

My fellow Albertans

Today, I wish to speak to you about the future of Alberta and Canada.

Albertans have always been loyal, proud and generous Canadians.

We love Canada. We have fought wars and died defending Canada. We have opened our doors wide for millions of our fellow Canadians searching for opportunity - many of whom stay and become Albertan, and many who return home to their native province. All have been welcomed with open arms.

Our province has contributed hundreds of billions of dollars more to the federal treasury for use in other parts of the country than we'll ever receive back in benefits. We have allowed this to occur because, quite frankly, we know how blessed our province is with an endowment of natural resources that no other country on earth possesses - and we want all of our friends, families and fellow Canadians across the country to benefit from it.

We do not ask for special treatment or handouts.

We just want to be free. Free to develop and export that incredible wealth of resources we have for the benefit of our families and future generations. Free to pursue opportunities with the ideals of **entrepreneurship, hard work and innovation** that have become synonymous with the name of our province. Freedom to choose how best to provide health care, education and other needed social services to our people - even if its (sic) done differently than what Ottawa has in mind.

Strong and Free is more than just our provincial motto - it represents who we are and how we want to live as a people.

Commented [RA1]: Code for UCP agenda

And that is why Albertans are so frustrated with the direction of our country.

For the last 10 years, successive Liberal Governments in Ottawa - supported by their New Democrat allies - have **unleashed a tidal wave of laws, policies and political attacks** aimed directly at Alberta's **free economy** - and in effect - against the future and livelihoods of our people.

They have blocked new pipelines with C-69, cancelled multiple oil and gas projects, and banned the very tanker ships needed to carry those resources to new markets.

They have stacked an oil and gas production cap on top of a crippling industrial carbon tax, making new energy and agricultural projects economically impossible to pursue without massive subsidies from governments - which Ottawa has failed to provide and which our taxpayers cannot afford.

This **onslaught** of anti-energy, anti-agriculture and anti-resource development policies have scared away global investment to the tune of over a half a trillion dollars - driving those investments and jobs out of Alberta and Canada to much more attractive investment climates in the United States, Asia and the Middle East.

Having travelled much of the world these past few years, it is evident that Canada is not viewed as an attractive place to invest in resource development, manufacturing or agriculture because of our high carbon taxes, endless red tape, and **the uncertainty and chaos brought about by these and other federal government policies**.

As a result, Canada has fallen to **dead last** in economic growth among industrialized nations. The world looks at us like we have lost our minds. We have the most abundant and **accessible natural resources** of any country on earth - and yet we landlock them, sell what we do produce to a single customer to the south of us, while enabling polluting dictatorships to eat our lunch.

For Albertans - these attacks on our province by our own federal government have become **unbearable**.

As I said, these policies have cost Albertans roughly a **half a trillion dollars** in investment - and **that loss is growing daily**. It has and will continue to cost hundreds of thousands of jobs, **robbing** countless Albertans and other Canadians of their means of providing for their families. It has cost us a decade of opportunities and **tens of billions in lost royalties** that could have been invested in the health, education, infrastructure and social services Albertans and Canadians need.

And what's worse, Ottawa continues onward with more **destructive** policies.

They have imposed net-zero mandates on our natural gas-based power grid causing investment in reliable generation from natural gas to flee, thereby endangering the future stability of our power grid, and risking future blackouts and spikes in electricity costs for Alberta families and businesses.

They have **attacked** our food producers with methane taxes, **onerous regulations** on fertilizer, electric vehicle mandates, and many other destructive policies that have hiked costs on our farmers and ranchers, and driven billions of dollars of investment in agriculture elsewhere.

They have **interfered** in provincial jurisdiction time and again. From taking over the regulation of plastics, to mandating how we operate child care, health care and dental care, to **harassing** law abiding firearms owners, to dozens of other examples of unconstitutional interference.

Commented [RA2]: Not dead last according to IMF see table.P

Commented [RA3]: Oilsands is not an accessible resource except for huge government subsidies

Commented [RA4]: Source is sketchy

Commented [RA5]: Source?

And of course, Alberta has fought back. We always have and always will.

We passed the Sovereignty within a United Canada Act and have invoked it twice to protect Albertans as best we can from the effects of the net zero electricity regulations and energy production cap.

We have **beat the feds** in court on both the “no new pipelines law” C-69 and their attempt to regulate plastics (though they have ignored both court decisions to this point) — and we have just announced a court challenge on the net zero electricity regulations and are further preparing to also challenge the energy production cap.

We continue to do all in our power to counteract **Ottawa’s chill** on investment in energy, agriculture and our other job sectors through various tax cuts and incentive programs which greatly strain the provincial budget.

