

Canada West Foundation

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.

Trade & Investment Centre

Work Plan 2023

In 2023 the prosperity of Canada's export-dependent economy depends on two factors: increasing market access and surviving in the markets we already have access to. The breakdown of the global rules-based trade order, the rise of trade irritants that shut entire markets for crops like canola, and an increase in the volume and intensity of trade disputes with the U.S. require a shift in policy and focus to prioritize the defence of existing trade. Part of this shift includes assurances that Canada can get goods to markets that pay top dollar but doubt our ability to deliver. Surviving the new global trade environment will require understanding how the changing context will impact our interests and what can be done about it. Increased attention to security and protectionism in the United States will create challenges for Canada in its relations with the U.S. and other trading partners.

Policy Goals

Improve the resilience of Western Canada's trade-based economy to be able to survive in the new global trade environment (including North America) and ensure that western interests are represented in the implementation of the federal government's Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS)

Indo-Pacific Trade

- Continue [China Brief](#) with expanded focus to include the Indo-Pacific.
- Become a go-to source of information for western Canadian stakeholders on China's most recent five-year plan.

There is no economic growth without trade and no trade without trade infrastructure.

- Assure that western stakeholders are informed about the federal government's Indo-Pacific strategy and that western interests are represented in the plan's implementation. The Canada West Foundation is well positioned to provide the kind of trade intelligence for the region needed in the West including:

- Provincial complementarity index with Indo-Pacific countries of interest.

- Continue to pursue secretariat role for Indo-Pacific trade intelligence platform (if funded).

- Help western business avoid becoming cannon fodder in the U.S.-China trade war – expect short timely pieces.
- Provide a Western Canada voice on working groups and initiatives related to Indo-Pacific trade.

North America Trade

- Continue [North America Brief](#), one of the only information sources to include information on Mexico, a top five trade partner for most of the West.
- Continue to identify opportunities for sub-national engagement (provinces and states) including those on the trade infrastructure file.
- Continue work with U.S. state government associations that have western Canadian membership.
- Active western voice on Canada-U.S.-Mexico competitiveness through participation in various tri-national working groups.

Trade Ahead Speaker Series

- In partnership with World Trade Centre Winnipeg, Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, Calgary Economic Development, Choose Lethbridge, Edmonton Global and Vancouver World Trade Centre, convene three webinars with global experts for partner organization members on emerging trade issues.

Policy Goal

Enable Canada's trade infrastructure to lead the next generation of economic growth

Advocacy to drive adoption of Shovel Worthy solution.

- Executive in Residence John Law to continue working with federal and provincial officials to include Prairie priorities in national infrastructure planning.
- Organize a national trade infrastructure conference in Ottawa.
- Support inclusion of trade infrastructure at the July 2023 meeting of the Council of the Federation.
- On-going advocacy and public speaking.

Trade infrastructure intelligence secretariat – if funded.

- Public and private data sharing and analysis – information collection, dissemination and consultation.

Model trade infrastructure impact based on updated Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) modelling.

Policy Goal

Speed up removal of barriers to internal trade in Canada

- Commentary / support as required by provinces. Participation in the national internal trade working group.

Other

Emerging issues tied to the Centre's areas of competence

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