



Policy

Canadian Politics and Public Policy

Budget 2017

*Welcome to our annual issue on the federal budget. On March 22, Finance Minister Bill Morneau delivered the Liberal government's second budget, *Building a Strong Middle Class*. Innovation was supposed to be the theme of the budget, but in funding terms, it remains a work in progress, which makes the timing for our next issue—a package on innovation produced in partnership with the Rideau Hall Foundation on innovation—perfect. Watch for it May 1st.*

In this Issue:

- We have a breakdown and detailed analysis of the budget from BMO Financial Group Chief Economist [Douglas Porter](#) and his colleague [Robert Kavcic](#).
- [Jack Mintz](#), one of Canada's leading economic authorities, shares his take on innovation and other budget themes. And Conservative Finance critic [Gérard Deltell](#) offers an opposition critique on a budget that projects no path to balance.
- Contributing Writer [Geoff Norquay](#), a veteran of many Ottawa and Ontario budgets, takes us on a journey through the budgetary process, which isn't a sprint but a marathon.
- And columnist [Don Newman](#), a close observer of budgetary mood swings over more than four decades, offers his take on the second Liberal budget.
- In *Canada and the World*, Contributing writer and former Maclean's Moscow bureau chief [Anthony Wilson-Smith](#) looks at a Russia currently punching above its weight in global disruption.
- Our lead foreign affairs writer, [Jeremy Kinsman](#), looks at the train wrecks of Brexit and Trump, and wonders what else lies ahead this year with important elections still to come in France and Germany.
- Contributing writer [Robin Sears](#) shares his sense of the mood of America under Donald Trump, from the cocktail crowd of New York to the beaches of the Florida Panhandle.
- BMO Vice Chair [Kevin Lynch](#), a former clerk of the Privy Council, brings us his annual reflections on the World Economic Forum's gathering of global thought leaders in Davos.
- [Michael Bourque](#), president of the Railway Association of Canada, writes that rail is a sustainable solution to transporting Canadian commodities to global markets.
- [Erin Kelly](#), CEO of Advanced Symbolics in Ottawa, describes how social media sampling enabled by artificial intelligence may be the solution to the polling problem. Brexit and Trump are case studies.
- In a Verbatim, former Prime Minister [Brian Mulroney](#) looks at trade and Trump's demand for a renegotiation of NAFTA and says it's time for a generous phasing out of Canada's supply management system in dairy and poultry.
- Finally, we offer a column with a millennial perspective from [Morgane Richer La Flèche](#). Enjoy.

Enjoy the issue!