

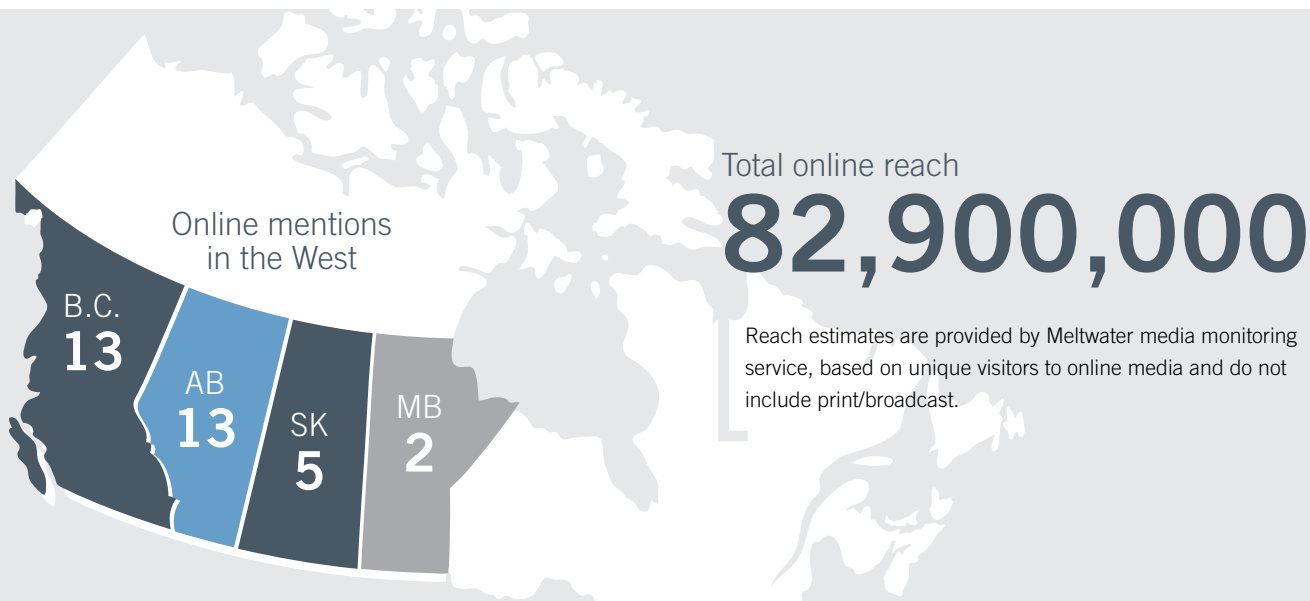
CANADA WEST FOUNDATION

# IN THE NEWS

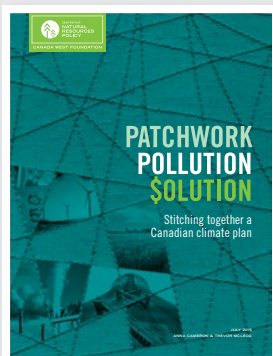
Q3 2015

IN THE NEWS  
COMMENTARY  
MEDIA SNAPSHOT

CANADA WEST FOUNDATION TOTAL ONLINE REACH ↗ JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2015



## RESEARCH FOCUSED ONLINE MEDIA REACH



PATCHWORK POLLUTION  
SOLUTION: STITCHING TOGETHER  
A CANADIAN CLIMATE PLAN

**9,200,000**



BRANCHING OUT: PREPARING  
FOR LIFE WITHOUT A SOFTWOOD  
LUMBER AGREEMENT

**3,300,000**

## MEDIA MENTIONS Q3

**55**

NEWSPAPERS

**1**

TRADE PUBLICATIONS

**3**

NEWS WIRES

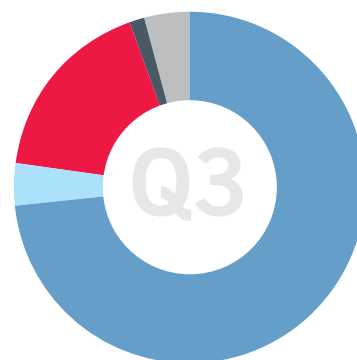
**3**

TELEVISION

**13**

RADIO

### MEDIA MENTIONS



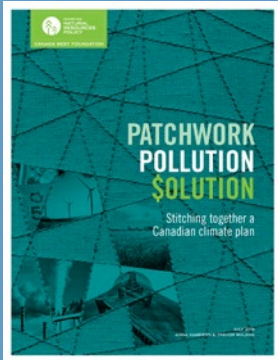
Op-ed online reach **15,400,000**



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**CanadaWest**  
FOUNDATION

# IN THE NEWS



JULY 2015



SEPTEMBER 2015

The clock is ticking on the final hours of the Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) and the Canadian industry is wary, because it has been through drawn-out battles with the United States in the past. In September, the Foundation released *Branching Out: Preparing for life without a Softwood Lumber Agreement*, written by policy analyst Naomi Christensen. It dives deep into this contentious issue, and lays out a roadmap on what Canada's forestry industry should do to thrive in a post-SLA world.

The report, prepared for the Foundation's Centre for Natural Resources Policy and Centre for Trade & Investment Policy, was the focus of stories in the Edmonton Journal and Business in Vancouver, and an op-ed by Christensen that ran in the Vancouver Sun. It also drew the attention of government leaders and policy-makers who expressed appreciation for the sound policy advice *Branching Out* provided, even as the issue starts to heat up. The report's release led to an invitation for Christensen, Trevor McLeod, Director of the Centre for Natural Resources Policy, and Carlo Dade, Director of the Centre for Trade & Investment Policy, to present at the Alberta Forest Products Association AGM in Jasper.

Another major issue on Canada's policy plate – carbon emissions – was the subject of the Natural Resources Centre's report, *Patchwork Pollution Solution: Stitching*

*together a Canadian climate plan*. The report was released in time for the summer gathering of premiers to talk about a Canadian energy strategy. It lays out suggestions for how Canada can be a leader on carbon pricing. An op-ed co-authored by McLeod and report co-author Anna Cameron ran in the National Post and media coverage of *Patchwork Pollution Solution* was carried nationally.

