

IN THE NEWS

- IN THE NEWS
- COMMENTARY
- MEDIA SNAPSHOT

CANADA WEST FOUNDATION MEDIA REPORT 7 APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 2018

OP-EDS
& BLOGS

Q2 2018

5

Op-eds

7

Blogs

RESEARCH REPORT
Releases

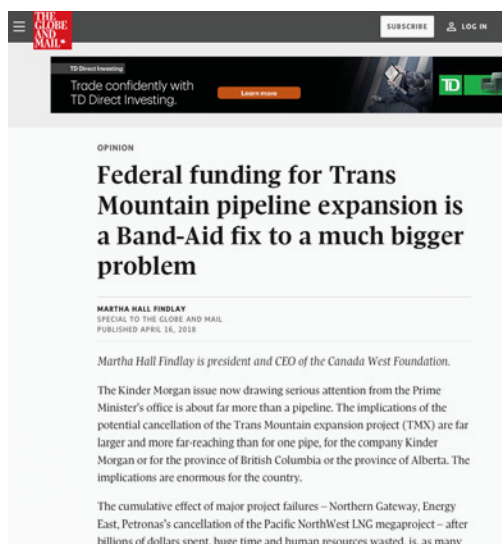
UNSTUCK

Recommendations for
reforming Canada's regulatory
process for energy projects



Canada's regulatory system has become fraught with delays, lack of clarity and distrust. Regulators, project proponents and even environmental critics have become mired in a process that does not satisfy anyone....

But if our regulatory system is to become unstuck, we must get it right.



"For a country dependent on investment, failure of TMX on top of these other failures would send a disastrous message about how competitive or attractive a place for investment Canada is."

Martha Hall Findlay
Globe and Mail
April 16, 2018

MEDIA
MENTIONS

Q2 2018

635

Print/online

439

Broadcast

IN THE NEWS



The news cycle has been inundated with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiations, the Trans Mountain pipeline clash, U.S. tariffs on Canada, Canadian tariffs on the U.S., China and U.S. tariffs, and supply management. Canada West Foundation was at the forefront with commentaries in Policy Options, the Hill Times and the Globe and Mail, and interviews with the Calgary Herald, Lethbridge Herald, National Post and more.

This quarter, we released a report on Bill C-69 – one of the most pressing issues facing Canada's prosperity. Our report, *Unstuck: Recommendations for reforming Canada's regulatory process for energy projects*, noted that while there are some welcome changes in the proposed bill, some major concerns remain. The report called for clear policy, clear legislation, an empowered and trusted regulator and appropriate, broad, but efficient stakeholder input, along with several amendments such as transparency, clarity and informed, balanced discussion. President and CEO Martha Hall Findlay and Vice-President Colleen Collins spoke extensively in the media about why Bill C-69 as proposed could be disastrous to our country. The overwhelming response to the report led us to host a Bill C-69 Pop-up Policy event that attracted approximately 50 government officials, think tank representatives and industry leaders. With concern growing and the bill now into the Senate, we'll continue to speak out on the issue.

Canada's relationship with the U.S. suffered some serious blows during the last several months, with NAFTA talks stalled, tariffs imposed and trade tensions heating up. U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to place steel and aluminum tariffs on America's Northern neighbour had Canada retaliating with roughly \$16 billion in tariffs to the United States. Trade & Investment Centre director Carlo Dade commented extensively on the impact of these decision on Canada and Canadians, noting a potentially bleak future if Trump continues his assault on the global trading order; however, Dade suggested Canada look to trade opportunities in other countries, particularly in the Asia-Pacific, to help mitigate potential fallout from our weakened relationship with the U.S.

Canada's supply management system for dairy touched off renewed controversy after the 2018 G7 summit following comments by Trump singling out the system as a major trade irritant for the U.S. Following our report in 2017 about dismantling supply management, we remain steadfast that Canada can find a win-win path to reforming the system for the benefit of all Canadians, including dairy farmers themselves. We were vocal in media across the country, and Martha Hall Findlay published an open letter on why we should dismantle supply management, not because Trump wants it, but because it's the right thing to do for Canada.

