

CENTRIST PARTY STATEMENT ON FEDERAL JUST TRANSITION LEGISLATION  
October 9, 2023

There are many countries in the world which are still using coal as a source of energy, which leads to the highest greenhouse gas emissions. The world needs more energy due to increasing population and development, not only in the developing countries but also in Europe where the supply of natural gas has been threatened due to the Russia and Ukraine conflict.

The transition from fossil fuel energy to renewable energy can only be stepwise. Therefore, it is not wise to campaign against the natural resources of Canada including liquefied natural gas (LNG). The world needs LNG of Canada, the development of which is not only helpful to our economy but also to reduce the global greenhouse gas emissions. As we own the world's third largest oil and gas reserves, we should develop and provide natural gas to the nations which are in dire need.

The legislation proposed by the current Liberal government will not only significantly harm the economy of Alberta, but also almost 20,000 jobs. In times when Canadians are facing a cost of living and affordability crisis, we need to support the national economy, and maintain thousands of well-paying jobs rather than damaging our own energy sector.

Alberta's energy sector has been making efforts to significantly reduce net emissions; we need to attract investments in projects which utilize carbon capture and storage, geothermal technology as well as the nuclear sector. This will also attract a skilled work force, and the development of technology. Increasing the export of LNG to the developing countries of Asia as well as Western Europe will play a significant role in decreasing the global greenhouse gas emissions.

We also feel that this proposed legislation will enhance the feeling of Western alienation in Western Canada, and therefore any such legislation should be framed through mutual discussions with the provincial governments of Western Canada. We believe that no provision of this proposed legislation should be focused on phasing out or reducing Alberta's conventional oil and natural gas industry as well as work force. The Federal government should work in partnership to expand LNG export projects to Asia and Europe which will also help in decreasing global greenhouse gas emissions. We also feel that Western Canada has been treated unfairly as compared to Quebec, and therefore working together with provincial governments of Western Canada will help to eliminate this feeling.

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