



Rueben Tschetter [REDACTED]

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**Alberta Separation**

8 messages

Rueben Tschetter [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 2:18 PM

[REDACTED]

Hi Barry,

I am a Journalist with The CACHE Project, we document social justice issues.

We are reading your comments on CBC this morning and we are wondering if you would like to comment on how the Sovereignty Act, or your proposal for another referendum in Canada will deal with the Indigenous reserves in Alberta, as well as potential issues raised by treaty 6, 7 and 8 and the truth and reconciliation commission.

Would the reserves be incorporated into a new country? Would the treaties be abolished, would they still be recognized? Would Indigenous people be recognized as first nations, or would they be recognized as citizens of this new place that may come about should your proposal for a referendum be taken seriously, and the outcome be in your favour? Does the act move forward in the spirit of reconciliation? Does it recognize any of the 94 recommendations in the TRC, if so, how?

If you could please reply to all, as we have copied relevant individuals in this conversation, that would be great.

Thank you in advance,

Rueben

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[Rueben Tschetter](#)

[Filmmaker](#)

[REDACTED]

[The CACHE Project](#)

[REDACTED]

[www.thecacheproject.ca](http://www.thecacheproject.ca)

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**Barry Cooper** [REDACTED]

Dear mr tschetter,

I am in the uk on a research project so I can't really respond to your many questions.

In principle, however, I can say that all those issues can be dealt with in time. You may recall that one of the things I said was that when the Crown in right of Canada received the remit from the Imperial Crown, no one in the government of Canada consulted the inhabitants of the North-West. Those inhabitants, you may know, were ethnically diverse—from indigenous peoples to Europeans to various combinations, now homogenized into "Métis" (though in the 19th century matters were more complex). My point is that Canada (and the imperial Crown) have treated both

indigenous and non-indigenous in the same way for several hundred years. All the technical and legal issues you mention are secondary.

BC

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 8, 2022, at 10:19 PM, Rueben Tschetter [REDACTED] wrote:

[△EXTERNAL]

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rueben.tschetter [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 5:51 AM

To: Barry Cooper [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hi Barry,

I beg to disagree, the technical and legal issues here are primary, similarities can be referenced in the Brexit movement and the surprises being uncovered after the fact. These issues are primary and need to be sorted out before the fact.

You undoubtedly realize that the referendums that took place in Quebec were driven by a heavy culture and language element, the FLQ crisis decades prior turned political, nothing like that is present here, in fact it is quite perplexing as to what exactly is driving the sovereignty movement, the Smith government has a minority mandate at the moment, and seemingly has been usurped by the trucker convoy, in all its confusion.

Yes Canada has a colonial history and Canada has treated Indigenous People the same way for several hundred years, and humans used to bonk each other on the head with stone weapons, then we evolved to killing each other with muskets, precisely why the TRC is so incredibly important. Would you agree we are moving on? Canada is attempting to change that relationship as a country, with the obvious exception of the convoy movement, and now this. The sovereignty act as you can undoubtedly realize is driven by a similar ideology as the trucker convoy movement, and it requires explanation. The regressive cultural, may I say hateful, racist elements within that movement are downright scary, and they are obviously present within a colonial Canada. Canada recognizes these elements as a country with the publication of the TRC, and Canada is attempting to reconcile that history as a country.

If you want to reference laws from hundreds of years ago, why not keep things the way they are? Is Canada moving too fast on these issues for you?

Please take the time and explain your answers in detail to the queries posed in these questions. As an instructor at a distinguished institution such as the University of Calgary, my Alma Mater, you must realize your position is not merely political exercise. You are representing the University of Calgary.

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[Quoted text hidden]

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Barry Cooper [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 8:22 AM

To: "rueben.tschetter" [REDACTED]

These are not theoretical or legal questions. They are practical and political. You still don't seem to understand the difference.

If you think I represent the University of Calgary, please think again or ask the president or chancellor Yedlin, both of whom would be surprised to learn about my new status.

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]

rueben.tschetter  
To: Barry Cooper

Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 9:17 AM

Barry,

I do understand the difference, and I am a journalist. These questions are quite relevant to the current conversations surrounding social/cultural/political issues in Alberta, brought to the front by the sovereignty act. This is no longer an ivory tower exercise, the act is now in force and you have a responsibility to answer as to its purpose. Categorize the questions as you wish, you are obviously dodging them, why?

