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Featured News

From "America First" to the Trans-Pacific Partnership exit to reopening NAFTA, President Trump is rewriting the rules on trade. Now Canada must determine how to approach trade with the U.S., our biggest market. The Foundation's Trade & Investment Centre has been engaged on a number of fronts looking at how the western provinces can best approach, and thrive in, this new environment.

[In a new op-ed](#), Carlo Dade and Naomi Christensen look at why recent trips to the U.S., including to Iowa, Washington, D.C. and points in between, by provincial leaders such as Premier Brad Wall and Premier Rachel Notley are a key part of Canada's best strategy for dealing with changes to the U.S. Subnational engagement – on the ground, province-to-state interaction – will continue to play a big role in the months and years ahead.

We have also been busy with news on NAFTA, including Carlo's interviews with outlets such as Politico and CBC News. Meanwhile, spend some time with our interactive online project [on the future of the TPP without the U.S.](#) – including why Canada could potentially emerge a big winner. With TPP signatories meeting in Chile last month to determine how to proceed, Carlo teed up what it all means for Canada's Asian trade ambitions. News coverage was extensive, including op-eds in the [Hill Times](#) and [Globe and Mail](#), interviews with [BNN](#) and Business in Vancouver and online media requests from [WNYC Public Radio International in collaboration with The New York Times](#) and [el universal in Mexico](#).

Welcoming some new faces at the Foundation

We are delighted to welcome policy analyst Nicholas Martin to our team. Before joining the Foundation, Nick worked on energy policy at the Pace Energy and Climate Center in New York, where he led the Center's work engaging in regional carbon pricing policy. You can [read more about Nick here](#).

Dan Doyle, whose career in the public sector has resulted in a legacy of infrastructure for B.C., has joined the Foundation board. As a public servant, he spent more than three decades with the Ministry of Transportation; recently, he served as Chief of Staff to British Columbia premier Christy Clark. You can [read more about him here](#).

Must-read commentary

[Market diversification is Canada's best defence in softwood dispute](#)
(by Naomi Christensen)

Alberta Budget 2017: [Tough times mean saying 'How' not 'No' to innovation](#)
(by Martha Hall Findlay)

WATCH: [Conflict or Cooperation? Inter-American Relations in the Age of Trump](#) (with Carlo Dade)

[Premier Wall's trip to Iowa a smart move for Saskatchewan](#)
(by Naomi Christensen)

Featured op-ed

[TPP summit a critical moment for Canada's Asian trade ambitions](#)

By Carlo Dade and Deborah Elms (Globe and Mail)

This week's meeting in Chile of signatories to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement is the first major global response to U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" trade agenda, announced most forcefully by his withdrawal of the United States from the TPP.

For Canada, which has only one other trade agreement with an Asian economy and was banking on the TPP to get a real foothold across the Pacific, this meeting will be more crucial than for any other attendee in Chile.

The meeting is also critical for the Trudeau government to reframe Asian perceptions of Canada as engaged and focused on the region. Ottawa still needs to demonstrate that it has learned from the mistakes of the previous government, which failed to grasp the importance of the TPP and dismissively declined to join the negotiations when it first had the chance.

The summit in Chile will test how the 11 other signatories to the agreement want to respond to Mr. Trump's walking away: give up, go home and wait to deal with Mr. Trump one-on-one; or, forge ahead without the United States, on "TPP 11."

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

POLL: Should the government be in the business of bailouts?

Bombardier executives recently came under fire over executive bonus compensation soon after accepting taxpayer money to help bail it out. Should the government be in the business of bailing out companies at all?

[Take our one-click poll](#)

Last month, we asked you if Canada has what it takes to become an innovation leader.

25 %: Yes – innovation will help us build the economy we want

25 %: No – there's too much talk, not enough funding, grads and other practical considerations

37.5 %: Not yet, but we're getting there

12.5 %: Other

What you told us:

"I think we have the knowledge to innovate, but too many of our industries are conservative in their outlook & unwilling to adopt innovative practices. The downside of innovation is that it can result in loss of paid positions in many cases through automation. So while the individual industries might profit from innovation, too many mid-level workers will lose their jobs & may have to find new areas of employment."

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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