



May 19, 2020

Office of the Premier
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Kenney,

Thank you for the work you're doing on behalf of Alberta taxpayers. It was a tough job before. It's tougher now. Thank you for your hard work.

We need to raise a specific concern: the spectre of a provincial sales tax.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation supports the letter and spirit of the Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act that legally requires provincial politicians to hold a referendum before imposing a sales tax. As you led the successful push for taxpayer protection legislation in Alberta, you are aware of how important this type of protection is for taxpayers. It's a virtual certainty that previous governments would have imposed a sales tax if it weren't for the protection of this legislation.

However, we have been hearing a lot of concern from taxpayers over recent calls for a provincial sales tax, without any mention of a legally required referendum. Further, we've seen other governments ignore legislation requiring referendums prior to tax hikes, such as the former Selinger government in Manitoba, and, while voters eventually held that government accountable at the ballot box, taxpayers paid a heavy price in the meantime. Obviously, it would be absolutely unacceptable to override Albertans' right to vote in a referendum prior to the implementation of any proposed sales tax (e.g., provincial sales tax, harmonized sales tax etc.).

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation needs to reassure our supporters and taxpayers that your government would never impose a sales tax without respecting the Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act and holding a referendum. Would you please confirm that an Alberta government you lead as premier will not impose a sales tax without first holding a referendum?

Thank you for your time and response.

Franco Terrazzano

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Franco Terrazzano' written in a cursive style.

Alberta Director
Canadian Taxpayers Federation
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