

**The Hon. Jim Prentice**  
**Jim Prentice Campaign**  
**10154-108 Street**  
**Edmonton, AB T5J 1L3**

September 4, 2014

Gil McGowan, President  
Alberta Federation of Labour  
#300, 10408 – 124 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5N 1R5

Dear Mr. Prentice:

I write to you today to ask for your position on enhancing Albertans' retirement security.

As a candidate in the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta (PC) leadership race, you are in the unique position that, if chosen to lead the PC Party, you will also be Premier of Alberta. As such, the Alberta Federation of Labour, its member unions and the more than 150,000 unionized workers they represent would like to know your position on retirement security and public-sector pensions.

As you're aware, Bill 9, the *Public Sector Pension Plans Amendment Act*, and Bill 10, the *Employment Pension (Private Sector) Plans Amendment Act*, are before the Committee on Alberta's Economic Future, which will be presenting its recommendations to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in the upcoming Session. It is our position that both Bills, as currently drafted, will significantly undermine the retirement security of nearly 300,000 Albertans.

During the Committee hearings into Bills 9 and 10, the government admitted that Alberta's public-sector pensions are not in crisis and are sustainable in the long run, which makes the introduction of these Bills all the more vexing and adds to our members' concerns that the proposed amendments are simply a means to gut the pensions they've earned and contributed to through years of public service.

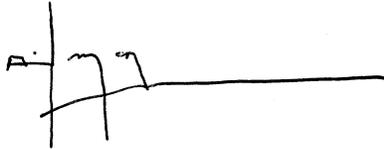
The real pension problem in Alberta is not our public-sector pension plans. The real problem is that 70 per cent of Alberta workers have no workplace pension plans at all. A good place to tackle this problem would be to support the expansion of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). It's portable in that it's tied to a worker throughout their working life regardless of employer, it's inexpensive and already in place, and it will support retirees and their local communities and economies in years to come.

These issues are tremendously important, not only to members and retirees within Alberta's two main public-sector plans – the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP) and the Public Sector Pension Plan (PSPP) – but to Albertans of all stripes. Without exaggeration, I have never seen Alberta workers more motivated, more energized by any other issue as I have with pensions and retirement security.

We're eager to share your position with our members and the thousands of Albertans that have joined our campaign to protect public-sector pensions and enhance retirement security for everyone through CPP expansion

I sincerely look forward to your reply.

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  
Alberta Federation of Labour

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