

תודה רבה!

Nakurmiik!



Muchas gracias

Thank You!

dohā pina maač

Merci Beaucoup!





Alberta's Struggle with the Future: An Insider's View

CACOR

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The Way I Frame Our Times

1st Foundational Insight

“Our perspective on the world determines how we behave in the world.”

Fouts and Jensvold, *Probing Human Origins*, 2002

2nd Foundational Insight

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“Our perspective on the world is a (f) of:

- **Our time in human history.**
- **The culture we inherit and its form of civilization.**
- **The physical place of our formation: geography, geology.**
- **Our biology.**
- **Our mother tongue.**
- **The range and adequacy of the ways we were/were not nourished.**
- **Our unique formation and experience as persons.**
- **Our capacity to make reliable sense of our experiences.**

3rd Foundational Insight

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**Our times require us to
fundamentally change
our perspectives and
our behaviour and do
so at every scale P to C.**

We (MTI Cultures) are In a Double Bind

1. Without economic growth we who are MTI face societal collapse. Therefore, we must grow the economy forever. We must keep on cannibalizing the Earth, or face **economically-driven societal collapse**.
2. Since 1971, economic growth has put us in the condition of ecological overshoot – a condition which also leads to societal collapse. We are consuming and degrading the Earth's non-renewable resources faster than she can regenerate them. Therefore, we must cut back on production and consumption or face **ecologically-driven societal collapse**.

Which path to societal collapse do you choose?

New Vital Questions

What if the main lesson we are to learn from the best of our MTI ways of grasping and being grasped by reality is that the our MTI form of civilization is now at a dead end?

What if we cannot even grasp the reality and significance of this insight as long we insist on being MTI persons, in MTI cultures, with MTI ways of knowing driving our MTI aspirations?

What if we are in a Wittgensteinian fly-bottle?

What if the way out requires us to become wise, systemic, integral and meta-reflexive as persons, families, communities and whole cultures?

The Core Drama of the 21st Century

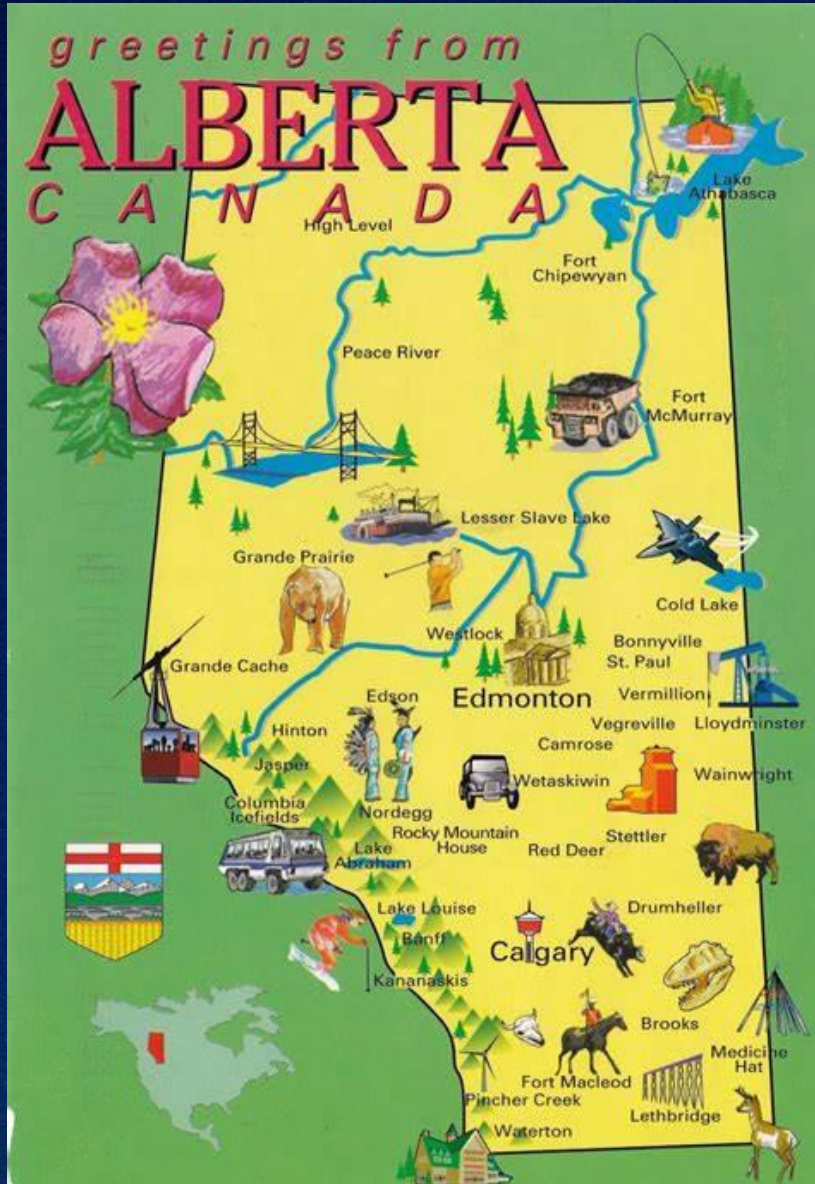
NOT: The now much-imagined commitment to endlessly improve our MTI cultures and extend them to the ends of the Earth, e.g. UN's SDGs.

