

## Take a stand – before it's too late

The good news is that Alberta has a new Premier who may be convinced to take a different course – if Albertans speak out loudly enough.

### We need to tell Ed Stelmach to do five things:

- 1 Block construction of pipelines used to funnel unrefined bitumen to the U.S.
- 2 Guarantee a fair return for Albertans on our collectively owned oil resources by scrapping the outrageous one-penny-on-the-dollar oil sands royalty
- 3 Introduce conditional leases for oil sands properties – energy companies should be required to add value and create jobs here in Alberta before they're given the right to dig
- 4 Tighten up rules for foreign temporary workers – so they don't displace Canadian workers and so they're not used as pawns to lower wages or as an excuse to not train workers at home
- 5 Follow former Premier Peter Lougheed's advice and regulate the pace of oil sands development – so we can take more time to address the economic and environmental implications of development



## You can make a difference!

Premier Stelmach says he wants to hear from Albertans. Contact the Premier and tell him about the five steps that need to be taken to safeguard Alberta's economic future.

### Office of the Premier

Room 307, Legislature Building  
10800-97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2B6

To e-mail a message, go to the Premier's website at [www.gov.ab.ca/premier/feedback.cfm](http://www.gov.ab.ca/premier/feedback.cfm)

Please send copies of your letters to your local MLA, your local newspaper and to the Alberta Federation of Labour (10802-172 Street, Edmonton, T5S 2T3 e-mail: [afl@afl.org](mailto:afl@afl.org)).

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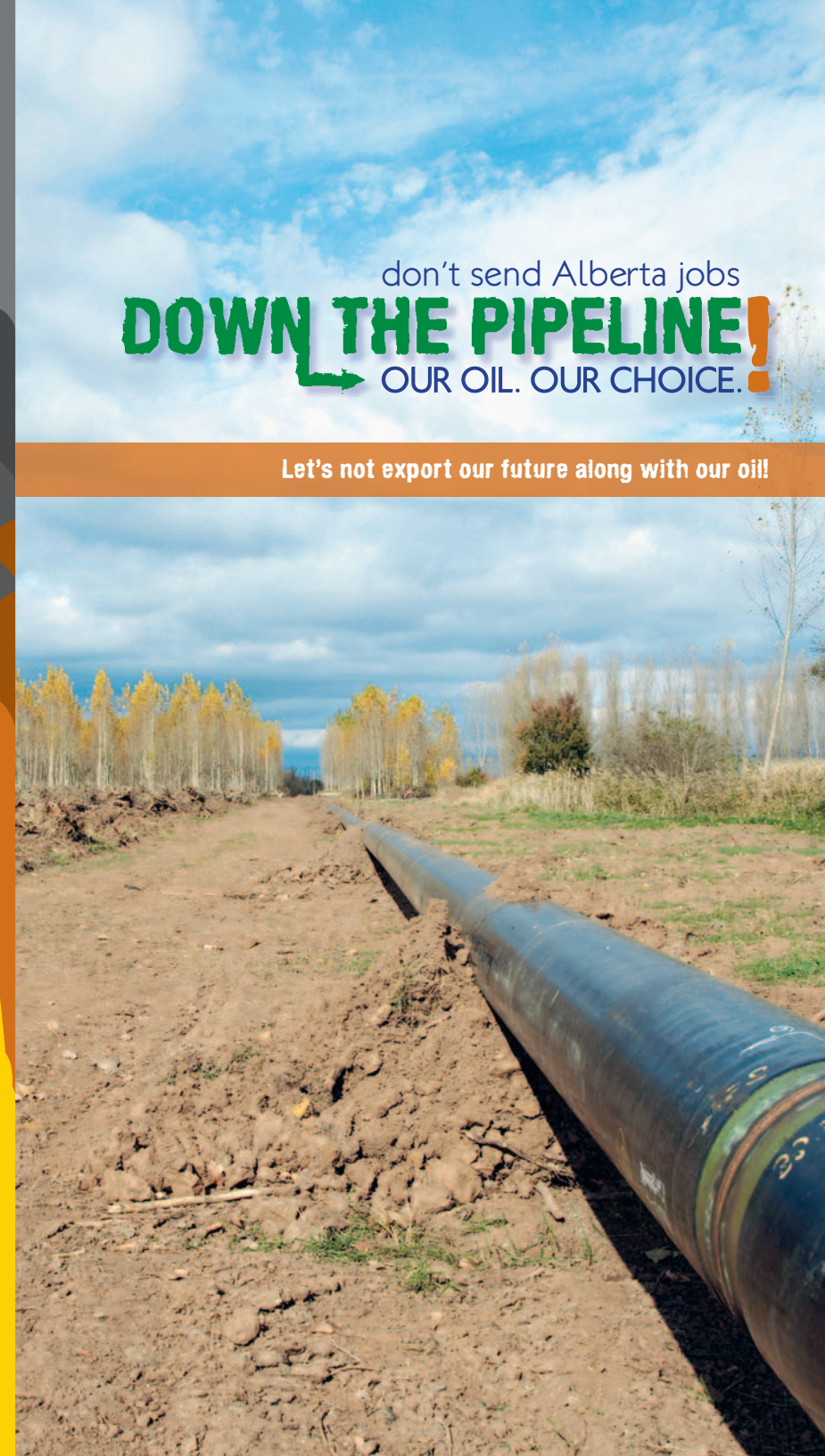


