

An update from the West's think tank

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Climate event turns up heat

Getting climate strategy right is crucial to the economic well-being of the West and Canada, but the path isn't always clear. It will require thoughtful policy direction.



Trevor McLeod, Director of the Centre for Natural Resources Policy, convened a panel on January 27 digging into Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan, featuring the chief architect of the strategy, Andrew Leach. More than 150 attended the sold out event, held with Canadians for Clean Prosperity and Bennett Jones LLP.

More than half of respondents to a post-event survey said the discussion challenged their assumptions – a powerful testament to the Foundation's role of convening.

Foundation speaks out on royalties, regulatory review

Governments and policy-makers unleashed a flood of news in recent weeks affecting Canada's energy economy. The Foundation was front and centre with non-partisan analysis of the changes. Trevor McLeod commented on [Alberta's much-anticipated royalty review](#) in interviews on CBC TV and radio, CTV National News, The Canadian Press, Calgary Herald and AM 660 News. President & CEO Dylan Jones wrote an op-ed, published in the Globe and Mail on why the government's approach is good news for not just the beleaguered oil and gas sector but also all Canadians.

The Foundation also noted the federal government's interim changes to resource review processes could, if handled well, [help break the national deadlock on pipelines](#). We also took look at the impact of a recent B.C. Supreme Court decision on Aboriginal rights. A blog post, [Aboriginal consultation at the heart of restoring trust in regulators, B.C. case shows](#), by policy analyst Shafak Sajid, is the first in a planned series on Canada's regulatory system and public trust.

Smart spending call is heard

Building infrastructure is a good way for the federal government to stimulate the economy. The Foundation's Centre for Trade & Investment Policy wants that spending to be smart – by investing in roads, ports and other infrastructure that will help deliver products to market. Centre Director Carlo Dade made that point [in an op-ed](#) that appeared in the Globe and Mail. His article in iPolitics explains why trade infrastructure matters for getting [products and people to and from key Pacific markets](#). Policy analyst Naomi Christensen also took a close look at why "strategic" can trump "shovel-ready" when it comes to spending, in a blog post [featuring the Asia Pacific Gateway Corridor Initiative](#). The federal government is now echoing our call for strategic spending.

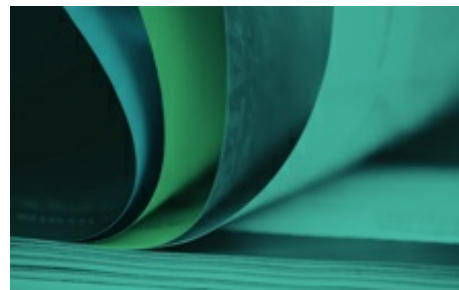


Our research and commentary is reaching more people

Our work has the greatest impact when it is most widely read, and the [latest media reach numbers](#) show our work is being seen and talked about more than ever. In fact, in 2015 our media readership more than doubled compared to the year before. Check out the report for a full explanation on why we are changing the way we measure "media eyeballs," transitioning from online "reach" to the more accurate "readership" count. The change adds value to – and confidence in – how we tell our media story.

Plans set for year of research

Our three research centres have mapped out their research plans for the year. Take a look at the work plans for our centres of human capital policy, natural resources and trade & investment [to get a](#)



[taste of what we'll be tackling this year.](#) Plans include competencies to help our labour market reach its potential, restoring trust in our regulators and how to make strategic infrastructure investments.

You told us this will be a tough year for the West

Last month, we asked you how you're feeling about the West's prospects this year. Close to half of you said you believe the West will still be trading water by the end of 2016.

Said Aritha van Herk, "We have to regroup, take time to think. The future is not only about economic prosperity." Paul Paynter weighed in, noting, "Sorry but without economic prosperity there is no future. People and capital will leave. Western Canada does not operate in a vacuum. It is a globalized world. We have to think and act fast. If oil and gas is not the long-term future, we need to leverage it as best we can while we still can to find profitable industries where we can realistically build comparative advantage." Thank you for your thoughtful responses!

This month, we're wondering what you think about the huge, dense and complicated Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. [Take our one-click poll here.](#)

Event: What's next for O&G?

Milestone GRP is presenting the upcoming *Global Investor's Guide: Western Canada Oil & Gas, 2016*,

which will address the question: What's next for

Western Canada's oil and gas industry? The Guide is a

unique presentation of the region's energy sector by those who know it best. The Industry Roadmap event will also be an opportunity to network among key stakeholders and

investors. **Canada West Foundation Discount: Save \$50 per ticket.** A Canada West

Foundation promotional code applies to a limited amount of tickets reserved for you and

other associates of the Foundation, so early booking is recommended. When selecting your tickets at purchase, click on "Enter Promotional Code" and type in

'MilestoneCanWest'. [Purchase tickets online here.](#)



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