Rather: The not yet imagined, much less understood, struggle, at one and the same time to: (1) Face up to and manage the decline/collapse of our MTI cultures. (2) Learn to loosen our grip on our MTI sense of reality and to loosen the grip of MTI reality on us, and this as the key to becoming open to a truly new future by transcending our MTI formation at every level of our existence, from unique persons to whole cultures.

Alberta

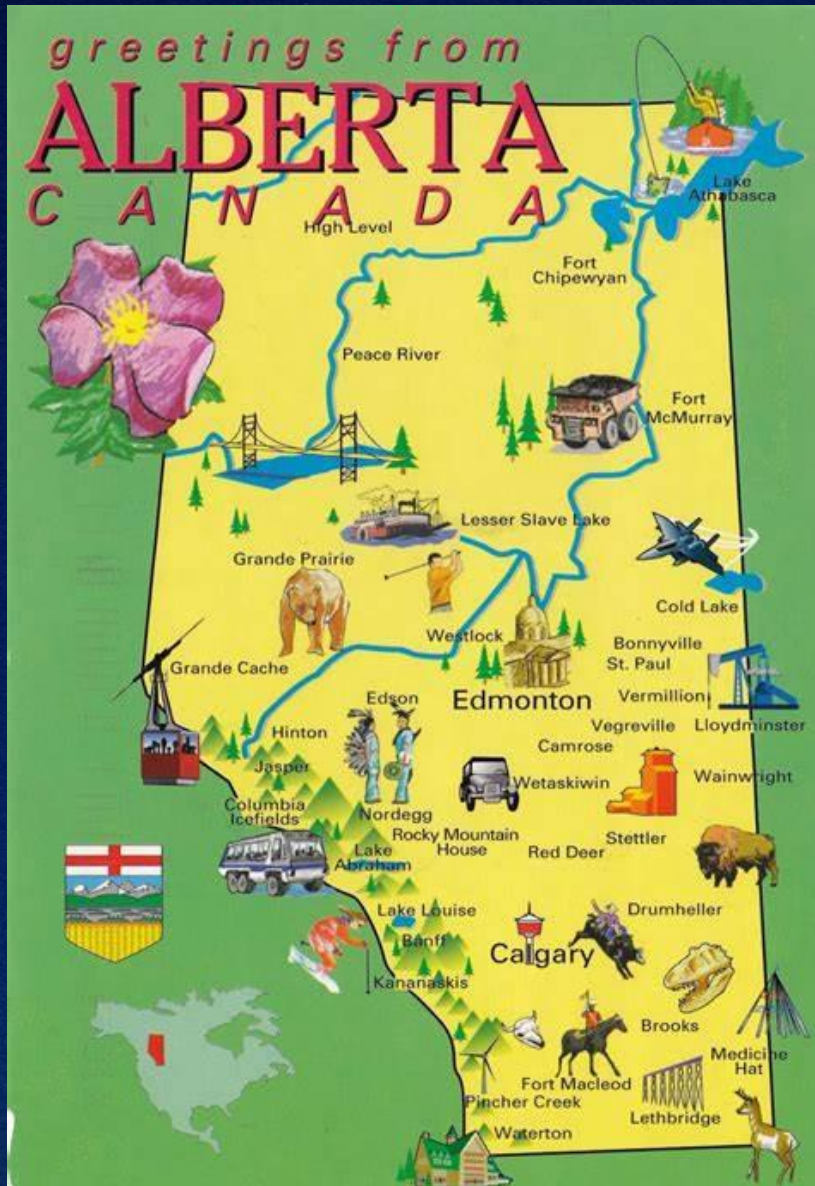
Setting the Scene

Alberta: What We have to Work With



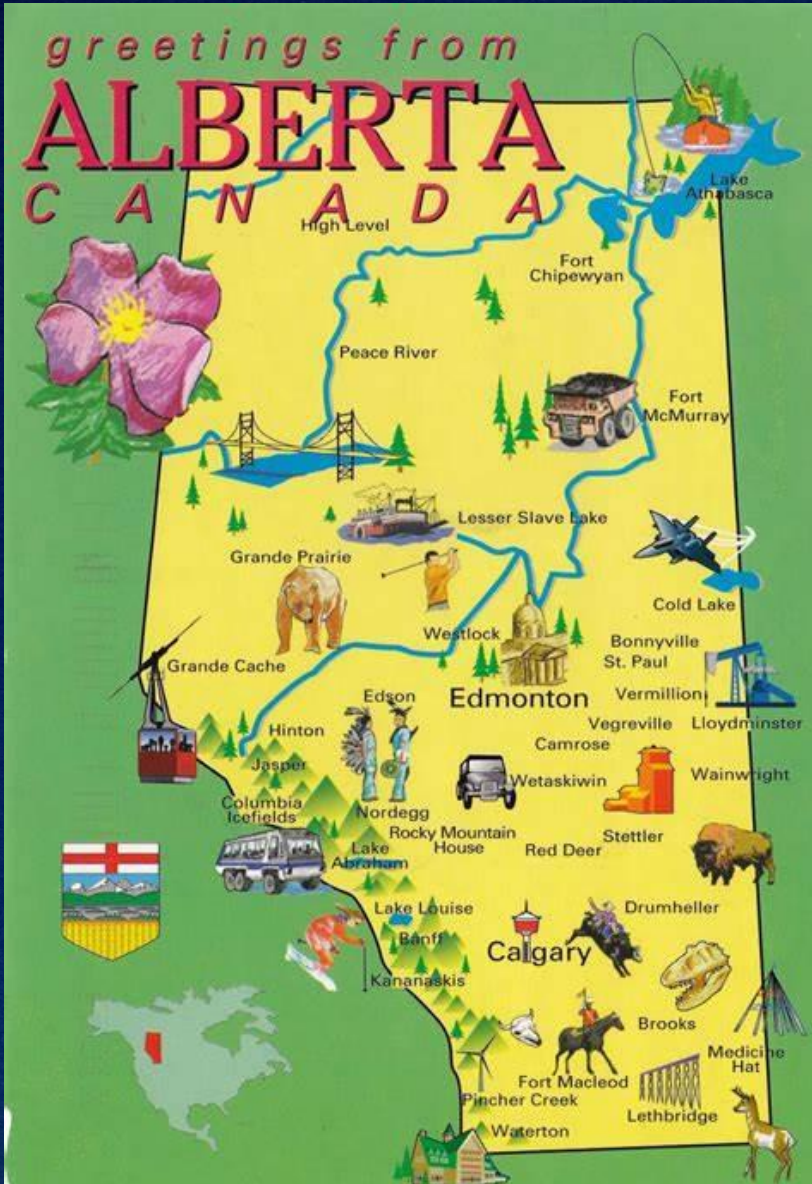
- ✓ Extraordinary and diverse landscapes.
- ✓ Protected on all four sides.
- ✓ Cold winters, temperate summers.
- ✓ Diverse Indigenous cultures – 11,000+ years
- ✓ Horses and some tools before Europeans.
- ✓ 1754 1st European – Anthony Hendy.
- ✓ Only fur trade and missionaries until 1860s.
- ✓ Palliser expedition 1857-1860.
- ✓ NWT acquired by Canada from HBC 1870.
- ✓ NW Mounted Police into Alberta 1874.
- ✓ Ranchers/Railroad into Alberta 1880s.

