratic-institutions/general/terms-reference.html>

³⁹ 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.”⁴⁰

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.”⁴¹ 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.⁴² 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.”⁴³

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.”⁴⁴ The relevance of this

⁴⁰ PIFI, Final report, Volume 1, Report Summary, p. 38, https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/report_volume_1.pdf

⁴¹ Ibid, p. 39

⁴² Ibid, pp. 39-42

⁴³ Ibid, p. 16

⁴⁴ 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."⁴⁵

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

⁴⁵ 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 51st 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).⁴⁶

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.”⁴⁷ 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.⁴⁸

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.⁴⁹

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.

⁴⁶ <https://albertaproprosperityproject.com/about-us/> (TAB 1)

⁴⁷ <https://albertaproprosperityproject.com/what-does-alberta-sovereignty-mean/> (TAB 2)

⁴⁸ Government of Canada, “COVID-19 epidemiology update: Current situation” (September 2024), <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/> (TAB 3)

⁴⁹ 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.⁵⁰

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.⁵¹ 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

⁵⁰ The Heritage Foundation, "Project 2025," https://static.heritage.org/project2025/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf

⁵¹ <https://albertaproprosperityproject.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 2025.⁵² 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.”⁵³

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 51st 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,

⁵² <https://albertaprospertyproject.com/featured/independence-movements-around-the-world-seeking-international-support/> (TAB 4)

⁵³ 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.⁵⁴

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.⁵⁵

84. The Keith Wilson video discusses the legal path to independence for Alberta, mentioning aspects of Supreme Court decisions.⁵⁶ 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

⁵⁴ YouTube interview with Rachel Parker December 24, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voRmBN-JF2k&t=3s> (TAB 5) – Unofficial Transcript.

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ Keith Wilson embedded YouTube video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CoLUYP0xs8> (TAB 6) – Unofficial Transcript)
<https://albertaproprosperityproject.com/featured/independence-movements-around-the-world-seeking-international-support/> (TAB 4)

representative from a Florida district, aiming to make Greenland a 51st state.⁵⁷ 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 51st 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.”*⁵⁸

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 51st state. I also assert that disputation over this claim has little real

⁵⁷ The Hill, “Republican Introduces bill seeking to make Greenland 51st state,” January 12, 2026, <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5685118-fine-introduces-greenland-bill/>

⁵⁸ APP, “Debunking the ‘51st 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 51st 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.⁵⁹

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."⁶⁰ 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.

⁵⁹ 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>

⁶⁰ 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.”⁶¹

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.⁶² 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

⁶¹ 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>

⁶² 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.⁶³

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.⁶⁴ 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 2024.⁶⁵

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.⁶⁶ 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

⁶³ 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/>

⁶⁴ 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>

⁶⁵ 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>

⁶⁶ 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.”⁶⁷

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.⁶⁸

101. It also lays down a doctrine of great power influence in the world, calling this the “timeless truth” of international relations.⁶⁹

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 19th century Monroe Doctrine, or, more colloquially (but to the obvious pleasure of the US President), the “Donroe” doctrine.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ Kingdom of Denmark, “Intelligence Outlook 2025, “ December 2025, <https://www.fedis.dk/globalassets/fe/dokumenter/2025/-fe-intelligenceoutlook-25-.pdf>

⁶⁸ 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>

⁶⁹ Ibid, p. 10

⁷⁰ 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.”⁷¹ The US will readjust its military presence to emphasize dominance in the region and will use “tariffs and reciprocal trade agreements as powerful tools.”⁷² 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.”⁷³ 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.”⁷⁴

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.

⁷¹ Ibid, p. 17,

⁷² Ibid, p. 16

⁷³ Ibid, p. 19

⁷⁴ 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 51st state.⁷⁵

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 51st 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

⁷⁵ 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.”⁷⁶

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.”⁷⁷

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.”⁷⁸

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

⁷⁶ Tony Keller, Opinion, “A referendum in Alberta could be Trump’s 51st state moment,” January 13, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-a-referendum-in-alberta-could-be-donald-trumps-51st-state-opportunity/>

⁷⁷ 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>

⁷⁸ 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 51st state.”⁷⁹

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.⁸⁰

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.