This quarter, we produced five *What the West?* podcast episodes, with topics including NAFTA, China-U.S. trade and carbon pricing. Our latest special edition episode took a closer look at Canada's distant, sometimes forgotten neighbor Mexico, and the impact the July 1 Mexican election could have on our country. The episode was so well-received that it led to a national radio syndication interview with Viewpoint after the station listened to our podcast.

To date, we have released five *China Brief* newsletters, produced by policy analyst Sarah Pittman. The initiative is already making waves with those who study and work in the field of Canada-China relations. As China news heats up with U.S. trade war, the *China Brief* continues to keep us informed.

Human Capital Centre director Janet Lane launched a major research project to better match Calgary's unemployed or underemployed oil and gas professionals to suitable jobs based on their "transferrable competencies." The project included several workshops, all of which were filled in the first 24 hours of launching the project publicly. Policy analyst Sarah Pittman also wrote a blog post explaining the research project and the goals.

In addition to our op-eds, the Canada West Foundation team also published seven blog posts on our website on topics including a deep dive into Canada's steel and aluminum industry and how western Canadian businesses can benefit from dramatic tariff reductions in the new Trans-Pacific Partnership deal. As we progress through 2018, we will continue to provide commentaries and insights on the decisions that shape Canada's West, and Canada as a whole.

COMMENTARY

Highlighted Opinion Articles in Major Newspapers



Supply management is bad for consumers, for Canada, and even for dairy farmers

By Sarah Pittman
In the Hill Times
June 25, 2018

Say what you will about United States President Donald Trump's G7 summit attendance earlier this month, he did manage to do one thing: rally a lot of Canadians against him.

A lot of what Trump said is nonsense, and Canadians are right to be angry. However, Trump's targeted attacks of supply management should not deter us from the reality that we need to dismantle it. Ironically, calling out Canada on supply management may be the only thing that the other G7 leaders could have agreed upon. In fact, this is a good moment to finally take it down—but not because the Americans say we should. There are myriad reasons to end supply management, for domestic purposes and for international trade.

Ending supply management—which involves dairy, poultry, and eggs—is a good move domestically. Canadian consumers, especially lower-income households, pay far too much for staple, basic foods.



Focus on trade infrastructure to meet agri-food goals

By Naomi Christensen and Carlo Dade
In Policy Options
May 4, 2018

Last year, the federal government set a lofty goal of boosting agri-food exports to \$75 billion annually by 2025 — a whopping increase of \$20 billion in seven years. But unless it takes some serious action quickly, Ottawa is already on track to miss the mark — and that would be a big blow for Canadian producers who are struggling with inadequate trade infrastructure to get their products to market.

The 2018 federal budget hardly mentions agri-food, let alone any measures aimed at increasing exports. If the government is serious about increasing exports, the place to start is trade infrastructure, such as roads, ports, railways, waterways, airports and pipelines. Our problem isn't inability to produce more crops, it's our inability to get goods to foreign markets. It is not much of an exaggeration to say that our government officials responsible for trade promotion in Asia spend half their time working on opening markets and increasing market access and the other half apologizing for delays in delivering products to markets.



Federal funding for Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is a Band-Aid fix to a much bigger problem

By Martha Hall Findlay
In the Globe and Mail
April 16, 2018

The Kinder Morgan issue now drawing serious attention from the Prime Minister's office is about far more than a pipeline. The implications of the potential cancellation of the Trans Mountain expansion project (TMX) are far larger and more far-reaching than for one pipe, for the company Kinder Morgan or for the province of British Columbia or the province of Alberta. The implications are enormous for the country.

The cumulative effect of major project failures — Northern Gateway, Energy East, Petronas's cancellation of the Pacific NorthWest LNG megaproject — after billions of dollars spent, huge time and human resources wasted, is, as many commentators are now stressing, terrible for Canada's investment climate. That many of these failures are seen as being due to political whims, and rules that change every time a government changes, is devastating. For a country dependent on investment, failure of TMX on top of these other failures would send a disastrous message about how competitive or attractive a place for investment Canada is.

