

# IN THE NEWS

CANADA WEST FOUNDATION MEDIA REPORT [↗](#) JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

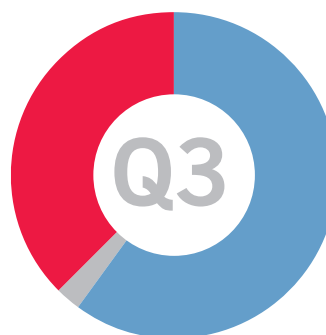


## MEDIA MENTIONS Q3

*“The best chance Canada had to reach a new softwood agreement was during Obama’s recent visit to Canada,” said Naomi Christensen of the Canada West Foundation.*

U.S. senators turn up the heat in Canadian lumber dispute  
Peter O’Neil | *Postmedia* | July 20, 2016

### MEDIA MENTIONS



**24**  
NEWSPAPERS

**1**  
TELEVISION

**15**  
RADIO

**217**  
BROADCAST (Total clips)



Op-ed media readership **409,350**



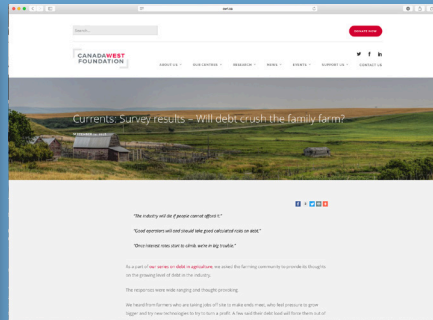
# IN THE NEWS



MARTHA HALL FINDLAY



JUNE 2016



SEPTEMBER 2016

At the Canada West Foundation, we produce work that is transformative to public policy decisions – and, in turn, the lives of westerners. This summer, we had the opportunity to undergo some transformation of our own. We packed up and moved offices to Calgary's historic Customs Building – a rare 100-year-old heritage structure whose exterior features locally quarried sandstone. We have settled into our new digs quite nicely.

We also welcomed our new president and CEO, Martha Hall Findlay. Martha's debut has been overwhelmingly positive, with kudos pouring in from across the country from policy-makers, industry leaders and engaged citizens. Media have also queued up for Martha's take on pressing policy issues, including an interview with CBC's national current affairs program, *The Current*, on whether a carbon price and pipelines can co-exist. As Parliament resumed, she also appeared on CBC's *The Exchange* national television program to discuss the role of the National Energy Board and energy project proposals. In Calgary, she was on Danielle Smith's news talk show *NewsTalk 770* to discuss supply management. This came in addition to her many meetings with government decision-makers and our key supporters, without whom we couldn't do the work we do. These are all important steps in carrying our message that what is good for the West is good for Canada.

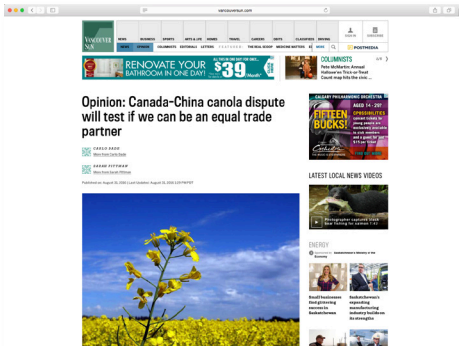
The Foundation team seized the opportunity to comment on a number of current issues of interest to the West, including a pair of coast-to-coast syndicated CBC radio interviews with Trevor McLeod, Director of the Centre for Natural Resources Policy. The first series was on the federal government's announced approval of the LNG project and the second on the meeting of provincial environment ministers.

This summer, we produced an online crowdsourced series looking at the issue of agriculture debt in the West. Summer intern Sarah Pittman kicked off the series on our Currents economics affairs portal, with an article probing rising farm debt. Then we put out the call to hear from farmers themselves facing the burden of red ink to share their stories in a Foundation survey. The survey was shared across social media and led to media coverage, including an interview in *Medicine Hat News* and *Reuters* and an op-ed in the *Regina Leader Post*. It culminated in a thought-provoking Currents article driven by the survey results, delving into how growing farm debt affects the lives of westerners and, in turn, asked questions about how good policy can lead to improvements. One Manitoba farmer was so inspired by the series that he wrote a personal blog for us about how he grappled with debt.

In July, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce produced a report in co-operation with the Foundation's Centre for Trade & Investment Policy, *The Infrastructure that Matters Most*. The report was informed by a private sector roundtable on trade infrastructure in Toronto last year co-hosted by the Foundation and the Chamber, and by the advice of senior officials at Transport Canada and Infrastructure Canada. The report's author is John Law, a Senior Fellow with the Foundation. It builds on a November 2014 document by Law and Centre Director Carlo Dade, *Building on Advantage: Improving Canada's trade infrastructure*.