⁷⁹ 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>

⁸⁰ 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."

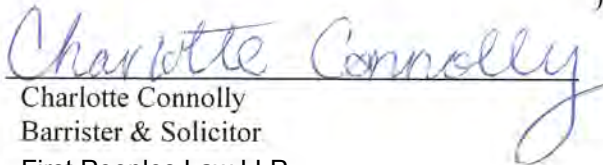
121. Existing efforts at the Federal government level to protect against foreign interference are aimed at safeguarding federal elections and byelection contests. While these capabilities, such as the Rapid Response Mechanism at Global Affairs Canada, which monitors foreign disinformation campaigns, 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.)
)
)


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P: 613-722-9091


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ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT



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TRENDING: < > eNewsletter: Momentum is Growing: Alberta Sovereignty Petition is Live – Act Now!

This is Exhibit "1" to the Affidavit of Dr. Wesley Wark, affirmed before me on January 14, 2026


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 of Albertans" will benefit, regardless of leanings.
Alberta sovereignty pragmatically persecution; politically, economically, and culturally 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 et Libre).
3. Alberta will gather unto its sovereignty.
4. Alberta will create the conditions for a new Alberta.

and with Albertans.

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 the Clarity Act, the Citizen's Supreme Court's analysis, the Secession Reference (Secession), and the status of Sovereign Nations not limited to:
 1. an interim governing a Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities (already followed by a full conference to be voted on by citizenship;
 2. citizenship;
 3. national debt, pension security, veteran benefits, rights,
 4. healthcare and education;
 5. immigration;
 6. business relocation to

- business 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.







Alberta Prosperity Project

The Referendum Movement for a Sovereign Alberta



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The Alberta Prosperity Project doesn't receive any government funding. We rely on our generous supporters to help fund our educational efforts. If you support our mission to empower the Alberta government to restructure Alberta's relationship with Canada by mobilizing public support for a referendum on sovereignty, please consider making a donation today:

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TRENDING

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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

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ALBERTA PROSPERIT

What does it mean?

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



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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.

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COVID-19 epidemiology update: Summary

