

Robert Patterson

My name is Robert Patterson. I am a Financial and Risk Management professional with over 30 years of experience in the Energy, Financial Services and Not for profit sectors. I have experience in the area of financial and economic policy development. I hold a B-Comm degree in Finance and am a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). I have previously served as a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for community not for profit organizations.

I am originally from British Columbia , but moved to Alberta over 40 years ago seeking economic prosperity. Moving to Alberta and working hard as a financial professional in the oil & gas industry , led to prosperity and a brighter future for my family.

I think a key reason for Alberta's economic success - was the *pro-business* culture of economic freedom and a *can do* attitude that was present in Alberta for many years. We used to call this the "**Alberta Advantage**". Many of our detractors told us that Alberta's success came solely from our blessing of oil & gas natural resources.

However, in my opinion the Alberta Advantage was not solely created by our endowment of natural resources. More importantly , it was about Alberta creating a positive environment of smaller government , economic and social freedom - where hard work, investment and entrepreneurial risk taking are encouraged and rewarded.

Unfortunately today, I believe that Alberta's economic future and potential is being constantly attacked and diminished by a hostile federal government that has an ideological and irrational hatred of the fossil fuel energy industry. Witness the recent hostile and unfair actions taken by the federal government to deliberately obstruct the energy industry, such as the BC tanker ban (Bill C-48) and the Environmental Assessment Act (Bill C-69). Both of which are designed to obstruct and block Alberta's constitutional rights and its economic growth. Not to mention the publicly stated federal objective of *phasing out* the Alberta oil sands industry.

All of these hostile actions and regulations, if left unaddressed, will have a devastating negative impact on Alberta's economy and its people. Regardless of the false information being used to demonize the energy industry - the world market will continue to demand and need Alberta oil & gas and energy security. Alberta has every legal right under the constitution and technical ability to capture this economic prosperity in an environmentally sustainable manner.

However, in order to secure our future **prosperity** we need Independence and greater economic freedom. It is time for Alberta to chart a new path forward.