



Karen Caig  
*1st Vice President*

Jay Thompson  
*Local President*

Jim Connelly  
*Financial Secretary*

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## Political Action Report

### Brothers and Sisters

Recently the Federal court of appeals has struck down the Federal governments approval of the Trans-Mountain pipeline which will and is having devastating effects on employment, investment, and the Alberta economy, The court decided that there was not proper consultation with indigenous community's and the effects of extra tankers on the coast, this is due to the NEB (national energy boards) convoluted and confusing rules that were changed when the Harper government was in power,

The liberal government is vowing that the pipeline will go though but as of today no real plan of action has been worked out.

The Notley government has reacted to the denial of the pipeline by opting out of the federal carbon plan until the federal government reacts and responds, the NDP has also put a hold on the planned increase in the Alberta carbon levy until this matter is settled. The Alberta government legally has no further say in getting the pipeline going due to it being a federal matter However they have not been resting! They have been very critical of the federal government, the NEB, and of B.C. Regardless of anyone's opinion of the pipeline and Alberta oil the fact is there is not one Canadian in this country that has not benefitted from Alberta's prosperity. Whether it be in transfer payments, employment, or just heating your home and filling up your vehicle, The NEB is broken because of the Harper government and now the liberals need to fix it and soon.

NAFTA talks are still ongoing but are very contentious, The US and Mexico have come up with an agreement in principle, which Trump says is a done deal, but still has to be passed by the senate,

Donald Trump has been dictating that Canada take huge concessions to make the deal work including our cultural industries which include our media, news outlets, etc. which is currently exempt from NAFTA, We need to put in a clause that continues the exemption. If we do not have some protection on Canadian content the US could come to Canada, take over the media and totally disregard any Canadian content, which would have devastating effects on our made in Canada programing. Jerry Dias in his Sept 5<sup>th</sup> article in the Huffington post states



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“Our recent international successes, particularly in the areas of music and literature, are due to Canadian content rules that allow our performers and musicians to be heard on Canadian radio stations and to give subsidies to our authors and publishers. Without the cultural exemption being part of NAFTA in 1994, Canada's media landscape would be much diminished, or controlled by American conglomerates. By having the right under NAFTA to support our cultural industries, we are able to provide the fertile ground at home for the industry to thrive”.

Another sticking point in the negotiations is chapter 19 which is the dispute resolution clause As McLean's magazine explains it “Chapter 19 allows Canada to bypass the U.S. judicial review process when the U.S. government imposes antidumping and/or countervailing duties on Canadian products imported into the United States” Which basically means Canada would have no legal recourse over huge Tariffs on Canadian products going to the states as with the continuous softwood lumber dispute.

The NAFTA talks are continuing and the Canadian government is vowing to stand up for our rights and not allow the states to walk all over us, The labour movement has been a very vocal part of the NAFTA negotiations for the first time since it was introduced so hopefully our voices will be heard.

The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Calgary pride parade was held on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> with an attendance of over 80 thousand people, The NDP, liberals, and Alberta party were all in attendance as well as our local, The UCP again were not invited to the parade due to there refusal to stand up for and acknowledge the LGBTQ community, However they did have there own pride breakfast that included Jason Kenney, three MLA's and six UCP supporters,

The Federal and Provincial elections are both fast approaching, whether you are a Liberal, NDP, UCP, or Conservative supporter I ask that you realistically look at the facts of each party, do some research, think about which party will work for you! Don't vote with your heart, vote with your head, but regardless make sure you vote and get every one you know to vote.

I move my report



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