Albertans, let's put

CANADA FIRST!

A call to become
TRUE CANADIAN
embracing
EVERYTHING
our constitution allows us to do…

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INTRODUCTION

Canada had its share of constitutional crisis since its inception in 1867. Born from a need to have a peace treaty in place more than a constitution; carved in the years of the American Civil War which, due to the War, demonstrated at the time that the American Constitution was not good timing for Canada to adopt for their constitution. The patient is still dying; the Canadian constitution was nothing but an emergency rescue intervention, a bucket to catch the blood of a dying patient, using what was readily available at the time from the colony's homeland.

While we are keeping on switching the buckets, the patient is still dying…

SHORT CANADIAN HISTORY

The defeat at the Plaines of Abraham in Quebec City on September 13, 1759, marked the end of the "Canada Chapter" of the 7 year war between the French-Indians coalition against the British and Spanish, a war officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on February 10, 1763. Britain gained Canada and Florida, while France totally departed from the Continent, giving also Louisiana to Spain.

The French story on the continent started 229 years earlier by the mapping of the St-Lawrence River by Jacques Cartier in April of 1534, and the "immigration" of two native Indians kids, who would live the rest of their lives in the King of France court, in Paris.

The French would prepare to colonize the "mostly empty" new territory that Jacques Cartier explored during his first trip. During that trip, even permanent settlements were abandoned, as a result of tribal wars along the St-Lawrence River where the Mohawk (nomad warriors) had raided the Montagnais (sedentary farmers).

The "conquest" history of Canada in relation with the native people is considerably different than down south, in America, as the first French colonies were setting up native language schools, aimed at developing a relationship with friendly sedentary tribes – in exchange for protection – which enabled them to expand their territory within the hinterland, and do peaceful trades with the Indians. There was a true reciprocal agreement between them, it was not one-sided.

After the foundation of Quebec City (1608) and Montreal (1642), the French started to explore further west, ending up planting cities on a territory spreading from the Gulf of St-Lawrence to the Great Lakes, and down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. If the "Indians" are first nations – despite never having founded a structured Nation in the real sense of the term – then the French are "Second Nation" (arguably First True Nation), and the Metis "third". But only if you want to apply some logic to the semantic. We will not go down too deep in that rabbit hole within this document…

The history of the French in New France (called Canadian until the First World War), is one of a remnant of people, abandoned by their ruined French king, who resisted the conqueror's policies with shear resilience, defending more than 200 years of history of developing a "modern" western society on the North American continent, with wit, sweat, blood and tears. This history is mostly not told in English Canada, willingly ignored or just glossed over.

We don't teach about the French Canadian, with their Indian friends who allied with George Washington in the American Revolution. Or the Montrealer's who founded Biloxi (1699); Detroit (1701); Mobile (1702); Green Bay (1717); New Orleans (1718); Baton Rouge (1719); or St. Louis (1764).

We also don't teach about the civil war of 1834-1837 in Lower Canada (Quebec) – known as the Patriots' Revolt – for which Quebec has a statutory holiday called "Journée des Patriots" (Patriot`s Day) celebrated in lieu of "Victoria Day" (celebrated elsewhere in Canada).

The Patriots revolted after over 50 years of forced land grab by the English who were giving land and farms to the American wanting to remain loyal to the Crown – the Loyalists – who were immigrating to lower Canada from the New England's colonies.

Between December 1838 and May 1839, a general court-martial in Montreal prosecuted 108 French Canadians, with 99 sentenced to death. Of these, 12 were hung in public (the Generals, notaries and leaders of the movement). Between December 1838 and February 1839, another group of 58 had their sentences commuted to deportation to Australia on September 27, 1839 (with pardons granted in 1843, allowing their return in 1845). The remaining 29 were freed under bail or conditions, after being stripped of their rights and properties.

A rebellion was also raging in Upper Canada. The rebellions and unrest lead to negotiations, which culminated to the 1867 constitution and the creation of "modern" Canada, starting with Quebec (former Lower Canada - French), Ontario (former Upper Canada - English), Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick. The latter two were brought in, more as a referee than partners in that new union, dominated by the former Upper Canada.

Territorial Development of Canada

The Dominion of Canada was established on July 1, with the British North America Act (now called the Constitution Act, 1867).

On July 15, 1870, Manitoba was created as a province, from part of the Northwest Territories, which themselves were transferred from the Hudson's Bay Company to Canada.

On July 20, 1871, British Columbia joined Confederation as a province, followed by Prince Edward Island on July 1, 1873.

In 1880, the British Arctic Territories were added to the Northwest Territories, solidifying Canada's northern boundary.

The Yukon Territory was separated from the Northwest Territories on June 13, 1898, due to the Klondike Gold Rush.

On September 1, 1905, Saskatchewan and Alberta were created as provinces, both from the Northwest Territories.

On March 31, 1949, Newfoundland (including Labrador) joined Confederation as the tenth province, renamed Newfoundland and Labrador in 2001.

Then Nunavut was carved out of the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999, becoming a new territory to recognize Inuit governance.

Finally, Canada and Denmark, along with Greenland, reached an agreement on June 14, 2022, to resolve a decades-long dispute over Hans Island (Tartupaluk), a small uninhabited island in the Nares Strait between Ellesmere Island (Canada) and Greenland.

The agreement divided the island along a natural fault line, establishing the first land border between Canada and Denmark, with approximately 60% allocated to Greenland and the remainder to Canada.

This is to show that the borders and limits of a country are flexible and can be changed and altered peacefully, and it is still possible today, in 2025.

INDEPENDENTIST MOVEMENT IN QUEBEC
A LONG WALK TO SOVEREIGNTY

British Conquest to the World Wars

We find traces of willingness to be sovereign in Quebec from the moment that Britain defeated Montcalm in Quebec City on September 13, 1759.

The British efforts to subjugate the local French community, starting at the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763, and leading to the adoption of the 1867 constitution, were un-cessing and ended up in a civil war, replaced by a war of attrition and economic dominance, which would have a devastating impact on the French population of Quebec for over 200 years.

The British were having tremendous difficulties to overcome the French Canadians in number, as they were having large families, pushed by the Catholic religion that was omnipresent in their daily lives, including priests insisting for married women to have babies yearly.

The British started giving land along the border of Vermont and New Hampshire to Americans wanting to remain loyal to the King (the Loyalist), until they had to “step over” the French Canadian settlements along the rivers (St-Lawrence, Richelieu) and push inland to create Upper Canada (now Ontario), following the French push-back as for most of them were multiple generations over with most of the farms over 150+ years old.

In 1870, Louis Riel led the Métis in forming a provisional government to negotiate with Canada after the Hudson’s Bay Company transferred Rupert’s Land without consulting local peoples. His efforts resulted in the Manitoba Act of 1870, which created the province and secured land and language rights for the Métis. However, after the execution of Thomas Scott, an Orangeman, Riel fled to the U.S. due to backlash from Ontario. He returned to Canada, was elected as Member of Parliament – becoming the first and only MP that never stepped in Ottawa – ended up leading Métis and Indigenous allies in Southern Alberta and Saskatchewan against federal encroachment and neglect. The rebellion was defeated, and Riel was tried for treason. Despite debates over his mental health and motives, he was hanged on November 16, 1885, in Regina.

His execution deepened French-English tensions in Canada, fueling Québec nationalism as Louis Riel was born and raised in Montreal, and was an alumni of the most prestigious and powerful educated cohort of the time – trained by the Sulpicians at the Collège de Montréal, an institution founded in 1767 – with alma matter political leaders such as Sir George-Étienne Cartier, Henri Bourassa and Louis-Joseph Papineau. All of them were instrumental in shaping modern Canada and can be parallel as the “fathers” of our constitution. Without Riel and the French-Canadians, there would have been no treaties out west. It is that simple. The faith of the western aboriginal people may have been very similar to what happened down south in Montana and Dakota on the American side.

