

Why Albertans want this conversation.

In their own words — from Albertans who want a real, informed discussion.

“

I want my kids to grow up in an Alberta where their voice matters and they can help shape what comes next.

— **Allison** *Single mom*

“

The status quo has not served my people well. We need to be part of this conversation.

— **David** *Status First Nations member*

“

It is so important that people start talking about our future. We will face an important question, and we need to answer it with informed consent.

— **Tanya** *Teacher*

“

Forever Canadian! Lukaszuk says we will lose our pensions, our citizenship, and be annexed by Trump.

— **Karen** *Retired*

These are conversations every Albertan needs to have — no matter where you land on the question. We believe an informed conversation leads to a better answer.

Add your voice.

Join the conversation at
letstalkalberta.com

DON'T THROW THIS OUT — IT MATTERS

Keep the conversation going.

Five more arguments — and the honest answers.

15

“50% + 1 isn't enough to leave.”

A real majority means 60% or higher.

Another view:

50% + 1 is the standard for every other democratic decision Albertans make — premiers, MPs, mayors, school boards. Demanding a higher bar only for independence is a way of saying some votes count more than others. A majority is a majority.

16

“Healthcare will collapse.”

We'll lose the Canada Health Act and medicare.

Another view:

Healthcare in Alberta is already delivered by Alberta, paid for largely by Alberta, and administered by Alberta Health Services. The Canada Health Act imposes federal conditions but does not deliver care. Supporters argue an independent Alberta could reform the system on its own terms.

17

“We can't defend ourselves.”

Alberta is too small to have a military.

Another view:

Many sovereign nations smaller than Alberta maintain effective defence forces — Norway, Ireland, Estonia. An independent Alberta could size its forces to its needs, partner with allies through treaties, and remain within continental defence arrangements that Albertans currently help fund.

18

“Quebec tried twice and failed.”

Separation referendums never succeed.

Another view:

Quebec's 1995 vote was 49.4% to 50.6% — within a single percentage point. They were also asking to leave a country that gives them special status and net transfer payments. Alberta is the opposite: a net contributor of tens of billions, with grievances that have only grown.

19

“We'll lose equalization money.”

Federal transfers fund our hospitals and roads.

Another view:

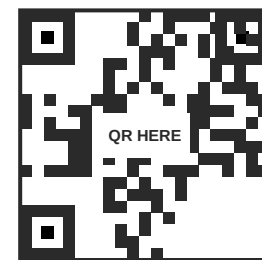
Alberta does not receive equalization payments — Albertans pay into the federal pool. Alberta has been a substantial net contributor to federal revenues for decades. Supporters of independence argue this means leaving the federation ends a net outflow, not a net inflow.

LET'S TALK ALBERTA

Alberta faces important decisions.

Let's talk about it.

Let's Talk Alberta is a civic engagement initiative. We don't tell Albertans how to vote. We make sure they have the information to decide for themselves.



letstalkalberta.com

19 Questions Albertans are asking about independence.

The strongest arguments raised by those who disagree — and the responses to them.

01

“Alberta can’t legally separate.”

The Supreme Court says a Yes vote means nothing on its own.

Another view:

The same 1998 ruling (Reference re Secession of Quebec) confirms a clear majority on a clear question creates a constitutional obligation on Ottawa and the provinces to negotiate in good faith. That is a legal pathway, not a roadblock.

02

“Treaties block independence.”

Treaties 6, 7 and 8 predate Alberta and can’t just disappear.

Another view:

Treaties do not block independence — they are part of the negotiations and conversations around it. Treaties are with the Crown, not with Ottawa, and they remain in force. Supporters argue an independent Alberta would honour every existing treaty obligation and build direct nation-to-nation relationships.

03

“First Nations have a veto.”

The duty to consult kills the whole process.

Another view:

The duty to consult is real and must be respected through every stage. It is a duty to consult — not a veto. Indigenous nations are partners in Alberta’s future, and many First Nations leaders share frustration with how Ottawa has treated them.

13

“We’d lose Canadian institutions.”

No more RCMP, military, passports or consular help abroad.

Another view:

Alberta already operates its own sheriffs and is developing a provincial police service. Albertans currently fund the Canadian military through federal taxes — an independent Alberta would fund its own forces sized to its needs. Passports, consular services, and research agencies are routine functions in every sovereign country.

“We’d lose the Canadian dollar.”

04

A new currency is risky; we’d be at the mercy of markets.

Another view:

The Canadian dollar has lost roughly 30% of its value against the US dollar over the last 15 years, and Alberta has no voice in federal monetary policy. Those favouring independence argue an independent Alberta could choose to keep the CAD, peg to the US dollar, or issue its own currency — many small nations successfully use foreign currencies.

05

“Our credit rating will collapse.”

A new country starts with no credit history.

Another view:

Alberta has among the lowest debt-to-GDP ratios in Canada and sits on trillions in resource wealth. Norway, also a resource-backed sovereign, holds a AAA credit rating — among the strongest in the world. Markets reward stable governance and real assets.

06

“What about CPP and OAS?”

Retirees will lose their pensions.

Another view:

An independent Alberta could continue every service the federal government provides today — pensions, OAS, healthcare transfers. Albertans have been net contributors to CPP for decades. The difference, supporters argue, is that for the first time Albertans would decide how those programs run.

07

“We’d still be landlocked.”

BC will still block our pipelines, only now we’re foreign.

Another view:

Federal policy (C-69, the tanker ban, cancelled approvals) has limited Alberta’s pipeline access today. The case for independence is that a sovereign Alberta could negotiate directly with BC, Indigenous nations, and the US, and invoke international trade law that Ottawa has not used on Alberta’s behalf.

08

“Trade with Canada will collapse.”

A hardened border means tariffs and friction.

Another view:

Canada and Alberta are deeply integrated trading partners — Canada depends on Alberta’s oil, gas, beef and grain. Supporters of independence point out that trade flows because of mutual need, and that USMCA-style bilateral agreements can be negotiated within months, not decades.

“Investment will flee.”

09

Uncertainty drives away capital and talent.

Another view:

Investment has already fled — over \$150 billion in cancelled energy projects under federal policy. Independence offers regulatory certainty: a single jurisdiction with stable rules, lower taxes, and a government accountable to Albertans alone.

10

“Most Albertans don’t want this.”

Polls show 60–67% oppose separation.

Another view:

Public opinion shifts with information and circumstance — support for independence has grown substantially in three years. Supporters note that the more Albertans engage with the underlying questions, the more views change. That is why open conversation matters, whatever the outcome.

11

“We’d be absorbed by the US.”

Trump will treat us like Crimea.

Another view:

There is no American appetite to admit another reliably Republican-voting state. To balance the Senate they would first have to admit Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. — both reliably Democrat. The political math simply does not work. An independent Alberta stays independent.

12

“Reform from within is safer.”

Stay and fight for a better deal.

Another view:

Alberta has pursued reform within Confederation for over 50 years — equalization, the NEP, C-48, C-69, the carbon tax. Supporters of independence argue that the credible possibility of leaving is the only leverage that has produced meaningful change, and that real reform requires a real choice.

14

“I feel Canadian — this is my country.”

Family, history and identity tie us to Canada.

Another view:

Independence does not erase history, family, or friendships. Many Albertans have family in the US or overseas and remain close. What changes is the level of government making decisions — moving from federal to provincial — not personal identity or relationships.