Last updated: 2024-10-01  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

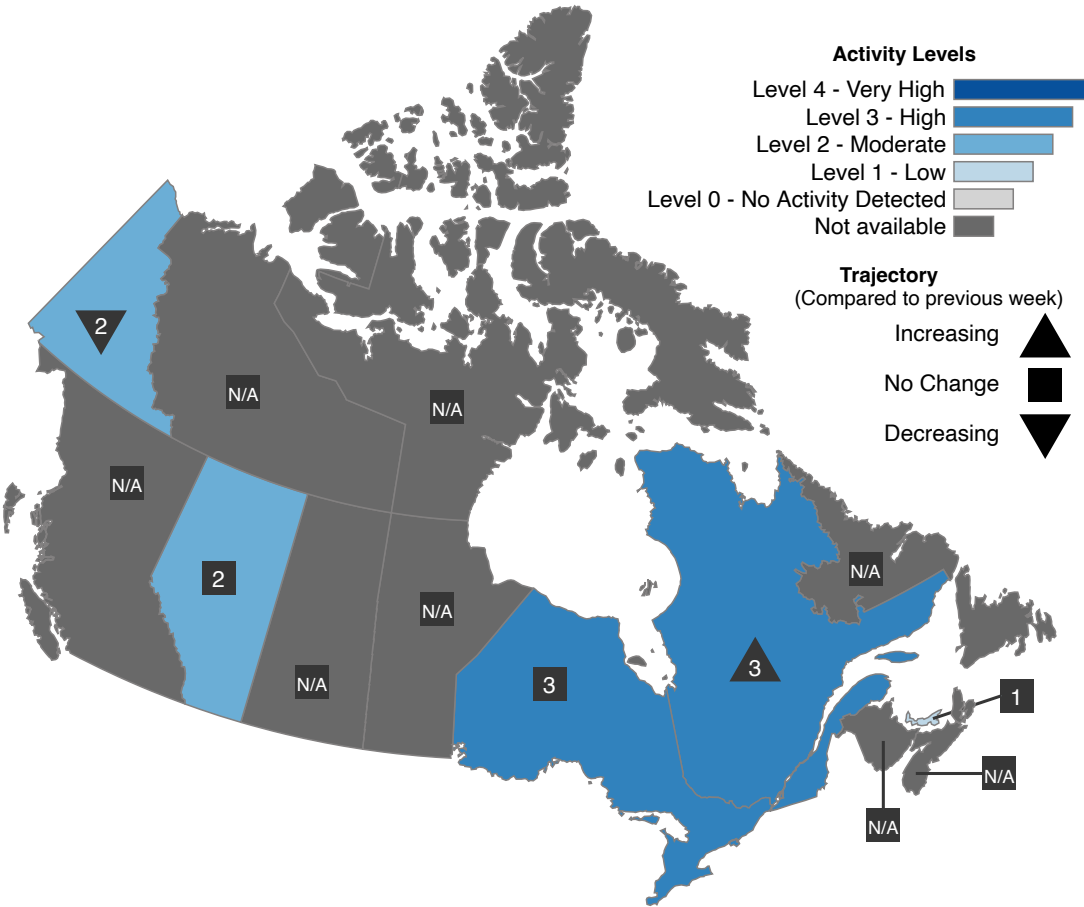
- Nationally, [the JN.1* group continues to be the dominant lineage group in Canada](#), with KP.3* sub-lineages like KP.3.1.1 being the primary sub-lineages showing growth.
- On September 14, KP.3.1.1 is projected to have represented 68% of sequences, with the next closest lineage being KP.2.3 at only 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.

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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](#)
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- [Quebec](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
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- [Northwest Territories](#)
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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](#)

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COVID-19 wastewater surveillance dashboard

Trend data about the levels of COVID-19 in the wastewater.



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Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses that have been administered in Canada.

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058

058

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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





SHARE




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 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—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 concerning Alberta’s independence. Jeff Rath recently completed his third trip and is 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](#)

2:20 PM · Dec 16, 2025

3.1K

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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

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Jeffrey Rath

@JeffreyRWRath · Follow

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

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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 biggest trading partner, accounting for the majority of our exports. Seeking alliances with th exploring support from like-minded nations in Latin America—strengthens our position with compromising our autonomy. These are strategic partnerships, not dependencies, aimed a 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

 1K

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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
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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

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(This post questions the authority behind the meetings and tags media outlets, while replying to 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.

https://albertaprospertyproject.com/featured/independence-movements-around-the-world-seeking-international-support/

Page 6 of 17

065

065

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

[Read 4 replies](#)

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

066

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 law. As constitutional lawyer Keith Wilson (@ikwilson) notes, the Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed a legitimate process for secession if pursued clearly and fairly. Claims of treason are baseless as the process is 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 U.S. 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, 2025)

Trump's INSANE PLAN for Alberta Independence



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 being controlled and 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 once 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 the 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, increase export capacity, and a North-South pipeline to the Gulf Coast to increase routing options and overcome legacy constraints.

067

067

- **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 communicat

Key outcomes from high-level U.S. State Department talks:

Rise Of Alberta

@RiseOfAlberta · Follow

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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.

068

068

3:16 PM · Dec 24, 2025

538

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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:

Rise Of Alberta

@RiseOfAlberta · Follow

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

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069

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1:50 PM · Dec 24, 2025



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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:

