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Featured News

Upcoming report: As many as 400,000 Canadian jobs are vacant. Close to 1.34 million Canadians are looking for work. It's a big mismatch in the Canadian economy, and one that adds up to more unemployment and less productivity. In a paper to be released this month from our Human Capital Centre, authors Janet Lane and Jeff Griffiths propose an ambitious solution to the problem: a competency-based, pan-Canadian qualifications framework.

More than 140 countries have already begun using this kind of a framework that helps develop a more robust workforce and economy. Using this approach identifies the things people can actually do, and matches them to jobs they (and employers) may not have immediately considered a good fit. Our report will dive into the problem, and talk about next steps for how we

can get to a practical solution.

[Sign up here to receive the report online when it is published.](#)

Must read commentaries

[The TPP is dead. Long live the TPP.](#) (iPolitics): Carlo Dade and Deborah Elms look at why now is a better time than ever for Canada to ratify the TPP. Trump is carrying out his plans to radically reshape U.S. trade policy, including withdrawing from the TPP. Canada can take the lead on rescuing the massive Pacific trade deal, without the U.S., as a major sign of intention for trade with Asia.

[Trump could be Canada's best weapon in the softwood fight](#) (Globe and Mail) and [Trump administration brings fresh shot at new softwood lumber deal](#) (Vancouver Sun): Trump's disruptive trade agenda can provide Canada with a big opportunity to solve the simmering softwood lumber trade dispute. Naomi Christensen looks at some of the advantages Canada can, and should, seize, in this environment of uncertainty.

Featured op-ed

[B.C.'s pipeline demands set a dangerous precedent](#) (Globe and Mail)

By Martha Hall Findlay

Oh, the irony. Just as we start celebrating Canada's 150th birthday as a nation, a dangerous precedent threatens, for the future, a hallmark of this country's past success.

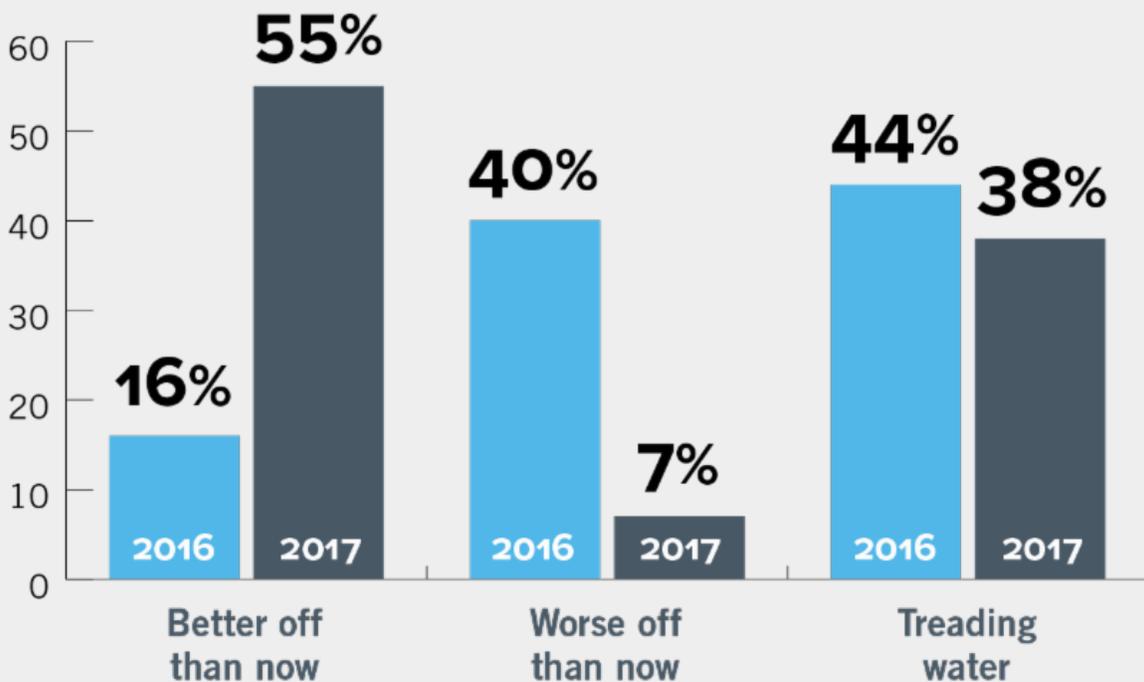
Almost five years ago, British Columbia announced five "conditions" for its "approval" of the Kinder Morgan TransMountain pipeline expansion. The last of the five conditions – that there be a "fair share of benefits" for British Columbians – has now been met, with Kinder Morgan agreeing to pay \$500-million to \$1-billion over 20 years to the B.C. government. Environmental concerns will be addressed by the 194 specific national and provincial conditions for the project, plus the federal commitment to a \$1.5-billion ocean-protection plan. But the fifth condition was all about money and local politics.

The problem? We don't hold each other up for ransom in this country. At least, we haven't for 150 years.

[Read the rest of the op-ed online, here.](#)

POLL: How should Canada approach the reopening of NAFTA?

Last month, we asked you how you think the West will fare this year. Compared to the beginning of 2016, there is more optimism. 55 per cent of you think by year's end we will be better off than now (compared to 16 per cent in 2016).



Yet, the new Trump administration is weighing heavily on the future:.

Trump effect will be very negative for west There will be strong pressures to reduce efforts to combat global warming, wrote Sel Burrows

A Trump presidency, continued widening divide among the political classes and a general confrontational attitude. The west will be less insulated, more scrutinized and more divided, said Mike Hanlon

This month, we are looking at a major issue for Canada in the Trump era: the

looming NAFTA renegotiations. With Trump calling for [speeding up NAFTA talks](#), and his "America first" trade stance now clear, what position should Canada take?: [Take our one-click poll](#).

We welcome your comments

Want to talk about anything you read in this newsletter? Have an idea you would like to share? Send your comments to: feedback@cwf.ca .

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