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CANADA WEST FOUNDATION MEDIA REPORT 7 JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

OP-EDS

Q3 2018

9

Op-eds

screen shots: theglbeardmail.com, hilltimes.com, policyoptions.irpp.org

RESEARCH REPORT Releases

HOT COMMODITY
Geothermal electricity in Alberta

SUCCESS IN THE MAKING
Stories of partnerships between Indigenous communities & natural resource firms

“There are numerous cases where natural resources firms and Indigenous communities have built successful partnerships where both parties’ values and economic aspirations are acknowledged and aligned, and that incorporate a larger economic interest. However, too often these stories remain untold.”

Congress has the power to restrain Trump on trade, but that action is uncertain. Canada needs to get better at responding to trade shocks from the US.

“Yes, NAFTA is important, and yes, Canada could survive the ending of NAFTA with the US. But we cannot survive the continued barraged of unmoored shocks arriving by tweet in the middle of the night.”

Carlo Dade
Policy Options
August 20, 2018

MEDIA MENTIONS

Q3 2018

350

Print/online

207

Broadcast

IN THE NEWS



On September 30, after many months of twists and turns, the new North American trade deal was reached: The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA. A modernized trade agreement is good news for Canada, especially beef, pork and grain producers who rely on the U.S. market. It's also good news for both domestic and foreign investors seeking certainty in Canada. But there's still much to digest from the deal, including the potential for the Americans to limit Canada's ability to negotiate a trade agreement with China. The Canada West Foundation's trade director Carlo Dade and President and CEO Martha Hall Findlay, have been high-profile voices of reason and analysis as the deal was hammered out over several months – speaking out in more than 100 interviews on everything from supply management, to the state of U.S.-Canada relations, to the role that agriculture plays. As the deal was announced, we put out a media advisory with our early thoughts; Carlo and Martha did several more interviews, including with CBC, Real Agriculture, Hill Times, BNN Bloomberg, Financial Post, Alberta PrimeTime and Macleans. An agreement with our largest trading partner is welcome, but especially in the turbulent times ushered in by the Trump administration Canada must look to new trade horizons. Trade elsewhere has gotten easier, particularly in Europe (with CETA) and parts of Asia (with CPTPP). Our work on that front continues.

Another significant development for Canada that the Foundation has focused on this year – the introduction of new impact assessment legislation – came into sharp focus in Q3. Although perhaps well-intended, Bill C-69 threatens to make things much worse at a time when we can't afford that risk – and the Foundation is speaking out. Building on our May report, *Unstuck: Recommendations for reforming Canada's regulatory process for energy projects*, we released policy briefs: *Rebooting Bill C-69* and *TMX and Bill C-69*. The bill is now in the Senate, but there is increasing consensus among business leaders, investors, potential investors, think tanks, academics and others that Bill C-69 is not fixable. However, if the bill does indeed go ahead, we have specific recommendations on what should be changed before it is passed. Another policy brief is set for release early in Q4. Martha has also done several interviews on the bill, including with the National Post and Calgary Herald.

This fall, we launched a major new project, *Success in the Making: Stories of partnerships between Indigenous communities & natural resource firms*. The project explores Indigenous-industry partnerships across Western Canada, challenges they faced, and how they arrived

at success. Its goal is to provide examples of success – and the many different ways to get there – to help others build sustainable partnerships. *Success in the Making* has been a huge undertaking for the Foundation's Natural Resources and Human Capital centres, with our research partners, Name to Place and Medicine Rope Strategies. We've released the first report in the project, which summarizes the findings of roundtables held in Western Canada that engaged more than 70 Indigenous and industry leaders. The heart of the project will be case studies in communities across Western Canada that allow us to delve into the specifics of what made each partnership work. That work is already underway.

Geothermal, a form of electricity that uses the natural heat of the Earth, was the subject of another report we released in Q3: *Hot Commodity: Geothermal electricity in Alberta*. Geothermal energy is a renewable, controllable and clean source of electricity but Alberta's laws do not yet regulate its development. The report urges Alberta to put clear rules in place to support geothermal development. *Hot Commodity* is part of a new Canada West Foundation series, *Getting to Go: Removing regulatory barriers to energy innovation*, that looks at how to create a regulatory environment that supports the adoption of innovation in the energy sector.

Our media presence remains robust. In Q3, we did more than 80 interviews in regional, national and international publications – including Martha Hall Findlay speaking to the Wall Street Journal, Globe and Mail, CBC and other outlets about supply management, Nick Martin talking to the Hill Times about an integrated electricity grid, and Carlo Dade talking to CBC, BNN Bloomberg, the Danielle Smith Show and many more about all the happenings on North American trade.

In Q3, the Foundation also launched our new *What Now?* briefs, a new regular feature that dives into pressing policy issues of interest to the West and all of Canada, to great success. In just over six weeks, we've produced six briefs – on supply management myths, what's next for TMX, rebooting Bill C-69, Canada and the U.S. beyond NAFTA, TMX and Bill C-69 and blueprints for work-based learning. The briefs allow us to be nimble in response to the big issues of the day and have already drawn significant interest from decision-makers, industry, the media and public. Stay tuned for more!

