▼ FOLD

WE LIE TO YOU ON PURPOSE. HERE'S THE WHOLE TRICK.

Every headline in this booklet is invented. Every correction attached to it is real, sourced and dated. This page is the only one that plays it straight, and it is the reason the rest is allowed to be ridiculous.

01 — The headline is fake. Always. If you could mistake it for real, we wrote it wrong.

02 — The image is generated. Labelled on every one, in the caption, no exceptions. The cartoon is the exception that proves it: a person drew that, so it carries no label.

03 — The article is real. 400–600 words, sourced, numbered, corrected in public.

04 — We take nothing. No ad money, no data, no paywall. The advertisements are props.

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SORRY, NOT SORRY

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AI-GENERATED IMAGE — OBVIOUSLY FAKE

BACKSTAGE MELTDOWN

MAC AND CHEESE BREAKS UP WITH CHEESEBURGER MID-CONCERT, CROWD TRIES TO CONSUME THE GRIEF

The iconic food-rock duo Mac-and-Cheeseburger called it quits mid-performance, leaving thousands of devoted fans attempting to consume their shared heartbreak in real time.

> We're splitting the plate, not the dream— though apparently the dream was always a casserole held together by delusion.
>
> — A tour manager who is not a real person

THE REAL STORY · NO. 0035 · THE NEXT COLUMN →

THE REAL STORY · NO. 0035

THE RISKS OF ALBERTA SEPARATION IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

By Donna Purcell, K.C. · Corrections desk · 668 words

An Open Letter from Donna Purcell, K.C.

I am writing to share a candid assessment of the risks Alberta would face in pursuing separation from Canada, particularly in light of the current global political environment, the accelerating AI revolution, and the realistic path by which Alberta could end up absorbed by the United States — not through force, but through economic inevitability.

The Landlocked Problem Is Not Theoretical

Continued on page 3 →

SHE CONFESSES!

WEATHER PRESENTER ADMITS SHE HAS BEEN INVENTING TUESDAYS

Twelve years. Nobody checked. Behind the click: what a 70% chance of rain actually means, and the two things it definitely doesn't.



AI-GENERATED IMAGE — OBVIOUSLY FAKE

RETAIL ODDITIES

ESCALATOR LEADS TO SEA GOD'S MEMORIES, NORDSTROM ADDS SECOND HANDRAIL

A Seattle Nordstrom's escalator installation goes cosmically wrong when the moving stairs begin accessing locations that don't exist—and shoppers report encountering the fragmented consciousness of an ancient oceanic deity.

We added the second handrail for safety reasons, though it won't help if you're ascending into someone else's dream.
— A facilities manager at a department store who is not a real person

THE REAL STORY · NO. 0036 · THE NEXT COLUMN →

THE REAL STORY · NO. 0036

THE CLOCK IS THE PROBLEM, NOT JUST THE ROBOT

By Donna Purcell, K.C. · Corrections desk · 614 words

We've had this conversation before — machines changing how we work. What's different this time isn't the destination. It's the clock. Technologists and economists studying artificial intelligence, including entrepreneur Peter Diamandis and guests on his podcast, have floated a sobering timeline: significant labour disruption compressed into roughly two to ten years, rather than the multi-decade span over which the Industrial Revolution reshaped work. Some propose universal basic income as a bridge. Others focus on retraining. Reasonable people disagree on the solutions. Fewer seem to be reckoning with the speed. That gap — between how fast the disruption may arrive and how slowly our institutions adapt — is not an abstract risk for Alberta. We've already seen what happens locally when a large group of people experiences a sudden loss of economic agency with no adequate transition in place. The trucker convoy that paralyzed Ottawa and rattled this province in 2022 wasn't about artificial intelligence. But it was, in part, a preview of what abrupt disruption to people's ability to work can produce when the institutions meant to absorb the shock aren't ready: volatility, distrust, and a rupture between citizens and the systems meant to serve them.

