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Sisters and Brothers

It has been a very interesting few months on the political front

Federally the legalization of cannabis (bill C-45) has not been as easy as the liberal government would like, massive opposition from the conservatives, and the provinces themselves saying there not ready to implement it. The senate vote on the matter is currently expected in June and that would not give the government enough time to implement by July 1st, so the time line for legalization is currently somewhere between August and October,

NAFTA talks are still progressing but very slowly Donald trump has put huge tariffs on steel and aluminum, but has put a temporary exemption on Canada and Mexico, reinstating the tariffs depend on if he gets what he wants from the NAFTA negotiations

In Alberta politics the big issue right now is the trade war that Alberta is having with B.C over the Trans mountain pipeline, Alberta had put a ban on B.C wine products which has been lifted, and cut off talks to purchase electricity from B.C Recently the NEB ruled that Burnaby's bylaws on cutting down trees and clearing of land do not overrule federal jurisdiction in this area and the federal court of appeal let the decision stand, which is a win for the project and a step forward, Unfortunately the city of Burnaby is taking the case to the supreme court which most legal opinions are that they don't have a case.

Alberta has found an ally in Saskatchewan of all places! The new premiere Scott Moe has said if B.C continues to block the pipeline they will "consider retaliation including restricted export permits for our oil"

This whole issue is unconstitutional as oil pipelines are a federal decision and the liberal government gave approval on Nov 23rd 2016 with 156 conditions of which all have been addressed, The federal government has to stop playing politics and lay down the law to B.C

The Alberta budget was tabled last month which includes a \$8.8 billion dollar deficit and a five year plan to balance the books, The budget includes increases in education, health and community services

When the Notley government came into power in 2015 they inherited a province that infrastructure was crumbling, the economy had tanked due to low oil prices and instead of following the P.C. game plan of lay off thousands raise taxes, give corporations huge tax breaks, The government started to build and repair the infrastructure that the P.C.s neglected, Put money into education, health, and kept Albertans working. The numbers show that this plan is working Jobs are coming back Alberta added 26,300 jobs in December alone, the employment rate has increased by 2.4% year over year slightly better than the national average of 2.3% The unemployment rate has dropped to a 26 month low now at 6.9% the



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lowest level since October 2015, the private sector is also seeing growth with just under ten thousand jobs created, while self employment has increased by over twelve thousand positions.

Since December 2016 Alberta has gained 45,800 full time positions and 9,200 partime positions to the Job market

Alberta still has the fastest GDP growth in the country and the provinces average hourly wage has increased by more than one dollar and hour mainly due to the employment growth in the goods sectors

The UCP has been advocating going back to the flat tax system which punishes lower income people and greatly helps out the wealthier people of Alberta if the flat tax was implemented it would take \$700 million dollars out of the Alberta treasury,

Another policy the UCP is pushing for is private health care for those who can afford it so their top two policies are to give wealthy Albertans a tax break and private health care while the working class Albertans pick up the tab

In closing I would like to thank the local for the opportunity to attend “planning for your future” course at port Elgin, The course was very well done, informative and if anyone here plans to retire in the next

5-10 years I highly recommend attending this course

I move my report