Meanwhile parliamentary laws – written in English – made the life of the French Canadians increasingly reliant on the British businesspeople who were able to take advantage of the rule of law, as they were able to read and interpret them. And on the judicial side, English judges would be paid twice what French judges would, and 80% of all deputy ministers in Quebec were English speaking only.

By 1899, Quebec had 6% of English speaking who controlled 99% of the wealth. In industrial areas, like Griffin town or Pointe-Saint-Charles in Montreal, the life expectancy of the French Canadians was 19 years old, with kids used to access parts of machineries inaccessible by adults, to unclog weaving mechanism for textile, that often would shred the kid in pieces as it starts back…

By the time World War I started, French Canadians were not willing to participate in the British war and when conscription was enforced, the young unilingual French Canadians were enrolled and forced to speak English – a totally unknown language for them – even when they were together, as their superior wanted to understand what they were saying at any time.

The Canadian Army never segregated the number of French Canadians who died during both wars from the English, but veterans' testimonies speak of 2/10 French-Canadian survivors vs. 7/10 English Canadian survivors. French Canadian battalions were later created for World War II and were deemed the most effective ones from D-day to V-day.

Birthing of Quebec`s Structured Independentist Movement

After the war, a willingness to get away from the English dominance emerged, and the Quebec Premier – Maurice Duplessis – initiated a series of actions to get its distance from Ottawa and the Crown, starting by removing the Union Jack from all Quebec provincial buildings and printed documents by adopting the present Quebec flag and symbol, the Fleur DeLise. He would follow this initiative by creating a provincial tax collection system in 1954 to replace the unilateral tax collection system that the Federal Government put in place (as a temporary war measure) in 1917. He also decided to put some French-Canadians in business by attributing large infrastructure contracts to local French-Canadian families, creating what is now called the "Quebec Inc", where for the first time since 1763, many French-Canadians were able to do business and be successful without speaking in English.

Duplessis era is still very controversial in Quebec, as he also made deals with the Catholic Church, where he would pay them $1/day for orphans and $2/day for psychiatric patients, culminating with the creation of large psychiatric hospitals – larger than most villages – as non-married mothers would get their babies taken away and put in psychiatric hospitals instead of orphanages, bringing double the money to the catholic church.

Between 20,000 and 25,000 children ended up in psychiatric hospitals: where priests caught in acts of pedophilia in parishes were sent to work, out-of-sight. This proven and trialed scandal of indescribable proportions, surpasses any other one in the Country, eclipsing even the

“Residential Schools Narrative” by far. Quebecers see aboriginal people as equal to them, perhaps what all Canadians should do as well.

The rapid transformation of the province – electrification, highways – was paced by the strict oversight and control of the Catholic church who had total control on 94% of the population, with everyone going to church at least once a week (if not two or more); no meat sales on Fridays; imprisonment of illegal Bible smugglers and born-again evangelists; the rosary recited over the radio by the Cardinal at 7:00PM sharp every day, with everyone on their knees in their living rooms and kitchens; and a strict control by the priest of “no birth control” within married couples.

French Canadians had no access to most of Montreal’s downtown restaurants and stores that were strictly English. Stores for the English, stores for the French. If you were French, no options but to work for an English boss and no promotions in sight.

The banks would write all their lending contracts in English, making lending to French-Canadians almost impossible, which lead to the creation of the Caisses Populaire’s Desjardins (one Caisse per catholic parish), which is now the largest and most powerful Credit Union in the world, with 7 million out of the 8 million Quebecers being a member. The coupling of the Caisses Desjardins to the catholic church made it easy in the early 1980’s to spot the still “rare” ATMs, as if you could spot a church steeple (which there are more than 285 on Montreal Island alone), you could find an ATM.

The easiest options to escape from poverty for French Canadians in the 1950’s was either to become a priest or to work for the Italian mafia, who would speak both French and English.

The resentment against the English was growing every day, with millions of kids born of the Baby Boomer generation. Unions were becoming powerful, requiring better working conditions.

The rise of the Activists

Quebec saw the rise of dissenting voices, mainly promoted by a publication started in 1953 named “Cité Libre” (whose title roughly translates into English as "Free Speech") by a young bilingual playboy, heir of a fortune created by an entrepreneurial French-Canadian dad on one side (who passed away at a very young age), and an English speaking mom, daughter of the most powerful lawyer in Canada (Charles Elliott), at a time where more than 90% of the business owners of the country were living in Montreal. His name was Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

The publication was promoting anti-clergy revolutionary ideas and birthing a generation of disruptors, with some of the writers “walking the talk” with the “Front de Libération du Québec” – FLQ started by Pierre Valliere’s, one of Trudeau’s most prolific writers, who also wrote a best-seller in the 1960’s named “The White Negros of the North”, exposing the situation of the French Canadian; Gérard Pelletier, Jean Marchand, René Lévesque (minister of Energy in 1964 creating Hydro-Quebec and the face of the independentist movement), Pierre Laporte (killed

by the FLQ founded by Vallières), Jacques Hébert, Charles Gagnon (FLQ activist with Vallière's, guilty of accidently killing Jean Corbo in a bombing in 1966), and other intellectuals and activists, were all part of the editorial team.

In the 1960's, big things were happening in Quebec, including the preparation of Expo 67 which ended up being the most successful World's Fair of the 20th century with 59.4 million visitors and exhibits from 62 countries. Islands were dredged out of the St-Lawrence River and completed with the fill of the tunnels of the Montreal Metro. It is the construction of that Metro that would provide the explosives used by the FLQ throughout the 1960`s, as a large amount of dynamite was stolen from construction sites of Metro stations in the early 1960`s.

Expo 67 created a unique phenomenon in the history of the Catholic church: in 1967, 94% of all French Canadians were attending church weekly. In 1968, it fell to 4%... Never has the World seen such a decline in religion attendance within a year. The Quebecers officially switched their religion from church-lead to government-lead, a status that remains today: **government knows best**.

In 1964, a fresh government in Quebec won with a slogan that still resonate today: "Maîtres Chez-nous" (translated to Master of our Own Destiny). The Lesage government brought sweeping reforms, including opting out of the new "Canada Pension Plan (CPP)" with the creation of the "Caisse de Depot et de Placements du Québec (CDPQ)". The CPDQ economic performance, 60 years later, out-paced the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) by 2.57 times ($/insured) and has invested in the Quebec (and Canadian) economy more than $177 Billion, including in Alberta, where they own the Cross Iron Mills (north of Calgary) and the Edmonton International Airport Premium Outlet shopping centre (within a $77 Billion CAD real estate portfolio comprised of over 1,000 retail, office, and industrial properties).

The Quiet Revolution

The 1960`s was also the period of the "Revolution Tranquille" (the "Quiet Revolution), with bombs exploding in mailboxes of English populated areas and businesses. Few people lost their lives (including a teenager that was setting one of these bombs), and some casualties will accompany this "Quiet Revolution" in Quebec. Trudeau, Marchand and Pelletier – called the "Three Doves" (bringing peace and fresh wind to Ottawa) would run and win their seats for the Liberals at the 1965 campaign, and Trudeau became Justice Minister. He would later win the leadership campaign of the party and become Prime-Minister in 1968.