Alberta: Implications for Alberta



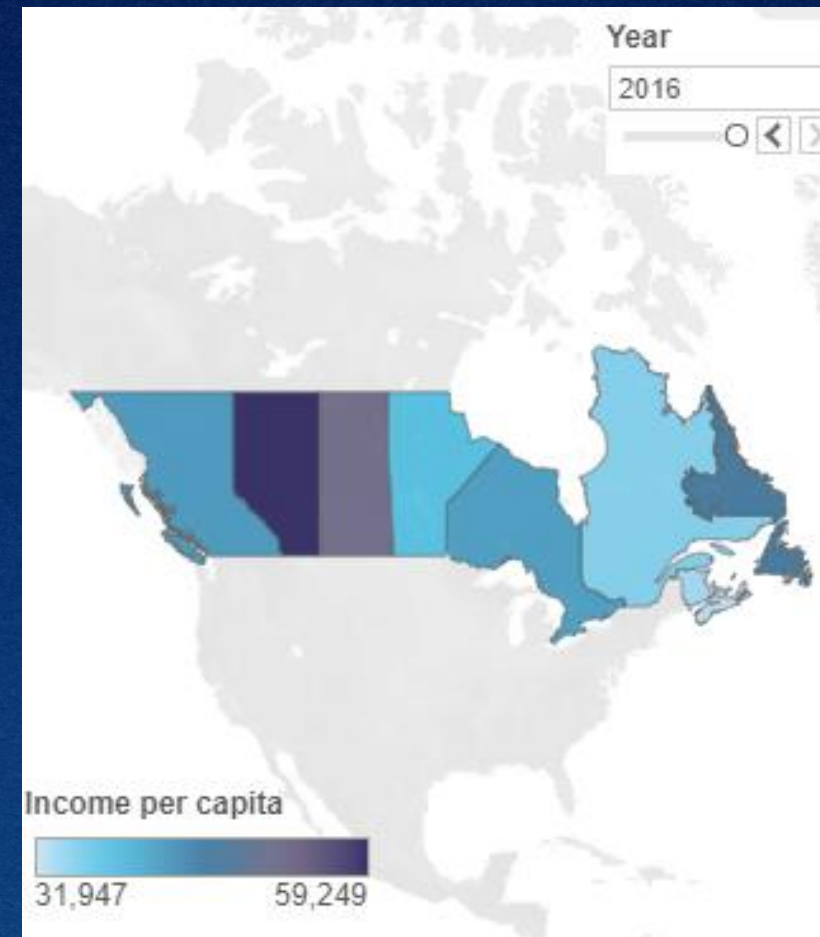
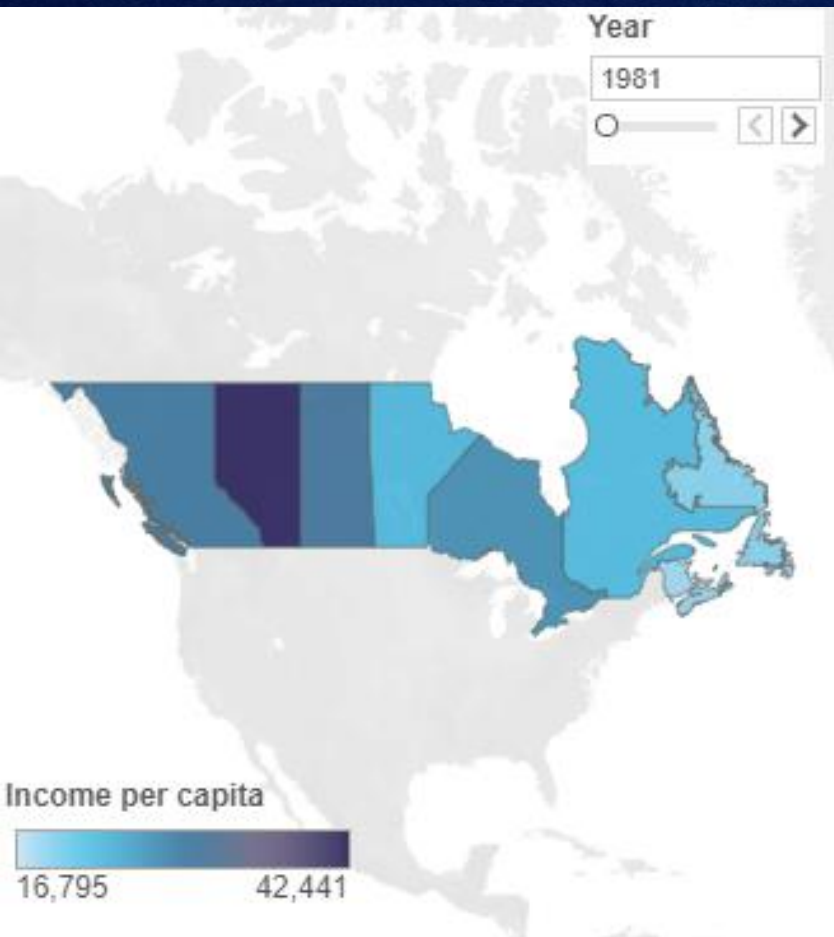
- ✓ A “bonanza-in-waiting” in European eyes.
- ✓ Create a new version of the known MTI world.
- ✓ A new “colony” for Eastern Canada.
- ✓ At the mercy of weather/nature.
- ✓ Hard outdoor (male dominated) work.
- ✓ Operational/technological entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Fiercely open to new ways of “doing things.”
- ✓ Deep sense of “neighbourliness/co-operation.”
- ✓ Multi-cultural within a “basically British” frame.
- ✓ A disaster-in-waiting for Indigenous peoples.

Alberta: A Top Tier 20th Century MTI Jurisdiction



- ✓ GDP per capita
- ✓ Family income
- ✓ Low Taxes
- ✓ Young population
- ✓ Educated population
- ✓ Population growth
- ✓ Technical innovations
- ✓ New capital investments
- ✓ Connections to the world
- ✓ Extraordinary landscapes
- ✓ International recognition

