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NDP call for fully independent investigation into Smith's interference in criminal prosecutions:

- Over the weekend, Danielle Smith commissioned an “IT review” into her own interference in the prosecution of criminal cases of the Coutts blockaders, and today she reported she couldn't find any emails between her office and prosecutors.
 - The criminal cases include charges of conspiracy to murder police officers.
- Danielle Smith's ‘internal review’ is a coverup. Wouldn't you know it, the government announced today they didn't find anything. This would be laughable if the matter wasn't so very serious.
- This is not just about emails from the premier's staff to prosecutors questioning their judgment. Those emails are a part of this scandal but the Alberta NDP formally requested an independent investigation into the premier's actions days before media reports of these emails came out.
- In the premier's own public statements, on camera and in writing, on three separate occasions, she boasts about deliberately interfering in the criminal justice system.

- The only adequate response to this UCP chaos is a fully independent investigation just as retired Justice Adele Kent conducted into the actions of UCP MLA Kaycee Madu.
 - The Kent investigation took 33 days and led to Madu being sacked as Attorney General for attempting to interfere in the administration of justice.
- Smith's refusal to commission a fully independent investigation strongly suggests that she has something to hide. She must appear in public and answer questions about her interference in criminal prosecutions. She cannot hide from Albertans forever.
- If Smith and Shandro try to sweep this under the rug they will cause incredible damage to Alberta's reputation around the world.
- No one is above the law whether or not they have a friend in the premier's office. All Canadians are protected by the rule of law and by due process. When those rights are replaced by the chaotic whims of a dishonest politician like Danielle Smith, we are heading into a dangerous place very quickly.
- Around the world people looking for somewhere to invest, to build a career, or raise a family will look at the behaviour of Danielle Smith and the UCP and go somewhere else.

- The only remedy for this UCP chaos is a fully independent investigation.

UCP announce plan for privatized surgeries:

- Alberta NDP Leader Rachel Notley is promising to rebuild public health care and lower wait times while ending the UCP's chaotic rush towards more privately delivered care if elected in 2023.
- We cannot allow this broken system to come to Alberta.
- We know from other jurisdictions that every time there's an expansion of privately delivered health care it creates chaos. The costs of care go up, the quality of care goes down, and nurses and frontline health workers leave the public system to work in private facilities. Ultimately, it could leave patients paying out of pocket.
 - The UCP announced that Alberta Health Services will begin outsourcing an additional 3,000 surgeries to a private operator in Calgary.
 - The UCP move follows Ontario Premier Doug Ford's plan to expand privately delivered surgeries in Ontario, despite evidence suggesting that health care costs and wait times will increase in the public system. Similar

solutions are being proposed by Conservative governments in Manitoba and Nova Scotia.

- Alberta will not stand idly by and witness the death of Medicare in this country.
- We live in the most prosperous province in Canada and right now, we have a responsibility to show Canadians that we can lead on reforming and strengthening the public health care system, care that can be the envy of the world. This is the approach we will take, should Albertans elect an NDP government.
 - [In a June 2021 video](#), Danielle Smith stated that she believes Albertans should have to pay to see a family doctor and called for the return of health care premiums.
- Alberta's NDP will present a plan for family medicine that ensures Albertans have access to a family doctor, as well as solutions to improve staffing across the entire system with the largest health care recruitment effort Alberta has ever seen.

Google's DeepMind office in Edmonton closes:

- DeepMind closing its Edmonton office is terrible news for those workers, and is deeply concerning for our city and our tech sector.
 - The previous NDP government welcomed DeepMind to Edmonton in 2017 — their first location outside of the United Kingdom. This was recognition of the amazing work being done in Alberta and made our province a destination of choice for investment. The NDP then built on this success by launching a \$100 million dollar AI strategy to further support innovation and build a more resilient economy.
- In the UCP's first budget, they declared economic diversification a luxury, cut tax credits for the tech sector, and cut funding for Alberta's AI strategy.
- Today, we are seeing the results of the UCP's chaotic and incompetent approach as tech investment in Alberta only makes up a small percentage of investment across the country.
- An NDP government will support our tech sector by reinstating tax credits that work and creating a brand new Alberta venture fund to restore our

competitiveness, attract investment, and create good-paying jobs.

UCP claim to free auto insurance rates:

- The UCP has announced a fake freeze. By their own admission, Albertans could still see their rates increase this year.
- The UCP lifted the rate cap brought in by our Alberta NDP government and insurance premiums skyrocketed. Auto insurance rates went up as much as 30 per cent during the pandemic — a time when Albertans were driving and working less — and the UCP did nothing.
- Now Albertans are paying for the most expensive auto insurance in the country in the midst of the worst affordability crisis in 40 years.
- For years, the UCP claimed rate caps don't work. Only weeks ago, Danielle Smith and Travis Toews blocked Alberta NDP legislation that would have immediately put a real freeze on insurance rates.
- Now the UCP is in chaos, and they're too incompetent to even implement a real rate freeze.
- An Alberta NDP government will always be focused on keeping more money in the pockets of Alberta drivers and all Alberta families.