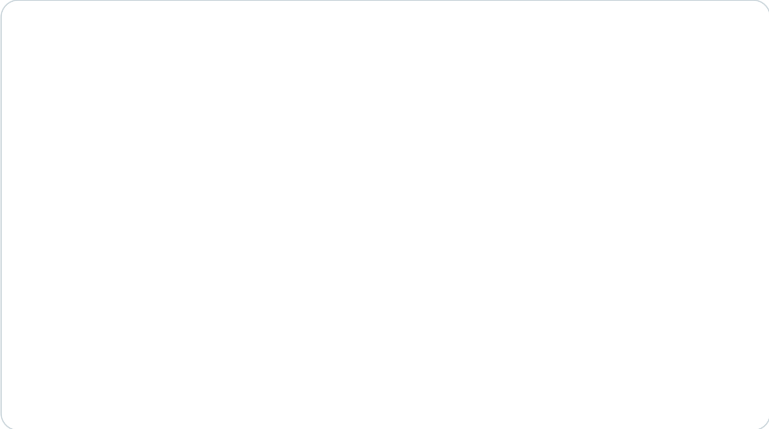
Rise Of Alberta @RiseOfAlberta · Follow



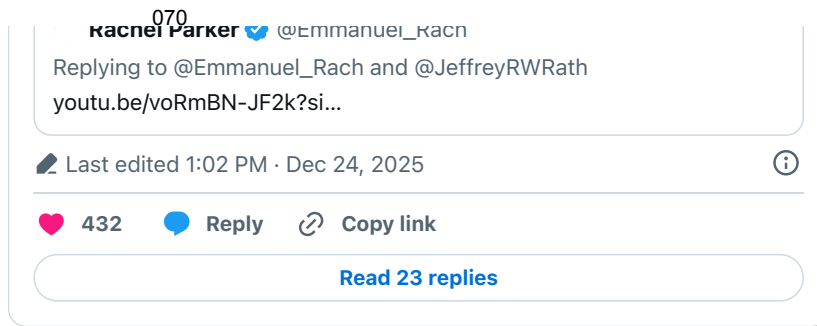
MUST WATCH: Jeff Rath reveals U.S. State Department talks on supporting and recognizing an independent Alberta.

They're considering a \$500M credit line and seeing an Alberta-to-Pacific pipeline via the U.S. as a national security interest.

Must Watch Show more



070



(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

Keith Wilson K.C. | Constitutional Lawyer



Watch o

In this video, Wilson explains the U.S. preparedness to recognise 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
- 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 i movement.

071



To clarify for readers:

- The Alberta Prosperity Project (APP) has concentrated its diplomatic efforts on multiple Washington, D.C., where representatives including Jeff Rath, Mitch Sylvestre, and Dr. have engaged U.S. officials on matters of mutual energy security, trade, and potential recognition. These visits focus exclusively on strengthening ties with our largest trading ensure economic stability in a sovereign future.
- The planned outreach to Latin America (specifically Argentina and El Salvador in early separate initiative led by Cameron Davies of the Republican Party of Alberta, an entire 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 st sharing the common goal of achieving greater autonomy and prosperity for our province.

Alberta Prosperity Project's Diplomatic Engagements in Washington: Building for a Sovereign Future

Seeking international awareness and goodwill is a well-established and entirely legitimate p 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 in 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 the Alberta flag. Critics, including Gil McGowan of the Alberta Federation of Labour and journalist Stephen Leveson, have repeatedly twisted our engagements with U.S. officials into allegations of annexation, ignoring our clear rejections of such ideas.

No 51st State for Alberta:

Rise Of Alberta

@RiseOfAlberta · Follow

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No, Alberta is not becoming the 51st state.

