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## Featured News

With North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations set to soon start, trade is on the minds of many Canadians. In addition to NAFTA, Canada is facing a number of pressing trade issues, including catching up with competitors in the Asia-Pacific, addressing softwood lumber and determining a course forward on supply management. On the Asia-Pacific trade front, watch for a new report from the Foundation coming soon with exclusive modelling that shows how Canada would gain from a Trans-Pacific Partnership, even without the U.S.

### **A win-win opportunity to reform supply management**

When it comes to transitioning away from supply management in Canada, the question is not "Why," but "How?" This is a crucial message in the lead up to

NAFTA renegotiations: Trade-dependent Canada cannot afford to come to the table with one hand tied behind its back. Our latest report, [\*Supply Management: A win-win opportunity for reform\*](#) by President and CEO Martha Hall Findlay with policy analyst Eric Dalke, calls for a workable transition plan away from supply management that would make dairy, poultry and egg products more affordable for Canadian families – and benefit producers themselves, too. The report calls for political leadership on the issue. Martha was on [BNN](#), news talk radio in Halifax and News1130 in Vancouver to speak about the report. This builds on our media presence of more than 25 interviews across the country, a [Globe and Mail op-ed](#) and a [Walrus feature](#), earlier this spring. Our work on the issue continues.

## **A key opportunity to build province-to-state relationships**

A few weeks ago, we sent you our open letter to the western premiers, urging them to attend the 2017 Western Governors' Association meeting in Montana in June. The benefit of a solid relationship between premiers and governors can't be overstated, particularly now with NAFTA renegotiations starting in August. In the past, province-to-state engagement has helped provinces promote and secure free trade with the U.S. and mitigate trade irritants. In addition to helping co-ordinate with the WGA, we are also working on more in-depth background on the value of these relationships in the past – and lessons we can learn for today.

## **A way forward on workplace safety**

As Canada's journey to a competency-based workforce continues, Janet Lane, director of the Human Capital Centre, released two new reports on how to help us get there. The reports, [\*Beyond the Rules: Moving from compliance to competency\*](#) and [\*The Skill Advantage: The 21st century challenge for Canada's unions\*](#), show how Canada can transform workplace safety. *Beyond the Rules* tells Waiward Steel's success story after it implemented a competency-based approach to safety; *The Skill Advantage* shows how Canada can benefit if unions, too, take advantage of competency training. Janet had great response to the report, including an interview on Vancouver's Jill Bennet show, as well as a discussion at the Construction Owners' Association of Alberta conference.

## **Join us at The Public Policy Forum's Alberta Growth Forum**

Finally, a reminder. The Canada West Foundation is pleased to be a sponsor at The Public Policy Forum's Alberta Growth Forum on June 15th in Alberta.

[You can find tickets and more information here.](#) We look forward to seeing you there!

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## Must-read commentary

[Why it's time to rethink pipeline protests](#)

(Jordan Flagel and Trevor McLeod, Maclean's)

[B.C. election results shouldn't sway Trans Mountain decision](#)

(Martha Hall Findlay, Globe and Mail)

[Ottawa needs to bury this plan for a new assessment process – unless we want to kill any future major energy projects](#)

(Trevor McLeod, National Post)

[Trade tariffs carry hefty unintended consequences](#)

(Naomi Christensen & Jahangir Valiani, Edmonton Journal/Vancouver Sun)

[Don't poison the regulatory well](#)

(Nicholas Martin, Hill Times)

[Canada's dairy farmers could become global champions](#)

(Martha Hall Findlay and Eric Dalke, Globe and Mail)

[You're paying too much for milk](#)

(Martha Hall Findlay, The Walrus)

[This time, Canada must secure new softwood markets](#)

(Naomi Christensen, Winnipeg Free Press)

[Don't go back on carbon pricing: pendulum policies push away investment](#)

(Martha Hall Findlay, Hill Times)

[Trade ties to U.S. a powerful tool](#)

(Carlo Dade and Naomi Christensen, Leader Post)

# Featured op-ed

## [Canada's competitiveness problems go deeper than a carbon tax](#)

(Trevor McLeod, Globe and Mail)

*As Donald Trump renegotiates his country's relationship with the rest of the world, Canada needs to do a serious rethink of its own. The United States is laser focused on improving its competitive position while Canada seems asleep at the switch. Yes, we are having an active debate about the potential negative impact of carbon pricing on Canada's competitiveness. But, for some reason, we are not looking at other, more pressing, competitiveness issues.*

*Canada's economic strategy is underpinned by two advantages: preferential access to the United States – the world's biggest market – and a competitive investment climate that provides an advantage to Canadian companies and entices foreign firms to set up shop here. With Mr. Trump threatening to renegotiate NAFTA and trying to implement historic tax cuts, the first is threatened. On the second, we are hurting ourselves.*

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

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## POLL: What's the most Canadian way to celebrate Canada 150?

Canadians across the country are breaking out the red and white and getting set to celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial. July 1, 2017 marks 150 years since Confederation. But, how do you do "peak Canada" to celebrate Canada 150?

### [Take our poll](#)

In our last poll, we asked you if government should be in the business of bailing out companies like Bombardier.

13 %: Yes – there are times when there is a business case for taxpayer

funds to be used for companies

31 %: No – let the free market reign

56 %: No – but there may be a case for encouraging growth in key sectors

What you told us:

*"The bailout should be a one-time payment & should not be a regular occurrence."*

– Fred Busch

*"Yes but with set conditions on repayment and executive bonus etc.....this is a loan and not a free hand out of public funds and let us do the proper checks and balances as if it was coming out of your pocket!"*

– Douglas Pudsey

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## 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](mailto:feedback@cwf.ca) .

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