**Canada and Quebec Could Not Survive Without Alberta.**

The notion that Canada and Quebec could survive the loss of Alberta is technically true—but misleading. While neither would collapse overnight, the consequences would be profound.

Alberta has long been the financial engine of Confederation. From 2007 to 2022, it contributed a staggering $244.6 billion more to Ottawa than it received in federal spending. In 2022 alone, Alberta’s net contribution was $14.2 billion—enough to increase the federal deficit by over 50% if removed.

A large portion of that money funds Canada’s equalization program, designed to help provinces with lower fiscal capacity. Alberta does not receive these payments—it funds them. In 2021, the cost of equalization to Alberta taxpayers was estimated at $2.9 billion. Quebec, by contrast, is the largest recipient, receiving $13.3 billion in 2024–25, or more than half of the total equalization budget.

Removing Alberta from Confederation would rip a sizable hole in federal revenues, forcing difficult choices: increased taxation, reduced services, or deeper deficits. Quebec, whose social programs and fiscal stability rely in part on these transfers, would face a significant reckoning.

So yes, Canada and Quebec might technically survive without Alberta. But the economic, political, and national unity costs would be severe. Confederation would be weaker, poorer, and more divided.

Whether the rest of Canada is prepared to negotiate with Alberta as a province—or one day as a separate nation—is no longer a rhetorical question. It’s a live one.