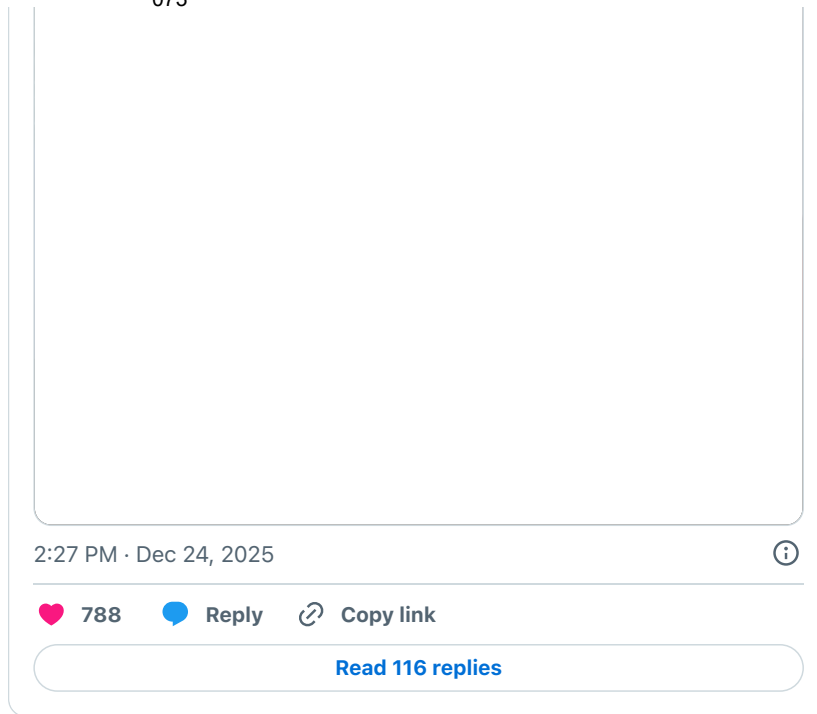
Alberta joining the U.S. as the 51st state is off the table.

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.

Watch on X

073

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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 and get 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. 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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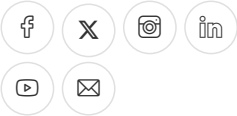
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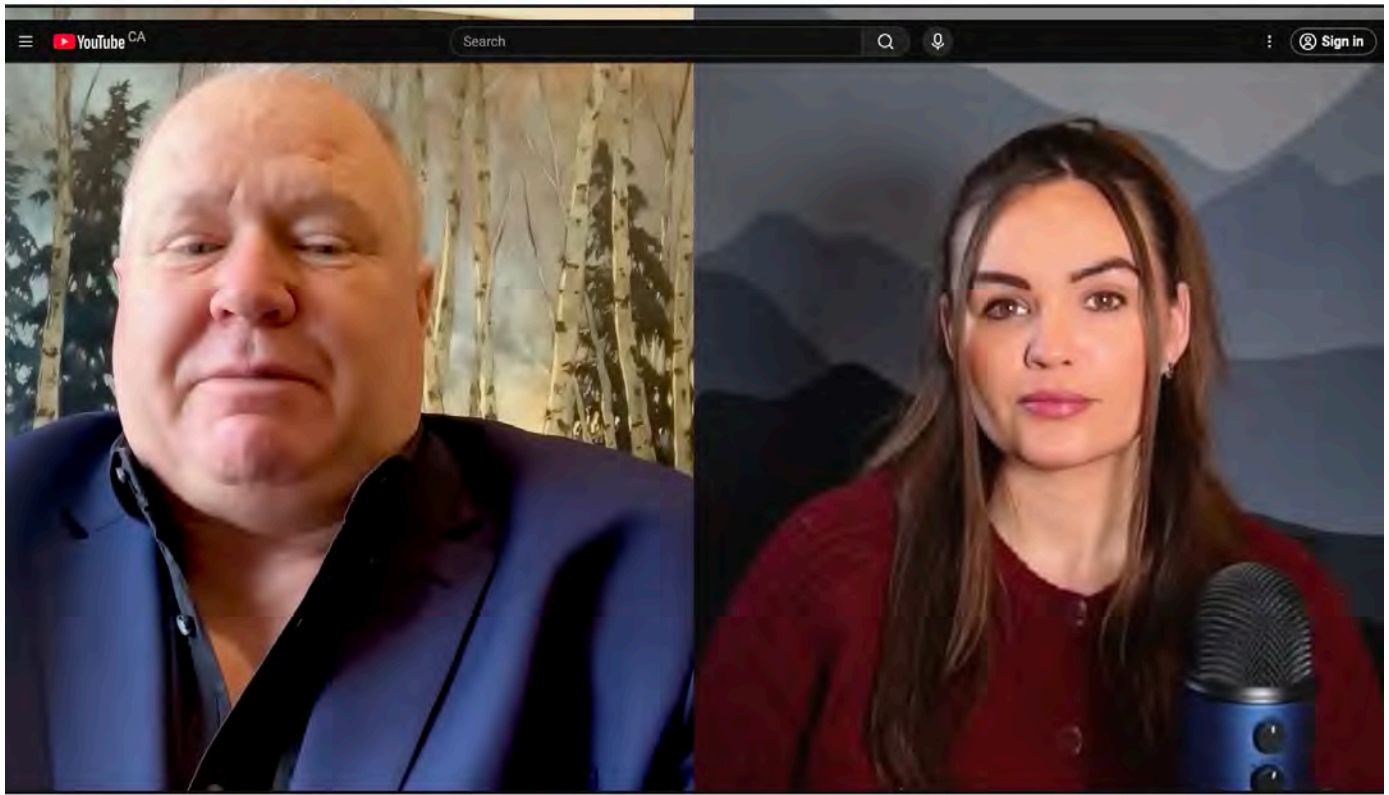
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***On December 24, 2025, Rachel Parker,
Trump's INSANE PLAN for Alberta Independence,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voRmBN-JF2k>***