He took power with a clear path in mind: over 15 years of reflection and planning through "Cité Libre" (with the last edition of the journal in 1966), he had a clear plan on how to revolutionize the country. He already befriended the main revolutionary leaders on the planet: Fidel Castro from Cuba with his Argentinian friend, Dr. Ernesto Guevara (the Che), and he maintained more distant but friendly diplomatic relationships with revolutionary leaders such as Yasser Arafat

from Palestine, Houari Boumediene of the FLN who brought a very bloody independence to Algeria in 1962, and the ANC in South Africa lead by Nelson Mandela (jailed in 1962).

Trudeau`s keen interest in knowing, supporting and financing these revolutionary organisations, was to prevent them from giving assistance in training to the people of the FLQ in Quebec, who were already getting training alongside the Black Panthers in New York as well as some Palestinian factions in the middle east.

His plan worked. Within weeks of being elected Prime Minister of Canada, he transferred the headquarters of the Canadian Army from Ottawa to Saint-Hubert, Quebec, bringing 14,000 armed forces men within 15 minutes drive from downtown Montreal, waiting for the right time to strike and annihilate the independentist movement in Quebec, who in 1968 was hovering within 10%-15% support.

He secretly intervened in the April 1970 provincial campaign, where the Parti Québécois was positioned to win over the provincial liberals on their first campaign, with only the error margins separating them in the polls. The liberals heard of a computer transfer from Royal Trust Montreal to their Toronto offices. At his request, 9 armoured vehicles from the Brinks were hired to move the equipment, then “leaked” to a journalist of The Montreal Gazette that there was a drainage of cash because of the potential sovereigntist victory. The font page news – 3 days before the vote – was enough to scare most of the population who gave a comfortable win to the Liberals, leaving the Parti Québécois with only 7 seats but 23% of the overall vote. That 3-day window media tactic will be reused by Chrétien in the 1995 referendum campaign.

Then in October 1970, some factions associated to the FLQ struck by kidnapping James Cross, a British consulate based in Montreal, and Pierre Laporte, Vice-Premier and Labour Minister of the Liberal provincial government (and moneybag of the Liberal party). A manifest is read on the TV, and negotiations are progressing for the release of James Cross. As for Pierre Laporte, when kidnapped, Trudeau just found the moment he was waiting for to crush the independentist movement once for all, and tell the journalists asking him what he would do: Trudeau replied, “Just watch me…”

At 04:00 am, on the morning of October 16, 1970, Trudeau calls for “War Measures” to be taken over the province. 12,000 soldiers were deployed including 8,000 in Montreal. Within 24 hours, a list assembled by the Liberals is distributed and family houses and apartments are raided in the middle of the night, soldiers dragging politically targeted people out of bed naked, with spouses and kids terrorised… 497 people were arrested that night and by the end of the day, 4,600 perquisitions were done, with over 31,700 documents and objects confiscated through large street-swapping activities, tanks and combat uniform soldiers with automatic weapons at every street corner, curfew and a maximum assembly of 3 people is imposed.

The siege would last to January 4, 1971, to keep everyone at home for Christmas and New Year.

Through that crisis, one would remain in jail for 14 years, another group of 15 without sentencing before 1975. Others were exiled to Cuba; the last coming back in 1984 and arrested as soon as he entered the country.

The First Cessation Referendum and its Consequence

The Parti Québécois would be elected on November 15, 1976. Huge reforms would take place to prepare the province for a referendum on May 20, 1980. By then, the Parti Québécois had implemented a series of new governmental organisations and filed 12 “White Books” at the National Assembly, stating bold policies to be put in place, preparing the province for sovereignty, if the Federal Government refused to negotiate.

The referendum was lost at 59.56% NO vs. 40.44% YES with 85.61% participation.

Following the referendum, Trudeau – freshly back in the job of Primer-Minister in March 1980, after losing to Joe Clark in 1979 – quickly starts the process to patriate the Constitution from London to Ottawa, final achievement of his long-prepared plan. He almost failed… but now, through that patriation, he will lockdown the new constitution and remove any possibility of constitutional changes in the Country, once for all, for good.

First round of negotiations started in September 1980 with a judgment of the Supreme Court as the provinces were challenging Ottawa on its right to unilaterally patriate the constitution, without the provinces consent. The Supreme Court ruled in favour of Ottawa, with a condition for the provinces to keep intact their exclusive rights. The first round of negotiation came to a stand-still, when Lévesque succeeded in forming a coalition of 8 provinces against Ottawa`s proposal, mainly concerning the embedment of the Chater of Rights and Freedom, which was highly contested.

On the second round of negotiations in April 1981, again, no agreement was achieved.

A third 4-day round was called starting on November 2, 1981, and this time, with a lot of ruse, dishonesty and back-stabbing, armed with document drafted by Brian Peckford and modified by provincial justice ministers with the Federal justice minister (Jean Chrétien), in the kitchen of the hotel. The provinces sent Lévesque back to his hotel room and reconvened late at night to sign the modified Peckford proposal, without any input or consent from Quebec.

This event would be known in Canadian history as the “Night of the Long Knives”, in parallel to the purge that the Nazi party did in July of 1934 amongst its own paramilitary wing and political opponents who were seen as a threat to Hitler.

The constitution was patriated on April 17, 1982, with a visit of Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, who signed the Constitution Act, 1982 which included two major additions:

1) The adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, without the protection of Property Rights that was proposed by Peter Lougheed from Alberta, a lost from the previous Canadian Bill of Rights (1960) where it was protected; and

2) The inclusion of the Equalisation payments within the constitution which forbids any condition on how the receiving province can use the money, and without a calculation formula which can be changed and amended yearly.

Finally, the constitution amendment procedure was changed from a process including submitting request from the Federal government or any provinces to London and getting an authorisation from the British Parliament **TO** the 7/50 principle, where 7 provinces representing at least 50% of the population can amend the constitution.

There is also an Unanimity procedure that requires approval by the House of Commons, the Senate and all 10 provinces to change, which is needed to change:

- the powers of the Senate
- the number of seats in parliament or provincial representation
- the role of the monarchy or the Governor General
- the composition of the Supreme Court
- the amending formula itself

Embedded in the Constitution 1982 is also the notwithstanding clause, or Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (part of the Constitution Act, 1982), which allows federal or provincial legislatures to override certain Charter rights for a maximum of 5 years, which can be renewed for another 5 year period.

In June 1982, the Quebec National Assembly, under Lévesque's PQ government, passed An Act (Bill 62), which retroactively inserted a standard notwithstanding clause into every existing Quebec law, and mandated its inclusion in every new law passed by the Assembly until 1985.

The omnibus bill covered all pre-Charter legislation (thousands of statutes) and all new laws from June 1982 to December 2, 1985. Estimates suggest hundreds of laws were affected, including minor statutes like the Bees Act, to shield them from Charter challenges under sections 2 (fundamental freedoms, e.g., expression, religion) and 7–15 (legal and equality rights).

The blanket use was a political protest, asserting Quebec's sovereignty and rejecting the Charter's legitimacy, particularly its potential to undermine Bill 101 (Charter of the French Language).

The practice continued until the PQ lost power to Robert Bourassa's Liberals on December 2, 1985, who ended the blanket application, but still used it for specific cases like Bill 178 in 1988.

Meech Lake Accord (1987-1990)

Brian Mulroney became Prime-Minister in 1984 after making a deal with the Parti Québécois where the Conservative Party would use the Parti Québécois political machine to win the election in Québec. It worked.

In exchange of that help, Mulrooney agreed to negotiate with Québec its integration into the 1982 constitution by adding five main amendments to it:

1) Quebec as a Distinct Society
2) Provincial Veto on Constitutional Amendments
3) Provincial Role in Supreme Court Appointments
4) Greater Immigration Powers to the Provinces
5) Allowing provinces to opt out of any Federal shared-cost programs (such as Healthcare)

It was firstly adopted by all provinces – as required by the 1982 unanimity rule formula, with all Premier`s agreeing in 1987. However, it collapsed as Manitoba and Newfoundland refused to ratify it within the 3 years window in their legislature, because of change of government during that time and public backlash concerning the Quebec "Distinct Society" clause.

