

The Global System Grid and the Age of Software

A civic-philosophical response to an article on AI data centres, systematized living, and local freedom.

Special address stamp

Prepared from Camrose, Alberta, Canada
Monday, June 22, 2026 - approximately 12:10 PM MDT
Created for possible submission to grassroots editors and readers.

Note: Location is general and estimated. This document is a civic reflection, not a formal investigative report. It distinguishes structural system concerns from claims of secret conspiracy.

Prepared by Jacob G. in dialogue with ChatGPT. The attached article image begins on the next page. The analysis that follows was developed through conversation after reading the article and then expanding the problem into the language of the “global system grid,” “the Age of Software,” and the future of freedom under software-mediated life.

Central sentence:

I reject conspiracy, but I recognize system.

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June 2026 • Issue #67 • **FREE**

Why AI Data Centres?

While Utah fights back, **Premier Danielle Smith** and our local MLA and **Energy Minister Brian Jean** are removing red tape and exempting massive [AI data centre] projects from proper review. **Albertans will pay the real price.**

Most people still picture data centres as harmless warehouses full of blinking servers. They are not.

They are the **physical backbone—the central nervous system—of a new global control grid.** Without them, the systems we've watched unfold over the last several years (digital IDs, mass surveillance, predictive policing, programmable money, smart cities, and automated governance) simply cannot operate at scale.

And right now, Alberta is being fast-tracked to become one of the biggest hubs in North America.

The Same Playbook, Different Communities

Kevin O'Leary is pushing massive AI data centre projects in both Utah and Alberta.

In Utah, residents are protesting a 9-gigawatt project on 40,000 acres near the shrinking Great Salt Lake. They're gathering signatures for a ballot referendum to overturn approval.

In Alberta? O'Leary's **Wonder Valley** project (7.5 GW, \$70 billion) near Grande Prairie was **exempted** from a full provincial **Environmental Impact Assessment**. Just "standard technical permits." No comprehensive review.

This is not coincidence. This is policy.

How the UCP Government Is Fast-Tracking the Sell-Out

Premier Danielle Smith and our own local MLA and Minister of Energy and Minerals, Brian Jean, have made this a top priority:

- **Bill 8** creates special fast-track rules for data centres, including "Bring Your Own Power" and priority grid access.
 - **Bill 30** (the Expedited 120-Day Approvals Act) forces major projects through the system in months.
 - The province's own AI Data Centre Strategy is openly chasing **\$100 billion** in investment, actively marketing our land, energy, and cold climate to Big Tech.
- Smith and Jean rarely, if EVER, acknowledge the real downsides: **noise, water consumption, health effects, permanent land loss, or the control implications.** The focus is almost entirely on money, jobs (albeit temporary), tax revenue, and "beating China." When concerns are raised, the response is usually "new technology will fix it" or "they'll do technical assessments."

This is a **deliberate political choice** by the UCP government, and by our own representative Brian Jean, to **prioritize corporate investment over Alberta communities.**

being built underneath it all.

Time to Take Action, Starting with Our Own Representatives

We cannot just complain locally. The real pressure is coming from Edmonton.

It is time to hold **Premier Danielle Smith, Energy Minister Brian Jean**, and the entire UCP caucus accountable.

Here's what we must do right now:

1. **Contact Brian Jean directly** (your MLA and the Minister driving this file). Demand he stop fast-tracking these projects and reinstate full Environmental Impact Assessments.
2. **Flood the phones and inboxes** of every UCP MLA, especially Smith and Jean.
3. **Demand a full public inquiry** into the AI Data Centre Strategy and all related bills (Bill 8, Bill 30, etc.).
4. **Push the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Council hard**—demand they amend Land Use Bylaw 26/001 to prohibit large AI data centres outright.
5. **Build broad coalitions**, connect with First Nations, farmers, energy workers, parents, and concerned Albertans.

6. **Make noise and prepare for the next election**, support or run candidates who will put Alberta communities and sovereignty first.

Fort McMurray was built by strong, independent, hard-working people who never backed down from a fight. **We do not need to become a sacrifice zone for Big Tech and globalist agendas.**

Other communities are already fighting back. Utah is mobilizing. Maine is looking at bans. We must do the same, and more.

Final Word

The railroads shaped nations. Oil reshaped geopolitics.

AI data centres are shaping humanity itself.

If we allow Danielle Smith, Brian Jean, and the UCP to sell our land, energy, and future to the highest bidder, we will wake up one day and realize the control grid was built on Alberta soil, with our resources, without our consent... *Or is your silence your consent?*

This is not inevitable.