Trump's INSANE PLAN for Alberta Independence

Rachel Parker
14K subscribers

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78,401 views Premiered Dec 24, 2025

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.

Tune in now!

How this was made

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MUSK & HEGSETH
Watch: Pete Hegseth,

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 render 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

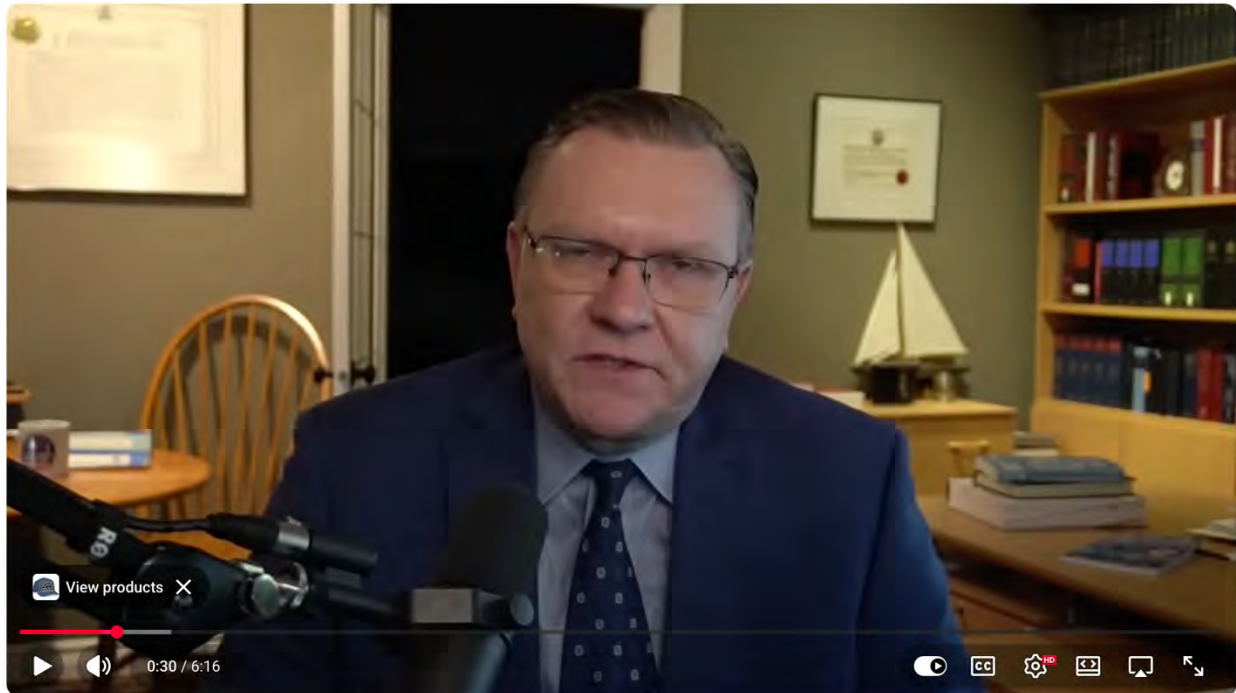
Keith Wilson Youtube,

The US Will Recognize Alberta's Independence,

December 26, 2025, available

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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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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 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.

