



Policy

Canadian Politics and Public Policy

Innovation

Welcome to our special issue on innovation in Canada, which we have produced in partnership with the Rideau Hall Foundation, a non-political charity established by Governor General David Johnston in 2012 “to mobilize ideas, people, and resources across the country to tap into our national spirit and help realize our shared aspirations.” This issue gathers some of Canada’s most ingenious and dynamic innovators, policy makers and visionaries addressing what it will take to fulfill the Trudeau government’s mission to make this an innovation nation.

In this Issue:

- Now nearing the end of his tenure at Rideau Hall, Governor General [David Johnston](#) shares his thoughts in a guest column on innovation. One of his legacies is the creation of the Governor General’s Innovation Awards, established in 2016.
- Then we have a [Q&A](#) with Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains, the Trudeau government’s lead minister on the innovation file. He was both thoughtful and thought-provoking about the opportunities and imperatives for Canadian leadership on innovation.
- [Dominic Barton](#), Global Managing Partner of McKinsey & Company and chair of the government’s Advisory Council on Economic Growth, which released its first report and recommendations in February, writes that Canada needs to invest heavily in skills training for workers, attract the world’s top talent, and create innovation marketplaces in key sectors and technologies.
- BMO Vice-Chair [Kevin Lynch](#), a former clerk of the Privy Council, writes about innovation policy in an era of global disruption. Lynch says that Canada needs to raise its game in business R&D and innovation—from “reasonably good” to “globally great”—and rapidly, to build Canadian competitiveness.
- Linamar CEO [Linda Hasenfratz](#) provides the example of her company, Canada’s second-largest auto parts manufacturer, whose products seamlessly cross the Canada-US border several times in North American auto assembly.
- [Sean Finn](#), Executive VP of CN, writes of a culture of innovation and safety at one of the most mature industries going—railroads. CN is the largest railway in North America.
- [Nathalie Pilon](#), CEO of ABB Canada, writes about innovation and sustainable energy in the electricity space.
- [Geoffrey Holmes](#) and [Jean-François Béland](#) of Carbon Engineering write of capturing carbon directly from the atmosphere and turning it into fuel using technology.
- President and CEO of Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) [Mary Ackenhusen](#) provides an excellent window on innovation in healthcare.
- [Mike Katchen](#), CEO of Wealthsimple, asks how we build an innovative economy, and says it’s not by picking winners, but by supporting them once they’ve won.
- From business to social innovation, [Paul Klein](#) of HireUp and [Tim Draimin](#) of Social Innovation Generation propose a 10-point plan for unleashing Canada’s capacity for good.
- [Ian Klugman](#), CEO of Communitech, writes of building innovation-based ecosystems.
- [Sarah Prevette](#), founder of Future Design School, writes that innovation begins in the classroom by introducing the qualities of entrepreneurship in school.
- At the degree-granting end of the education system, McGill Principal [Suzanne Fortier](#) shares her thoughts on the crucial role of universities in innovation.
- [Breanne Everett](#), a winner of the Governor General’s Innovation Award in 2016, writes of a personal journey from her medical residency to co-founding Orpyx, a business built on her invention of a foot sensor that provides information to diabetics.
- Finally, columnist [Don Newman](#) reflects on the innovation revolution in the news media over the last quarter century and more.

Enjoy the issue!