

# Canada West Foundation

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## Work Plans 2023

### What we do at CWF

**Canada West Foundation** is an independent, non-partisan public policy think tank that brings a uniquely western Canadian perspective to research, convening and analysis of the issues of multiple sectors and governments. We propose new policy and regulatory recommendations as well as suggestions as legislation is implemented.

**Each theme builds on our past work and expertise. Individual activities may change as different pieces of the puzzle are addressed.**

We produce and disseminate our research through reports, briefs, op-eds, CWF events, speaking engagements, media interviews, stakeholder briefings and social media. We will also convene experts, opinion leaders and decision makers to find and advance solutions.

#### **In 2023 we will:**

**Drive greater impact** of our work by placing more emphasis on recognition of problems and adoption of our recommendations.

**Build coalitions of partners** among industry associations, governments, other think tanks, civil society and private sector organizations.

**Increase the number of briefings** for officials, ministers, and caucus, legislative, house and senate committees.

# Natural Resources Centre

## Work Plan 2023

A desirable energy future doesn't just solve for one problem – it must strive for multiple outcomes, all of which are important.

Substantially lower GHG emissions and “cleaner” production are critical. At the same time, Canada also needs to: ensure domestic and global energy security; achieve energy affordability; support integrity of land use, water supply and food production; and deliver strong economic outcomes—objectives that are inextricably intertwined with the choices we make about how to achieve reduced emissions.

In 2023, the Natural Resources Centre will focus on the intersection of energy, the environment and the economy to ensure that policies make sense for Western Canada while also working to solve for “all of the above.” And we will keep our eye on making sure that technologies that can make a difference are affordable, that timelines are sufficient, and that political conditions support their implementation.

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### Policy Goal

**Help the western provinces capitalize on emerging opportunities in energy of all forms in ways that enhance both prosperity and sustainability**

Western Canada contains all the main building blocks for thriving in the evolving energy context – vast expertise in producing and transporting energy of all types, a highly-skilled workforce, an entrepreneurial mindset and phenomenal natural resources. Success will rely on smart planning, smart policies and good timing. Our work will advance all of the above.

- Continue [Energy Innovation Brief](#) to highlight innovations

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**A desirable future for the West involves solutions that address the environment, energy systems and the economy—all at the same time.**

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in the energy sector and broaden readers' understanding of sustainable energy.

- Host workshops, roundtables and other events that help our audiences understand the evolving picture of global energy transformation and energy security.
- Continue to produce recommendations for policy and regulatory changes that enable western Canada to capitalize on emerging opportunities with LNG, CCUS, nuclear energy, critical minerals and metals, hydrogen, future-fit hydrocarbons and other evolving technologies.
- Update our very popular 2021 publication on ESG and the Canadian Energy Sector.
- Engage in deep analysis of the important questions underlying energy transformation success—including how to pay for the transition, and how our emissions accounting practices both support and undercut global CO<sub>2</sub> reduction objectives.

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### Policy Goal

**Improve impact assessment processes in Canada to ensure timely, robust and fair outcomes**

Canada's current federal regulatory process for major projects is perceived as slow, untested, uncertain and unpredictable. Our work will produce recommendations for how to improve the process in a way that increases timeliness, predictability and competitiveness, while still maintaining a robust system that protects the environment and society.

- Focus on the current federal *Impact Assessment Act*, identifying problems and potential solutions – including both “tweaks” and substantive changes to address those problems. And we will sensitize those solutions with people who have power to effect or influence change in the legislation / regulations.

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## Policy Goal

### **Ensure that Western Canada’s electricity systems can meet future demand—reliably, affordably and with low emissions**

Across Canada, electricity systems are evolving to prepare for future demand. This demand is not only for a grid with fewer emissions, but for a system that reliably and inexpensively supports higher electricity demand. The challenges in reaching those objectives are not just technical, but also logistical and political. We will build on our past work in this area to identify and address these multiple challenges.

- Review current provincial electricity governance and operational contexts.
- Review the wide range of supply and demand electricity forecasts and scenarios.
- Assess assumptions in federal decarbonization plans and associated modelling.
- Recommend policy actions for provincial governments to reduce western Canadian electricity emissions in the context of providing safe, affordable and reliable electricity.

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## Policy Goal

### **Ensure that energy, emissions and environmental policies are designed and implemented in ways that make sense for Western Canada**

Western Canada’s industry mix makes it disproportionately sensitive to the impacts of energy and emissions policy. Our research and recommendations to government encourage a balanced approach that considers environmental performance objectives alongside economic prosperity, Indigenous reconciliation and other goals.

- Continue to identify where national and provincial legislation and regulations get it right and where they get it wrong. We will identify how the West can prosper in this rapidly changing environment, and provide analysis and commentary that helps different audiences understand the real-world implications of government policy.
- Keep a close eye on the implications of evolving U.S. legislation on energy and climate and what can be done to ensure Western Canada’s interests are aligned with our giant neighbour to the south.

## Other

Emerging issues tied to the Centre’s areas of competence

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