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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 threat to Alberta for U.S. annexation, ignoring evidence to the contrary while promoting views that undermine the province'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

098

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 while linking to a news article about diplomatic engagements, again twisting discussions of alliances into allegations of annexation."

Gil McGowan

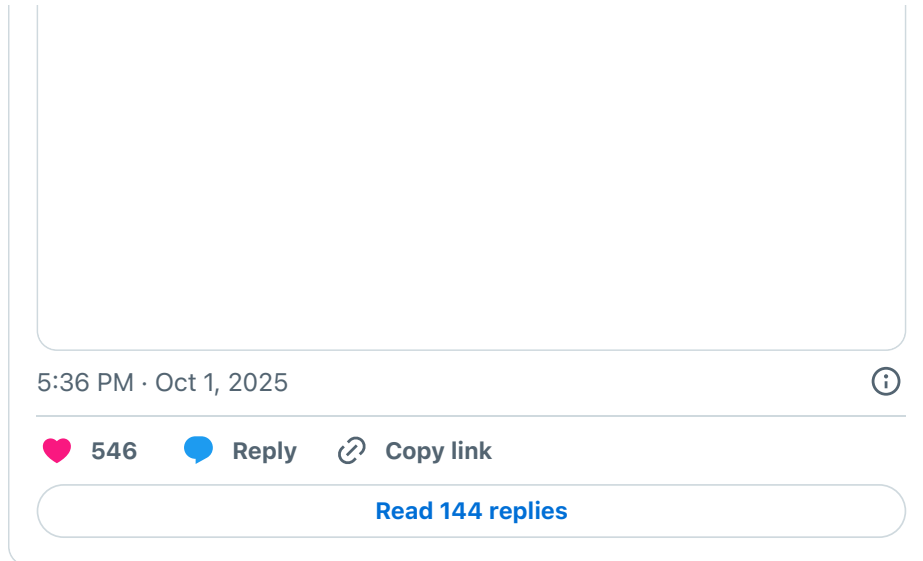
@gilmcgowan · [Follow](#)



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...

100

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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 our citizens—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 Scott Maher, a long-time Mainstream Media (MSM) journalist and self-styled Laurentian proletarian who is deeply embedded in Ottawa's political circles, growing cozy with the federal establishment he covers. On December 23, 2025, Maher—a veteran commentator who relocated from Ottawa to Nova Scotia after decades of reporting from the capital—directly replied to the Alberta Prosperity Project's comment on the '51st State' myth.

Global News' misleading U.S. flag imagery, insisting: "Do not be deceived by this. Alberta is about joining the USA."



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 the status quo 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 from opponents and supporters who set the record straight, underscoring that genuine independence means ending Ottawa's overreach—not trading one master for another. Such interventions from entrenched, Ottawa-aligned media figures only highlight how threatened the Laurentian consensus remains by the prospect of 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."



102

102

Watch on X

Jeffrey Rath ✓

@JeffreyRWRath · [Follow](#)

It is clear that the overwhelming majority of the Alberta Independence movement favour Alberta Independence and DO NOT favour US Statehood.

3:44 PM · Dec 24, 2025



182



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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.

