

January 18, 2021

Commissioner Steve Allan
Public Inquiry into Anti-Alberta Energy Campaigns

Re: Section 25 Application regarding the Package of Materials for Commentary

This letter sets out the basis for a section 25 application pursuant to the Inquiry's *Rules for Procedure and Practice* requesting that the Commissioner make an urgent addition to the package of materials sent to Participants for Commentary. The current package of materials is deficient by virtue of omission. While the Commissioner has indicated that the phase of granting standing as a Participant for Commentary is now closed, he has also confirmed that some responses are still outstanding.¹ Presumably, then, it is not too late to give current Participants the opportunity to comment on one additional report.

The Commissioner has acknowledged that the majority of the Reports in the package of materials approach the issues from a "common perspective."² Coupled with the fact that *all* of the Commissioned Reports approach the issues from this common perspective, in my December 15, 2020 submission I raised the issue of potential bias. While I have yet to hear from the Commissioner with respect to this concern, I am compelled to once again bring to the Commissioner's attention an article by Sandy Garasino that I first cited in an October 2019 blog post regarding the Inquiry,³ which blog post I have previously sent to the Commissioner (both during Phase 1 of the Inquiry and in the footnotes to my December 15, 2020 submission). I am referring to:

- Sandy Garasino, "A data-based dismantling of Jason Kenney's foreign-funding conspiracy theory" (October 3rd 2019), *National Observer*, available online at: <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2019/10/03/analysis/data-based-dismantling-jason-kenneys-foreign-funding-conspiracy-theory>

With respect, the omission of this well-known and highly relevant publication from the package of materials for commentary is glaring and further amplifies concerns with respect to bias. Consequently, I am requesting that the Commissioner add it to his package of materials for comment as soon as possible.

Regards,

Martin Z. Olszynski

¹ See <https://albertainquiry.ca/engagement-process>.

² Correspondence from the Commissioner to M. Olszynski, dated 9 November 2020.

³ See <https://ablawg.ca/2019/10/17/everything-you-wish-you-didnt-need-to-know-about-the-alberta-inquiry-into-anti-alberta-energy-campaigns/> (the last paragraph refers and hyperlinks to Ms. Garasino's article).