Another trade issue – the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations – is also squarely in the news and Dade is making the Foundation's voice heard on this file. A commentary he wrote ran online in newspapers in each of the four western provinces. He also appeared on CTV National News to discuss the trade talks.

The third quarter has proved a fruitful period for Foundation commentary, with a total of nine op-eds (including five commentaries for national newspapers) running on 20 newspaper websites. The economy provided fodder for continued analysis. McLeod did a number of interviews on slumping oil prices and the structural changes that are needed in the industry, and also wrote an op-ed for the National Post on why government must show leadership to get pipelines built. Janet Lane, Director of the Centre for Natural Resources, meanwhile, appeared on CTV's Alberta Primetime to talk about skills gaps, employment and the recession.

# COMMENTARY

HIGHLIGHTED OPINION ARTICLES IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS



## Investment in infrastructure needed

**Carlo Dade**  
**Winnipeg Free Press**  
Sept. 25, 2015

Improving our ability to get our products to markets around the world was top of mind when an initiative on improving North America's integration and competitiveness was launched this month in Dallas at the George W. Bush Presidential Center.

Canada and Mexico are frustrated over the U.S. federal government's seeming inability to fund virtually any infrastructure, including major border infrastructure. It's a story that has significance, and some lessons, for Manitoba – where provincial infrastructure spending has been a source of controversy.

For decades, the American government's powerful role in transportation infrastructure was envied by Canadian provincial capitals. That envy is now turning to concern.

The U.S. Congress and administration have been stuck passing a series of last-minute, stop-gap funding measures since 2009 to fund the U.S. highway trust fund. The fund, established in 1956 by then-president Dwight Eisenhower, provides about 25 per cent of all funding for bridges, highways and transit....



## On pipelines, governments need to govern

**Trevor McLeod**  
**National Post**  
Sept. 26, 2015

Good, functioning democratic societies need all kinds of people, including staunch environmental activists. Parliamentary democracies work best, however, if governments have the guts to govern. In the case of long-delayed pipelines, that means taking the advice of regulators and then acting in the national interest.

In recent years, environmental groups have forced a renegotiation of our energy systems by shining a bright light where the energy industry is most vulnerable. And, while the last few years have been a nightmare for the energy sector, environmental groups should be thanked for shining that light.

