

## **Kenney Does What Ottawa Should Have**

**Financial Post**

**May 7<sup>th</sup> 2019**

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U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation has unearthed the danger Russians pose to all democracies through their dirty tricks, lobbying efforts, hacking, and social media propaganda campaigns.

While has never been a Mueller-like investigation in Canada, foreign incursions have shaped public policy – and anti-oil efforts – for years. In 2018, it was revealed the same Russian secret service organization that meddled in the 2016 U.S. election has been behind anti-pipeline attacks against Canada through intermediaries.

And where has Ottawa been on this issue? Only last week Ottawa warned that it’s now “very likely” Canadian voters will encounter some form of foreign cyber interference during the run-up to October’s federal election.

Yet Canada’s oil and pipeline industry, and democracy, have already been greatly damaged by Russians, Americans, and others for years. And such attacks, for political reasons, were ignored.

In 2015, a report showed how foreign money poured in to help the Liberals and anti-oil forces but nothing changed.

Then in 2017, it was obvious that social media and foreign vested interests contributed to the electoral victory in B.C. by the anti-oil NDP and Green Parties.

The NDP and Greens — and now the Liberals with two disastrous pieces of legislation aimed against Alberta oil — march alongside the damaging “Tar Sands Campaign” south of the border that aims to strand Canada’s most valuable resource assets.

So far, their efforts have cost all Canadians. The \$36-billion Malaysia LNG project in B.C. was cancelled, TransCanada Corp.’s Energy East west-east pipeline has been blocked, and the Trans Mountain expansion to the Pacific has been stalled for years.

Canadian oil has been on Russian, Venezuelan, and Saudi radar screens for years because Alberta's increasing production levels threatened their markets and prices. As far back as 2011, I exposed a primitive scheme involving the attempted blockage of deliveries by trucks of gigantic oilsands equipment on its way through Montana to Alberta. A U.S. official revealed that letters and lobbying in Montana originated out of Russia, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing jurisdictions.

Their efforts have become more sophisticated, across Canada, and have helped push the Liberals to pass Bill C-69 (which will impede all resource development with endless consultations) and Bill C-48, the West Coast tanker ban. Both are economically suicidal, given Canada's huge resource base.

The oil tanker ban is discriminatory and doesn't apply to oil deliveries from Saudi Arabia to the Irving Oil refinery, from rigs off Newfoundland's coast, or to oil deliveries made to refineries in Quebec.

Worse, Ottawa has not presented any economic study or scientific research that supports its West Coast ban.

Newly elected Alberta Premier Jason Kenney has finally promised to do what Ottawa should have done years ago — hold a public inquiry into the funding of environmental organizations that have campaigned against pipelines, namely three B.C.-based organizations.

He also plans to submit challenges to the Canada Revenue Agency concerning the charitable status of those groups involved in the Tar Sands campaign, and will cut off any provincial government funding to groups that have been involved in it, including the Pembina Institute.

“I have a message to those foreign-funded special interests who have been leading a campaign of economic sabotage against this great province,” he said. “To the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, to the Tides Foundation, to Leadnow, to the David Suzuki Foundation and to all of the others, your days of pushing around Albertans with impunity just ended.”

Moreover, Ottawa should investigate the use of the tax system and social media, to protect Canadians against foreigners and unidentified vested interests that aim to sabotage the country and its democracy.

<https://business.financialpost.com/diane-francis/when-foreigners-began-attacking-canadas-oil-industry-ottawa-turned-a-blind-eye-now-its-getting-worse>