Stand together. Speak up. Take action.

Say HELL NO to the sell-out.

Share this widely. Talk to your neighbours. Contact Brian Jean and your other representatives today.

We are not for sale, nor will we agree to passive enslavement!

Originally published at substack.com/@unlockalberta

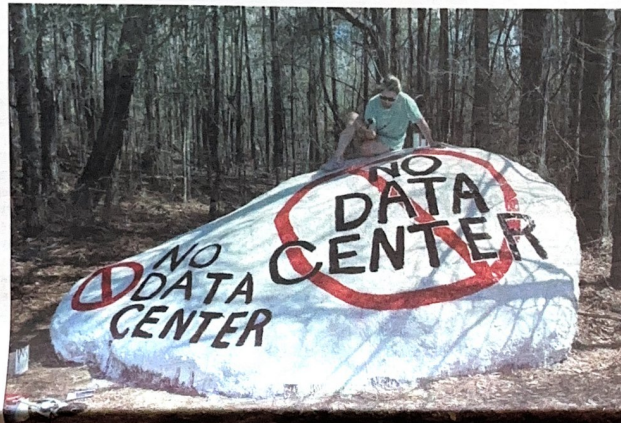


Photo and rock painting by Kim Hicks in Columbus, Georgia.

What We Will Actually Pay

- Massive energy and water consumption
- 24/7 noise pollution (70-96+ dB) causing chronic stress, sleep disruption, hypertension, and other health issues
- Hundreds to thousands of acres of land locked up permanently
- Limited long-term local jobs, while control and profits flow out to distant corporations

Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo are being lined up as **prime targets** with "shovel-ready" land. We know what rapid industrialization feels like. This is something far more permanent and dangerous.

The Bigger Picture: Agenda 2030's Control Grid

These data centres are not neutral infrastructure. They are the **central nervous system** that makes the full Agenda 2030 vision possible, **tying together surveillance, digital IDs, smart cities, carbon tracking, behavioural prediction, and automated enforcement.**

China has already shown us the endgame. Without massive compute power, that system collapses. That is why the global push is so aggressive.

The "insanity" we've seen over the last several years, the **coordinated erosion of freedoms, the digital control systems, the loss of privacy, etc.**, starts to make perfect sense when you see the physical layer



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1. Initial Interpretation of the Article

My interpretation is that the article is not mainly written as a neutral inquiry into AI data centres. It is written as a political warning about centralized technological power, government-corporate alliance, surveillance, resource extraction, and the loss of local democratic control.

The headline asks, “Why AI Data Centres?” That sounds as if the article will explain practical motives: jobs, electricity demand, infrastructure, economic development, cloud computing, and AI growth. But the article moves quickly into a broader claim: that AI data centres are part of a wider playbook involving secrecy, exemptions from review, suppression of local resistance, environmental harm, digital ID, programmable money, carbon tracking, and a larger system of control.

The strongest grounded concern in the article is the resource and consent question. Data centres really are physical infrastructure. They require power, land, cooling, water planning, fibre links, transmission, zoning, security, and political approval. Whether or not one accepts the article’s wider frame, the basic questions are valid: Who pays the costs? Who receives the benefits? Who gets to decide? What review applies? What is being fast-tracked? What is being hidden behind technical language?

Where the article becomes weaker is where it moves from “AI data centres may have serious public costs” to “this proves a coordinated global control system.” That may express a real fear, but the chain needs evidence, not only association. The article stacks many anxieties together. That makes it emotionally powerful, but analytically unstable.

2. Factual Alignment and Limits

I am not factually aligned with the article as a whole. I am aligned with the concern that AI data centres are physical infrastructure with real public consequences. I am partly aligned with concerns about fast-tracking, public subsidies, environmental review, and whether local communities are meaningfully consulted.

I am not aligned with the certainty that AI data centres automatically equal a coordinated global control grid involving digital ID, programmable money, social credit, and global enslavement. Those are serious topics, but the article does not prove that full chain by itself.

The article is strongest when it asks: Who benefits? Who pays? How much energy and water are required? What environmental review applies? Are communities consulted? Are tax incentives fair? Are grid changes being made for public benefit or private computation?

The article is weakest when it implies that AI data centres automatically prove a total political program. The sober position is this: the civic-infrastructure concern is real; the totalizing conspiracy interpretation is not established.