We have fought these **attacks from Ottawa furiously** and have won some important battles, but the lost opportunities, jobs and futures of so many Albertans are costly and demoralizing — as are the growing number of eastern politicians who choose to openly **demonize and target** Alberta for political gain.

That is why a large majority of Albertans are so deeply frustrated with the results of last week’s federal election.

It’s not that our preferred candidate and party lost. That happens in a democracy.

It’s that the same Liberal government with almost all of the same Ministers **responsible for our nation’s inflation, housing, crime and budget crisis**, and that oversaw the **attack** on our provincial economy for the past 10 years - have been returned to power.

Now, as we all know, one thing has changed. We have a new Prime Minister. And I will say that in my first conversation with him since the election, he had some promising things to say about changing the direction of his government’s anti-resource policies.

However, Albertans are more of a “actions speak louder than words” kind of people.

So while I will in good faith work with Prime Minister Mark Carney on unwinding the mountain of destructive legislation and policies that have ravaged our provincial and national economies this past decade — until I see tangible proof of real change — Alberta will be taking steps to better protect ourselves from Ottawa.

As a start, I will soon appoint **a Special Negotiating Team** to represent our province in negotiations with the federal government on the following reforms requested by our province. We hope this will result in a binding agreement that Albertans can have confidence in - call it an Alberta Accord if you will.

First, Alberta requires guaranteed corridor and port access to tidewater off the Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic coasts for the international export of Alberta oil, gas, critical minerals and other resources in amounts supported by the free market, rather than by **the dictates and whims of Ottawa**.

Every province in the country, other than Alberta and Saskatchewan, have coastal port access, and no province needs it more given the size and value of our resources. This will benefit all Canadians to the tune of trillions of dollars of economic activity including billions for First Nations' partners.

Second. The federal government must end all **federal interference** in the development of provincial resources by repealing the no new pipelines law, C-69, the oil tanker ban, the net zero electricity regulations, the oil and gas emissions cap, the net zero vehicle mandate, and any federal law or regulation that purports to regulate industrial carbon emissions, plastics, or the commercial free speech of energy companies. These laws are destroying investment confidence and costing Canada and Alberta hundreds of billions in investments each year.

They need to go.

Third. The federal government **must refrain** from imposing export taxes or restrictions on the export of Alberta resources without the consent of the Government of Alberta. Frankly, all provinces should be given that same respect for their resources.

And fourth, the federal government must provide to Alberta the same per capita federal transfers and equalization as is received by the other three largest provinces - Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. We have no issue with Alberta continuing to subsidize smaller provinces with their needs, but there is no excuse for such large and powerful economies like Ontario, Quebec, B.C. or Alberta to be subsidizing one another. That was never the intent of equalization, and it needs to end.

If these points can be agreed to by the federal government, I am convinced it will not only make Alberta and Canada an infinitely stronger and more prosperous country, but will eliminate the doubts a growing number of Albertans feel about the future of Alberta in Canada.

While these negotiations with Ottawa are ongoing, our government will appoint, and I will chair, the 'Alberta Next' panel. This panel will be composed of some of our best and brightest judicial, academic and economic minds, to join with me in a series of in-person and online town halls to discuss Alberta's future in Canada, and specifically, what next steps can we take as a province to better protect Alberta from any current or future **hostile**

policies of the federal government. Details of the membership and scope of that panel will also be released in the coming weeks.

After the work of the panel is finished, it is likely we will place some of the more popular ideas discussed with the panel to a provincial referendum so all Albertans can vote on them sometime in 2026.

To be clear from the outset, our government will not be putting a vote on separation from Canada on the referendum ballot; however, if there is a successful citizen-led referendum petition that is able to gather the requisite number of signatures requesting such a question to be put to a referendum, our government will respect the democratic process and include that question on the 2026 provincial referendum ballot as well.

I also want to state unequivocally that as Premier, I am entirely committed to protecting, upholding and honouring the inherent rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. Therefore, ANY citizen-initiated referendum question MUST not violate the constitutional rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and must uphold and honour Treaties 6, 7 and 8 should any referendum question ever pass. This is non-negotiable.

Now, let's talk about the elephant in the room - that being separation.

We are well aware that there is large and growing number of Albertans that have lost hope in Alberta having a free and prosperous future as a part of Canada. Many of these Albertans are organizing petitions to trigger a citizen-initiated referendum, as I mentioned earlier. The vast majority of these individuals are not fringe voices to be marginalized or vilified - they are loyal Albertans. They are quite literally our friends and neighbours who have just had enough of having their livelihoods and prosperity attacked by a hostile federal government. They are frustrated - and they have every reason to be.

