



Fairness for Alberta



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Recently, Erin O'Toole was here in Alberta to address the issue of Equalization and the unfair treatment of Albertans by the Liberal government in Ottawa.

It's no secret that the current Equalization and transfer program is unfair to Albertans and that has to change.

Since 1967, Albertans have contributed more than \$600 billion to the rest of Canada, and an average of more than \$20 billion a year over the last decade. In recent years when Alberta needed support we were short-changed in our time of need.

My Conservative colleagues and I are committed to Equalization fairness and are standing up for Albertans in Parliament.

To address the fact that Albertans have been asked to pay more than our fair share, Conservatives have tabled a Bill in Parliament to restore fairness to Equalization. Our proposals will strengthen the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability in Canada's equalization regime and ensure that provinces like Alberta receive the compensation we deserve.

Our federation should mean being there for one another in good times, but also in challenging times. A new Equalization rebate would embody this spirit of federation, with the federal government stepping up for the provinces that need it the most in times of need.

For the last six years, the Ottawa Liberals have looked for every excuse to attack Albertans. It's time for that to change. I encourage you to read more about the changes my Conservative colleagues and I are championing on the following page.

Fixing the Equalization rebate is the first step in restoring fairness for Albertans in Confederation.

There will be more to come as we continue to announce our plan for Canada.

Stay safe,

Len Webber, MP
Calgary Confederation
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Each month I share important
information about government
programs and services.

In addition, I conduct a monthly
online poll so that you can tell
me how you want to be
represented in Parliament.

Finally, I provide a complete list
of all the issues and concerns
that are brought to my
attention throughout the month
in the letters our community
writes to me. **Sign up today!**

A COUNTRY WHERE ALL PROVINCES ARE TREATED EQUALLY IS A UNITED COUNTRY. IT'S TIME FOR EQUALIZATION FAIRNESS.

It's time to fix the Equalization rebate by:

-  Removing **the per-person payout cap.**
-  **Lowering the revenue decline threshold** so that it is triggered at 3% rather than the current 5%.
-  **Lowering the resource revenue decline threshold** so that it is triggered at 40% rather than the current 50%.
-  **Making these changes retroactive** to 2015.



The Fiscal Stabilization Program was created in 1967 to provide support to provincial governments when they experience a sudden and significant drop in revenues like we did in 2014.

It helps 'stabilize' a province's finances by providing payments in the event of a large decline in revenues, or a dramatic decline in resources revenue, effectively functioning as an Equalization rebate for those provinces.

A quick and massive drop in provincial government revenues can have dramatic and long-lasting consequences. These payments 'cushion the shock' and help to provide essential services and programs.

Since 1987, these rebates have been arbitrarily capped at a maximum of \$60 per person. **In 2020, the Premiers of the provinces unanimously demanded significant changes to the program.** (It is not often all the Premiers agree unanimously on anything.)

My Conservative colleague MP Tom Kmiec introduced the *Equalization and Transfers Fairness Act*, as the first step in restoring fairness for Albertans within Canada. It would be enacted by a future Conservative government.

While this would help several provinces, this Equalization rebate would help Alberta most. It would provide \$4 billion to the people of Alberta, giving us back some of the extra money we paid during the last few, tough years when we needed it the most. My Conservative colleagues and I fully support this proposal.

The fiscal stabilization program caps payments at \$170 per capita. This means that for the year 2020-

2021, Alberta would receive \$750 million in a fiscal stabilization payment, without the cap, Alberta would receive \$3 billion a difference of \$2.25 billion. The Conservative plan goes one step farther than just ensuring that Albertans get their full \$3 billion rebate for 2020-2021, but it would also rebate backdated payments to 2015 for an estimated total of \$4.65 billion.

Next, the *Equalization and Transfers Fairness Act* ensures that the federal government cannot unilaterally change the equalization formula.