Alberta in Canada

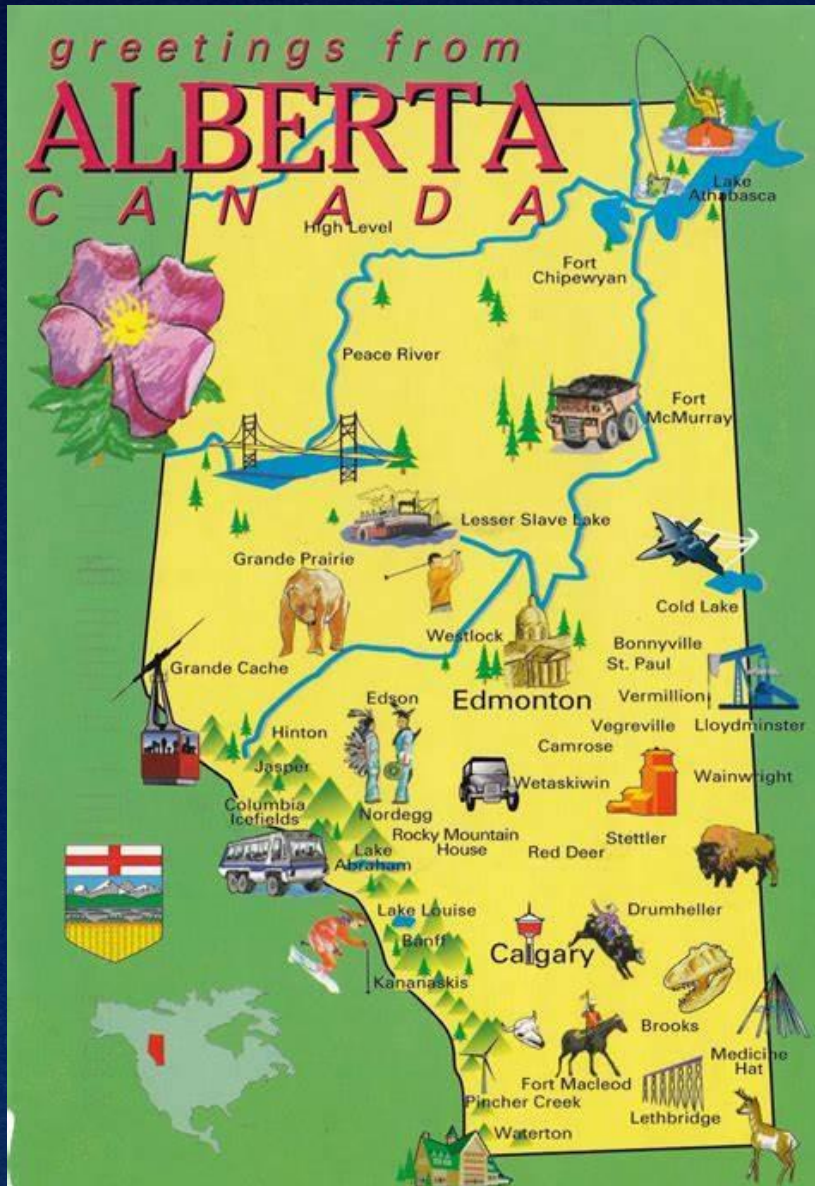


Alberta

How have We Done?

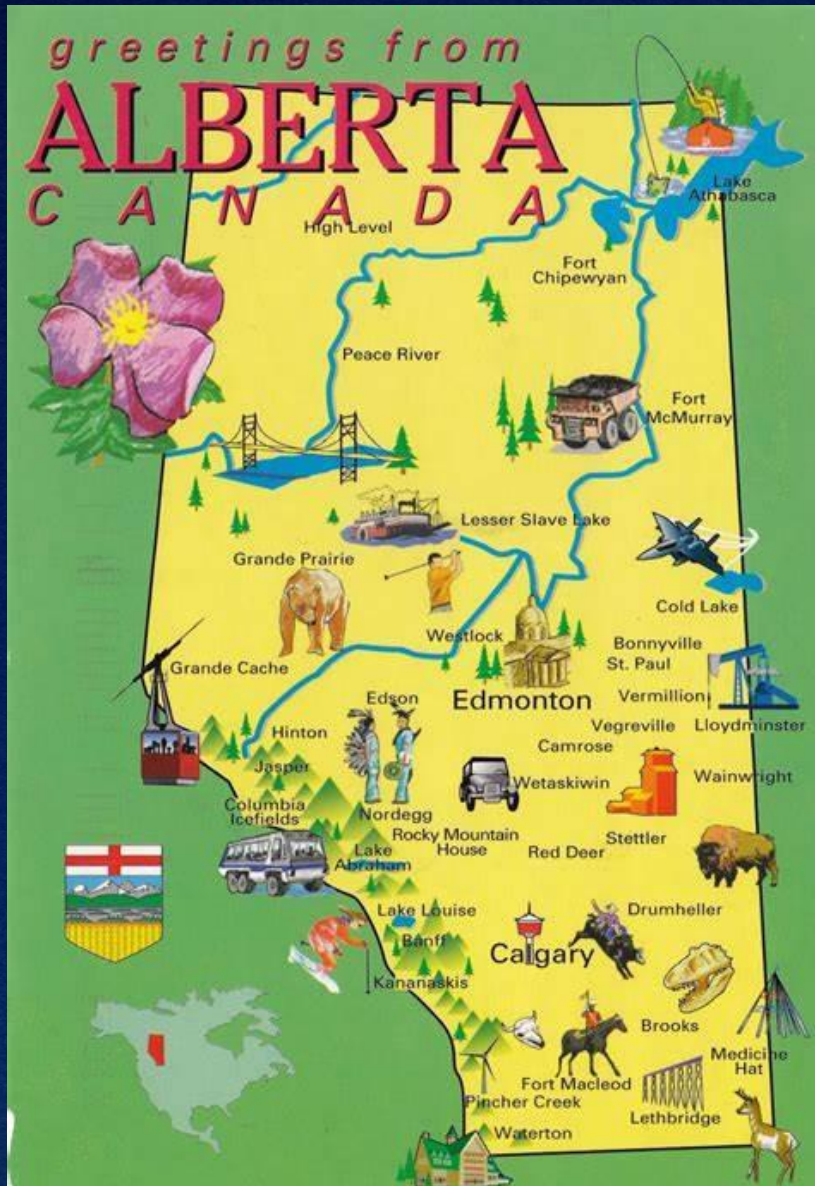
How are We Doing?