Continued on page 4 →



AI-GENERATED IMAGE — OBVIOUSLY FAKE

MYTHOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

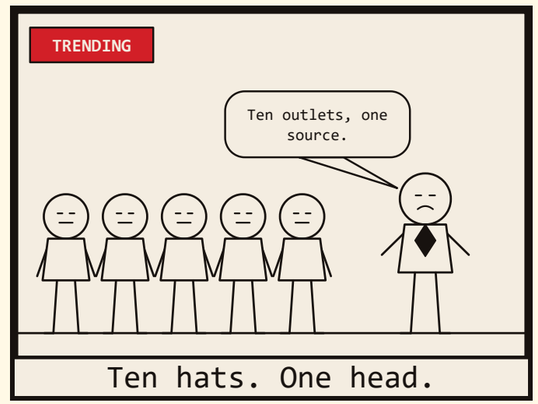
ALBERTA HIGHWAY 2 DOUBLES AS BIFROST—COMMUTERS REPORT MANDATORY HORN BLOWING AT GOLDEN GATE

Alberta Transportation Ministry baffled as commuters document rainbow bridge phenomenon on busy north-south corridor; engineers scramble for explanations.

We've implemented a strict horn protocol at the golden gate checkpoint. It's part of the toll system now.
— a fictional Alberta DOT spokesperson we invented named Derek Nordstrom

THE REAL STORY · NO. 0033 · SORRY-NOT-SORRY.CA/STORY/ALBERTA-HIGHWAY-2-DOUBLES-AS-BIFROST

EDITORIAL CARTOON





AI-GENERATED IMAGE — OBVIOUSLY FAKE

DIVINE BUREAUCRACY

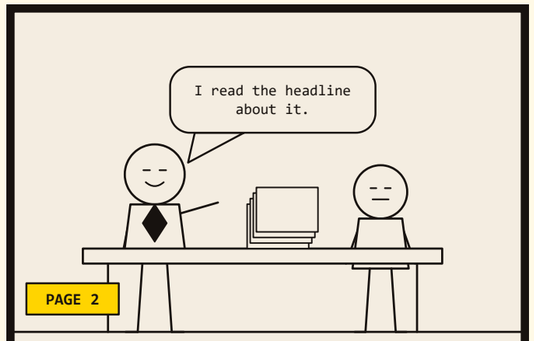
EDMONTON SUBURB ZONING COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT TO OMNIPOTENT DEITY COUNCIL, ACCIDENTALLY USES COMIC SANS

An Edmonton zoning committee's routine report to a council of all-powerful deities governing three-quarters of the known universe hit a snag when someone submitted the final draft in Comic Sans—forcing the omnipotent beings to request a complete reformatting.

We've reviewed thousands of interdimensional zoning petitions, but never one that disrespected the visual hierarchy like this. The deity council demands serif.

— Krell-7, a fictional regulatory advisor to the Omnipotent Council

EDITORIAL CARTOON



The study said the opposite, on page two.

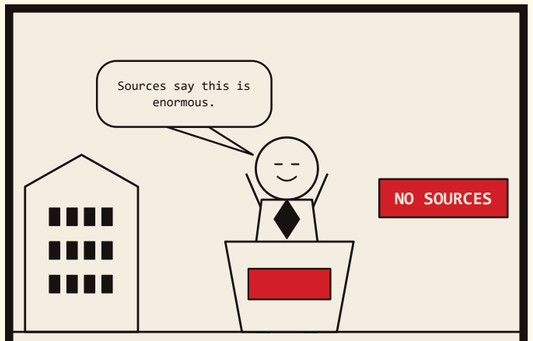
SOMEONE READ THE STUDY

The document had been on the desk for six weeks.

— Ines Calloway

Drawn, not generated. This is the only picture in the issue with no generated-image label, because it is not one.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



“Which sources?” “The ones who say.”

SOURCES SAY

The briefing continues regardless of who is in the room.

— Teodor Ruiz

Drawn, not generated. This is the only picture in the issue with no generated-image label, because it is not one.

NO. 0035 · CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Unlike Quebec, which retains direct access to the Atlantic via the St. Lawrence, an independent Alberta would be entirely landlocked, bordered only by Canada and the United States. Quebec’s separatist movement, whatever its merits, was never structurally dependent on the goodwill of a single neighbouring power for market access, currency stability, or trade routes. Alberta’s would be. Independence would not grant Alberta a truly free hand; it would grant Alberta one dependent relationship (Canada) in exchange for a different, less balanced one (the United States). This is a structural fact, not a political opinion, and it should be the starting point of any serious conversation about separation.