This is important because in the spring of 2018, the Liberals extended the equalization formula in an omnibus budget bill. The formula was extended without any consideration for the massive GDP drops Alberta experienced from 2014-2018. The extension was done without any approvals from the provinces and without a proper debate in Parliament.

Unfortunately, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government only made minor tweaks that fell far short of the needs of the provinces — including Alberta. This has left provincial governments with less money to deal with the important social programs they are responsible for such as health care, education, and most social services. This is not how Canada should work.

My Conservative colleagues and I support fixing the Equalization rebate as a first step to ensuring fairness for Albertans within Confederation.

Albertans have proudly supported their fellow Canadians when times were tough, but this program failed to support Alberta when we needed the help. It's time to fix this. It's time for fairness.

WITH PRICES RISING FASTER THAN YOUR PAY. IT MEANS YOU EARN LESS EVERY DAY.

Thankfully Canada's economy is reopening and many of those who lost their jobs in the pandemic are finding work again.

However, during and since the pandemic the price of almost everything has gone up while salaries have not kept pace. Life is getting more expensive for all Canadian families.

Inflation is becoming a problem for many Canadians as their paycheque can't buy as much as it used to. As inflation increases faster than your pay you are actually 'taking home less everyday' as your purchasing power continues to shrink.

If we don't get inflation under control quickly, we run the risk of sky-high mortgage rates and further economic disruption as folks and businesses find it too expensive to borrow money when they need it.

Those looking to find housing already face record price increases and rampant inflation will only make the dream of home ownership impossible.

Even the left-leaning C.D. Howe Institute has raised the alarm about the Liberal's risky economic agenda. Out-of-control spending, multi-generational debt and inflation puts our most cherished social programs at risk.

STATISTICS CANADA REPORT—JUNE 2021:

INFLATION INCREASES DRAMATICALLY UNDER THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT



Gas ————— **+32.0%**



Restaurants and take out food — **+2.8%**



Housing — **+25.9%**



Health products — **+3.4%**



Energy — **+19.5%**



Vehicles ————— **+4.1%**

YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

Do you support the Conservative call for more Equalization fairness for Alberta?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Do you feel the federal Liberal government has set out a clear economic plan for Canada's recovery?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Have recent price increases had a significant impact on your household budget?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

SURVEY RESULTS ARE PRINTED IN THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. SUBSCRIBE AT LENWEBBER.CA

When it comes to addressing the concerns of Canadians...

What do you think of the job the
Conservative caucus is doing?

- ☐ EXCELLENT
- ☐ GOOD
- ☐ POOR

What do you think of the job the
Liberal caucus is doing?

- ☐ EXCELLENT
- ☐ GOOD
- ☐ POOR

What do you think of the job the
NDP caucus is doing?

- ☐ EXCELLENT
- ☐ GOOD
- ☐ POOR

What do you think of the job your Member
of Parliament **Len Webber** is doing?

- ☐ EXCELLENT
- ☐ GOOD
- ☐ POOR

Looking for a job?

If you are seeking employment, visit www.jobbank.gc.ca for a list of public and private sector job opportunities.

You can search for job by location, type, full time/part time/casual.

You can also download the app, set up alerts, look for skills matches and build your resume.

Thousands of jobs are available.

Looking for help?

The effects of social distancing and social isolation have had an adverse impact on the mental health of many, but help is available.

If you need to speak to someone, please call 811, or call the Mental Health Helpline at 1-877-303-2642.

Youth can get help through Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868.

Looking for benefits?

If you are in need of government assistance benefits, please visit www.canadabenefits.gc.ca

You will be provided with all the benefits you may be eligible for after answering 20 multiple-choice questions.

You may be surprised to find out that you are entitled to benefits you are not currently receiving.

\$4 BILLION EQUALIZATION REBATE FOR ALBERTA

Return the survey by detaching this page along the dotted line. Then refold so that this panel and the address are facing out.
Tape shut and return postage-free.

2021-CM4

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SURVEY MEANS YOUR
OPINION COUNTS

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