

Post Mortem- Institute for Public Economics,  
University of Alberta, 23 March 2017

**BUDGET** 20  
17

WORKING TO MAKE  
LIFE BETTER

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**FISCAL PLAN**

# AGENDA

- Bob Ascah- Introductory Remarks
- Gil McGowan- President, Alberta Federation of Labour
- Grant Robertson, Former Deputy Minister, Alberta Treasury Board
- Amber Ruddy, Alberta Director, Canadian Federation of Independent Business
- Elizabeth Smythe, Professor of Political Science, Concordia University
- Graham Thomson, Provincial Affairs Columnist, *Edmonton Journal*
- Question and Answer

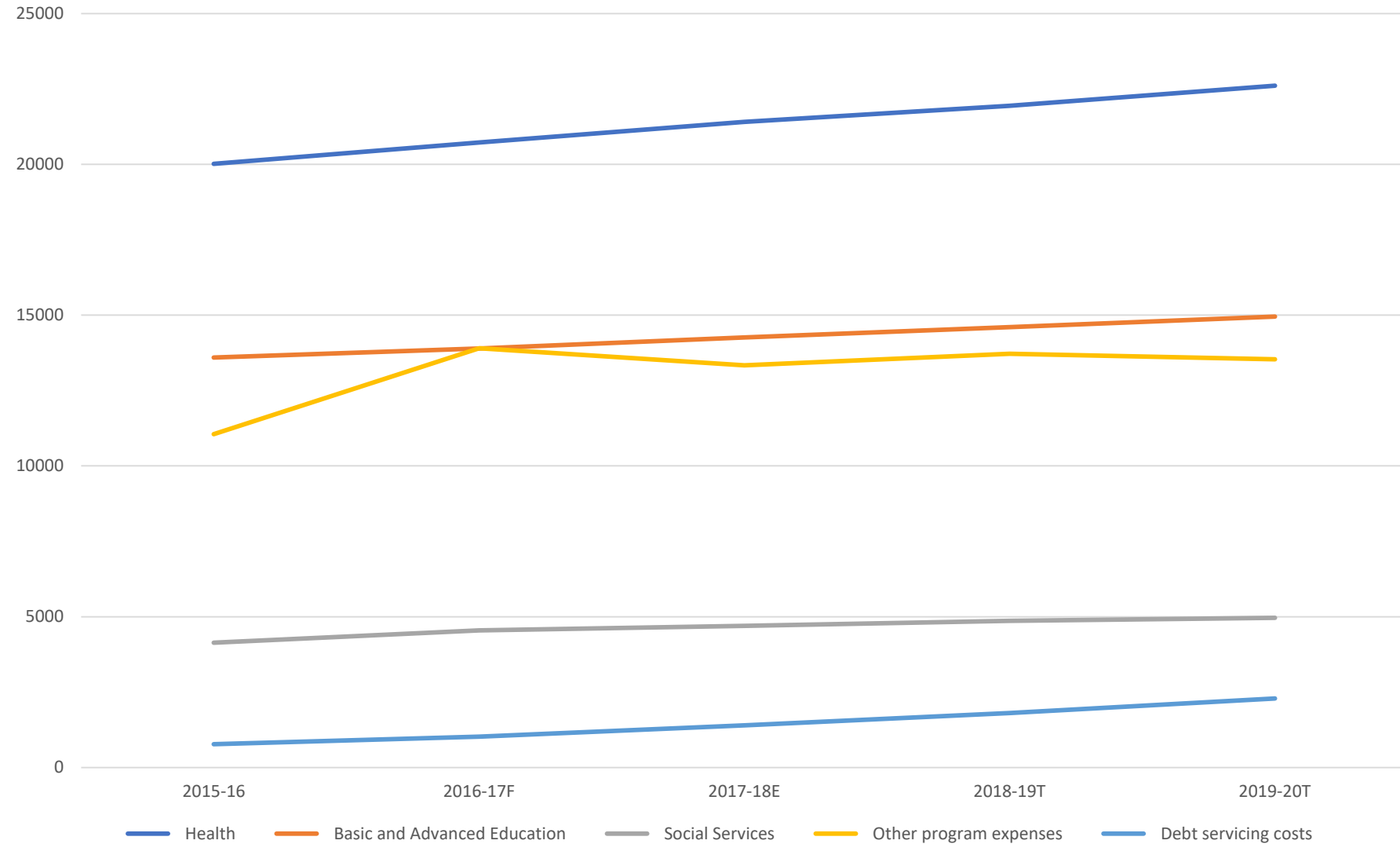