3. The Refined Position: System, Not Cabal

The important distinction is this: one does not need to believe in a hidden cabal in order to recognize structural power. Modern life is increasingly organized through systems larger than ordinary human agency. Those systems are becoming more integrated, data-driven, automated, and less locally accountable.

Banking, identification, employment, health records, taxation, education, travel, communication, shopping, utilities, media, law enforcement, insurance, and social participation have all become more systematized.

More of life now passes through databases, platforms, authentication layers, compliance rules, scoring systems, algorithms, and institutional gateways.

The phrase “global control grid” is too dramatic for many readers. The phrase “global system grid” is more palatable and more precise. It names a world-scale mesh of infrastructure, data, finance, identity, logistics, energy, governance, and behavioral management without requiring a claim of one secret master plan.

The clean formulation is: I reject conspiracy, but I recognize system. The products of the system are surfacing.

4. The Bank Counter Example: Micro-Compliance

Last week, an ordinary incident made this issue concrete: changing two \$20 bills into fives required giving a bank a name. That is a small transaction. Historically, it would have been almost invisible. “Can I get this broken into smaller bills?” Done.

But now even that can become a named interaction. Not necessarily because the teller personally wants control, and not necessarily because the bank is doing something sinister in that moment. More likely, the teller is inside compliance systems, anti-fraud rules, cash-handling policies, audit trails, employee scripts, and institutional risk management.

From the human side, the feeling is unmistakable: even small acts of living are being pulled into identification systems.

This is the system-grid issue in miniature. It is not only data centres, AI, CBDCs, surveillance cameras, and state policy. It appears at the counter in the quiet question: “Can I have your name?”

Cash is supposed to be one of the last ordinary tools of anonymous civic life. If even changing small denominations starts requiring identity, the social meaning of cash changes. It becomes less like bearer value and more like institutionally mediated value.

This belongs in the component map as the Micro-Compliance Layer: the spread of identification, logging, policy scripts, and institutional procedure into minor everyday transactions that once required no formal record.

5. The Age of Software

The Age of Software is the historical period in which ordinary life becomes increasingly organized, measured, permitted, remembered, and corrected by software systems.

This does not merely mean that computers became common. It means that life itself began to require software permission. Banking, identity, food supply, health care, vehicles, employment, government services, communication, learning, entertainment, security, insurance, and even cash handling are filtered through software rules.

The issue is not the two \$20 bills. The issue is that a small act of cash exchange touched a procedural software-institutional layer: name, record, rule, compliance, audit trail.

In this framework: Global System Grid names the structure. The Age of Software names the era. Micro-compliance names the everyday experience. Systematized living names the condition.

6. Component Map of the Global System Grid

Data centres / compute infrastructure

The physical engine rooms of the system: servers, cooling, fibre connections, backup power, cloud hosting, AI processing, corporate databases, government platforms, and media systems. Risk: digital power concentrates in infrastructure citizens rarely see or govern.

Energy grid

The power supply for digital-industrial life. Data centres make the energy question visible because they are large-load users. Risk: public energy systems bend toward private computational demand.

Telecommunications networks

Fibre, towers, satellites, undersea cables, routers, and wireless networks. They are the connective tissue that allows data to move continuously. Risk: disconnection increasingly means exclusion.

Digital identity systems

The layer that answers: Who are you inside the system? It may include government ID, biometrics, phone numbers, banking credentials, device IDs, and platform accounts. Risk: ordinary life becomes gated by verification.

Payment and financial rails

Banks, card networks, online banking, payroll, benefits, subscriptions, tax systems, digital wallets, and possibly central-bank digital currency systems. Risk: economic participation becomes conditional on system approval.

Platform gateways

Google, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, banks, app stores, job portals, government portals, health portals, school platforms, and workplace systems. Risk: private platforms become quasi-public authorities without public accountability.

Data collection layer

Location, purchases, searches, messages, biometrics, health records, work activity, vehicle data, smart devices, loyalty cards, and public records. Risk: the person becomes a data object before remaining a living subject.

Algorithmic decision systems

Systems that sort, recommend, flag, rank, approve, deny, predict, score, and prioritize. Risk: decisions affecting life become opaque, impersonal, and hard to appeal.

Surveillance and security layer

Cameras, license plate readers, cybersecurity monitoring, border systems, workplace monitoring, financial surveillance, fraud detection, and online moderation. Risk: safety language normalizes permanent observation.

