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Candidates for Premier Look to Open TFW Floodgates *PC Leadership contenders all buy into bogus labour shortage claims*

Edmonton – Ric Mclver is using bogus claims of a provincial labour shortage as a scare tactic in the race to become Alberta’s new premier.

Neither of his rivals, Jim Prentice nor Thomas Lukaszuk, has refuted the premise of his argument that the province needs more control over the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) to give employers more access to cheap, disposable workers.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/politics/leadership+hopeful+Mclver+urges+Alberta+soluti on/10029973/story.html>

“If none of these candidates can see through the crocodile tears of low-wage employers, then none of them are fit to be premier,” Alberta Federation of Labour president Gil McGowan said. “They’re buying into self-reported sob stories, rather than looking at the data. And the data shows that wages have stagnated, Canadians are being put out of work, because of employers’ reliance on exploitable Temporary Foreign Workers.

The labour shortage myth has been refuted by the Parliamentary Budget Office, former Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney, the Institute for Research on Public Policy, the University of Calgary School of Public Policy, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the University of Alberta Economics Department and Fraser Institute Fellow Herb Emery.

Additionally, a comprehensive survey of Alberta’s labour market conducted by the Alberta Federation of Labour found that there was no province wide labour shortage. Report of the AFL’s findings can be downloaded here: <http://www.afl.org/index.php/Reports/truth-or-scareare-claims-of-a-labour-shortage-in-alberta-based-on-evidence.html>

“There is no worker shortage in Alberta, unless you mean a shortage of workers who are willing to be underpaid, exploited and deported the moment they’re no longer of use to an employer,” McGowan said. “And most Albertans don’t want our economy to rely on exploitation.”

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