2015-2016
ANNUAL REPORT
TO SUPPORTERS

PARKLAND INSTITUTE
1996-2016
20 YEARS
OF RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION FOR THE
COMMON GOOD
OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

5 REPORTS
3 FACT SHEETS
23 BLOG POSTS
12 OP-EDS
131 MEDIA MENTIONS

RESEARCH

The 2015-16 fiscal year was once again a busy year for Parkland Institute’s research mandate, with five full-length reports and three fact sheets published over the course of the year.

A Monochrome Political Culture? Examining the Range of Albertans’ Values and Beliefs was a survey-based study examining the diversity of Albertans’ values and beliefs on four dimensions: economic conservatism, traditional values, libertarianism, and political alienation.

From Gap to Chasm: Alberta’s Increasing Income Inequality revealed that the income gap in Alberta is the widest in the country, and has been growing faster than in any other province, moving Alberta from average in 1990 to being the worst province for inequality by 2011.

Billions Forgone: The Decline in Alberta Oil and Gas Royalties showed that the new royalty formula introduced in 2009 had resulted in $23.5 billion less in revenues over a five-year period than had been predicted at the time.

Ending Pay to Play: The Need for Political Finance Reform in Alberta made seven recommendations to reform Alberta’s election and party finance laws to remove the influence of money in provincial politics, including limits on individual donations and party spending, and robust disclosure rules.

Neoliberalism and the Non-Profit Social Services Sector in Alberta argued that the Alberta government should reverse decades of failed experimentation in the delivery of social services by re-establishing the proper balance between services delivered by Human Services and the province’s non-profit sector.

Illegal and Injurious: How Alberta Has Failed Teen Workers found that as many as 70% of adolescents may be employed in prohibited occupations, that more than half of all employed teens experience work-related injuries each year, and that employment laws are weak and often not enforced.

Hard Math, Harder Choices: Alberta’s Budget Reality argued that years of detaxation has left Alberta with a deficit in the order of $10 billion, despite average levels of spending, and suggested that to achieve balanced budgets Albertans must accept either drastic cuts to services or increased levels of taxation.

Equal Worth: Designing Effective Pay Equity Laws For Alberta found that Alberta has the largest gender income gap in Canada, and one of the largest in the world. It argues that robust pay equity legislation is a key element in a package of policy changes needed to address the problem.
COMMUNICATIONS

Parkland Institute welcomed the new year by launching a fully redesigned website at parklandinstitute.ca.

As part of the redesign, we’ve increased our focus on more frequent blog posts to allow timely commentary on emerging issues in the province. Parkland research managers and associates wrote 23 blog posts over the year, on topics including election analysis, the provincial budget, funding for post-secondary education, the minimum wage, and the economics of midwifery funding.

A record 85,000 people visited the site over the year (almost double the previous year), viewing over 160,000 pages. Parkland also continued to expand its social media reach, reaching 2,478 likes on Facebook (a 40% increase) and 2,668 followers on Twitter (a 48% increase).

Parkland Institute continued to have a significant media presence over the course of the fiscal year, with Parkland staff and research associates being quoted in provincial and national media on average more than once every three days, and having an op-ed published on average every month. In addition, Executive Director Ricardo Acuña continues to write a widely read biweekly column for Edmonton’s alternative newspaper Vue Weekly.

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The Ralph Klein era is no longer a memory; it’s history. The Parkland Institute stomps the Fraser Institute.

– Don Braid, Calgary Herald
June 22, 2015

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We announced in November that Parkland Institute, the University of Victoria, and the BC and Saskatchewan offices of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) had been awarded a six-year, $2.5 million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for the Corporate Mapping Project. The project will bring together a team of 28 academic researchers from 12 universities, civil society organizations, and Aboriginal participants to study the oil, gas, and coal industries in Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of Parkland Institute. The founding meeting of what would eventually become Parkland (proposed names at the time included the Alberta Centre for Political Economy and the Alberta Centre for Policy Alternatives) was held on April 12, 1996. Parkland Institute was officially created six months later when the University of Alberta approved its establishment on September 4. Three months later, Parkland released its first piece of research, Kevin Taft’s Shredding the Public Interest, which became an overnight sensation and topped the provincial best-seller lists for weeks.

 FINANCES & ADMINISTRATION

Parkland Institute continues to do its work with a small but dedicated staff complement. Last fiscal year was the first full year following a restructuring intended to better meet the current needs of the organization.

Parkland now has two full-time research managers: Ian Hussey and Rebecca Graff-McRae (who replaced Barret Weber in the summer). Scott Harris is our communications director, a position which was created in January of 2015. Lindsey Yao continues as Parkland’s administration coordinator. The 2015 fall conference coordinator was Samantha Power, who also organized the 2016 Parkland Gala. The leadership of Parkland Institute remains with Director Trevor Harrison and Executive Director Ricardo Acuña.

In addition to its staff, Parkland Institute continues to rely on a provincial network of research associates, and a volunteer board of directors drawn from the academic sector and the broader community to direct the organization. As well, Parkland Institute has an international group of research fellows who provide guidance and feedback on research and programming.

More information about the people at Parkland can be found in the About section of our website.

As always, Parkland Institute would like to offer a special thanks to the dedicated volunteers who make our work possible. All our public events, including the fall conference and annual gala, are only possible because of the hard work of dozens of people who offer up their time and expertise.

We’d also like to thank the hundreds of Albertans who support Parkland Institute financially, without whose generous donations we would not exist.

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<th>Parkland Institute Financial Report</th>
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<td>for the year ended March 31, 2016</td>
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**Revenue**
- Individual Donations & Membership 57,199
- Organizational Membership & Donations 327,461
- Fundraising Revenue 31,104
- Endowment Revenue 37,000
- Programming Revenue & Sponsorships 53,036
- Research Donations & Sponsorships 261,260
- General Sales 1,185
- **Total Revenue** 768,245

**Expenses**
- Core Staffing 279,559
- Administrative Expenses 19,786
- Fundraising Expenses 10,787
- Programming Expenses 51,364
- Research Expenses 177,388
- **Total Expenditure** 538,884

**Summary & Balance**
- Balance at March 31, 2015 (68,068)
- Revenue 768,245
- Expenditure 538,884
- Receivables at March 31, 2016 60,000
- **Balance at March 31, 2016** 221,293

* The balance at March 31, 2016 includes funds received before March 31, 2016 that are designated for ongoing research projects and will not be expended until the 2016-17 fiscal year, as well as organizational equity and emergency funds.