By June 23, 1990, the Accord failed.

At that point, with the failure of the accord the day before Saint-Jean-Baptiste, it was clearly depicted as a rejection of Quebec by the rest of Canada.

The Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Quebec is celebrated as the Quebec National Day, while July 1st – Canada Day – is usually ignored by most, as it is "Moving Day", where close to 80-90% of all residential leases in the province start.

This is the result of the legal framework of the Civil Code (Quebec unique legal civil framework taken from the French Napoleon regime of the early 1800`s), which favor fixed-term leases and because legislation required June 30 as the termination of all leases, which remained in the tradition between landlords and tenants even after that law was repealed in 1973.

Charlottetown Accord (1992)

The failure of the Meech Lake Accord in 1990 deepened Quebec`s alienation and boosted sovereignty support close to 50% in 1991. To avoid the deadlocks of the Meech Lake Accord, Brian Mulroney included the Indigenous Leaders and Territories representatives to the negotiation table and decided to go through a national referendum instead of using the 1982 unanimity rule.

That referendum was a first in Canada`s constitutional history and was held on October 26, 1992.

This Accord was more expansive than the Meech Lake Accord and included:

1) Quebec as a Distinct Society
2) Senate reform (Triple-E Senate) with equal representation per province
3) Indigenous self-government
4) Extended provincial powers with a mechanism to opt-out of Federal initiatives
5) Supreme Court appointment with provincial consultations
6) A Canada Clause, defining Canada`s values to counteract the Quebec “Distinct Society”
7) An amendment clarifying the 7/50 rule to ensure provincial inputs on all major reforms

The referendum results brought 54.3% NO vs. 45.7% YES nationally, with six (6) provinces voting NO: Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nova Scotia.

The result of the failure of the national referendum boosted the independentist movement in Quebec and amplified grievance with Western Canadians who perceived the “Distinct Society” as favoritism to Quebec.

The Charlottetown Accord failure would sound the end of the Conservative government, with the constitutional debates leading to the creation in 1987 of the Reform Party in the West; and the defection of Lucien Bouchard (Mulroney`s Lieutenant) forming the Bloc Québécois in 1990; the table was now set to bring down the Conservative Government in a spectacular collapse from 156 seats (out of 295 at the time) to 2 (electing Jean Charest in Sherbrooke, Québec and Elsie Wayne in Saint-John, New-Brunswick), despite having the first woman Prime-Minister (Kim Campbell) at the helm of the party.

The rise of the regional parties made room for the Liberals to take back power with 177 seats while promoting the brand-new Bloc Québécois – a party advocating for Québec separation – as official opposition, which position gave major funding to the new separatist party along with tremendous power.

Jean Chrétien Liberals started by cleaning up shop as the new Finance Minister – Paul Martin – cut 55,000 to 65,000 federal employees and made 88,000 “buy-out” by June of 1995: a total of 377,00-426,000 federal jobs were cut by the Liberals from 1993-2000. They thought that this purge would be enough to bring back hope in the Federal government, showing that they were able to manage responsibly, after a rainfall of corruption scandals under Mulroney`s Conservatives.

The Second Referendum

Shortly after the Liberals come-back in Ottawa – with a separatist party as the Official Opposition – Daniel Johnson Jr. then Premier of Quebec, called for an election to be held on September 12, 1994, campaigning on federalism and economic stability.

On the other end, the separatist movement with Jacques Parizeau Parti Québécois framed their campaign solely on a mandate for independence, with a promise to call for a referendum within the first year.

Meanwhile, a new party had just been formed in March of 1994, founded by dissidents from the Liberal party, the "youth wing" of the party who have resigned all-together following their rejection of the Charlottetown Accord that has been negotiated by the party leader and Premier of Québec, Robert Bourassa. This new party, "Action Démocratique du Québec – ADQ" was advocating for a "middle" position, appealed to voters ambivalent about sovereignty and federalism, advocating fiscal conservatism and balanced budgets.

The voters – at 81.58% participation rate – elected the Parti Québécois with 44.75% of the votes and 77 seats (out of 125) while the Liberals received 44.40% of the votes with 47 seats, and the ADQ saw their 24 year old leader Mario Dumont, elected in his riding as their sole elected candidate, but with 6.46% of the provincial votes. The vote was so tight that in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, both PQ and Liberal candidates received the exact same number of votes, and a by-election was required on October 24, 1994, with a win for the PQ.

As soon as elected, the PQ put forward a referendum question and started a special commission on Québec independence to test it. The "Commission Avenir Québec" (Commission on Quebec Future) was held in the early months of 1995 with multiple hearings set across the province. People were invited to file memoires and express their opinion in front of a panel of representatives from the provincial government, federal official opposition, and the elected leader of the ADQ – Mario Dumont – as the 6.46% gathered by his party became the key to victory.

Perhaps anecdotal in the larger scope of things, Benoit Trudeau, 22 years old, part of the cohort of the founding candidates of the ADQ (and party organiser), filed a memoire on behalf of the party as the leader couldn`t, being on the panel. His position was received as "divisive" within the independentist movement, and even interpreted by some French media as putting his leader, Mario Dumont "in hot water", as the notion that he proposed of a sovereign Québec – fully independent – but within a united Canada, sounded contradictory at face value... it ended up being crucial in the redaction of the question, as people within the sovereigntist movement saw the benefits of it.

The question was carved by June 9, 1995, to be presented at a Special Meeting of the ADQ held in Sherbrooke Québec. The party then voted to join the "YES" and to run an independent campaign, side-by-side with the Parti Québécois and the Bloc Québécois. An agreement within the three parties was signed on June 12, 1995, and the question was presented to all Quebecers, through 4,000,000 postcards that were distributed to every residence.

The question was:

> "*Do you agree that Québec should become sovereign, after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership, within the scope of the bill respecting the future of Québec and of the agreement signed on June 12, 1995?"*

On October 30, 1995, the voters' turnout was 93.52% with 4,671,008 votes, 1.82% (86,501) rejected ballots, with the NO getting 2,362,648 votes (50.58%) and the YES 2,308,360 votes (49.42%) with only 54,288 valid ballots separating both camps, a 1.16% difference.

A massive illegal rally named the "Unity Rally" was organised by Jean Chrétien and the Liberals on October 27, 1995, bringing about 60,000 people to Square Dorchester (also known as Place du Canada) in Montreal.

Public funding was diverted to private companies and Colleges to charter over 300 buses, and for Air Canada, Canadian Airlines, Via Rail, and Greyhound to offer 90% discount on a special "Unity Fair" to come to Montreal for the event. In the context of an electoral campaign, managed by Elections Québec, it does represent massive illegal spending estimated at over $539,000 in transportation costs alone.

This event, like the Brinks Coup of 1970, had a decisive effect on the vote and swung the result with the "NO" camp, following the Liberals modus-operandi of doing something illegal and spectacular, 3 days before a crucial vote.

The Post-Referendum

Following the referendum, Jacques Parizeau resigned, and Lucien Bouchard succeeded him as Premier of Quebec in 1996, followed by Bernard Landry. The PQ lost the April 29, 2003, election to Jean Charest, who left the decimated Federal Conservatives to join the provincial Liberals as leader in 1998.