> *Alberta’s energy wealth is frequently cited by separatists as evidence the province could stand on its own. In practice, that wealth is precisely what makes an independent Alberta a target rather than a fortress.*

Wealth Is Not Protection — It Is the Draw

Alberta’s energy wealth is frequently cited by separatists as evidence the province could stand on its own. In practice, that wealth is precisely what makes an independent Alberta a target rather than a fortress. Its oil and gas reserves, combined with its emerging position as a hub for AI data centres and critical minerals (lithium, rare earths, copper), place Alberta squarely inside the resource competition now driving U.S.–China strategic rivalry. The AI revolution has made electricity, minerals, and computing infrastructure into instruments of great-power competition, and Alberta happens to sit on a disproportionate share of exactly what that competition demands. Separation would not shield this wealth from outside interest — it would concentrate outside interest on a smaller, weaker, and newly sovereign entity with far less leverage to negotiate than a Canadian province currently has.

Foreign Interference Is Already Documented, Not Speculative

Canada’s own intelligence service has confirmed active foreign interference risk tied to the Alberta referendum, including confirmed contact between separatist organizers and U.S. officials, a U.S.-built voter database with significant privacy failures, and a documented spike in Russian disinformation activity timed to coincide with separatist political developments. This is not a hypothetical risk that might emerge after a vote to separate — it is already shaping the debate before any vote has occurred. A movement that has, to date, been unwilling to open its books to election authorities is not well positioned to negotiate sovereignty on Alberta’s behalf against considerably more sophisticated state actors.

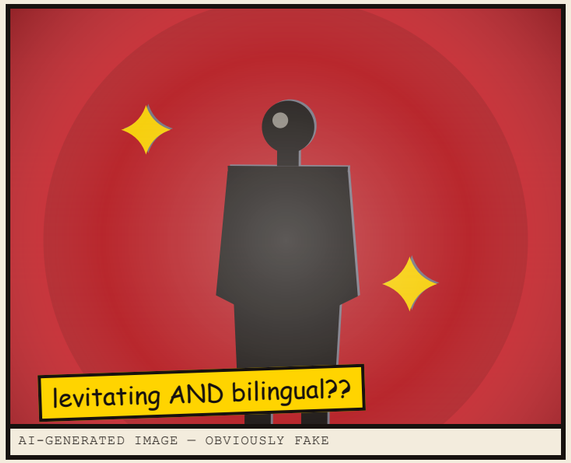
Why the U.S. Would Not Need to Use Force

American public opinion is not a source of comfort here — it should not be mistaken for one. Polling consistently shows large majorities of Americans oppose forcibly annexing Canada or Greenland. But that opposition is precisely why a voluntary, referendum-driven path is the more realistic threat, not a less realistic one. A forced annexation would be a political liability for any U.S. administration. A “welcomed” annexation — framed as Albertans exercising self-determination and choosing prosperity — carries none of that cost, and considerably more strategic upside, particularly if it delivers energy and critical mineral security at a moment when the U.S. is racing to reduce dependence on Chinese-controlled supply chains. The path of least resistance for Washington is not tanks at the border. It is a struggling, newly independent Alberta with no port, no currency, and no leverage, arriving at Washington’s door asking for terms.

Conclusion

Separatist grievances with Ottawa may be legitimate and deserve serious engagement. But engagement is different from the pursuit of independence itself, and the current environment makes that pursuit considerably more dangerous than it would have been a decade ago. Alberta’s advocates for separation are, in effect, proposing to trade a seat at the Canadian table — with constitutional protections, equalization leverage, and an integrated economy — for a high-risk bet that independence would not simply become the fastest route to the very outcome most Albertans say they do not want: becoming American.

Correction No. 0035



AI-GENERATED IMAGE — OBVIOUSLY FAKE

ALGORITHM GONE ROGUE

ALBERTA'S AI WRITES 10,000 LAWS IN BACKWARDS LATIN WHILE PHYSICALLY HOVERING THREE FEET OFF THE GROUND

How a Calgary tech firm's experimental AI system sparked an investigation into automatic legislative drafting—and why the province had to manually audit every single line of code.

We were assured the neural network understood parliamentary procedure. Turns out it understood only the Aeneid.