# Alberta's Fiscal Dilemma

- Albertans want first class public services but do not understand that low taxes are only achievable through using all or most of the proceeds from the sale of non-renewable resources
- Albertans resist, or are believed to resist, tax increases.
- An anti-tax orthodoxy creates government reliance on energy sector for revenue
- It is not in the interests of elected officials to reduce program or capital spending
- Greater government reliance on bitumen royalties produces government reliance on an expanding oilsands sector

# What is controllable?

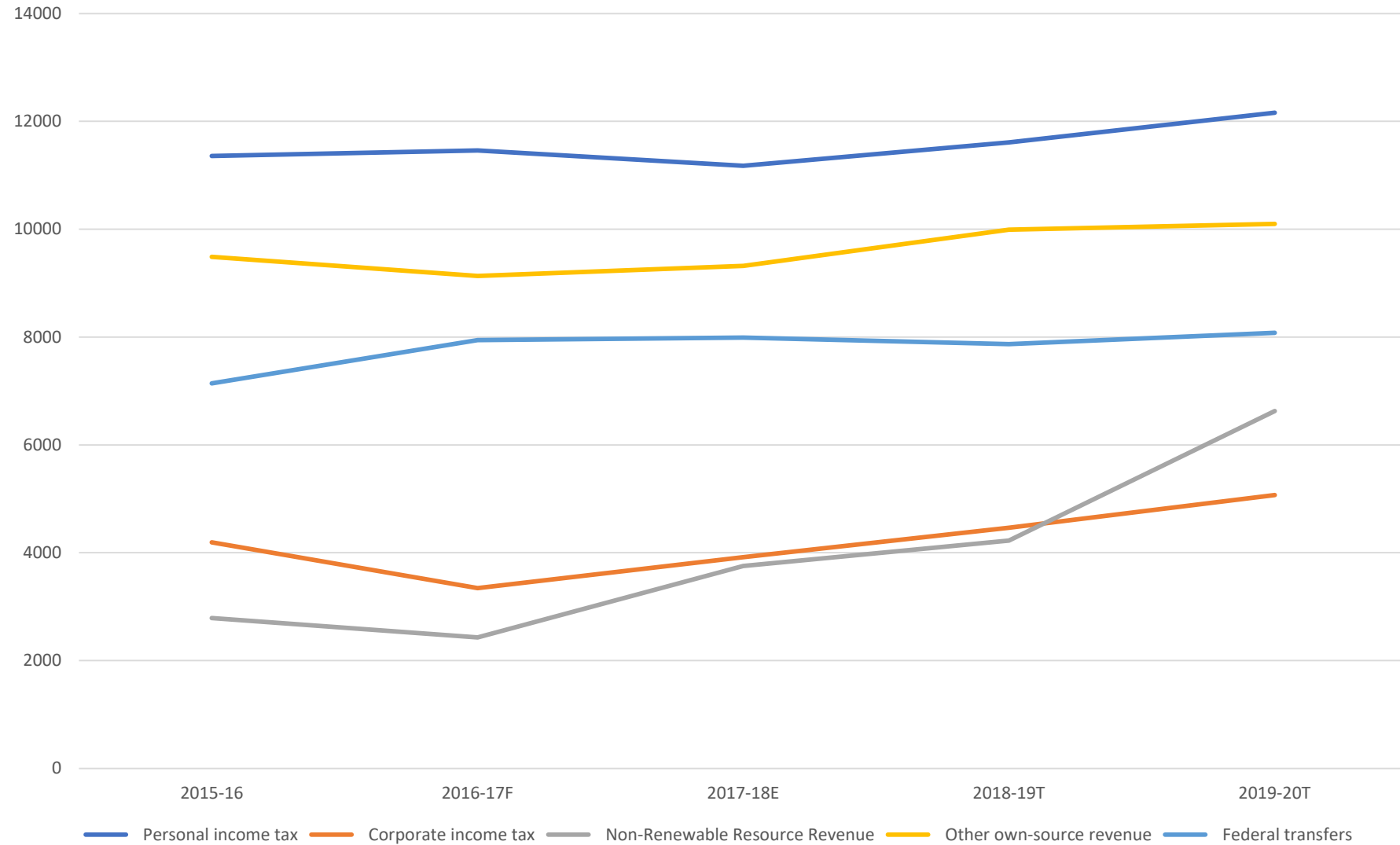
- Tax regime (PIT, CIT, Tobacco, Alcohol, fuel)
- Medicare premiums
- Royalty rates
- Public sector salaries and benefits
- Operating Programs
- Capital Plan
- Investment policy
- Pace and scale of oilsands development (production)