Legal and regulatory framework

Laws, compliance standards, contracts, reporting duties, licensing, environmental rules, data-sharing agreements, and emergency powers. Risk: system expansion becomes legal before it becomes publicly understood.

Corporate-government partnership layer

The convergence of public authority and private infrastructure. Governments need technical systems; corporations need legal permission, land, energy, contracts, and subsidies. Risk: public life is shaped by agreements citizens cannot meaningfully inspect.

Logistics and supply-chain systems

Food, medicine, fuel, shipping, postal systems, warehouses, trucking, ports, rail, inventory software, and delivery platforms. Risk: access to necessities depends on centralized logistical systems.

Smart city and sensor infrastructure

Smart meters, traffic sensors, environmental monitors, connected buildings, cameras, transit cards, parking systems, and utility dashboards. Risk: public space becomes an instrumented environment.

Health, education, and social services

Records, eligibility systems, school platforms, benefits portals, case management, remote monitoring, and institutional databases. Risk: care becomes mediated by portals, categories, and eligibility engines.

Media, narrative, and attention systems

Feeds, recommendation engines, advertising networks, search rankings, entertainment platforms, influencers, and official messaging. Risk: citizens become managed audiences rather than self-governing participants.

Automation and artificial intelligence layer

AI accelerates prediction, classification, generation, persuasion, detection, and optimization. Risk: institutional power becomes faster than public understanding.

Access, permission, and exclusion layer

The personal threshold: Can you log in, pay, travel, receive benefits, work, communicate, appeal, or prove who you are? Risk: ordinary life becomes permission-based.

Public consent and democratic oversight

The necessary counter-layer: transparency, public hearings, appeal rights, open standards, human alternatives, environmental review, and democratic control. Risk: infrastructure advances faster than consent.

Micro-compliance layer

The spread of small identification and recordkeeping demands into daily life, including minor bank transactions, retail policies, service desks, portal logins, and institutional scripts. Risk: harmless life becomes administratively captured.

7. A Lockean Voice for the 21st Century

John Locke would not likely use the phrase global system grid, but he would recognize the issue as one of power, consent, property, liberty, and the limits of legitimate government. His basic question would be: By what right does any authority place conditions upon a person's ordinary use of life, labour, property, exchange, speech, movement, or identity?

For Locke, civil society is legitimate only where it better protects life, liberty, and property. Once government or its partner institutions convert ordinary living into permissioned access, the Lockean suspicion becomes active.

In former ages, tyranny approached the citizen with sword, tax, prison, censor, or decree. In our age, it approaches more softly, under the names of convenience, safety, efficiency, identity, optimization, and service.

A person is not forbidden to live; he is merely required to authenticate himself at each gate of living.

He may speak, provided he speaks through a platform. He may trade, provided his transaction is approved. He may travel, provided his identity is legible. He may labour, provided his credentials are machine-readable. He may own, provided his ownership remains registered, searchable, taxable, reversible, and compliant. He may dissent, provided his dissent does not disturb the terms of access.

This is not the old despotism, which declared itself plainly. It is a new administrative dominion whose power lies not only in command, but in mediation. It need not seize the whole person at once. It need only stand between the person and every ordinary act by which he conducts his life.

Here, then, is the question of our century: When does lawful administration become a condition of servitude?

For if every action must pass through a system; if every exchange requires a record; if every citizen must be known before he may act; if money, speech, work, travel, and association are made dependent upon institutional permission - then liberty has not been abolished by proclamation. It has been dissolved into procedure.

No free people can consent to a power it cannot see, appeal, or refuse. Therefore, the first principle of liberty in the Age of Software must be this: No system that governs ordinary life may stand above human accountability.

Where there is no meaningful alternative, there is no meaningful consent. Consent is not the clicking of a button beneath unreadable terms. Consent is not obedience under dependency. Consent is not the acceptance of conditions imposed by monopolies, necessities, or invisible rules. Consent requires intelligibility, refusal, remedy, and proportion.

8. If I Were a 22-Year-Old MIT Undergraduate in 1972

The year 1972 is a hinge point: late Vietnam-era politics, Cold War research culture, mainframes, early networking, cybernetics, systems theory, ecology, counterculture, and the emerging dream of personal computing. A freedom-seeking student would not simply reject technology. He would learn systems from the inside.

If power is becoming technical, then freedom must become technically literate. One would study computers, networks, bureaucracy, finance, institutions, engineering, energy systems, control theory, databases, identification systems, and access rules.