Commented [RA6]: So a separatist is a loyal Albertan?

I want to talk directly to those Albertans.

I know how frustrated so many of you have become with our country and the feeling of having politicians living thousands of miles away passing laws and rules that have cost you or your loved ones, jobs, careers, dreams, and opportunities for a brighter future.

As most Albertans know, I have repeatedly stated I do not support Alberta separating from Canada. I personally still have hope that there is a path forward for a strong and sovereign Alberta within a united Canada. Let me explain a few reasons why.

First, Alberta already has and can continue to use the Alberta Sovereignty within a United Canada Act and other measures to fight through much of Ottawa's damaging interference and prosper in spite of it. We will also continue our successful battles against these unconstitutional and damaging policies in both the Courts of law and public opinion.

But there is more to be hopeful for. This past election demonstrated that attitudes across the country, especially among young people, are changing with respect to understanding the importance of free markets and the development of our natural resources. People are pushing back against government censorship and 'cancel culture'. More and more Canadians understand that in order for Canada to play a role in ending conflict and poverty at home and abroad - our country must become strong again. And we can only do that by becoming an energy and economic superpower using the vast and unmatched energy, mineral resources and fertile lands of our country.

85 per cent of Canadians in this last election voted for the two leaders promising to turn Canada into an energy superpower and to build resource corridors, including for oil and gas - while only 13 per cent voted for the fringe voices in the socialist NDP and Bloc parties and their extremist "leave it in the ground" policies.

Obviously, we have a ways to go and it will take a lot of work to undo the damage caused by these last 10 years of Liberal/NDP rule, but that clear change in public opinion gives me hope. I think it should give all Albertans hope

Now, none of us know what the future holds should Ottawa, for whatever reason, continue to attack our province as they have done over the last decade. Ultimately that will be for Albertans to decide and I will accept their judgement.

But I am going to do everything within my power to negotiate a fair deal for Alberta with the new Prime Minister. And while doing so, our government will work with Albertans on various initiatives to better protect Alberta's provincial sovereignty and economy from Ottawa should those negotiations fail, and the economic attacks continue.

Alberta didn't start this fight, but rest assured...we will finish it...and come out of it stronger and more prosperous than ever.

In closing, I want Albertans to know how important it will be, in the coming months, for our province to be steadfast, unified and to refrain from heeding the voices of those seeking to divide Albertans against one another.

There will be many outside - and even inside this province - who will try and sow fear and anger among us. They will seek to divide us into different camps for the purpose of marginalizing and vilifying one other based on differing opinions. Effectively pitting neighbour against neighbour — and Albertan against Albertan.

That is not the Alberta way. It's not who we are. And it's not who I am.

Commented [RA7]: If you don't agree with government, you're divisive

There are thousands of Albertans that are so **frustrated** with the last ten years of Ottawa's attacks on their friends' and family's livelihoods that they **feel Alberta would be stronger and more prosperous as an independent nation**. That is an understandable and justifiable feeling to have even if we disagree on what to do about it. These Albertans are not traitors, nor should they ever be treated as such. They just love their province and family and want a better future than the one Ottawa is offering right now.

Commented [RA8]: This will be central to economic studies from SPP and other sources

There are also thousands of Albertans that are so attached and loyal to their identity as Canadians that there is nothing Ottawa has done to our province that would justify Alberta leaving Canada. Its (sic)not that they think everything is perfect or we've been treated fairly - they just believe being part of Canada, despite those problems, has much more value than leaving. These individuals are also **loyal Albertans** and should never be **accused** of being anything less.

Commented [RA9]: So the government may be open to accepting their views- never be accused

And then there are hundreds of thousands of Albertans that probably feel a lot like I do — that are **deeply frustrated** with the way our province has been mistreated and damaged by successive federal Liberal governments and are not willing to tolerate the status quo any longer. But these Albertans still believe there is a viable path to a strong, free and sovereign Alberta empowered to succeed and prosper within a united Canada. A Canada where the federal government actually honours the constitution, upholds provincial rights, and empowers provinces to pursue their unique potentials as their people so choose.

Regardless of what each of us believes about this issue, or what path we think is best; we, as Albertans, must be able to respectfully debate and discuss these issues with our friends, family members and neighbours.

I know that if we do that — in the end, our province will find the best solution for this immense challenge we face, and come out of it **stronger and more free** than ever.

Commented [RA10]: Equates best solution as stronger and freer as defined by them on basis of economics

I'll always put my faith in Albertans to find that right path. I trust you.

May our beautiful Alberta always remain forever **strong and free**.