In 1996, the federal government, under Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, referred three questions to the Supreme Court to clarify the legal framework for Quebec's secession, spurred by the 1995 referendum's near-miss and PQ threats of another vote. The Court's unanimous decision, delivered on August 20, 1998, addressed the 1995 question indirectly by establishing principles for secession. The court key Findings were:

1) Can Quebec unilaterally secede under the Canadian Constitution?

    a) Quebec cannot unilaterally secede under the Constitution Act, 1867, or 1982. Secession would require amending the Constitution, engaging the federal government and provinces under the amending formula (e.g., 7/50 rule or unanimity).
    b) The Court identified four principles governing secession: federalism, democracy, constitutionalism/rule of law, and protection of minorities. A clear referendum result favoring secession would trigger a "duty to negotiate" with Canada, but secession cannot occur without agreement.

c) The Court noted that a referendum question must be “clear” to express a democratic will for secession. The 1995 question’s ambiguity—blending “sovereignty” with a “partnership”—was implicitly criticized, as it could mislead voters about unilateral secession’s feasibility. The Court suggested a question like “Do you wish Quebec to secede from Canada?” would be clearer, though it didn’t rule the 1995 question illegal.

2) Does international law grant Quebec a right to unilateral secession?

   a) International law does not grant Quebec a right to secede unilaterally, except in cases of colonial oppression or denial of self-determination, which Quebec, with its democratic rights and representation, does not face.
   b) Therefore, the 1995 referendum’s framing of “sovereignty” lacked international legal support for unilateral action, reinforcing the need for negotiations with Canada.

3) If Canadian and international law conflict, which prevails?

   a) Since neither Canadian nor international law allows unilateral secession, no conflict exists.

The conclusion of the 1998 decision was that if a clear majority in Quebec votes “Yes” on a clear question, Canada and other provinces have a constitutional duty to negotiate in good faith, though no party can dictate terms. The Court left “clear majority” undefined (e.g., 50%+1 or higher).

From this judgment, the decision shaped the **Federal Clarity Act (2000)**, which requires for any secession referendum a clear question and majority, approved by Parliament and the Senate, to obtain Royal Assent, prior to be submitted to the 10 provinces to be ratified by all of them. **Quebec’s Bill 99 (2000)** countered this, asserting its right to determine its future, highlighting ongoing tensions.

Following 9 years of liberal government in Quebec under the leadership of Jean Charest, the PQ came back in power on September 19, 2012, with Pauline Marois as its leader. Marois was shot at by an English extremist the night of the election during her speech. A soundman lost his life and her bodyguard was injured.

The PQ and the separatist movement lost traction amongst the year and the Liberals came back in power in 2014, followed by the CAQ in 2018, a coalition between a faction of the PQ and the ADQ who joined forces in 2011. The CAQ pledged not to do any referendum on sovereignty while doing everything they can to achieve the highest level of autonomy, pushing the boundaries of interpretation of the Canadian Constitution.

ALBERTANS, LET`S BE TRUE CANADIANS!

If we – as Albertans – are truly hungry about sovereignty, autonomy and self-governance, the Canadian Constitution (1982) has plenty of room to make changes.

The reason why the separation question took the back seat in Quebec, is because the political class have developed a culture of governance that rejects anything that goes – or seems to go – beyond what Ottawa should do (or have the right to do), according to our constitution.

Sovereignty must be taken, not negotiated. Quebec is a model of sovereign operation within a permissive constitution.

Alberta Political Culture

The political culture of Alberta has been altered by two major factors that prevent a true sovereign positioning in line with what the Canadian Constitution enables each province to do:

1) Domination of conservative values for more than 100 years, to the point of almost ruling without any opposition, forced the government to historically "*govern for all Albertans*", where in Quebec, everyone understands that the government in power will first govern based on their party policies and ideologies by implementing primarily the policies they have been voted in, and then dealt with others.
2) Domination of the presence of Federal institutions governing the land mixed with a perceived "superiority level" of the Federal Government, is still luring many provincial politicians aiming at obtaining Federal positions one of these days, which is incompatible with putting the interests of Alberta first, as the system has been made to keep the new provinces strictly as resource provinces, benefiting the East.

These factors are dictating key behavioural reactions by our provincial politicians that hinder changes for the benefit of the province.

By key behavioural reactions, here's some examples of the difference between Alberta politicians and Quebec politicians (not an exhaustive list, just some major ones):

Alberta	Quebec
When Alberta legislature is developing a new law or motion, the first question asked is: Can we do this?	When Quebec legislature is developing a new law or motion, they don't even think of asking ANYONE if it can be done, if the Feds are not happy, they can always file a lawsuit.
Comply with Federal regulations, then sue the Federal government.	Do not comply with the Federal regulation and let the Federal government file the lawsuit.

Alberta	Quebec
Legislative assembly pay allegiance to the King, which is an obligation according to the Canadian Constitution and required in Alberta to be sworn-in as a member of the Legislative Assembly.	Quebec passed a law (Bill 4) on December 9, 2022 (the day after Alberta passed its Sovereignty Act (Bill 1)), which amends the requirement for MNA (MLA) to swear allegiance to the Crown. Quebec add a motion in 2023 to abolish the role of the Lieutenant-governor (which would technically need a constitutional change) and is now working on a Bill to defund its activities. Quebec removed the “Royal Assent” in its legislative process, once voted in by the National Assembly, it is law. On May 27, 2025, the National Assembly of Quebec unanimously adopted a motion to abolish all ties with the British Monarchy while King Charles III was delivering the Throne Speech in Ottawa, which motion was expressly delivered in-hand to His Majesty immediately following his speech. All of this is un-constitutional, but nobody did anything yet to fight it. So, they just do it.
Collects all oil royalties in cash – when they could be collected in-kind – and deposit the $25+billion a year in a CIBC account (a federally regulated institution headquartered in Toronto), instead of using ATB (provincially owned), sending millions in bank fees down east, even more scandalous when you know that there is another option to collect these royalties in-kind and refine the crude oil – at least a portion of it – at the Northwest Refinery in Redwater, which Alberta owns at 50%.	Following the judgement from the Supreme Court on the referendum in 1998, Quebec “privatized” all its Crown Corporation, shielding them from direct calculation for the purpose of calculating the Equalization Payments while adding a level of secrecy now being under the provincial corporate rules (incorporations are provincial exclusive jurisdiction), with the Quebec government being 100% shareholder of each one of them.
Speaks loudly about the amount sent to Qubec for the equalisation payments.	Quebecers don`t care about the equalisation payments and what they receive… the solely federal-provincial discussion since the 1995 referendum is about “Fiscal Inequality”, which is the evaluation of the services rendered by the Federal government to Quebecers, where they make sure that they receive fair services for every penny they send to Ottawa.

As for the Federal representation of the province in Ottawa, we know that we have an immense democratic deficit. On the senator's front, the representation is totally skewed because of constitutional biases. Here's the representation per Senator, per province and territory.