COMMENTARY

Highlighted Opinion Articles in Major Newspapers



Here's one win for NAFTA negotiators: Trudeau's 'progressive' trade demands are officially toast

By Carlo Dade
In the Financial Post
 September 26, 2018

The news for Canada on renegotiation of the North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been bleak, but there is one aspect that bodes well for future and potentially more difficult, trade negotiations: the quiet death of the Trudeau government's so-called progressive trade strategy.

At the start of the NAFTA renegotiation, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau insisted that the inclusion of progressive elements such as new chapters on Indigenous and gender issues was essential to the agreement, going so far as to say that it was not a frill but a practical necessity.

Yet, in the closing act of the NAFTA negotiations, reality has overtaken rhetoric. The progressive agenda has disappeared from the negotiations as well as the public debate around it — with, it appears, no discernible impact on Canadians' feelings toward the pact or negotiations. Practical dollars-and-cents, saving-or-losing-jobs issues have crowded out non-critical issues. Progressive trade obviously has not made that cut.



Time to get serious about interprovincial electricity trade

By Nick Martin
In Hill Times
 July 16, 2018

With cross-border clashes on issues, ranging from pipelines, to booze, to out-of-province licence plates, the provinces have room for improvement when it comes to working together.

It's no different when it comes to electricity.

While restrictions on bringing some beer across provincial borders (as in the recent Comeau case in the Supreme Court) can be inconvenient, barriers to interprovincial electricity trade can have costly implications for Canada's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Enabling more electricity trade between provinces can go a long way in helping Canada reduce emissions cost-effectively, but challenges remain.

Canada's electricity system is composed of largely isolated provincial grids. Relatively little electricity flows over provincial borders, and what electricity does leave a province is usually headed to the U.S.—sometimes for very cheap prices.

This has worked well enough in the past. Most provinces have been able to supply their own electricity cheaply and reliably. Today, Canada enjoys some of the cheapest electricity among OECD countries—and 80 per cent of it comes from emission-free sources. There has been no significant need to trade electricity between provinces.

The future may not be as simple



What's next for Trans Mountain?

By Martha Hall Findlay
In the Globe and Mail
 September 7, 2018

Despite some extreme reactions, at both the positive and negative ends of the spectrum, the Federal Court of Appeal has not stopped the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX) — far from it. Further delay is certainly problematic for the federal government and for oil producers. And a bit more delay may very well be worth it for the greater clarity this decision has provided for this — and all future — projects.

The *Tsleil-Waututh Nation v. Canada* (Attorney-General) decision provides a positive way forward both for the construction of the pipeline and the interests of Indigenous communities and those with legitimate environmental concerns. It has made it clear that although real concerns need to be addressed, neither the environmental nor Indigenous community concerns can be limitless. More importantly, the decision provides specific steps needed to address those concerns.



MEDIA SNAPSHOT

Highlighted Articles



More interprovincial electricity trade will lower energy prices

Hill Times
August 13, 2018

More energy trading between provinces could lower prices for consumers, say energy analysts, but for provinces it isn't a priority as they seek energy self-sufficiency.

"By having increased interprovincial electricity trade, costs [of zero-emission energy] will be brought down," said Nick Martin, a policy analyst at the Canada West.

He said a province could be self-sufficient without increased interprovincial electricity trading, but it would be "way more expensive," if the scenario and modelling research is correct.



Think it's hard to build big projects in Canada now? Wait till you see the Liberals' new bill

Financial Post
September 4, 2018

A fight over the federal government's bill to overhaul the National Energy Board has been playing out away from the public eye but is expected to take centre stage in the Senate in September.

Behind the scenes, lower levels of government, companies and think tanks have been suggesting changes to Bill C-69 — which would turn the NEB into the Canadian Energy Regulator and establish an Impact Assessment Agency for new resource projects with a new scope and timelines. ...

Some say they expect reaction to Bill C-69 could result in a back-and-forth round of changes between the Senate and the Commons, as with the government's cannabis legislation in June.

"I don't relish a battle between the Senate and the House," Canada West Foundation president and CEO Martha Hall Findlay said.

Hall Findlay, a former Liberal MP, said the Canada West Foundation is now working on suggestions to amend the bill that's "not good enough," partly because it hasn't had a thorough review in the House of Commons by the finance, international trade and natural resources committees.

"You cannot, in my view, from a governance perspective, have a bill of this magnitude and of this consequence, reviewed only by the environment and sustainable development committee," she said.



Canada rethinks defense of dairy farmers as industry's heft wanes

Wall Street Journal
September 14, 2018

Tim Keenan is making plans to pass along his fifth-generation Quebec dairy business to his children, more than two decades after buying it from his father. There is one complicating factor: Trade talks between the U.S. and Canada threaten to upend the industry.

Canadian dairy farmers depend on a nearly 50-year-old system for protecting domestic production. The protections are viewed as sacrosanct by the main political parties, which have historically feared losing rural votes in Quebec and Ontario, the two biggest provinces and home to nearly all of Canada's 10,500 dairy farms.

There are signs that is starting to change.

...

"There are very few dairy farmers left, but the image, for politicians, is one of big numbers still," said Martha Hall Findlay, a former Canadian Liberal lawmaker and now head of the Canada West Foundation think tank. She has become an outspoken critic of the dairy system, arguing it stifles competition and forces consumers to pay higher prices for staples like milk and butter.

