

31

OP-EDS

51

SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS

12

REPORTS

20

HOSTED
EVENTS

92

GOVERNMENT
BRIEFINGS

145

MEDIA
INTERVIEWS

2,731

MEDIA
MENTIONS

CWF 2023 Report Card

MARCH 2024

CANADAWEST
FOUNDATION

Good for Canada.
Good for the West.

Trade & Trade Infrastructure

TRADE

The West is a trade dependent region in a trade dependent country with transportation routes longer than our competitors. Our trade work focuses on identifying opportunities and strategies to mitigate challenges for Western Canadian exports.

In 2023

- We broadened our perspective on China to encompass the Indo-Pacific.

We briefed western ministers of trade and facilitated a meeting among them to discuss a western response to the federal Indo-Pacific Strategy.

We co-hosted with the Institute for Peace and Diplomacy (IPD) Canada's major Indo-Pacific conference, Indo-Pacific Strategy Forum 2023, in Ottawa. Close to 200 people listened to over 40 experts speak on crucial issues such as 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. The event was so successful that we are already making plans with the IPD and Asia Pacific Foundation to co-host the 2024 forum.

CWF advocated for a prairie-based Indo-Pacific Agriculture office to coordinate prairie efforts and work with the federal office based in Indonesia. A briefing for federal senior officials was also provided.

We hosted roundtable sessions in Edmonton and Calgary with Alberta's business community on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and Opportunities for Alberta's Minister of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Published 10 editions of the [China Brief](#) – expanded to include the Indo-Pacific.

- The "Trade Ahead" webinar series for exporters continued with one event focused on the Indo-Pacific and another on potential supply chain problems at border crossings.
- CWF hosted in-person 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.

- CWF published op-eds including [Memo to Trudeau, There's more than a business case to export energy to Japan](#) in the Calgary Herald, The Hill Times, Edmonton Journal, Winnipeg Sun and MSN; [Indo-Pacific reality check in Tsawwassen](#) in The Hill Times; [Biden's visit to Canada may mark beginning of long decline in relationship with U.S.](#) in the Financial Post; [Manitoba takes the lead](#) in the Winnipeg Free Press; and [Vancouver's Port, Canada's biggest, ranks nearly last in the world – this is a crisis](#) in the Globe and Mail.
- Ten issues of the [North America Brief](#) provided news and analysis of actions relevant to the West as our NAFTA partners both approach elections in 2024.

TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE

Trade infrastructure is critical to the West's competitiveness to get products and people where they need to go efficiently and reliably. It is also critical for import supply chains that supply the country. In the last year the Canada West Foundation was successful achieving impact with decision makers.

In 2023

- Our recommendation for a national trade infrastructure plan was unanimously supported by Canada's premiers at the [Council of the Federation \(CoF\)](#) meeting in July 2023. CWF's contribution was also included in the CoF's public communique summarizing results of the meeting. The trade infrastructure plan was developed with a coalition of stakeholders and framed in our 2022 report, [From Shovel Ready to Shovel Worthy: The Path to a National Trade Infrastructure Plan for the Next Generation of Economic Growth](#).

Prior to the July meeting, CWF advanced the plan with prairie Ministers of Transportation who adopted a Memorandum of Understanding [facilitated by the work of CWF](#). These ministers continue their work to advance strategic infrastructure and economic corridors across the Prairies.

Meetings were also held ahead of the Council of the Federal meeting with then Manitoba Premier Heather Stephanson, chair of the Council of the Federation, who got the plan on the agenda of the July CoF meeting. We then followed up with briefings for six premiers.

- The West's shortline equipment sector produces agricultural equipment uniquely adapted to the needs of prairie farmers. This industry, which is vital to the economies of rural communities on the Prairies, was threatened by digital locks on tractors and combines that prevented attachment of this equipment. Carlo Dade, Director of Trade and Trade Infrastructure, worked with the shortline industry to develop a solution which ultimately resulted in [Bill C-294, an Act to amend the Copyright Act \(Interoperability\)](#). He presented to the Standing Committee on Industry and Technology (INDU) in the fall of 2023. A 2024 [What Now briefing](#) provides the details.

Resources, Environment & Economy

The pursuit of decarbonization objectives without addressing other environmental and economic impacts harms the competitiveness of Canada's resource sector (including agriculture). We have what the world wants, and we can produce it sustainably and economically if given the chance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Economic growth and competitiveness require timely and robust project authorization processes. We have developed and are recommending policy changes that will streamline these processes. Our in-depth work on Bill C-69 provided us with the background to assess the Impact Assessment Act three years on.

In 2023

- Practical recommendations from two reports published in 2023 lead to invitations to brief federal ministers and senior officials on how to improve the assessment process in Canada. The reports, [Federal Impact Assessment Act Under Review: Measuring Progress on Projects and Timelines](#) and [Competitive Canada: Recommendations to improve federal assessment for major projects](#), provided clear evidence that the timelines envisioned by the Act were not achieved except in a rare case. We then provided clear and practical recommendations to improve the federal assessment process based on the experience of impact assessment practitioners. These reports caught the attention of ministers of resources across the country.

Marla Orenstein, CWF's Director of Resources, Environment and Economy, was invited by the government of Quebec to present to federal, provincial and territorial ministers of mines, resources and energy on why federal assessments take so long.