Summary Table: Population per Senator by Province/Territory (Increasing Order, 2025)

Province/Territory	Population (2025)	Senators	Population per Senator
Nunavut	40,000	1	40,000
Prince Edward Island	178,000	4	44,500
Yukon	47,000	1	47,000
Northwest Territories	47,000	1	47,000
New Brunswick	860,000	10	86,000
Newfoundland and Labrador	557,000	6	92,833
Nova Scotia	1,066,000	10	106,600
Saskatchewan	1,242,000	6	207,000
Manitoba	1,490,000	6	248,333
Quebec	9,030,000	24	376,250
Ontario	16,099,000	24	670,792
Alberta	5,000,000	6	833,333
British Columbia	5,809,000	6	968,167
Canada Total	**41,465,000**	**105**	**394,905**

And the same phenomenon can be observed with the representation per Member in Parliament (MP):

Summary Table: Average Electors and Voters per MP (2025, Sorted by Increasing Voters per MP)

Province/Territory	Seats	Registered Electors	Electors per MP	Turnout (%)	Actual Voters	Voters per MP
Nunavut	1	27,480	27,480	69.46	19,084	19,084
Yukon	1	32,289	32,289	69.46	22,424	22,424
Northwest Territories	1	32,289	32,289	69.46	22,424	22,424
Prince Edward Island	4	122,286	30,572	78.4	95,872	23,968
Newfoundland and Labrador	7	382,659	54,666	65.6	251,024	35,859
New Brunswick	10	590,820	59,082	69.46	410,434	41,043
Saskatchewan	14	853,254	60,947	69.46	592,670	42,330
Nova Scotia	11	732,342	66,576	69.46	508,595	46,236
Manitoba	14	1,023,630	73,117	69.46	711,019	50,792
Quebec	78	6,203,610	79,533	69.46	4,306,984	55,244
Alberta	37	3,237,000	87,486	69.9	2,262,524	61,149
Ontario	122	11,060,013	90,656	69.46	7,682,305	62,962
British Columbia	43	3,990,783	92,809	69.46	2,772,028	64,446
Canada Total	**343**	**28,519,000**	**83,147**	**69.46**	**19,813,211**	**57,792**

It is important to recognize that the representation system leans towards the ones that have the most to financially gain by keeping it AS-IS, while the real deficit lays in the weak political western representation.

We must realise, as Albertans, who are our true allies and that – for instance – Prince Edward Island has much more to lose from a system change than, for instance, Quebec does. This is why we must consider Quebec as an ally in creating a movement to change things.

Facts About Equalisation Payments, Transfers, Court Settlements and Federal Debt

The following tables deal with the true numbers of all payments from the Federal Government to all provinces and territories. It brings back the loss of mission of our MPs in Ottawa, which was first and foremost, to check and control Federal spending, and NOT to represent their constituents to obtain more perks.

Once again, the champion of using the Westminster system to their advantage is Quebec, with the Bloc Quebecois primarily working on the checks and balances of what Quebec pays and receive from Ottawa, which is closer to the role of the MPs within the Westminster parliamentary system.

It is also important to note that, despite the impressive number sent to Quebec every year in equalization payments, they are not the ones who cost Albertans the most (on a per household basis). Albertans must know that the Atlantic provinces and territories are the ones that benefit most from the equalisation payments AND federal transfers to the territories AND of all court settlements that the Federal Government paid (or have to pay) with the aboriginal communities.

Beneficiaries of Equalization+Transfer Payments/Household (1957-2026)				
Largest Beneficiary	*Nunavut**	*$*	*242,180*	*received/household*
2nd Beneficiary	Prince-Edward-Island	$	211,532	received/household
3rd Beneficiary	New-Brunswick	$	186,102	received/household
4th Beneficiary	Nova-Scotia	$	153,489	received/household
5th Beneficiary	Manitoba	$	138,031	received/household
6th Beneficiary	*Northwest Territories**	*$*	*129,687*	*received/household*
7th Beneficiary	**Quebec**	**$**	**89,809**	**received/household**
8th Beneficiary	*Yukon**	*$*	*87,897*	*received/household*
9th Beneficiary	Newfoundland & Labrador	$	60,781	received/household
4th Contributor	Saskatchewan	$	(37,691)	paid/household
3rd Contributor	Ontario	$	(46,915)	paid/household
2dn Contributor	British-Columbia	$	(56,349)	paid/household
Largest Contributor	**Alberta**	**$**	**(102,858)**	**paid/household**

*Not part of equalization, direct transfers from Federal Government.

In addition to these payments and transfers, the aboriginals have benefitted of over $61.3 billion dollars in court settlements in the past 10 years. If that money would be distributed equally to all aboriginal households (which we know it is not), it represents the following:

New Brunswick.....$262,857/aboriginal household
Ontario.....$245,182/aboriginal household
Nova-Scotia.....$219,355/aboriginal household
Saskatchewan.....$149,831/aboriginal household
Manitoba.....$145,369/aboriginal household
Yukon.....$117,419/aboriginal household
British-Columbia.....$116,667/aboriginal household
Prince Edward Island.....$114,444/aboriginal household
Alberta.....$109,878/aboriginal household
Newfoundland and Labrador.....$95,517/aboriginal household
Quebec..... $81,077/aboriginal household
Northwest Territories.....$4,615/aboriginal household
Nunavut.....$4,576/aboriginal household

These numbers must be added to the “Base Numbers” of the amount per household as the original numbers include aboriginal households as well as all the other (second class) Canadians. The total Federal court settlements within the past 10 years amount to $5,838/non-indigenous tax-paying household.

The amount paid per aboriginal households by all Canadians since 1957 are as follow:

New Brunswick.....$448,959/aboriginal household
Nova-Scotia.....$372,844/aboriginal household
Prince Edward Island.....$325,976/aboriginal household
Manitoba.....$283,400/aboriginal household
Nunavut.....$246,756/aboriginal household
Yukon.....$205,316/aboriginal household
Ontario.....$198,267/aboriginal household
Quebec..... $170,886/aboriginal household
Newfoundland and Labrador.....$156,298/aboriginal household
Northwest Territories.....$134,302/aboriginal household
Saskatchewan.....$112,140/aboriginal household
British-Columbia.....$60,318/aboriginal household
Alberta.....$7,020/aboriginal household

Finally, the portion of the Federal Debt owed by Albertans as of June, 2025 is as follow:

Summary Table: Federal Debt per Alberta Household (2025)

Category	Federal Debt ($B)	Alberta Share ($B)	Alberta Households	Per Household ($)	Annual Interest ($)
All Households	2,118.1	255.44	1,923,077	132,784	3,387
Tax-Paying Households (~80%)	2,118.1	255.44	1,538,462	166,030	4,234

In a scenario where Alberta would get his share of the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) – assuming a negotiated amount between $375.64 billion and $177.19 billion claimed by the Chief Actuary, the settlement should be around $276.42 billion which if used to clear the Alberta's portion of the Federal Debt, would leave the province with a net $20.98 billion to start its own pension fund while freeing $4,234/household yearly, just in interest.

Setting up a like Quebec a Secretary for Canadian Relations as a watchdog for the fiscal equality with the Federal Government could position Alberta to prevent any further debt accumulation on its behalf on the Federal government front, as the "tab" with the Federal government would be at $0.

Key Alberta Constitutional Rights Assertion

Based on the actual structure of the Alberta legislature, here`s the actions that can be implemented RIGHT NOW, without referendum, without constitutional amendment, without provincial-federal lawsuits, simply based on what Quebec is doing and mostly, how they do it.

These changes will assure Alberta's total control on its exclusive constitutional jurisdictions, which are:

1. **Municipal Institutions**
2. **Property and Civil Rights**
3. **Administration of Justice**
4. **Education (Section 93)**
5. **Hospitals and Health Care**
6. **Natural Resources and Forestry**
7. **Local Works and Undertakings**
8. **Licensing of Businesses**
9. **Provincial Taxes**

10. **Management of Public Lands**
11. **Charities and Charitable Institutions**
12. **Provincial Prisons and Reformatories**
13. **Solemnization of Marriage**

In addition:

- Provinces also have authority under **Section 92A**, added in 1982, over **non-renewable natural resources, forestry resources, and electrical energy**.

Key Powers and Practices Québec Uses:

1. International Présence (Délégations du Québec)

- Québec operates a **network of international offices** (like embassies) in cities such as Paris, New York, and Brussels.
- These offices promote **Québec's economic, cultural, and political interests** abroad.

