



From the Editor / L. Ian MacDonald

## Foreign Policy

Welcome to our special issue on Canadian foreign policy, in which we are partnering with the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

Since its founding by BlackBerry co-founder Jim Balsillie in 2001, CIGI has become Canada's pre-eminent think tank on foreign policy and international governance. Led by experienced foreign affairs hands and leading academics, CIGI advances real-world policy debate and ideas for improved multilateral governance outcomes. An outstanding group of writers from the CIGI circle has contributed informed and informative writing to our cover package on foreign policy.

To begin, pollster Darrell Bricker and his Ipsos colleague Sean Simpson note that foreign policy is rarely a top of mind concern with Canadians and an Ipsos ranking of public policy issues, taken just days before Canadians voted last October, bears this out. The economy, taxes and the desire for a change of government topped the list, while the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, the mission against ISIS and the Syrian refugee crisis all ranked near the bottom.

UBC professor and author Taylor Owen has a must-read piece on the enormous impact of the internet and its social, financial, criminal and political players on international power structures and the legacy institutions of global governance.

Derek Burney and Fen Osler Hampson examine the state of Canada-US relations during a presidential election season, and conclude that Canadians should fasten their seat belts for what looks like a bumpy ride no matter who wins the White House next November.

CIGI President Rohinton P. Medhora draws on his experience as a former executive at the International Development

Research Centre to offer historical context for the Trudeau government's foreign aid review.

Paul Heinbecker and Andrew S. Thompson look at the global refugee crisis and write that: "The world is struggling to cope with roughly 60 million refugees and displaced persons," approaching three per cent of the global population, an urgent humanitarian crisis.

Former CIBC chief economist Jeff Rubin, now an author and CIGI Senior Fellow, looks at the future of Canada's oil sands and says it was already precarious before the Fort McMurray wildfire due to both COP 21 emissions reduction targets and the crash in oil prices. For her part, Céline Bak examines climate change and innovation after COP 21.

Veteran trade policy analyst Dan Ciuriak considers the prospects for pending trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific trade deals and sees them running into heavy political headwinds. Thomas Bernes and Domenico Lombardi ask "Whither the G20?"

University of Waterloo Professor Hongying Wang looks at the relationship between Canada and China, and suggests the arrival of the Trudeau government presents an opportunity for turning the page, especially on trade.

In *Canada and the World*, Contributing Writer David McLaughlin takes us inside the Progressive Conservative campaign that swept Manitoba on April 19. McLaughlin served as campaign director for the Conservatives, who won 40 out of 57 seats in the Legislature, and tells how they did it.

By rare coincidence, both the federal Conservative and Liberal parties held policy conventions the last weekend in May. In Vancouver, Yaroslav Baran found the Tories in a surprisingly

upbeat mood, while in Winnipeg the Liberals took a victory lap. The concurrent conventions offered a striking role reversal in terms of open media coverage that reflected the Conservative and Liberal reversals of fortune. As Don Newman notes in his column: "Clearly, once a party is in government, it acts like a government. The simple fact is that if it didn't, it would be unlikely to be the government for very long."

Contributing Writer David Mitchell looks at the Liberal climb-down from stacking the special committee on parliamentary reform, and how resolving the deadlock over process may enhance the prospects for success on substance. From the University of Ottawa law faculty, court watcher and author Carissima Mathen follows the assisted dying bill from the House to the Senate, where it missed the June 6 deadline set by the Supreme Court for compliance with its decision of last year.

Finally, in a *Verbatim*, former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney takes a look at the US and Canadian political scenes and their possible impact on public policy. With the US presidential campaign bogged down in protectionism, and prospects for TPP approval "dim at best", he urges Canada to pursue bilateral trade agreements with our Pacific partners. He also calls for Prime Minister Trudeau's leadership in a nation-building project of building pipelines to tidewater and moving Canada's vast oil and gas resources to markets beyond the US. "He strikes me," Mulroney says, "as having the style, the interest and the political instinct to bring the premiers and the aboriginal leaders and environmentalists together."

Enjoy your summer. **P**