Smith writes to federal government about just transition:

- Yet another letter won't hide the fact that the UCP government has been missing in action.
- This late-breaking pivot won't do anything to restore Albertans' trust in Smith's ability to engage productively at the discussion table on the future of our economy.
- Many of the objectives in today's letter are laudable but Danielle Smith lacks credibility among working people and investors as a result of her combative and inflammatory positioning to date.
- Her record undermines her ability to do the job at such a critical moment.
- There are billions of dollars in investment decisions pending right now, and the decision-makers who will choose whether to deploy that capital in Alberta are looking for a stable and competent provincial government. An Alberta NDP government will provide that, and secure the creation of good industrial Alberta jobs for generations to come.

UCP release \$5 million in funding for Edmonton's downtown:

- Downtown Edmonton continues to struggle with high office vacancy rates, a lack of vibrancy, and concerns about safety.
- This funding was promised in the budget, but is only being delivered now — almost a year later — and is a fraction of what is required to support the revitalization of the city's core.
- An NDP government will make the economic revitalization of downtown Edmonton a priority, support affordable housing, and address the crisis in mental health and addictions.

UCP Infrastructure Minister insulates residents wouldn't understand complexities of building a health facility:

- In [an article](#) outlining delays of the Red Deer Regional Hospital from an info session, Nathan Neudorf says "There are complexities that most of the general public doesn't understand and it's

difficult to explain to them because it's tedious and very time consuming.”

- For the Minister to imply that residents wouldn't understand the complexities of its construction and the delay is a slap in the face. The UCP should be taking ownership of the delay and committing to finishing the work instead of making up excuses and avoiding responsibility.
- Red Deer deserves a government that will be transparent and responsive around this critical project. We are facing a crisis in our healthcare system, and now is not the time for elected officials to be belittling residents who are deeply concerned their family won't be able to get the care they need.
- An Alberta NDP government would prioritize the redevelopment of the Red Deer Regional Hospital, and explore any opportunity to speed up the timeline.

Another round of accusations against Smith interfering in criminal prosecutions:

- These new allegations are coming from within the government. There are clearly Albertans with knowledge of this interference who want to give evidence. They should not be forced to do so

anonymously to media outlets and fear for their jobs.

- This is precisely the reason why we must have an independent investigation into Smith's meddling with criminal prosecutions. The attempted coverup over the weekend is no cure for the chaos Smith and the UCP are causing in our justice system.
- Let's be clear: Smith herself has repeatedly described her attempts to meddle with criminal cases. She said so twice on camera and a third time in writing.
- The only adequate response to this UCP chaos is a fully independent investigation just as retired Justice Adele Kent conducted into the actions of former UCP Attorney General Kaycee Madu. That investigation took 33 days and led to Kaycee Madu being sacked as Attorney General for attempting to interfere in the administration of justice.
- Danielle Smith cannot hide from Albertans forever. She cannot hide from the truth forever.
- Attorney General Tyler Shandro must commission a fully independent investigation today. He does not need the Premier's permission.
- Shandro may be distracted by his ongoing disciplinary hearing at the Law Society but that does not release him from his responsibility to uphold the rule of law in Alberta.

- All of this UCP chaos is causing real and lasting damage to Alberta's reputation as a stable and mature democracy, and a destination for investment and job creation.
- Alberta is better than this dangerous UCP incompetence. We must have an independent investigation immediately.

Electricity prices reach new record-high for the third month in a row under UCP:

- Albertans are already struggling to keep the lights on and put food on the table, but month-after-month, the cost of electricity has gone up under the UCP with next to no help for Albertans. The UCP has completely mismanaged the electricity system and their incompetence means Albertans will be stuck paying higher bills.
 - [Data from the Alberta Utilities Commission](#) shows the Regulated Rate Option (RRO) reached 32.96 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in Edmonton and 29.68 cents/kWh in Calgary for February.
 - Electricity prices have increased almost 400 per cent since the UCP formed government and removed the NDP's 6.8 cent/kWh rate cap.

- In response to skyrocketing prices, the UCP has implemented a deferral program where any charges over 13.5 cents/kWh go into a debt repayment program that is paid back between April 2023 and December 2024.
- The UCP has also introduced utility rebates that expire in May, but the program has faced extensive criticism for not applying to condominiums, seniors' buildings, and apartments that have a single meter. The Condo Owners Forum Society estimates that hundreds of thousands of Albertans are being left out.
- Rather than addressing sky-high electricity prices, the UCP has kicked the can down the road until after the election. Albertans could be faced with sticker shock in the coming months because the UCP is too busy dealing with the chaos in their own government instead of helping Albertans.
- An NDP government will be focused on restoring stability to electricity prices and putting more money in Albertans' pockets.

In the news:

[Media claims Alberta premier's office contacted Crown prosecutors over Coutts protesters | CTV News](#)

[Internal review of emails between province, crown prosecutors not enough: NDP, experts | Globalnews.ca](#)

[NDP accusing premier of 'coverup' over alleged emails to prosecutors | rdnewsnow.com](#)

[NDP says it would end Preston Manning-led COVID-19 panel | Edmonton Journal](#)

[NDP warn against publicly funded private surgery - Red Deer Advocate](#)

[Alphabet Inc.'s DeepMind shop in Edmonton closes | Edmonton Journal](#)

[Alberta NDP plans to restore tech industry | CityNews Calgary](#)

[NDP questions fate of Smith's long-promised advisory panel on public health | Globalnews.ca](#)

[NDP says Alberta premier's prosecutor review flawed, calls for outside investigation | National Post](#)

[Rachel Notley makes campaign stop in Leduc and Beaumont | Leduc Representative](#)



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Review of oilsands cleanup funding program needs public input, says Alberta NDP | National Post