BLOGS

How western Canadian businesses can benefit from dramatic tariff reductions in the CPTPP

By Naomi Christensen
June 5, 2018

On May 22, the federal government tabled the text of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), taking the first step towards ratifying the multilateral trade deal. While it's still unclear when the deal will get over the finish line, once it's in effect, there are big opportunities for western Canadian businesses.

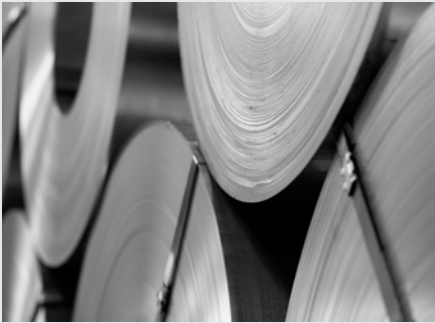
The economic downturn has left thousands of Calgarians unemployed. We want to find a better way to match them with new jobs, in different industries.

By Sarah Pittman
May 2, 2018

This is the scenario that thousands of unemployed and underemployed oil and gas workers face following a prolonged downturn in the economy, as they send out resume after resume to hunt down a new job. Employers and job seekers alike often think that people can only do the very specific jobs that they were trained for. For oil and gas workers, this is a problem — the industry isn't showing signs of bouncing back. But people have many skills that apply to all kinds of jobs — called transferable competencies — and we know that unemployed oil and gas workers can work in other fields.

MEDIA SNAPSHOT

Highlighted Articles



NDP government slams ‘absurd’ American tariffs as Canada-U.S. steel trade war worries Alberta industry

Calgary Herald
May 31, 2018

As a trade battle erupts between Canada and the United States over steel and aluminum, Alberta's NDP government is lashing the Trump administration's "absurd" and "insulting" tariffs and offering its support to Ottawa as it faces down the U.S. president.

Donald Trump followed through on a longstanding threat Thursday, as Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced the U.S. would end the temporary exemption on Canadian, Mexican and European Union steel and aluminum and impose import duties of 25 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, at midnight June 1.

...

Carlo Dade, trade expert with the Canada West Foundation, said that while the "insane" American measures will hit Alberta now, the bigger concern is what it means for trade relations in the long run.

Trump has not only repeatedly threatened to pull the U.S. out of NAFTA, there are major questions over how he would respond to a likely American loss at the World Trade Organization, said Dade.

"It is absolutely frightening," he said. "If they lose at the WTO, do they then go after the World Trade Organization?"



If you were laid off when oil prices tanked, this might help you launch a new career

CBC News
May 2, 2018

When Alberta's economy hit the ditch three years ago, it dragged thousands of energy jobs in with it.

...

But the challenge of finding new careers for these workers has inspired an effort that throws a curve ball at traditional job hunting efforts.

Led by the Canada West Foundation (CWF), the project tosses out much of the emphasis on the long-established resume, such as job titles and job descriptions.

"It's an innovative way of thinking about yourself as an individual," said Janet Lane, director of CWF's human capital centre. "You are much more than your last job description."

Lane said those who work in the oil and gas sector have developed competencies — what they know, can do and understand — that can be useful in many kinds of jobs, even other sectors.

The challenge, for both the candidate and the employer, lies in recognizing the opportunity for both.



New environmental assessment law leaves too much power in hands of politicians, industry and environmental groups warn

National Post
April 24, 2018

The Liberals' new environmental assessment legislation is intended to restore public trust in federal decision-making, but both industry and environmental groups are concerned that it leaves too much power in the hands of politicians.

...

Environmental groups aren't alone in voicing concern about political decisions. Colleen Collins, vice-president of the Canada West Foundation, a public policy think tank, recently told the committee that project proponents can be discouraged by "politically motivated decisions" that come at the end of an extended regulatory process.

She argued that a decision about whether or not a project is in the public interest should be made at the end of the early planning phase, not after the assessment. "Those decisions need to be made up-front, before the long and costly regulatory process begins," she said. "There needs to be certainty during the long process of seeking regulatory approval."