This was followed by an invitation by the federal government to facilitate a two-day meeting for impact assessment practitioners, senior officials (DMs) from all relevant departments, as well the PCO, PMO and Impact Assessment Agency on challenges and opportunities for improvement.

CWF also briefed the federal Ministerial Task Force on project approval – chaired by Ministers Jonathan Wilkinson and Seamus O'Regan.

- CWF presented at the World Petroleum Congress, provided backgrounders for the global LNG 2023 diplomatic forum and presented at 15 other events in the West, and in Ottawa and Toronto.
- We published the op-ed [Resource jurisdiction conflict in the courts again – but it's long from from over](#) in the Financial Post when the Supreme Court of Canada began hearings on the constitutionality of the Impact Assessment Act. That piece was followed with the op-ed [Round two of Canada's boxing match over emissions goes to the provinces](#) in the Globe and Mail following the Supreme Court's decision later in the year.

RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, LOW EMISSIONS ELECTRICITY

A key to robust growth is electricity systems that can meet future demand with electricity that is reliable, affordable and low emissions.

In 2023

- We released a report, [Electricity Systems Across Western Canada: A Landscape Analysis](#), which has had over 600 downloads – (not including the over 10,000 distributed directly electronically). This report provides background on the unique characteristics of the electricity systems of each province and demonstrates that the West is not a region amenable to a one size fits all electricity strategy. More work will follow in 2024.
- We presented on the electricity report at the fall board meeting of the Alberta Chambers of Commerce.
- An op-ed, [Alberta's electricity sector faces unique combination of challenges](#), was published in the Calgary Herald and Edmonton Journal.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES IN ENERGY

Canada West Foundation is working to advance policies that will enhance and advance planning and development to capitalize on emerging opportunities in energy.

In 2023

- CWF prepared a report, [CCUS as a tool for LNG Innovation](#), for the Global Gas Innovation Roundtable. This report examines four case studies to highlight the different features of CCUS along with the factors that can lead to success or failure.
- A backgrounder, *Fuelling a Secure Energy Future*, was prepared for the diplomatic forum that took place at the LNG 2023 conference in Vancouver. It reviewed global trends in LNG supply, demand and affordability in the context of energy security.
- A CWF webinar, [Can Canada provide clean, secure energy to meet demand in Japan and Korea?](#), featured experts on the ground in Japan and South Korea who offered an insider view on expanding markets and what they look for in a supplier. This webinar included introductory remarks by His Excellency Yamanouchi Kanji, Ambassador of Japan to Canada, and His Excellency Lim Woongsoon, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Canada. Panelists included speakers from the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC), the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan, the Americas Gas and LNG Research division of Wood Mackenzie, and Korea Gas Corporation (KOGAS). The answer was – YES!
- Two op-eds, [Memo to Trudeau: There's more than a business case to export energy to Japan](#) in the Calgary Herald, Edmonton Journal and MSN, and [The business, environmental, political, security and self-interest cases for energy exports to Japan](#) in the Hill Times, offered reasons to export LNG to Japan.
- Gary Mar testified on energy policy before [the Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources](#).
- Produced nine issues of the [Energy Innovation Brief](#) – highlighting developments in Western Canada and beyond, with special issues on AI, electricity storage, carbon fibre and others.

Skills, Innovation & Productivity

The ability to develop and attract the required workforce is a necessary competitive strength to keep our economy strong. Bridging the gap between people (students and workers), post-secondaries, employers and innovation is the key. A competency approach is that bridge.

COMPETENCIES AND FIRM-LEVEL ADOPTION OF INNOVATION

We continue to have people without jobs and jobs without people due, not only to technology changes and economic transformation, but also because our education and training programs, labour market information, and employers are poorly aligned.

In 2023

- We released Matching People with Jobs and Jobs with People – the competency-based framework to reduce the friction among employers, employees, post-secondaries and labour market information systems.
- We published op-eds on Canada’s worker shortage including Worker shortages in the construction sector: addressing the other supply chain issue in the Calgary Herald and More apprentices could solve Alberta’s skilled worker shortage in the Edmonton Journal.
- We also continued our talent attraction and retention work with the Government of Manitoba and Manitoba Chambers of Commerce. Primary and secondary research to be released in 2024 identifies who is staying, who is going and why, with a special emphasis on immigrants and indigenous Manitobans.
- We released the report The Case for Literacy in Alberta: Life is hard when you can’t read. The demand for literacy skills in the workplace continues to rise as individuals face new technologies, new work processes, more advanced machinery and changes to regulations – all of which demand good literacy levels. This report, funded by Calgary Reads and The Rotary Club of Calgary, presented solutions to increase literacy levels in Albertans across all-life stages.
- Following our report on literacy, we published two op-eds in the Calgary Herald: First we learn to read, then we read to learn and also Better readers make more productive workers.
- Published 11 issues of the Future of Work and Learning brief.

Fiscal Federalism

We continued to work as part of the Fiscal Federalism Policy Network which released two major papers, [The Road Ahead: Rethinking Fiscal Federalism for the 21st Century](#) and [Tax Point Transfers in Canada: An Historical Review and Key Considerations for the Future](#). The policy network is a group of academic experts and policy practitioners from a variety of disciplines across the country who research and write on fiscal reform among the federal, provincial and municipal governments within the framework of the Canadian Constitution. We contribute to the network, but do not produce reports for the network.

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