



# Policy

Canadian Politics and Public Policy

## Game Change

*Welcome to our special issue on the U.S. presidential election and what it means for Canada. On January 20, when Donald Trump becomes the 45th president of the United States, it will mark the beginning of a new era, one of considerable political uncertainty. Our exceptionally authoritative contributors walk you through the implications—in everything from politics, trade, climate change and security to polling—of America’s unprecedented election.*

### In this Issue:

- We begin with the heart of the matter. What kind of man is Donald Trump? In a [Q&A](#), *Policy* Editor L. Ian MacDonald puts that question to former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, a friend of Trump’s for more than a quarter century and his neighbour in Palm Beach. “Basically,” Mulroney said, “what you see with Donald is what you get.”
- Even before Trump won the election, there was no question that trade would be on the bilateral agenda if he prevailed. [John Weekes](#), former Canadian chief negotiator in the NAFTA talks, looks at Trump and trade issues. [Meredith Lilly](#), Simon Reisman professor at Carleton University, thinks Trump’s trade bark may be worse than his bite. But [Mike Coates](#), global vice chair of Hill & Knowlton, points out that Trump’s outsider status fits his style of disruptive leadership.
- Public Policy Forum President [Ed Greenspon](#) looks at a perfect storm of three Es—economics, education and echo chambers—that propelled Trump to victory in the Electoral College.
- How did the polls get the election so wrong? EKOS President [Frank Graves](#) says that the problem wasn’t so much the national polls as much as state polls, aggregators and predictions that completely missed the mark.
- Conservative Leader [Rona Ambrose](#) offers an opposition view on the incoming Trump administration’s potential to “massively impact Canada” on the three big challenges of “taxes, pipeline development and trade.”
- In a “Letter from America”, [Morgane Richer La Flèche](#) writes of a family Thanksgiving in Cleveland and crowds in front of Trump Tower in Manhattan.
- NDP MP [Nathan Cullen](#) spent the last 10 days of the campaign on the ground, from Louisiana to Ohio. “In the aftermath of the U.S. election, Canadians must avoid being smug,” he writes. “We’re the country of Rob Ford and a (proposed) barbaric practices snitch line, after all.”
- Former Clerk of the Privy Council [Kevin Lynch](#) and former Foreign Affairs ADM [George Haynal](#) write that in managing the Canada-U.S. relationship, “sophisticated risk management needs to be the order of the day as the Canadian government pursues its policy objectives.”
- From Washington, former Canadian diplomat [Paul Frazer](#) writes of the uncertainty of facing “a ringmaster president who acts and speaks on his own terms, and in his own time.”
- Conservative strategist and CBC political commentator [Jaime Watt](#) writes that Trudeau and Trump “have very different policy goals” but “whether they like it or not, they will be forced to work together on certain key bilateral issues.”
- Contributing Writer [Jeremy Kinsman](#) considers the impact of fake news and concludes that the “internet utopia is over.”
- [Yaroslav Baran](#) writes that the other big winner in the election was Russian President Vladimir Putin, who stands to be the beneficiary of Trump’s ambivalence on NATO, as well as changes to the world order that could prove irreversible.
- [Robin Sears](#) writes that Trump succeeded as the candidate of change, but that chance also played a role, as is often the case in history.
- In a column, our associate editor and former Sun Media Washington bureau chief [Lisa Van Dusen](#) offers her take on how to make the radical bilateral adjustment from Obama to Trump.
- From Clean Energy Canada, [Dan Woynillowicz](#) and [Merran Smith](#) suggest that Trump, as a businessman, will be on board with the quantum growth of solar and other renewables.
- To conclude our Trump cover package, [Don Newman](#) reminds us that he accurately called the election in September *Policy* column but that a part of him wishes he’d been wrong.
- In *Canada and the World*, long-time senior bureaucrat [Richard Dicerni](#) offers an affectionate tribute to Jim Prentice. “He proved that politics can be an honourable profession,” Dicerni writes.
- In a *Verbatim*, Google Canada’s [Sam Sebastian](#) looks at Canada’s potential as an innovation nation. “In the next 10 to 20 years,” Sebastian predicts, “every Canadian company will become a technology company.”
- Finally, we offer reviews of two important Canadian books. [Anthony Wilson-Smith](#) reviews Charles Bronfman’s autobiography, *Distilled*, and marvels at his exceptionally rich life. And [Geoff Norquay](#) gives two thumbs-up to John Laschinger and Geoffrey Stevens for *Campaign Confessions*, a memoir of a life in election war rooms.

*Enjoy the issue and Happy New Year!*