# COMMENTARY

HIGHLIGHTED OPINION ARTICLES IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS



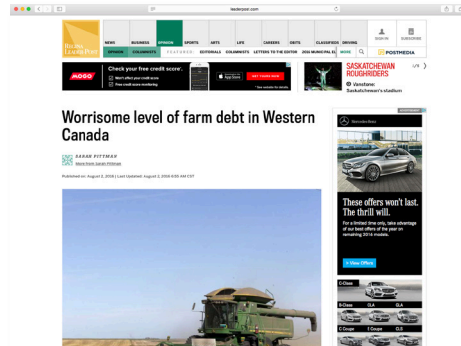
vancouversun.com

## Canola dispute will test whether Canada can be an equal trade partner with China

**Carlo Dade & Sarah Pittman**  
**Winnipeg Free Press, Regina Leader-Post, Saskatoon Star Phoenix, Edmonton Journal and Vancouver Sun.**  
 September 1, 2016

As Canada tiptoes toward closer trade ties with China, the opening round in what could become a bitter campaign has emerged in one of the most unexpected places: the Prairies' golden fields of canola. How the two countries resolve the canola dispute will say much about whether Canada will have an equal relationship with China.

To get through this crisis and build a prosperous relationship with China, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau needs to learn from our long trading relationship with the United States, and how our country overcame hurdles our southern neighbour has put in our way. . . .



leaderpost.com

## Worrisome level of farm debt in Western Canada

**Sarah Pittman**  
**Leader-Post**  
 August 2, 2016

For the 23rd consecutive year, Canadian farm debt has hit a new record. In the West, the debt load is particularly severe, raising questions about the future of this vital industry.

Farmers in British Columbia are faring best, with only \$6 billion in debt. Manitoba and Saskatchewan are middle of the road, with more than \$8 billion and \$13 billion respectively. Alberta's farmers, however, carry an eye-popping \$20 billion in debt. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, outstanding farm debt has increased more than \$5 billion in the last five years.

The only thing of more concern than those numbers is that no one is talking about them.

I grew up on a farm in southern Alberta. Growing up in a farming community, I learned early on that debt was just part of the game if you want to grow, or even maintain, your operation. But it was only recently that I learned just how much debt western farmers are carrying. . . .



theglobeandmail.com

## It's time for an integrated electrical grid in Western Canada

**Trevor McLeod & Catherine Gao**  
**Globe and Mail**  
 July 2, 2016

In its intrepid plan to hasten Canada's transition to a low-carbon economy, the federal government is looking to invest in truly transformative infrastructure projects. One such investment is staring it in the face: an integrated western electricity grid.

Such a grid would boost two western provinces' ambitions to get off conventional coal by 2030, while also moving Canada dramatically down the field toward the emission goals it set at the Paris Climate Summit.

Although Canada's electricity grid is one of the cleanest in the world, the electricity sector still contributes 11 per cent of Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The vast majority of these emissions come from coal and natural gas used in Saskatchewan and Alberta. . . .

# MEDIA SNAPSHOT

## HIGHLIGHTED ARTICLES

### What the Pacific NorthWest LNG decision could mean for Trans Mountain

Tracy Johnson  
CBC News  
September 29, 2015

The Liberal government gave its approval this week for a major liquefied natural gas hub on the B.C. coast. If built, it will create jobs and get a Canadian resource to a new, more lucrative market.

There was opposition from environmental groups and First Nations and some real questions about how this project will affect Canada's commitments to lower greenhouse gas emissions. The federal government decided to strike a balance between these competing demands, but ultimately made the decision to build the economy. . . .

"The Petronas decision signals that Ottawa thinks it can thread the needle," said Trevor McLeod, the director of natural resources policy for the Canada West Foundation. "It signals that they believe economic development, environmental protection and Aboriginal consultation can go hand in hand. This is a very good precedent for Trans Mountain."

### The West is important to Ottawa, but Trudeau stills has tests to pass

John Ibbitson  
Globe and Mail  
August 19, 2016

Is the West still in? Does Western Canada still have a voice in Ottawa? And is Ottawa paying proper regard to Canada beyond Ontario?

The answer, it seems, is a qualified yes. While there is no question that this Liberal government's political centre is located in the East, it is also paying attention to the West, especially with the crucial, controversial decision to approve British Columbia's Site C dam.

And the West itself is evolving, becoming more politically and economically diverse.

"There are always some folks who just have a hate-on about Ottawa, the banks and the railways," says Colleen Collins, vice-president of the Canada West Foundation, a Calgary-based think tank. But in conversations after the 2015 federal election that Ms. Collins has had with Westerners, "I'm not getting the sense that the West is out." . . .

### U.S. senators turn up the heat in Canadian lumber dispute

Peter O'Neil  
Postmedia  
July 20, 2016

The Canadian government fired back Wednesday at "inaccurate" claims from a group of influential American senators who are demanding the U.S. government support legal action against Canadian lumber exporters this October.

B.C. Premier Christy Clark has already warned that "thousands" of West Coast jobs could be lost if the Canadian and U.S. governments don't find a settlement by then in a protracted dispute that dates back decades. . . .

One trade analyst said the likelihood of a settlement has diminished following Obama's final visit as president to Ottawa in June for the Three Amigos Summit.

"The best chance Canada had to reach a new softwood agreement was during Obama's recent visit to Canada," said Naomi Christensen of the Canada West Foundation.

"This late in the game, it would take political will from both leaders to make a deal happen. The bipartisan letter from U.S. senators to Froman only confirms that the U.S. lumber lobby is gearing up to have tariffs imposed on Canadian softwood crossing the border when the litigation freeze lifts in October." . . .

