



From the Editor / L. Ian MacDonald

## Clean Energy

Welcome to our special issue on clean energy, a compelling public policy theme for Canada in which the environment and development are two sides of the same coin.

For openers, Greg Lyle of Innovative Research shares the results of an exclusive poll for *Policy* on Canadian public opinion on climate change. While eight in 10 Canadians are very or somewhat concerned about climate change, he writes that “it ranks well down the list of issues they regard as most important.” Canadians in various provinces also have decidedly mixed views on carbon taxes. They might be concerned about climate change, but not necessarily prepared to pay to do something about reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

From Clean Energy Canada, Dan Woy-nillowicz, Merran Smith and Clare Demerse provide an update on the shifting economics of clean energy. Citing Bloomberg’s *New Energy Finance*, they note that “more money was invested in clean energy in 2015—a record US\$329 billion—than in oil and gas (US\$321 billion).”

Citing the same Bloomberg study, Contributing Writer Dan Gagnier, former chair of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, writes: “Investment in innovation, clean technology and research is now a competitive issue.”

From the opposition front bench, Conservative natural resources critic Candice Bergen weighs in on the great Canadian pipeline debate, Canada’s other national sport. For her part, Green Party Leader Elizabeth May writes that “Human society is now at a tipping point of a massive transi-

tion away from fossil fuels. From Calgary, lawyer and former MLA Donna Kennedy-Glans has been taking the pulse of Albertans on climate change through ViewpointsAB.

Forest Products Association of Canada CEO Derek Nighbor writes: “By following climate-sensitive practices, properly managed forests can be a major contributor to an improved Canadian climate management system.”

From the electricity industry, ABB Canada President Nathalie Pilon writes: “By now it should be obvious that Canada’s goals for the economy and the environment are predicated on a fundamental change in our energy supply chain.”

From Canada’s nuclear industry, Canadian Nuclear Association President John Barrett notes the role of nuclear as the fourth cleanest renewable after hydro, tidal and wind. The main reason Ontario was able to close its coal-fired generating stations, he writes, “was that over 3,000 megawatts of nuclear power came back online to fill the clean energy gap.” Bruce Power is also investing \$25 billion to upgrade its Ontario system and its president, Kevin Kelly, writes: “Nuclear energy plays a critical role in meeting the energy and air quality needs in Ontario...”

VIA Rail President and CEO Yves Desjardins-Siciliano writes that passenger rail will have an important role in taking cars off the road: “Passenger trains are among the greenest ways to travel in terms of energy consumption.”

Turning to *Canada and the World*, we lead with extensive analysis of the NDP’s extraordinary Edmonton convention, in which it rejected leader Tom Mulcair and al-

lowed its policy agenda to be hijacked by the Leap Manifesto. Our Robin V. Sears, former national director of the NDP, writes of a party at a historic leadership and policy crossroads. Mulcair’s leadership was undone by the “risk aversion of the 2015 campaign.”

Former senior campaign adviser Brad Lavigne asks “Whither the NDP?” and columnist Don Newman says the party is going back to the future with the Leap crowd, turning the clock back 45 years to the Waffle movement.

From Regina, author and former columnist Dale Eisler dissects a provincial campaign in which Premier Brad Wall and his Saskatchewan party easily won its third consecutive majority, winning 51 out of 61 seats in the legislature and 62 per cent of the vote.

After the Paris and Brussels terror attacks and the massive migration of refugees into Europe, not to mention the UK’s Brexit referendum, Europe appears to be caught up in a perfect storm. Our lead foreign affairs writer Jeremy Kinsman asks whether Europe is too big to fail.

BMO Vice Chair Kevin Lynch worries about the new normal of low global growth and writes that increased business spending on R&D is imperative to the growth of Canada’s economy. “We have an innovation problem,” he writes. Veteran Liberal sage Patrick Gossage writes that a guaranteed annual income would be a very effective means of alleviating income inequality in Canada.

Finally, Geoff Norquay weighs in with a positive review of Susan Delacourt’s updated bestseller, *Shopping for Votes*, in which she tells how Justin Trudeau and the Liberals did it in the 2015 campaign. Great stuff. **P**