

Values Shareholders Over Supporting Communities

Like any industry, oil and gas companies exist to generate profits for their owners and shareholders. In many cases, oil and gas companies are foreign-owned, meaning that not only are revenues flowing out of Alberta, they are flowing out of Canada altogether. While private companies may invest directly in public infrastructure projects if it benefits them directly, provincial resource royalties and municipal property taxes exist to ensure that oil and gas companies are required to invest a portion of their revenues into the public infrastructure they use to access resources. As Alberta's rural municipalities manage over 173,000 km of road and over 8,000 bridge structures, many of which are heavily used by oil and gas companies, these funds play an essential role.

While data and information are limited on the identities and ownership structures of zombie companies, recent research shows that approximately 70% of the largest oil and gas companies operating in Alberta are foreign owned. While these large companies reliably pay property taxes, extending this proportion of foreign ownership to zombie companies suggests that not only are taxes and surface leases not being paid, but many of the revenues that should be directed to this purpose are being funnelled to zombie company owners and shareholders located outside of Canada.

Zombie companies do not consider the infrastructure and communities that support them.

The zombie value system exists only to generate profits for shareholders and does not consider the infrastructure and communities which sustain them. Instead, zombies feed off community support and add strain to the finances of municipalities. Less money for local infrastructure means more money for shareholders.