You placed yourself into a CBC news peice as an architect of the Alberta sovereignty act, your title "Cooper is a professor of political science at the University of Calgary". Is this your title or not? If this is not your title, we have to correct the article, readers may get the wrong idea. Are you an architect of the sovereignty act or not? Do you understand the implications of this peice of legislation or not?

Thank you for recommending the bump up to authority. I have been copying the relevant people in these emails precisely as you asked.

As a journalist it is my duty to ask these questions and at the moment I am receiving a blank stare from everyone in support of this act, as I am receiving from you. Alberta in 2022 is not Canada in 1867, these issues need to be addressed, as they should have been addressed in 1867, but here we are. First Nations are asking for the act to be repealed, in Alberta and in Saskatchewan.

These issues are not secondary and they will not be dealt with in time, they must be dealt with now. These issues are primary. Are you an architect of the sovereignty act or not? If yes, you have a responsibility to answer questions about how it is supposed to work. I would be grateful if you took the time, stopped evading, and answered my questions.

Thank you,

Rueben

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Rueben Tschetter  
To: Barry Cooper

Sat, Dec 10, 2022 at 2:06 PM

Barry,

As a Canadian journalist who deals with social justice issues I cannot justify your responses. According to various Indigenous groups and Calgary Pride, the UCP government in Alberta is a racist homophobic political party. The sovereignty act with its racist underpinnings is now coming from that political party, and you are a self-admitted architect of it.

Alberta as a province, in comparison to other jurisdictions in Canada, by far, is behind the eight ball on tackling issues such as racism, homophobia, bigotry and hate. This province has evil, systemically racist, homophobic, bigoted, hateful structures within its institutions, communities and people, especially in rural Alberta, and the UCP policies most

likely are a reflection of that. I draw this conclusion from the fact that Premier Smith ran in a rural riding rather than Calgary Elbow, a riding which still today sits without representation, as it did during her by-election in Medicine Hat-Brooks. She chose not to run in an open riding, closer to her home in High River, because she is a cunning Trumpian racist, the worst kind.

However, Canada as a country is moving on. Your responses are asking me to question whether you, Barry, are a typical, colonialist, old stock, racist? My questions are quite clear and you have dodged them because you are afraid of uncovering the systemically racist structure that this country is built upon. And by extension, whether you have tenure or not, the University of Calgary is a systemically racist institution?

Now, my responsibilities as an ethical journalist who deals with these issues daily, motivate me to question whether the University of Calgary is a systemically racist institution. How many other professors such as yourself are propagating these views? The University of Calgary is an institution of learning. It has a responsibility to root out systemic racism within institutions, within its own administration, and within its instructors. The University of Calgary has a responsibility to not propagate hate.

My advice would be to send a questionnaire to all professors at the University of Calgary asking them to clearly state their views on the Sovereignty Act in Alberta. I will begin by formulating clear and concise questions for the president, Edward McCauley, in a separate open letter.

The key terror threat to western style democracies today is undoubtedly from the far right. Stochastic terrorism is on the rise. Last February, Alberta, and Canada faced a situation where this country's police forces were nearly overwhelmed by far right extremists. The gun laws that are currently being debated in this country are undoubtedly a band-aid attempt at neutering far right extremists. The federal conservatives have a point, it won't work. Unstable individuals are inspired to violence by hate speech and scenarios they see, precisely the types of acts and language you are propagating as an architect of this act, and then refusing to take responsibility for it.

None of this is a joke. You as an architect of the sovereignty act are enabling young, white, anti-immigrant, neo-Nazis, and when placed into a position where you are faced with the reality of your action you scurry, and you have the audacity to tell me that I don't understand. You, Barry, must have big brass balls that clang. You attempt to baffle me with your bullshit, with your legalese. I understand quite well how tenure works, and how corrupt institutions hide behind administrative legal jargon when faced with difficult questions. I understand quite well how professors such as yourself create silos in your ivory towers to protect your fragile ego. The fact remains you are employed by an educational institution located in a province that is refusing to deal with systemic hate, within its legal, political and educational institutions, while the rest of the country around it is moving on. You are an architect of a piece of, quite frankly, bullshit, that spews hate, *and you ought to be held responsible for it.*

Barry, you by your own admission are the architect of the sovereignty act. You are not capable of answering my questions about how this act works, how it deals with First Nations Reserves, how it deals with the issues raised by the TRC, and systemically racist issues in our legal, political and educational institutions. I must call for your resignation as a professor, whether tenured or not, from the University of Calgary, you must be prevented from teaching at any recognized Canadian institution of higher learning because you are a racist.

Regards,

Rueben

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