Alberta: Notable Firsts



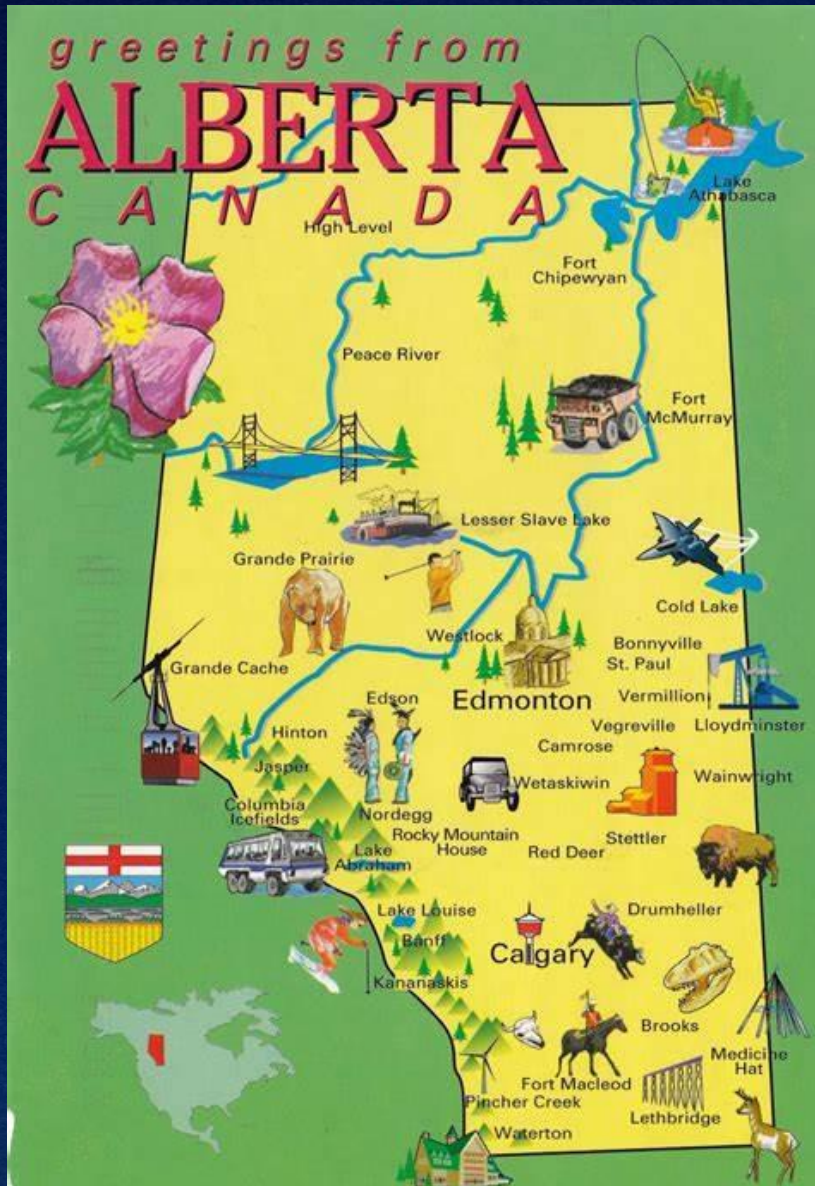
- ✓ Co-operatives, 1895.
- ✓ Mount Royal College, 1910.
- ✓ Alberta Research Council, 1921.
- ✓ “Persons” case, 1930.
- ✓ Natural Resources, 1930.
- ✓ Funny money, 1936.
- ✓ Alberta Treasury Branches, 1938.
- ✓ Oil & NG Conservation Board, 1938.
- ✓ Human Resources Research Council, 1967

