

June 16, 2010

It's time to talk ... about Alberta government revenue

Nationally and internationally, politicians, economists and commentators are all talking about it – government revenues.

There is a recognition that governments must pay for services and avoid deficits not only by cutting spending, but by increasing revenue. It's a fact of life for all of us balancing our budgets, whether as householders or businesses.

This kind of conversation has been largely missing in Alberta – but the time has come to change that. This month, the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) will release a report that focuses on Alberta government revenue. The AFL says it's time to talk about how to fix our revenue system so we have the funds we need to pay for vital public services Albertans demand without having to go into deficits.

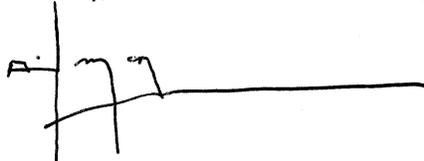
To kick off this conversation the AFL has invited three leading economists to talk about government revenue - **Todd Hirsch**, Senior Economist, ATB Financial; **Dr. Roger Gibbins**, president and CEO of the Canada West Foundation; and **Erin Weir**, an economist with the United Steelworkers union's Canadian National Office.

The event will begin with AFL President Gil McGowan presenting the report, titled *Which Way Will We Pay? It's time for a grown-up conversation about Alberta's revenue problem – and how we fund vital public services*. Hirsch, Gibbins and Weir will then respond with their thoughts on the issue of Alberta government revenue. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

- **Time:** 1:00 p.m., Monday, June 28, 2010.
- **Location:** The Fairmont Palliser, 133 9th Avenue SW, Calgary.

We urge you to become a part of this important conversation by attending this event. Please contact Terry Inigo-Jones at tinigojo@afl.org (telephone 780-483-3021) to confirm your attendance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gil McGowan', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gil McGowan
President