

OUR IMPACT | 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Policy Primers

Over the course of 2023, Canada West Foundation's CEO, Vice-President and Directors met with over 100 federal, provincial and territorial ministers and bureaucrats from numerous departments, with the Premiers' Council and with industry, all of whom wanted to hear more about our policy recommendations. We provided direction on issues ranging from trade infrastructure, worker attraction and retention, and streamlining the impact assessment process.

For example, in mid-November, CWF President and CEO Gary Mar along with Perrin Beatty, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Mary Van Buren, Canadian Construction Association, and Chris Lorenc, Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, met with Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew to discuss trade and trade infrastructure. The next week found Gary in Saskatchewan where he met with Premier Scott Moe to discuss the multiple ways in which CWF work supports Saskatchewan's growth agenda.

Generating Interest

Electricity Systems Across the West: A Landscape Analysis, by Brendan Cooke and Marla Orenstein, drew significant interest from people across the West. Both Marla and CWF CEO Gary Mar gave public and private talks to industry and government stakeholders in Alberta, B.C. and Manitoba. Gary also spoke with executives at SaskPower.

Assessing the Indo-Pacific Strategy

In December, CWF partnered with the Institute for Peace and Diplomacy to co-host the Indo-Pacific Strategy Forum 2023 in Ottawa. Experts spoke to over 200 people about major defence and security challenges, the increasing role of security in Indo-Pacific trade, and the implementation of federal and provincial Indo-Pacific trade strategies. Watch our website for details on Indo-Pacific Forum 2024.

Optimizing Regulatory Systems

Both provincial and federal governments have been concerned about inefficient and sluggish approval processes for major projects. CWF has stepped in with analysis and advice. In August in Quebec City, Marla addressed federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Energy and Mines on recommendations for how to optimize regulatory systems to achieve clean and sustainable growth. In November, Marla organized a roundtable in Ottawa for high-level senior personnel from the Privy Council Office, the Impact Assessment Agency, the Canadian Energy Regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, DFO, NRCan and ECCC to discuss regulatory efficiency with highly experienced impact assessment practitioners. And Marla was invited to address the federal government's Ministerial Working Group on Regulatory Efficiency for Clean Growth Projects in December.

Hospitality – CWF Style

Word has spread like wildfire – Canada West Foundation excels at connecting visiting dignitaries with area businesspeople, industry and government. In 2023, we hosted events for Canada's Ambassadors to Mexico, Japan and Brazil. We also held events for the Head of the French Regional Economic Service for Canada, Canada's Indo-Pacific Trade Representative, the President and CEO of Export Development Canada, the British High Commissioner to Canada, and Australia's High Commissioner to Canada.

Goodness of Fit

In today's rapidly changing workplace, employers don't always have a true understanding of the skills they are looking for and candidates have trouble describing how and why they are a good fit. Janet Lane's report Matching People with Jobs and Jobs with People suggests moving to a competency-based system will alleviate the discrepancies and ensure people and jobs are better matched.