

ASK ONE QUESTION

WHY THE SCARY NUMBER – BUT NEVER THE MATH?

The government keeps rolling out giant, frightening totals – "\$400 billion," "\$50 billion a year" – and says the actual breakdown is coming "soon." The fear arrives today. The math arrives later, if at all.

That isn't informing Albertans. It's softening them up. A huge number with no breakdown, pushed out ahead of any real costing, does one job: it scares people away from even asking the question.

When a government campaigns against its own people's choice with fear instead of figures – ask why.

Meanwhile, Albertans who back independence already published a full, costed plan – line by line. One side shows its work. The other shows you a number built to scare you.

UPCOMING TOWN HALLS · JUNE–JULY 2026

Jun 14 Caroline	Jun 27 Valleyview
Jun 15 Milk River & Cremona	Jun 29 Elk Point
Jun 16 Alix & Balzac	Jul 6 Rimbey
Jun 17 Drayton Valley & Claresholm	Jul 7 Carseland
Jun 18 Hanna & Holden	Jul 8 Castor
Jun 22 Slave Lake & Morinville	Jul 13 Athabasca & Vermilion
Jun 26 Peace River & Oyen	Jul 14 Fort McKay & Delia

More added often – scan "Find us here" or visit letstalkalberta.com for the full, current schedule.

↔ **FLIP THE PAGE. LOOK AT THE WHOLE LEDGER.**



A Conversation About Alberta's Future

WHO WE ARE

A grassroots effort by ordinary Albertans. We host open town-hall conversations across the province so neighbours can ask hard questions, weigh real facts, and decide our future for themselves.

GET INVOLVED

Come to a town hall, or ask us to bring one to your community. Subscribe for events and updates. Share this with someone who's only heard one side.



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Events, facts & updates –
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SUPPORT THE CONVERSATION

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A Conversation About Alberta's Future

SHOW ME THE OTHER HALF OF THE BILL



A ONE-SIDED INVOICE ISN'T THE TRUTH

**They say Alberta sovereignty costs
\$400 billion.**

That's one column of a two-column ledger – every cost, and not one of the things Alberta owns, is owed, or stops paying.

SO LET'S HAVE THE REAL CONVERSATION

The Premier keeps putting Alberta sovereignty on the table – usually to reduce Albertans' appetite for independence. Good. Then let's actually talk about it: what sovereignty really means, what it would take, and how Albertans could accomplish it. Not fear – facts, in the open, in your own community. And if she won't do the things even she has identified must be done to pursue Alberta sovereignty, then how is she serious?

READ BOTH SIDES. DEMAND THE TRUTH.

THE CASE AGAINST PREMIER SMITH'S INVOICE

ONE-SIDED

WHAT THEY SAY IT WILL COST

TRANSITIONAL COSTS **\$400B**
Premier's figure

NEW ANNUAL COSTS **\$25-50B/yr**
Premier's figure

DEBT TO ABSORB **\$75-183B**
Common claim / estimate

"LOST" HEALTH TRANSFER **\$6.6B/yr**
Canada Health Transfer

"LOST" SOCIAL TRANSFER **\$2.1B/yr**
Canada Social Transfer

TOTAL BILL?

Every cost listed. Every offset deleted. Alberta left holding the tab.

AND THE PILE-ON SCARES — ANSWERED:

"You'll lose the Canadian dollar." Keep using it — like nations that use the U.S. dollar — or phase in our own. Nobody's forced.

"You'll lose your passport & can't work in Canada." Citizenship and mobility get negotiated. People cross borders to live and work every day.

"You'll lose your health care." It's already provincial — Alberta runs it now, and would fund it from a bigger pot.

"You'll be left defenceless." North American defence is shared (NORAD). Allies, not isolation — and the plan budgets for it.

"You'll lose airports & trade routes." Infrastructure doesn't move — it's ours and keeps running. Landlocked nations trade just fine.

"Ottawa won't speak for you abroad." Ottawa speaks for Ottawa — often against our energy. We'd get our own seat and our own deals.

Only the \$400B and \$25–50B/yr are Premier Smith's own figures (CBC, 2026). The debt and transfer lines are the broader claims made against independence.

THE OTHER HALF WHAT ALBERTA ALREADY HAS

...OR STOPS PAYING

THE TRUTH

THE COLUMN THEY LEAVE BLANK:

OUR SHARE OF THE CPP **\$135-334B**
Alberta's own pension money — we're younger, earn more, and have overpaid for decades

WE STOP SENDING TO OTTAWA **\$17-27B/yr**
Net contribution over the past decade — averaged ~\$21B/yr, peaked near \$27B (2014)

THE "LOST" TRANSFERS? ✓
Funded out of our own over-payment. Keep the bigger pot, fund them ourselves — not a net loss

100% OF OUR RESOURCES **Billions/yr**
Already ours under s.92A — we'd keep every dollar of resource revenue

FEDERAL ASSETS + CROWN CORPS **~\$137B**
~15% of Canada's ~\$916B in federal assets — buildings, infrastructure, Crown corps; negotiated

A YOUNGER WORKFORCE ✓
Lower costs per person than the Canadian average

THE DEBT NETS OUT ✓
Assets & liabilities are split together — not simply handed to us

\$600B+

Since 1961, Albertans have paid that much **more** into Confederation than came back — confirmed by an economist who *opposes* separation. In today's dollars: about **\$1.2–1.5 trillion**.

\$68.8B / yr

in federal taxes is raised right here. Independence isn't about new money — it's about who controls the money we already send.

TOTAL STANDING? ALBERTA WALKS IN HOLDING THE BETTER HAND ✓

WE DON'T HIDE THE RISKS

The real cost of leaving is trade friction — one estimate puts it near \$130B over a decade. That's a negotiation outcome, not a fate, and a province with energy the U.S. and central Canada both need isn't bargaining from its knees.

AND THE UPSIDE THEY IGNORE

Thousands of "dead" wells aren't dead — many are viable, and their produced water now carries lithium worth real money. An Alberta-run corporation could restart the good ones, fund the cleanup of the rest, then fund our services.

THE REAL PRIZE — OUR DECISIONS, OUR RESULTS

The numbers matter, but this is bigger than a balance sheet. Independence means Alberta handles all of it — taxes, pensions, resources, trade — the way Albertans choose, by our own values. We'd reap the rewards of the good calls and answer for the bad ones. Either way they'd be *ours*: made here, for us — not handed down by people who don't share our priorities.

DON'T READ ONE SIDE OF THE INVOICE. FLIP THE PAGE.

See the whole picture — then decide. Come to a town hall: letstalkalberta.com

SOURCES

Premier Smith via CBC (2026) · T. Tombe (net contribution; trade estimate) · Fraser Institute · Office of the Chief Actuary & Alberta's CPP report · Constitution Act, 1867 s.92A · Reference re Secession of Quebec, 1998. Full citations at letstalkalberta.com.