

WHY THIS MATTERS

The rarest thing in the world: to be asked.

Across history, the right to **self-determination** — the chance to be asked about your own future and have your answer counted — has cost millions their lives. Whole generations fought and died for it.

We're being handed that same right almost quietly: a question, a ballot, a real say. No barricades, no bloodshed — **we just have to give our time**. Show up, think it through, talk honestly. It's the least this moment deserves.



Come talk about it — in person.

Find a town hall at letstalkalberta.com. Host one in your community, or help fund the conversation by e-transfer: letstalkalberta@gmail.com · Box 105, Mirror, AB.

Born in peace, since 1905

Nations that became independent without a war — by referendum, negotiation, or an orderly split:

PEACEFUL SPLITS FROM A UNION — ALBERTA'S OWN SITUATION

1905 Norway — from Sweden · **1944** Iceland — from Denmark · **1965** Singapore — from Malaysia · **1991** Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania & 12 more — from the USSR · **1991** North Macedonia — from Yugoslavia · **1993** Czech Republic & Slovakia — the "Velvet Divorce" · **2006** Montenegro — from Serbia

INDEPENDENCE BY NEGOTIATION, NOT WAR — A SAMPLING

Jordan '46 · **Ghana** '57 · **Malaysia** '57 · **Jamaica** '62 · **Malta** '64 · **Zambia** '64 · **Botswana** '66 · **Barbados** '66 · **Mauritius** '68 · **Fiji** '70 · **Bahamas** '73 · **Papua New Guinea** '75 · **Brunei** '84 · **Namibia** '90 — and more.

A note on these pages. The views in this brochure are the personal opinions of Christopher Scott, presented by Let's Talk Alberta. Agree or disagree — come discuss and debate them with him in person at a Let's Talk Alberta town hall. Figures are drawn from public records and are cited in full at letstalkalberta.com.

WHY THIS CONVERSATION — AND WHY NOW

Nobody should tell you what to think about this.

Albertans are being told what to believe about independence — by both sides. One side calls it a fantasy that will bankrupt us; the other calls it the answer to everything. Let's Talk Alberta does something different: it puts the facts on the table and trusts you to decide.

None of this is new — or rocket science.

A century ago the world had about 50 countries. Today there are 193 — most born not through war, but through referendums and negotiation. Norway left its union with Sweden by referendum in **1905**, no war — and dozens have followed since.

Peaceful self-determination is well-trodden ground — not a leap in the dark. The only real question is whether the people get to decide.

It's time we were asked. Alberta's terms of entry were written in Ottawa in 1905 — never put to a vote — and Ottawa held our land and resources until 1930. In more than a century, Albertans have never once been asked directly what future we want. On **October 19, 2026**, for the first time, the answer is ours.

→ **Inside: the real questions, the real numbers, and the real deal.**

A CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Let's talk about independence.

The conversation Alberta deserves — not the one we're being handed.

Real questions. Honest numbers. No spin.

OUR MISSION

Let's Talk Alberta exists to ensure Albertans are informed, engaged, and empowered when considering the future of our province — hosting open conversations where questions can be asked, ideas challenged, and the facts explored, so Albertans can decide their future with confidence.



Scan to join the conversation
letstalkalberta.com

THE QUESTIONS ALBERTANS ARE ASKING

"Yes, but what about...?"

The strongest concerns people raise — and what supporters and the public record actually say.

Q "Wouldn't Alberta be landlocked?"

ANOTHER VIEW

Alberta is already landlocked — and still one of Canada's largest exporters. Switzerland and Austria are landlocked and among the wealthiest nations on earth. The constraint isn't geography; it's policy and who negotiates market access on Alberta's behalf.

Q "What about the economy — could we afford it?"

ANOTHER VIEW

Alberta already sends far more to Ottawa than it gets back — roughly **\$17–27 billion a year**. Independence isn't about finding new money; it's about who controls the money Albertans already send. (See the "\$400 billion" panel.)

Q "What about First Nations and Treaty rights?"

THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION OF ALL

Treaty rights are held with the Crown and don't vanish because a border moves — and no honest path is built around Indigenous nations instead of with them. Many are asking their own self-determination questions; a 2026 Mainstreet / Act for Alberta poll found a substantial share of First Nations respondents open to it. The framing that matters is **self-determination** — for Alberta and First Nations alike.

Q "Would I lose my pension or my citizenship?"

ANOTHER VIEW

These get negotiated, not vaporized. A pension you paid into is earned; CPP assets are divided between governments, not erased. Citizenship is settled by agreement between states, as it was every time a nation became independent. The details get worked out at the table — the dishonest move is to pretend there's no table.

These aren't final answers — they're the start of a debate we'd rather have in the open than have decided for us.

THE NUMBER YOU KEEP HEARING

Is it really \$400 billion?

Premier Smith has said leaving Canada could cost **"almost \$400 billion"** up front, plus \$25–50 billion a year. It's a frightening number — and it's meant to end the conversation before it starts. It's also only **one column of a two-column ledger**.

WHAT WE'D OWE

- Share of federal debt
- Standing up new services
- Transition costs

WHAT'S ERASED

- CPP asset share: **\$135–334B**
- Share of federal assets
- ~\$17–27B/yr we stop sending

No one has ever published the math behind \$400 billion — it was said at a podium. The only fully-costed independent estimate puts one-time startup near **\$98–107 billion**.

≈ **\$53–91 billion**

One-time net cost once both columns are counted — stress-tested against economists who oppose separation. In most years, an independent Alberta runs a **surplus**.

Independence isn't free, and the real risks — trade friction, borrowing costs, the CPP negotiation — deserve honest debate. But you're being asked to fear half a bill. Ask to see the other half.

Smaller economies run themselves and thrive: **Norway, Ireland, Switzerland, Singapore** — all independent, all among the wealthiest nations on earth.

THE MATH, SOURCED

Every line traces to **Statistics Canada**, the **Public Accounts of Canada**, the **Parliamentary Budget Officer**, and a University of Calgary economist who opposes separation. The rule: if a hostile economist couldn't tear a line apart, it stayed in.

THE DEAL WE'RE TOLD SETTLES IT

The MOU & the pipeline.

We're told a new west-coast pipeline proves the system works — so there's nothing to talk about. Here's what's actually on paper. A **memorandum of understanding is, by definition, non-binding**.

NOV 2025

Canada–Alberta MOU signed. Non-binding "framework."

MAY 2026

Implementation Agreement. Alberta agrees to raise its industrial carbon price toward \$130/tonne.

JUL 2026

Alberta submits the proposal to the federal Major Projects Office.

OCT 1 2026

Target date for Ottawa to designate it "national interest." Not yet done.

SEP 2027

Construction "as early as" — only after consultation & federal conditions.

Who's actually building it?

FEDERAL CROWN

Trans Mountain Corporation

AB CROWN

Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission

PRIVATE

Pembina Pipeline

The original MOU called for a privately financed pipeline. Two of the three owners are governments — the same pattern as the last pipeline Ottawa had to buy.

Still contingent: B.C.'s premier says the deal doesn't require B.C. to support it. The route crosses up to 125 Indigenous territories — many consulted on a different route. Nothing is approved yet.

This was never about one pipeline. It's about who decides whether Alberta can build at all.

The pattern isn't new.

Energy East and Northern Gateway were both cancelled under federal review. Trans Mountain only got built because Ottawa bought it when the private builder walked. A single non-binding MOU doesn't change who holds the pen.