Alberta: Notable Firsts



- ✓ Vice President, Environment, 1970.
- ✓ Canada West Foundation, 1970.
- ✓ Public Policy, 1971.
- ✓ Kananaskis Country, 1978.
- ✓ Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, 1980.
- ✓ Premier's Commission on Future Health Care for Albertans, 1990.
- ✓ Vice President, Foresight, ARC, 2007.
- ✓ Oil Sands Leadership Initiative, 2010

Alberta: Not (Yet) Transcending Our MTI Formation



- ✓ Cast into Canadian history as a late MTI culture.
- ✓ U of C's 1st buildings, 1960s.
- ✓ Peter Lougheed killed HRRC, 1971.
- ✓ Downtown Calgary re-built: offices only.
- ✓ Stephen Lougheed kills VP Foresight, 2010.
- ✓ Commission for Economic Strategy, 2011.
- ✓ Thomas Homer-Dixon, "my last visit," ca. 2014.
- ✓ All eggs in high carbon energy basket.

Predominant Public Flavour of (many) Alberta's Elites

1. Committed to/organized for/identified with success as an MTI culture/society/economy. "TINA."
2. Hostile to those who get in our way:
 - Ottawa, especially the Trudeaus: NEP, Petro-Canada, C15, C21, C48, C69.
 - Laurentian Elites, Quebec.
 - Environmentalists, Foreign environmental money.
3. Resentful that we Albertans do not get our way in Canada when we pour so much money into Ottawa (and through it to Quebec).
4. Working Albertans into a major snit. BIG chip on our shoulders.
5. Become the next Quebec in Canada; go it alone if need be.

Those Who are Stirring Things Up



Report to Government

THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY OF ALBERTA

THE PARTY THAT WILL LEAD ALBERTA TO SECESSION!