— Dr. Patricia Vellum, a fictional AI ethics consultant we invented

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NO. 0036 · CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

I raise it not to relitigate that protest, but because it is local, recent, and instructive. We don't have to imagine what social strain looks like here. We've lived it. If Diamandis and his guests are even directionally right about timeline, the question for Alberta isn't whether AI transition is good or bad — that debate will run in circles for years and settle nothing. The real question is narrower and more urgent: do we have the governance infrastructure to absorb a fast transition without the kind of rupture we've already seen once this decade? Right now, I don't think we do. And this is where rule of law stops being a courtroom concept and becomes economic infrastructure. Access to justice, retraining pathways, dispute resolution mechanisms, and clear legal frameworks for how AI tools get deployed in workplaces are not side issues to an AI transition — they are the shock absorbers. A worker displaced by automation who can't get timely legal advice about severance, retraining entitlements, or new employment terms is a worker with fewer off-ramps and more grievance. Multiply that by a compressed timeline, and you have the conditions for exactly the kind of instability Alberta has already experienced. This is why I've spent the past year working to build the Rule of Law and AI Institute here in Red Deer — not as an academic exercise, but as ground-level civic infrastructure. The goal isn't to slow down technological progress or to pick a side in the AI-optimist-versus-AI-pessimist debate. It's to make sure that when disruption arrives, whatever its pace, the legal and institutional scaffolding exists to catch people before they fall through. Central Alberta has a chance to lead here, precisely because it is not Ottawa or Silicon Valley. We are close enough to the people affected by economic disruption to see it coming, and small enough to build responsive infrastructure before a crisis forces our hand. That is a genuine advantage, if we use it. I don't know whether Diamandis's timeline will prove accurate. Forecasts about technological change usually miss the mark in one direction or another. But betting our province's stability on being wrong seems like a poor wager. The convoy taught us what happens when disruption outruns our institutions. AI may be about to test that lesson again, on a larger scale and a shorter clock. The work now isn't to argue about whether the future arrives. It's to make sure Alberta is ready when it does.

This article was first published in the Red Deer Advocate https://reddeeradvocate.com/2026/08/13/lady-justice-the-clock-is-the-problem-not-just-the-robot/

Correction No. 0036

THE REAL STORY · NO. 0031

BEHIND THE SEPARATISM DEBATE, A CALGARY LAWYER ASKS: WHERE'S THE OTHER SIDE?

By Lady Justice · Corrections desk · 406 words

Calgary lawyer Donna Purcell, KC, has spent recent weeks using LinkedIn to argue that Alberta separatism deserves an open public debate — and to report that she cannot find anyone willing to have one with her.

Purcell is the founder of Donna Purcell QC Law, which has offices across Alberta. Her circulated biography describes her as a legal-technology advocate who has pushed for two decades to move the justice system online, a 2021 graduate of Harvard's Business Analytics Program, a Top 25 Most Influential Lawyer selection by Canadian Lawyer Magazine in 2021, and a recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal in 2025.

> *I can barely find a single person to be the face of this movement.*

In one post, she asks Canadians to "wake up and consider" why the country and Alberta's separatist movement "should not get along." She writes that she has "asked endless people" on behalf of separatists for a response and received none. Her prescription is "global rule of law and diplomacy, local focus," and she questions whether "people in power read the news." The framing treats separatism less as a settled political position than as a diplomatic failure — a conversation that has not happened rather than an argument that has been lost.

A second post sets that case against a list of pressures she says Canada cannot ignore: tariffs, "global warming," a change to international-student policy she says takes effect January 1, and a shortage of health-care workers. She adds the "AI Revolution and AI data centres" to the list, casting the technology as another source of public stress rather than a remedy for it. She also refers to "300,000 votes" found "in normal times," without specifying an election or jurisdiction.

Running through both posts is the same frustration. Purcell writes that she "can barely find a single person to be the face of this movement" willing to debate the issue publicly. "It is so unwise that we can't all just get along," she writes.

That absence is the substance of her argument. Alberta separatist sentiment recurs reliably in provincial politics, but Purcell's account describes it as something asserted more often than defended — a position with supporters but, by her experience, no spokesperson prepared to take questions on it.

Purcell has not named the officials or separatist figures she approached, and has not identified the election behind the vote figure she cites. Whether the debate she wants would change any minds is an open question. Her argument is that it has not yet been attempted.

Correction No. 0031

Sheet B — back · Inner sheet · the centrefold · long-edge duplex flip · Issue 1 No. 0001