2. Participation in Trade Agreements

- While **only the federal government can formally sign treaties**, Québec has:
  - A **recognized seat at the table** during trade negotiations that affect its jurisdiction (e.g., education, health, culture, procurement).
  - A role in **implementing parts** of treaties within its jurisdiction once signed.

3. The Gérin-Lajoie Doctrine

- An unofficial but influential doctrine (from the 1960s) that asserts **Québec has the right to act internationally in areas under provincial jurisdiction**, such as education, culture, and economic development.
- Though not legally binding, it is respected in practice and reflects Québec's unique status.

4. Bilateral Economic Agreements (Non-Treaty)

- Québec can sign **non-binding Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)** and **economic cooperation agreements** with foreign regions or countries **in areas of provincial jurisdiction** (e.g., cultural exchanges, education, regional economic partnerships).

Here's a parallel of Alberta and Quebec Ministries and what could be changed on the Alberta side to match what Quebec has:

Alberta Ministry		Quebec Equivalent	
1.	Executive Council • Alberta Secretary to Canadian Relations with an office in Ottawa – Main role is to negotiate fiscal equality between money paid and Federal services received.	1.	Executive Council (Conseil exécutif)
2.	Agriculture and Irrigation • Take-over of Food Inspection for food sold in the province, mainly with the beef industry. • Oversee, override and challenge Health Canada (Health Products and Food Branch) for all products sold in Alberta.	2.	Agriculture, Fishery and Food Regulation (Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation)
3.	Arts, Culture and Status of Women	3.	Culture and Communication (Culture et Communications)
4.	Communication and Public Engagement		
5.	Public Service Commission		
6.	Indigenous Relations • Take all Federal Transfer for infrastructures (power, water, sewer, gas, sport facilities, schools) dedicated for aboriginal territories and participate with each nation to assure a cohesion across Alberta for community services provided to ALL Albertans.	4.	French Language (Langue française)
7.	Assisted Living and Social Services	5.	Health and Social Services (Santé et Services sociaux)
8.	Hospital and Surgical Health Services • Develop a provincial "Health Insurance" system which includes the payment of private hospital for elective surgeries if the patient is willing to pay a portion of the treatment. • STOP taking ANY Federal health transfers and KEEP the same amount in the province instead.		
9.	Mental Health and Addiction		
10.	Primary and Preventive Health Services • Introduction of "Health Clubs" where premiums are paid to have integrated preventive health services.		

Alberta		Quebec	
11.	Children and Family Services	6.	Family (Famille)
12.	Education and Childcare	7.	Education (Éducation)
13.	Advance Education • Pair the province to ALL Federal Research Program and control the priorities within the Alberta Universities and Colleges.	8.	Advance Education (Enseignement supérieur)
14.	Environment and Protected Areas • Remove Federal Environmental inspectors to be replaced strictly by Provincial Inspectors. • Create a structure to “absorb” Federal programs for the delivery part of them on Alberta`s territory.	9.	Environment, Climate Change, Fauna and Parks (Environnement, Lutte contre les changements climatiques, Faune et Parcs)
15.	Forestry and Parks • Negotiate with the Federal Government to take over the administration of the Federal National Parks (Banff, Jasper, Elk Island). • Change the term “Crown Land” to “Provincial Land”.	10.	Natural Ressources and Forestry (Ressources naturelles et Forêts)
16.	Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration • Creation of an independent Immigration Ministry which will work at establishing specific local and regional criteria for all new immigrants. • Developing and establishing an education and integration program for all new immigrant to be presented with Alberta’s history and values, for which they will go to class and sign a “Citizenship Contract” prior to be delivered with a driver`s license and Health Card. • Creating an independent Jobs ministry to take-over EI funding for job training and special re-integration programs. • Implementation of the “Statistic Institute of Alberta” to serve as official statistic organisation in Alberta, superseding Statistic Canada for the production, management and report on specific Albertan topics to feed the different provincial ministries.	11.	Jobs and Social Solidarity (Emploi et Solidarité sociale)
		12.	Work (Travail)
		13.	Immigration, French Learning and Intégration (Immigration, Francisation et Intégration)
		14.	International Relations and Francophone Relations (Relations internationales et Francophonie)

Alberta		Quebec	
16.	Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration (Continued) • Establishing Alberta Delegations in: Ottawa, ON, CA; Toronto, ON, CA; Montreal, QC, CA; Halifax, NS, CA; Vancouver, BC, CA; Prince Rupert, BC, CA; Whitehorse, YT, CA; Yellowknife, NT, CA; Iqaluit, NU, CA; Washington, DC, USA; Seattle, WA, USA; Portland, OR, USA; Helena, MT, USA; Boise, ID, USA; Juneau, AK, USA; New York, NY, USA; Chicago, IL, USA; Dallas, TX, USA; Houston, TX, USA; New Orleans, MS, USA; Los Angeles, CA, USA; Phoenix, NV, USA; Mexico City, MX; San Salvador, SV; Panama, PA; Sao Paulo, BR; Buenos Aires, AR; Santiago De Chile, CL; Nuuk, GL; Reykjavik, IS; Dublin, IE; London, UK; Cairo, EG; Pretoria, ZA; Seoul, KR; Berlin, DE; Brussels, BE; Dubai, AE; Mumbai, IN; Tel-Aviv, IL; Beijing, CN; Quindío, CN; Shenzhen, CN; Hong Kong, CN; Tokyo, JP; Singapore, SG; Sydney, AU. • The Province of Alberta would sign a 99-year lease with a foreign jurisdiction on a portion of land or an island, on which Island Alberta would have a "Municipal Airport" outside of the province and Country's boundaries, that would be directly accessed by air from Alberta without passport.	14.	International Relations and Francophone Relations (Relations internationales et Francophonie)
17.	Justice • Removal of the name “Court of King’s Bench of Alberta” replaced by “Superior Court of Alberta”.	15.	Justice
18.	Municipal Affairs • NO direct financing and/or agreement between municipalities and Federal funded agencies and program without approval of the Provincial Government. • Negotiation of a distinct provincial “Envelope”, managed by the province, for all and any Federal initiative to finance housing. • Creation of the “Local Infrastructure Financing Commission of Alberta” creating a support group for Alberta municipalities for all their infrastructures solutions.	16.	Municipal Affaires and Housing (Affaires municipales et Habitation)

Alberta		Quebec	
19.	Public Safety and Emergency Services • Termination of the RCMP contract across the province and buy-back of existing infrastructure and equipment to create a Provincial Police Corps. • Creation of the Alberta Law Enforcement Reserve Troops (ALERT), modeled on the Colorado Rangers, which will operate as a shared reserve force of POST- certified peace officers, required to log at least 150 duty hours annually, and funded through partner agencies, operating without tax dollars. • Creation of regional armouries and ranges across the province with a vault for “forbidden” firearms (automatic weapons, etc.), held on behalf of the owner, who could then use them at that regional range.	17.	Public Safety (Securitas publique)
20.	Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction • Complete revision of systems and client interface to make sure that all services are accessible online.	18.	Digitalization and Cyber Security (Cybersécurité et Numérique)
21.	Technology and Innovation • Program to promote Albertans expertise within the Albertan Delegation Offices around the world.	19.	Economy, Innovation and Energy (Économie, Innovation et Énergie)
22.	Energy and Minerals • Privatisation of the “Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission” to become the “Alberta Petroleum Marketing Corporation”, a private corporation with one shareholder (the Alberta Government) who will collect the oil Royalties for the province and manage it (in cash – deposited at ATB – or in-kind – refined at the Northwest Refinery). • Creation of an “Alberta Energy Protector” in charge of managing all Federal regulations pertaining to ALL exclusive provincial jurisdiction and removing any Federal inspectors and employees from the Alberta territory, for all regulatory aspects, that will be directly managed by the province.		