Many of those environmental groups, however, have also pursued an off-oil agenda, waging a public relations war against perceived government and industry inaction on climate change, notably, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Along the way, they leveraged long-standing and unaddressed equity issues in an attempt to gain political support for their cause. They expertly brought lingering First Nations issues and perennial wealth distribution issues to the fore....



## Alberta should focus on fiscal discipline before diversification

**Janice Plumstead**  
**Globe and Mail**  
July 31, 2015

Alberta's NDP government has made the pursuit of diversification a key objective by promising a new royalty regime to encourage value-added upgraders to process bitumen in the province. The government, however, is putting the cart before the horse.

Before it heads down the road to diversification, it needs to take a step back and work to stabilize the effect that resource revenue has on Alberta's budget.

Economic diversification requires long-term investment and effort. Lacking private-sector enthusiasm for upgrader projects, the government may need to offer loan guarantees and other incentive programs to kick-start such a project, increasing the risk to taxpayers.

With a budget deficit estimated at \$7-billion, this year is a particularly bad time to add risk. The price of oil has plunged from more than \$100 (U.S.) a barrel a year ago to less than \$50 a barrel today. The price collapse has led to layoffs, cuts in capital investment and a general decline in economic activity throughout the province....

# MEDIA SNAPSHOT

## HIGHLIGHTED ARTICLES

### How slumping prices have pushed Alberta's oilsands to the margins

Yadullah Hussain [Financial Post](#) Sept. 25, 2015

When Barry Munro, Ernst & Young's top energy advisor in Canada, wrote his periodic note to his global team a few weeks ago, he started with one word: "Bleak."

"I keep telling people that this cycle is different, this is structural," said Calgary-based Munro, who advises oil and gas companies...

..."Canada and oilsands producers got stuck in a short-term mindset and were unprepared for lower oil prices," said Trevor McLeod, director of the centre for natural resources policy at the Calgary-based Canada West Foundation.

Oil and gas wages rose 61 per cent over the past decade, compared to Canadian average increases of 29 percent, according to Statistics Canada. Capital investments went higher almost every year as US\$100 prices allowed inflation to seep in to an industry already seen as high-maintenance.

"The out-of-control structure and our inability to build pipelines – those are the two big issues that continue to concern investors," McLeod said. "If you can't get to tide water and get world price for oil, you are getting shortchanged."

### Alberta forestry industry prepares for end of softwood lumber agreement

David Howell [Edmonton Journal](#) Sept. 17, 2015

In Alberta's \$4-billion a year forest products industry, concerns about the ending next month of the Canada-United States softwood lumber agreement have never been higher.

"If you look at the significant challenges facing Alberta's forest sector, if Item 1 is the mountain pine beetle, Item 2 is the future of the softwood lumber agreement," Paul Whittaker, president and chief executive of the Alberta Forest Products Association, said in an interview this week. . . .

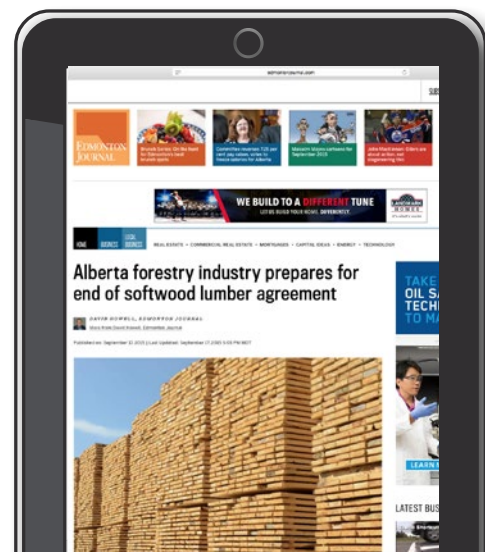
...The AFPA's position has been that it should be renewed again "as is," Whittaker said. But he said the association is open to a new deal, "obviously built on the platform of the old agreement." The federal and provincial governments, and other industry groups, also want a renewed or renegotiated deal.

But the U.S. is not showing any signs it is interested, said Naomi Christensen, author of a new report for the Canada West Foundation.

"A lot of factors have changed since the agreement was put in place, and those changes indicate that the U.S. wouldn't really benefit, from their point of view, from signing another one at this time," Christensen said.



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