# Alberta Budget 2016-2020- Main Program Spending



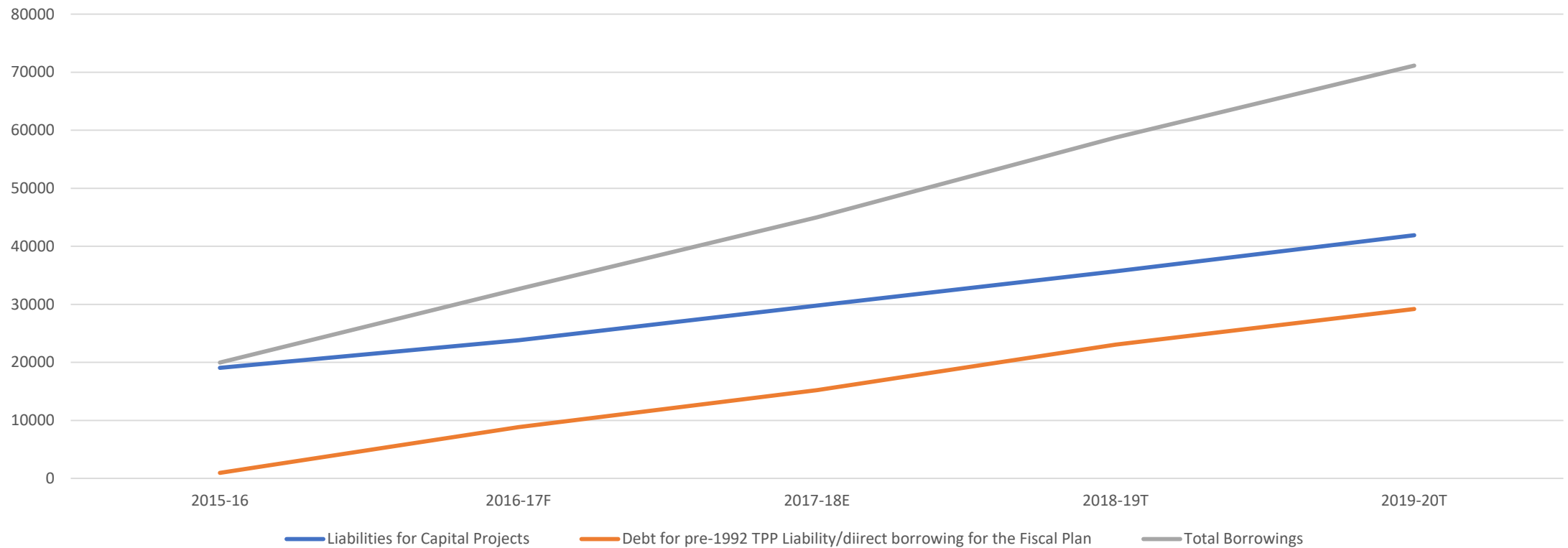
# Alberta Budget 2016-2020

## Main Revenue Sources



# It's the debt, Stupid

## Alberta Budget 2016-20- Total Borrowings



# Total Borrowings Per cent of Alberta GDP