MOMENT OF TRUTH

How to Think About Alberta's Future

GO IT ALONE

51ST STATE

LET THEM FREEZE

ROLL OVER

EDITED BY JACK M. MINTZ,
TED MORTON AND TOM FLANAGAN

THE WEST'S FEDERAL PARTY

MAVERICK

Standing up for the

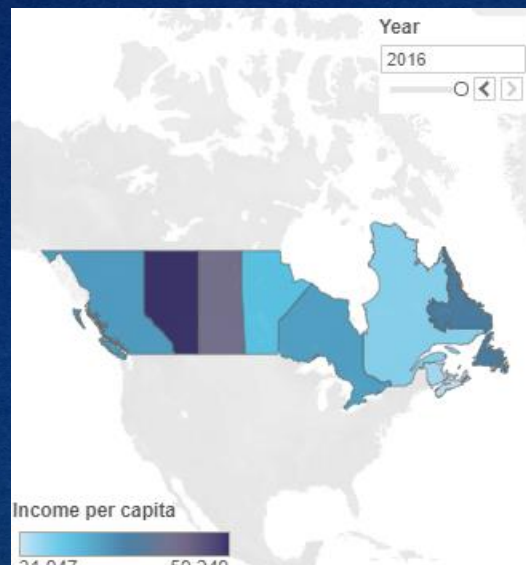
WEST



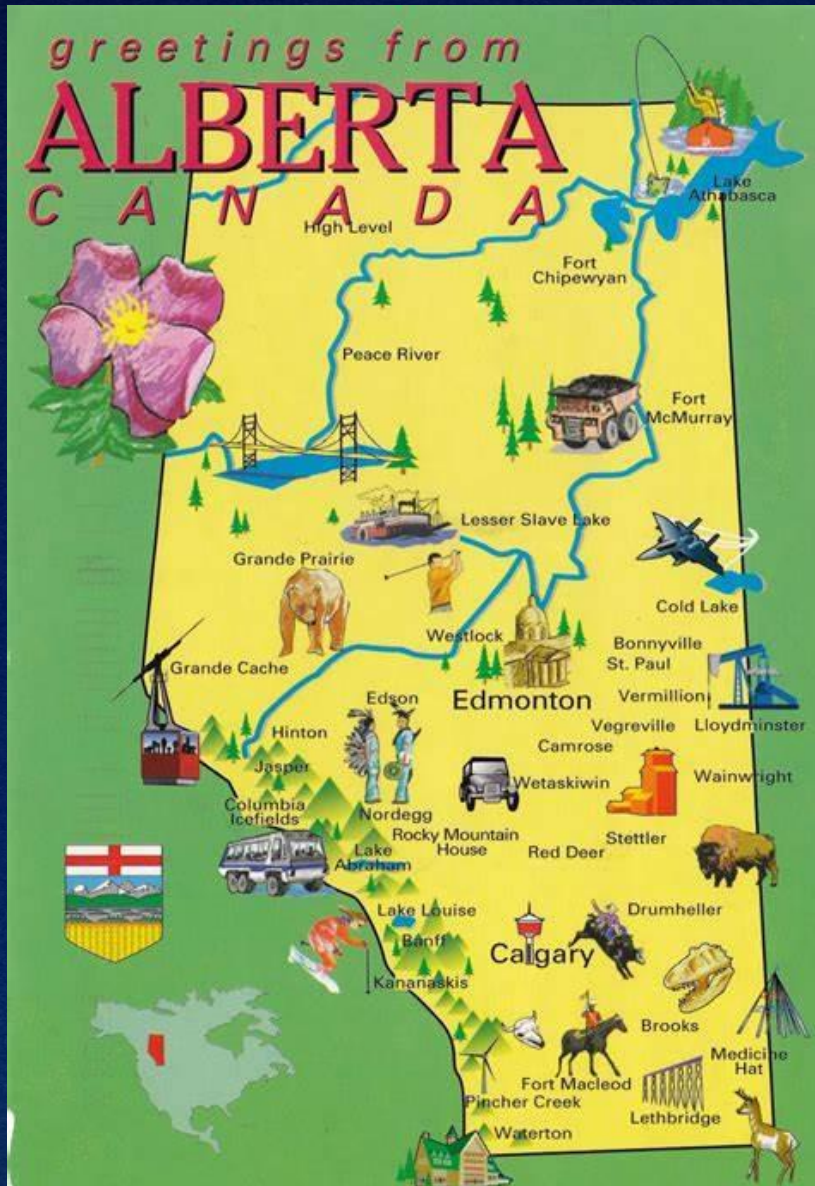
- Anonymous money
- Divisive referendums
- "Strong and Free"

The Equalization Question

“Should Section 36(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982 — Parliament and the Government of Canada’s commitment to the principle of making equalization payments — be removed from the Constitution?”



Alberta: Progress/Culture Trapped



- ✓ Successful 20th Century society/economy.
- ✓ With 20th Century imagination/aspirations.
 - Economic Growth is the overriding project
 - Money is the measure.
 - Treat sale of assets as earned income.
 - Low taxes & loose regulations.
 - Full of MTI male virtue/vices.
 - Pride in “The Alberta Advantage.”
- ✓ Last bastion of conservative neoliberalism?

Summary

We in Alberta are unprepared and ill-equipped to cope with any future that deviates significantly from the MTI trajectory we have been on and that we imagine we are still on.

Sadly, we suffer from self-inflicted wounds.

1947

2021

2050



Own Up, Fess Up



Who Made This Choice?

THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE



SOURCE: TRANSCANADA PIPELINES LTD.; USGS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Our Modern Techno-industrial (MTI) Blindness



“Nothing
good ever
came out of
a blind
spot.”

Louise Penny
Kingdom of the Blind
2018

Conclusions

What are We in Alberta Missing?

“Only what we cannot (yet) see.”

In Alberta, today, there is no serious effort to develop the whole-of-society, self-critically aware meta-capacity and the supportive infrastructure that is required for us to face, explore, come to understand and respond with courage to the truly strategic issues we must face and deal with today, let alone out to 2050 or 2105.

