



## An update from the West's think tank

Visit our website

### A historic U.S. election, and what it means for the West

The U.S. election is a little more than a month away. The outcome of the vote will inevitably alter our relationship with our powerful neighbours. A

Foundation-hosted event in Winnipeg on Nov. 16

that will discuss the new U.S. administration's likely approach to trade. We have a great lineup of speakers to give us an insider's look at the election, and its impact on Manitoba and the West. [Buy tickets here.](#)

In Alberta, we are partnering with the American Chamber of Commerce in Canada (West) for pre-election receptions in Calgary and Edmonton, examining how the new U.S. administration will affect Alberta industries and our cross-border trade and

**BEYOND  
THE  
BALLOT**  
*The U.S. election's impact on Manitoba*

**U.S.  
ELECTION  
WATCH** \*\*\*  
*What the vote means  
for Alberta industry*

investment. [Reserve your spot here for these business after-hours receptions.](#)

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## Getting moving on innovation

When an economy is down, it's all too easy to say that getting creative about innovation is the best way to solve fiscal woes. But turning good ideas into action is easier said than done. The Foundation held a family style dinner in Calgary where the power of innovation was the topic of lively discussion.



In a post-event survey, almost everyone said the evening's discussions caused them to question some of their assumptions on innovation. There was also a glowing response to the speakers and overall event. Among the comments, attendees said they appreciated the networking opportunity and are eager to get to know more about the Foundation and our work.

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## Policy leaders join the Foundation

We are pleased to welcome our newest board member: Doug Moen, Former Deputy Minister to the Premier, Government of Saskatchewan. Doug's exemplary career with the Government of Saskatchewan includes time as DM of Justice and Deputy Attorney General before his post in Executive Council. You can [read more about Doug here.](#)

John Law has also joined the Foundation [as a Senior Fellow](#). John, a leader in Canada's transportation and infrastructure sector and a former Saskatchewan deputy minister, has many ties to the Foundation. He is the co-author of our 2014 report, [Building on Advantage: Improving Canada's trade infrastructure](#) and also wrote [The Infrastructure that Matters Most](#), a 2016 report produced by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Canada West Foundation. He recently spoke at the Senate committee on national finance. [Read more about John here.](#)

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## What farmers told us about growing debt loads

As part of our series on debt in agriculture this summer, we asked the farming community to provide its thoughts on the growing level of debt in the industry. The responses to our survey were detailed and thoughtful and gave on-the-ground insight into this growing concern affecting one of the West's most important industries. You can check out [the wrap-up of our crowd-sourced project](#). We also published one response in full as a guest blog on our website. Read about the perils and opportunities of farm debt



and interest rates [from the point of view of a Manitoba farmer](#).

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## Energy Futures Lab reception

We are pleased to partner with Energy Futures Lab Fellows for their reception, with the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, Calgary Economic Development and The Natural Step. Connect with senior government, business and non-profit leaders to explore the innovations, policies and cultural narratives that are critical to building the energy system and economy for the future. Confirm your spot [at the Oct. 19 event here](#).

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## POLL: What should be the new U.S. President's No. 1 Canadian priority?

The U.S. heads to the polls next month. Whether the new president is Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, what should the administration's first priority with Canada be? [Take our one-click poll](#).

Results from last month's poll: Should Canadians be allowed to buy medically necessary treatment in private surgery centres? YES: 48 %, NO: 48 %

What you told us: *Need more information e.g., will this allow less demand on our health system? Will this inflate the costs of doctors fees and increase our health care costs?*

And: *Yes. Currently surgeons are rationed time in the provincially run hospitals in Alberta – which means there is underutilized surgical capacity. Putting someone like me through a private clinic (such as the previously proposed hip-knee clinic) would free up a place in the waiting list. Do I get my surgery faster? Absolutely! Does the guy/gal down the waiting list get their surgery faster? Absolutely! Doctors may make more money but that doesn't mean more comes out of the public (taxpayer) purse. In fact, allowing them to use their surgical skills all time and generate revenue from that time might actually allow for lower fees in the Public Paid system. Our basic problem is that we only look at the U.S. health care system as the option and ignore the many successful public / private systems functioning in many other jurisdictions (especially Europe). Tommy Douglas never said that the government should RUN all the health care; only that it should PAY for everyone.*

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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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