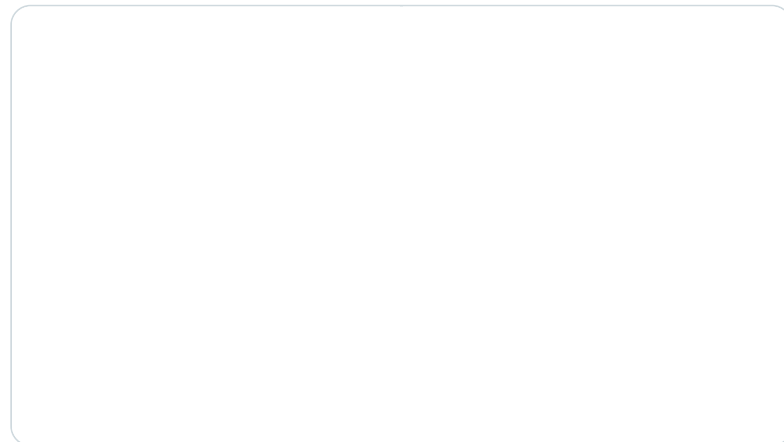
Fire the UCP · Dec 23, 2025



@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.

[#ForeverCanadian](#)
[#CanadaStrong](#)



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](#)

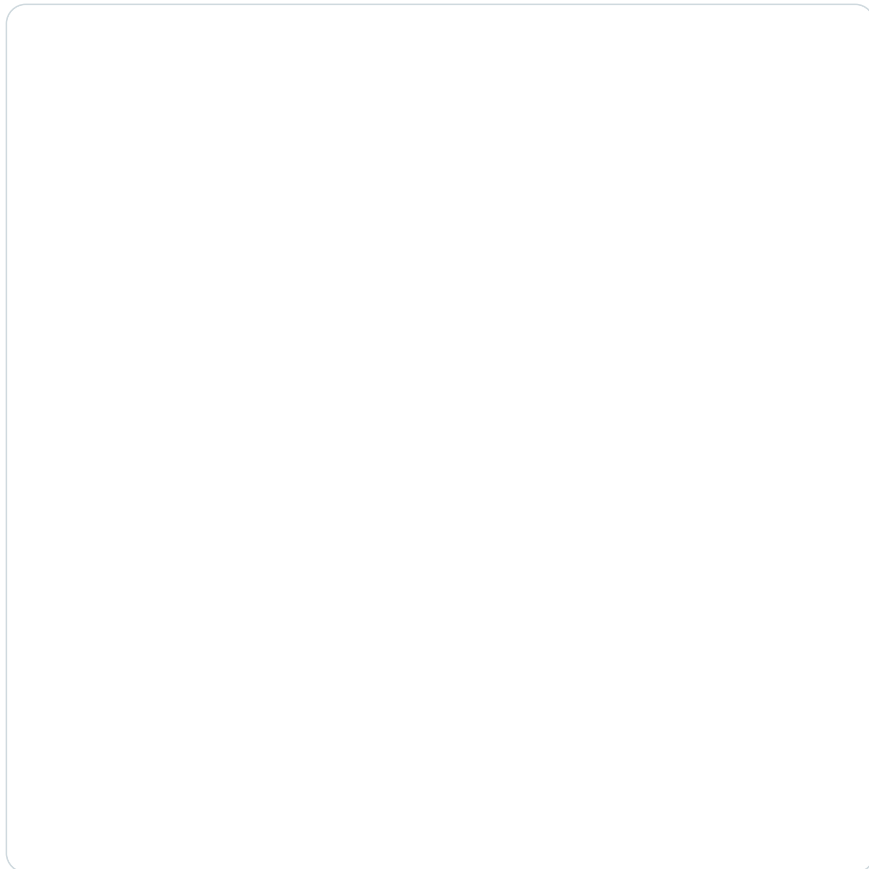


High-level U.S. State Department talks with Alberta independence leaders covered:

- support and potential recognition
- U.S. national security alignment

- 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.

Alberta Prosperity Project ✓


@ABProsperityPrj · [Follow](#)





You can download and read our Value of Freedom document here:

albertaprospertyproject.com/wp-content/upl...

6:35 PM · Dec 24, 2025

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Review our full policies here:

Alberta Prosperity Project

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Read about our Proposed Policies and Governance for a Sovereign Alberta here: drive.google.com/file/d/1leLHeV...

6:37 PM · Dec 24, 2025

510

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