The freedom impulse would be to put tools in the hands of people, not only institutions. In today's terms, that means open-source software, local computing, self-hosting, repairable devices, offline capacity, encryption, personal archives, and community networks.

Freedom also requires lawful opacity: the right to pass through harmless life without becoming a data object. Cash, walking, reading, meeting, browsing, writing, and ordinary exchange need zones of non-observation.

The 1972 approach would also build parallel institutions: small presses, tool libraries, food co-ops, free schools, community radio, computing clubs, repair circles, public access terminals, democratic labs, and low-cost publishing. Freedom needs infrastructure.

The formula: Understand the system. Refuse dependency. Build human-scale alternatives. Preserve lawful opacity. Keep tools personal. Make technology answerable to life.

9. The Tipping Point and the 100-Year Projection

The exact tipping decade is the 2010s. The foundations were older: the 1970s built system theory, institutional computing, electronic banking, and early networks; the 1980s normalized personal computing and databases; the 1990s brought public internet and global web society; the 2000s gave smartphones, cloud computing, social media, digital identity habits, platform dependency, and security-state expansion.

The 2010s were the tipping decade because separate developments fused into ordinary life. The smartphone became a social organ. Platforms became public squares. Cloud accounts became personal infrastructure. Location tracking became normal. Subscription life became normal. Algorithmic feeds shaped public perception. Digital payments accelerated. Two-factor identity became routine. Work, banking, health, travel, dating, shopping, maps, media, and communication moved into app-mediated life.

The compact sentence: The Age of Software tipped in the 2010s, when software stopped being a tool people opened and became the environment people had to pass through.

2020s - Acceleration and normalization

Software becomes the default passageway for banking, work, shopping, health access, government services, schooling, entertainment, communication, navigation, payments, and identity. AI moves from novelty to workflow assistant to institutional infrastructure. Freedom issue: retaining offline alternatives, cash, human service, and appeal rights.

2030s - Integration decade

AI, digital ID, banking, health records, smart utilities, workplace systems, insurance, education, border control, and taxation begin to interoperate more smoothly. Freedom issue: preventing identity, money, mobility, and speech from becoming one fused permission layer.

2040s - Permission society risk

Convenience may harden into dependency. Many people may be unable to function outside verified systems. Freedom issue: lawful anonymity, public options, human appeal, and local resilience.

2050s - Counter-movement decade

A serious demand may arise for system rights: explanation, offline access, non-digital payment, human review, local data storage, repair, platform exit, and public services without corporate intermediaries.

2060s - Bifurcation decade

Two models may coexist: managed convenience versus human-scale autonomy. Freedom issue: people must be able to choose lower-system ways of living without becoming second-class citizens.

2070s - Environmental-system fusion

Climate, water, agriculture, migration, energy, and infrastructure pressures may fuse with software governance. Freedom issue: preventing emergency logic from becoming permanent rule.

2080s - Human meaning crisis

After generations of software-mediated life, the question becomes what it means to be a person. Freedom issue: preserving silence, solitude, embodied skill, memory, direct human relation, and untracked movement.

2090s - Rebalancing or entrenchment

Societies either rebalance technology under human dignity or the system grid becomes too embedded to imagine life outside it. Freedom issue: whether ordinary people regain authorship.

2100s - Constitutional software age

Software is treated as civilizational infrastructure. The question becomes who governs the operating conditions of life.

2110s - New human settlement

Successful communities combine advanced systems with local sovereignty. The ideal is not anti-technology; it is post-enclosure technology.

2120s - Century's verdict

The Age of Software either matures into humane infrastructure or hardens into managed civilization. The deciding question is whether human beings remain authors of the systems that organize their lives.

10. Closing Statement for Editors

This document is offered as a bridge between grassroots alarm and philosophical clarity. It does not ask readers to accept every claim made in the article. It asks readers not to dismiss the underlying perception: ordinary life is becoming systematized, mediated, authenticated, logged, optimized, and increasingly routed through software-controlled institutions.

The issue is not one data centre, one teller, one app, one government policy, or one corporation. The issue is cumulative architecture.

The danger is not software itself. The danger is life becoming dependent on systems that ordinary people cannot understand, refuse, repair, appeal, or govern.

Any system necessary for ordinary life must become answerable to ordinary people.

Submission address stamp

Camrose, Alberta, Canada

June 22, 2026, 12:10 PM MDT

Prepared for grassroots editorial consideration.

Working title: The Global System Grid and the Age of Software

Key line: I reject conspiracy, but I recognize system.