

United We Roll'ed onto Parliament Hill

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OTTAWA – THE STORY SURROUNDING JUSTIN TRUDEAU AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR A SAFER ENVIRONMENT HAS BEEN A NEVER-ENDING SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY FOR ONTARIO, INCLUDING THE FARMERS.

The United We Roll convoy strolled onto the streets outside of Parliament Hill Tues., Feb. 19, along with enthusiastic protesters wielding signs, to voice their stance on pro-pipeline and the extermination of the carbon tax, *Bill C-69* and *Bill C-48*.

The carbon tax is a fee that will be charged to any individual or business that uses carbon-based energy including natural gas, diesel and gasoline for every one tonne of greenhouse gases that is emitted into the atmosphere.

While this concept was conceived to encourage companies to invest in cleaner and greener venues for their business practices, farmers are very concerned about the tax. In 2018, the carbon tax plan required provinces to meet a minimum federal price of \$10 per tonne, rising to \$50 per tonne in 2022 but that might not work with shrink-



Saskatchewan grain and cattle farmer Jason LeBlanc gave a big speech on how the carbon tax and anti-pipeline movement will negatively impact agriculture.

Glover photo

ing profit margins on farms.

Farmers are anticipating that the price of inputs needed to operate their seed and crop protection products, parts and machin-



A large number of protesters were in attendance to the United We Roll convoy rally, shouting in support of the pro-pipeline issue.

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ery and shipping will increase due to the carbon tax their suppliers will be required to pay. Not to mention, the cost of electricity for heat, irrigation and seed cleaning is also an anticipated increase.

Fertilizer is also a continuing concern in the Alberta region. In the province, both urea and anhydrous ammonia are produced using natural gas, making the production

subject to the carbon tax.

If these farmers cannot afford Alberta-produced fertilizer, they may be forced to find better deals on imported. When ordering imported material from outside the country, transportation will be required which does little to no improvement on a farmer's carbon footprint.

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Pipeline protest

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There is also the problem that while the carbon tax affects Canadian farmers, it doesn't apply to their global competitors. Other, larger competitors from around the globe currently have no plans to implement carbon taxing and anything that will require commercial transportation to deliver from the farm will be taxed; putting the Canadian farmers at a significant disadvantage when up against their competitor from around the world.

Grain and cattle farmer, Jason LeBlanc was a big speaker at the rally, voicing his opposition with how the carbon tax will devastate farmers and harm the resource sector that is deeply rooted near his home in southern Saskatchewan.

"This bill will be the agri-

cultural industry, which will face increased uprooting costs, taxes and regulations which will then see the unfortunate loss of farmers and rising costs will be passed across to all Canadians rural and urban," he said in an enthusiastic speech to the rally of protesters.

He continued, "This is a peaceful rally but it's a bit of a warning shot and we want the Prime Minister to hear our message. The naysayers said that it couldn't be done. The keyboard warriors called us racists, bigots and any other names they could think of as we made our way across this great country. The protesters tried to stop us just outside of Winnipeg, but our little peaceful convoy made it and we're here."

LeBlanc also touched the climate change issue, which he explained that he was neither a supporter or denier of the issue but he is against using the issue to fear mon-

ger the idea of doomsday onto people.

"Climate change, which has gone through more name changes than a government department, continues to be the main force behind these bills of economic destruction. I am not a climate change skeptic or denier, I strongly believe that the climate change goes in cycles and will continue to do so," he said. "However, I am a climate change doomsday denier. It's common to hear from the politicians and the media that 97 per cent of the

scientists agree that climate change is real and yet they don't explain what it means."

LeBlanc continues to explain that when these claims are heard, listeners should ask themselves two questions; what did the scientists agree on and how do they prove it?

LeBlanc also pointed out Al Gore's climate predictions and that if they had come true, both him and the rest of the protesters would be standing on parliament hill in shorts rather than freezing in below zero temperatures.

"[Gore] got rich doing it," he said. "Climate change is the most complex thing on the planet."

Concerning the pipelines, LeBlanc stated that without a proper oil line, agriculture cannot survive and that farmers allow access to available land for drilling of wells.

"Agriculture does not exist without oil and oil cannot be refined without agricultural land to drill on," he said.

Oil is a necessity to the agricultural industry as one of the most important uses of petroleum is in the production

of ammonia to be used as the nitrogen source in fertilizers. The industry also depends on the use of pesticides to ensure consistent and healthy crop yields as they are almost all produced from oil.

From running farm machinery to plant fertilizing, the agricultural industry is one of the largest users of petroleum based products.

The United We Roll convoy protested for five hours on Parliament Hill and continued into Wed., Feb. 20. Trudeau did not speak or attend either rally.



Protesters rallied at Parliament Hill with signs in hand to express their anger and displeasure in Justin Trudeau's plans for the carbon tax and *Bills C-69* and *C-48*.

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