We have much to talk through with one another.

Things We (Albertans) Do Not (yet) Know

1. “Whither Alberta?” is now a truly open question.
2. We are “progress/culture trapped” as MTI persons in an MTI culture.
3. “*Time’s up.*” MTI cultures are “self-limiting” (a.k.a. a “dead end”).
4. Climate Change is a symptom of Ecological Overshoot, and that Ecological Overshoot is a symptom of the MTI way of grasping and being grasped by reality.
5. The only way out requires that Albertans come to understand the above four points and commit to new ways to grasp and be grasped by reality. This entails a “metanoia” experience.

Final Conclusions

1. It is no surprise that Alberta should struggle with its future. This is normal for a very successful, male-dominated MTI culture.
2. However, being entrepreneurial and successful with new technologies and the old (MTI) imagination makes things worse.
3. The key is to: (a) Learn to see ours as a truly rare time in human history in which personal-to-civilizational transcendence is not only required, but is already developing within, among and around us. And then, (b) learn to cooperate with this evolution, with hope.
4. This franchise is still available: As of today, no jurisdiction has stepped up to be the first to grasp and respond to this nettle.

What are the Chances?

That Alberta will become the first society on the planet to openly commit to becoming a trans-modern culture?

A wide-angle photograph of a snowy, mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a stone cairn is built from several dark, stacked rocks. The ground is covered in snow with some dark patches. In the background, a range of snow-capped mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky.

Over to YOU!

Our Future **is** in Our Hands, Minds, Hearts and Spirits

Thank You!

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