



An update from the West's think tank

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Hard work begins on pipelines

It was a significant week for Canada and its economy as Ottawa approved Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain project, and Enbridge Line 3. The announcement is a crucial opportunity to break the false connection between pipelines and climate change. In this Globe and Mail op-ed [Martha and Trevor make the case for why we should refocus the debate onto consumption of carbon](#), if the goal is to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. It is a concept that was [echoed in the Globe's editorial the next day](#).



The Foundation stepped in with knowledgeable commentary and analysis – doing close to 30 interviews across the country: from Shafak Sajid on BBC

News and [CBC's Power & Politics](#); multiple appearances by Martha Hall Findlay on BNN, CTV News Channel, Viewpoints with Todd van der Heyden and on [CBC online](#) and radio syndication across Canada; as well as Trevor McLeod in [The Canadian Press](#), on Global B.C. and in [Global News' breaking story online](#). Trevor also had the opportunity to give a thoughtful look at how pipeline proposals and approvals became so politically-charged, in an in-depth nationally-broadcast [interview on CBC's Day 6](#);

Energy decisions hinge on trust

Our latest report calls for Canada to change way it makes energy decisions. [A Matter of Trust: The role of communities in energy decision-making](#) brings a deep, local

community perspective to the debate over Canada's energy future. It tells the story of residents in six communities across Canada facing energy project development of all stripes. Our work found that there is no one-size-fits-all solution, but there are paths forward. And what's driving local opposition to energy projects isn't necessarily what we assume; local issues including the environment, health and safety concerns, matter most to communities, while climate change is not that big of an issue. Further, engaging the community at the right time, in the right way and with a real commitment to take local concerns seriously is an absolute must.

These findings are crucial as Canada [moves from "what" to "how" on energy projects](#), as we laid out in this Globe and Mail op-ed. The report, with our University of Ottawa Positive Energy partners, has captured attention across Canada, from a radio station in Kitimat, B.C. to coverage on Radio-Canada and national stories in the Globe, Canadian Press and Postmedia to taking centre stage at a recent business forum where it was described by a participant as an important read for industry leaders.

A cross-border infrastructure bank to boost jobs

Growing and protecting good jobs in Canada and the United States is a hot topic. Another report released in recent weeks from the Canada West Foundation proposes a tool for how that can



be done: a North American Border Infrastructure Bank (NABIB). [Some Assembly Required: Cross-border infrastructure that creates jobs and growth](#) shows that border infrastructure is crucial to North American competitiveness and jobs. Yet North America is the only global trade bloc that does not have an independent, permanent infrastructure bank to provide intelligence and information to guide infrastructure development. The paper, by Carlo Dade and Shafak Sajid, makes the case for a border infrastructure bank to address urgent and ongoing building needs – including customs plazas and bridges – along the Canada–U.S. border. It was discussed at a strategic trade infrastructure roundtable held in Ottawa and presented to MPs, deputy ministers and federal ministers.

Trade in a Trump era

When it comes to trade, there are winners and losers, but the losses tend to be more concentrated and therefore noticed. The gains are usually widely dispersed and so are not as apparent. That was the topic of a national interview Martha did on CBC's The 180. Debates around trade have been heated, particularly in the wake of Donald Trump's victory. The Canada West Foundation team has provided analysis on what it means for the West and Canada. Our Beyond the Ballot event in Manitoba drew a large audience of guests eager to hear our panel, including Amb. David Wilkins, [talk about what's next for trade in Manitoba and the West](#). Coverage extended to two op-eds in the Winnipeg Free Press, one by panelist John Rash on [why Canada's openness is its best asset](#), and from Carlo Dade, [on why dealing with state politicians is the way to go](#). That key concept also appeared in an op-ed in the Edmonton Journal on why Alberta's recent trade mission to China will help [set it up for success in Asia](#). You can also check out his piece in Policy Options putting forward a sensible approach for [Canada's plan B for trade in a Trump administration](#). Carlo was also busy doing post-election interviews with [Toronto Star](#), Power & Politics, Global and CTV News Channel.



POLL: Do you believe the approved Trans Mountain pipeline will get built? [Take our one-click poll.](#)

Results from last month's poll:

Do you believe the 6 new senators just announced are truly non-partisan?

Yes: 39%

No: 43%

I'm not sure: 11%

Other: 7%

We welcome your comments

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