ALBERTA  
FEDERATION  
OF LABOUR

UNION  
BUG  
HERE

don't send Alberta jobs  
**DOWN THE PIPELINE!**  
OUR OIL. OUR CHOICE.

Let's not export our future along with our oil!



## Cutting Alberta workers out of the picture

Alberta is currently experiencing an unprecedented economic boom.

Unemployment is low, profits are high – and many Albertans are enjoying incomes and opportunities that other Canadians only dream about.

But despite the good times today, there's reason to be worried about the future.

That's because more and more big construction and energy companies are embracing development plans that will deliberately cut Alberta workers out of the picture.

## Alberta jobs, foreign workers

On the construction side, many companies are promoting the use of low-cost, easy-to-exploit temporary foreign workers – instead of putting the focus on training more people here at home to meet the demand for skilled workers.

One company – Synenco Energy – is even thinking of building an entire oil sands plant in Asia and floating it in huge pieces across the ocean for assembly in Fort McMurray.

Synenco will save money by using low-cost labour in China, Korea and Malaysia. But Alberta will lose about 1,000 high-skill, high-wage construction jobs.

## Flushing our future down the pipeline

Unfortunately, these job losses are just the tip of the iceberg.

An even bigger problem is that many energy companies have decided to bypass Alberta entirely when it comes to upgrading or refining the raw bitumen they extract from the oil sands.

Companies like EnCana, BP and Husky Oil are planning to upgrade and refine Alberta bitumen in places like Illinois, Montana and Texas – as opposed to Fort McMurray, Edmonton or even Sarnia.

As a result, Albertans won't just lose construction jobs – we'll lose thousands of high-paying, long-term jobs in upgraders and refineries. We'll also lose out on the opportunity to create a world-class petrochemical industry and build a more diversified and sustainable economy.

## What's it all for?

This all begs the question: what's the point of digging up and selling off our collectively-owned oil resources if the benefits – and the jobs – are going to people in other countries? Do we really want to be just "hewers of wood and miners of unrefined oil sands"?



## Whose side are the Tories on?

Many people are now asking: what has our provincial government been doing to protect the interests of Albertans?

The answer, unfortunately, is: very little. In fact, it can be argued that they created the problem by essentially giving away our resources.

Our province's now infamous one-penny-on-the-dollar royalty for oil sands has robbed Albertans of billions in potential revenue – and it has contributed to the over-heated labour market that companies are using to justify their decision to build upgraders and refineries elsewhere.

The provincial government has also refused to put any conditions on the oil sands leases they sign with energy companies. As a result, there's currently nothing to stop these companies from simply digging up our resources and shipping them out.

## Lost opportunity

To make the situation even worse, our provincial government is currently turning a blind eye as energy companies plan massive new pipelines that have only one purpose: to take unrefined bitumen to refineries and upgraders in the U.S. Once these huge pipelines are approved and built, the chances of building a more diversified petroleum economy here in Alberta will be greatly diminished.

