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Don't listen to the people

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Lloyd Snelgrove's take on why the province won't be overly influenced by ordinary Albertans on oil and gas royalties is interesting.

Ordinary Albertans, it seems, have been "heavily influenced" by media reports on the findings of the royalty review panel and the auditor general.

Apparently, Snelgrove and many of his Conservative colleagues have been totally uninfluenced by it all, especially the part about the province's non-renewable resources being owned by the people of Alberta.

To most energy industry players, this is blasphemy. You can't keep the saps happy on a diet of crumbs if they start believing the whole pie is theirs.

Can anyone in the Stelmach government explain how, after 36 years of Conservative rule in Alberta, we still have only \$16 billion in our Heritage Savings Trust Fund? The Norwegians, who only began setting aside oil and gas revenue for future generations in the 1990s, have more than \$350 billion dollars in their rainy-day fund.

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