

# Communist Party - Alberta Statement

<http://communistparty-alberta.ca>



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Alberta Leader**

**Want to discuss  
these ideas?  
Talk with us at  
"Chat with  
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the date.**



## Austerity vs. Employment

We have a plan for full employment and improved social benefits for all Albertans: take control of great reserves of wealth through nationalization of key sectors and taxation on wealthy corporations; use the wealth to diversify the economy into new green sectors, recognizing that there is no loophole in world market forces that will make tar sands profitable in the long run. This plan would require a great deal of infrastructure construction and re-construction, but is also rich in employment opportunities.

The skill and experience that Alberta workers have gained in the energy sector can be applied to build and manufacture what Alberta needs: more public housing; a modernized transportation system for both urban and rural areas; modernizing our energy and electrical systems using solar and wind power; processing petroleum feedstocks into finished products; environmental restoration of orphan wells; diversifying and processing Alberta agricultural products, among many other possibilities.

Unfortunately the current government is doing just the opposite, siding with private corporations over the short- and long-term needs of the majority of the people. Placing all its hopes on a revival of the oil and gas sector that is technologically obsolete and just too expensive to compete on world markets, the UCP has put the boots to the Alberta economy.

Beginning with a completely unnecessary tax break for the wealthiest and most profitable corporations, they deprived the provincial budget of billions of dollars. Then they used the self-inflicted decrease in revenue to justify starving education and health care, laying off thousands. They have attacked the most vulnerable by cutting AISH and various social programs. And they are threatening to seize our Canada Pension savings to throw away on the same faith in a dying industry.

The result has been increased deficits, job losses and uncertainty. Corporations like Encana and Halliburton, who were supposed to respond to tax cuts by generating new jobs, are instead closing down operations and moving out of the province. Not just public employees but workers in all sectors are feeling the pinch as municipalities are forced to cut back on infrastructure projects.