Alberta		Quebec	
23.	Affordability and Utilities • Negotiation of MOU's directly with international jurisdiction to export/import goods and services needed by Albertans. • Creation of the "Provincial Affordability Protector Office" that will primarily target and chase after private corporations who would be willing to open manufacturing facilities in Alberta to provide with basic necessities, manufactured locally such as pharmaceutical products or energy related equipment.	19.	Economy, Innovation and Energy (Économie, Innovation et Énergie)
24.	Transportation and Economic Corridors • Creation of an "Economic Corridor Advocate Office" which will work directly to map and negotiate all physical corridor to connect the provinces to key infrastructures outside of Alberta's boundaries.	20.	Transport and Sustainable Mobility (Transports et Mobilité durable)
25.	Infrastructure • Development of key infrastructure projects such as new rail, water reservoirs and nuclear power hubs.		
26.	Tourism and Sport • Alignment with Municipal Affairs and Infrastructure to expand the sports facilities across the province and to create world-class training centers in a private-public partnership model (public to build, private to operate).	21.	Tourism (Tourisme)

Alberta		Quebec	
27.	Treasury Board and Finance • Creation of the “Alberta Revenue Agency” that will collect all Albertan’s taxes, including the Federal portion of the taxes that will be managed by the Agency on behalf of CRA. • Creation of an “Alberta Pension Plan”, using a portion of the patriation of the funds from the CPP to pay-out the Alberta portion of the Federal debt which then will open the door to the management of the Federal portion of taxation by the Alberta Revenue Agency. • The new APP will be modeled on the “Caisse de Depot et Placements du Quebec” with a mandate to invest a portion of the investment portfolio re-invested in Alberta, including in partnership public-private for infrastructure (like the REM in Montreal), that new organisation – a private corporation owned 100% by the Alberta Government – could be called the “Alberta Deposit Fiduciary Corporation”. • Modification of the role of ATB adding an emphasis on corporate and farm financing with the goal to replace BDC and FCC. • Creation of the “Alberta Public Index Fund” where the Alberta government will facilitate the buy-out of 14-20% of all the public shares of the 125 top Alberta public companies to create an Alberta Index, which mutual fund will be sold on the market to recuperate the initial investment, this will have for effect to “take control” of all major public companies in Alberta, assuring Albertan’s presence on the boards. The index could be managed by the “Alberta Deposit Fiduciary Corporation”.	22.	Treasury Board (Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor)
		23.	Finance (Finances)

CONCLUSION

It is of my opinion that an intervention at the legislative level, with the implementation and assertion of exclusive powers in existing ministries is THE BEST and FASTEST solution to stimulate changes in the Country.

With both Alberta and Quebec united on the way they will interpret and implement their constitutional rights, it would certainly inspire other provinces to follow through and create a new dynamic within the country, that will ultimately lead to a necessary operational restructuration, and perhaps a totally new constitutional deal.

This solution will minimally get Alberta out of the control of the Federal Government at multiple crucial levels, such as controlling its revenue stream and money grab that could then be negotiated “in reverse”, where we decide of what and when we send money to the Federal government.

Even with a longer-term scenario where an independent Alberta could become a viable solution, this first operational step is still critical to the operation of a Sovereign State, making all these structures even more viable.

I do believe that a referendum on cessation at this junction of time is a bad option, and a defeat of such a referendum would probably pushback the possibility to address the question within this generation.

We need changes now and using the Canadian constitution to implement similar tools that has been implemented by Quebec in the past 70 years, is the best way to protect Albertans and gain a higher level of autonomy and negotiation power with both the Federal government and the international community.

THE AUTHOR

Born in 1972 from a dad who is (still) a speech writer – who worked for all Premiers of Quebec and Prime-Ministers in Canada (except Stephen Harper), and a mom who spent more than 20 years of her life working in French developing country (mainly in Africa, but Haiti as well), I was sent to the best school in the Quebec, the same school who trained Louis Riel and George-Étienne Cartier, the Collège de Montréal.

My involvement in politics started in 1989, expecting the failure of Meech Lake, where I joined the Young provincial Liberals. The negotiation of the Charlottetown Accord in 1992 brought the resignation of the Youth Wing of the Quebec Liberal Party who lost approximately 2,000 youth (including me) when Robert Bourassa used his veto against the Allaire Report, who has been voted by the party and our wing.

The report published in January 1991, was proposing a radical restructuring of Canadian federalism to enhance Québec's autonomy. Its main recommendations included:

Decentralization of Powers:

- Transfer 22 areas of federal or shared jurisdiction to Québec's exclusive control, including social affairs, culture, health, family policy, manpower training, communications, environment, agriculture, and public security.
- **Limit federal jurisdiction to five exclusive areas:** defence, tariffs, currency, equalization payments, and federal debt management. Nine other areas would be shared.
- **Adjust taxing powers to allow Québec to collect more revenue**, reducing federal transfers.

Constitutional Reforms:

- Abolish the Senate or reform it to reflect provincial equality, rejecting the appointed Senate's regional imbalances (e.g. Alberta's 6 senators vs. Québec's 24).
- Adopt a new amending formula requiring approval by 50% of Canada's population, including Québec's mandatory consent, ensuring Québec's veto over constitutional changes.
- Advocate bilateral negotiations between Québec and Ottawa, bypassing multilateral talks with other provinces.

Autonomist Vision:

- The report's title, evoking "Vive le Québec libre," signaled a nationalist stance, positioning Québec as a near-sovereign entity within Canada. It aimed to counter

the rising sovereignty movement led by the Parti Québécois (PQ) under Jacques Parizeau.

- If no new constitutional agreement met Québec's demands by 1992, the report recommended a referendum on sovereignty, aligning with Premier Robert Bourassa's pledge.

Following the resignation from the Liberal Party of Quebec, we started a new party, "Action Democratique du Quebec (ADQ)", which became official in March of 1994, with Mr. Allaire as the leader. Mr. Allaire had heart issues in April of 1994, so he quickly resigned to be replaced by the ex-president of the Liberal Party of Quebec – Youth Wing, Mario Dumont, 24-year-old.

Dumont dumps on PQ's fixed ideas

Sovereigntists show split on ways and means

The Record, Sherbrooke Quebec, February 21, 1995.

An election was imminent, and I became the official candidate of the ADQ in Brome-Missisquoi by June 1994. I was 22. Being a new party, there was not a lot of staff at the office, and we were about 10-15 people to run the party, on a benevolent basis.

Dumont won his seat, we got over 6% of the popular vote, which was the ratio that was separating the YES from the NO for the upcoming referendum. We now represented the balance of power to win the referendum.

I represented our party at the Commission on Quebec Future, and we were able to influence the final question towards a negotiation with the Federal instead of a pure cessation. The campaign was lost by less than 2%.

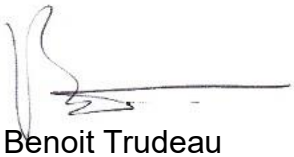
I've remained in politics following the referendum campaign and became Special Assistant of Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Canada Economic Development for the Region of Quebec and Minister of Labour in January 2006, under the first Harper government.

My role with the minister brought me to Alberta in April of 2007. I moved to Alberta permanently in 2008.

I married an Albertan – born and raised in Edmonton – and we have four children, all born and raised in Alberta. My nationalist fiber towards Quebec has been replaced by one burning for Alberta. My desire is still to see a major reform in our Country, and I believe that Alberta holds the key to trigger it. It is just a question of using the right tools at our disposal.

May the Lord guide our steps and bring insight and wisdom in what needs to be done, in unity and efficiency.

May God bless an Alberta Strong and Free!



Benoit Trudeau
June 2025.