

# Quarterly Report to Members, Subscribers and Friends

*First Quarter, 2019*



INSTITUT C.D. HOWE INSTITUTE

*Essential Policy Intelligence | Conseils indispensables sur les politiques*

## *Q1 Highlights: Impactful Policy Research & Outreach*

### ***Q1 Research***

- ❖ **14** research papers
- ❖ **2** Monetary Policy Council releases

### ***Q1 Policy Events***

- ❖ **12** policy events and special meetings, including:
  - ❖ Toronto Roundtable – The Honourable John McCallum, Ambassador of Canada to the People’s Republic of China
  - ❖ Calgary Roundtable – Chris Bloomer, Sheila Leggett and Grant Sprague
- ❖ **11** *Inside Access* conference calls featuring the authors of Institute research summarizing their work

### ***Policy Outreach in Q1***

- ❖ **178,805** website page views
- ❖ **10** policy outreach presentations
- ❖ **52** *National Post* and *The Globe and Mail* citations
- ❖ Citations in more than **800** media outlets
- ❖ **39** media interviews
- ❖ **10** opinion and editorial pieces
- ❖ **55** Intelligence Memos

### **Intelligence Memo “[Jeremy M. Kronick – What to do about housing?](#)” by Jeremy M. Kronick**

- ❖ Instead of demand-side measures that had been touted to promote housing accessibility, such as extending the mortgage amortization period - which the Institute had warned against - the 2019 federal budget took moves toward supply-side measures, an orientation emphasized in Institute research.

### **E-Brief “[Who Loses Most? The Impact of Taxes and Transfers on Retirement Incomes](#)” by Alexandre Laurin and Finn Poschmann**

- ❖ Federal budget 2019 would increase amount seniors can earn before Guaranteed Income Supplement is clawed back to \$5,000 from \$3,500.

### **Commentary “[Blown Budgets: Canada’s Senior Governments Need Better Fiscal Controls](#)” by William B.P. Robson and Farah Omran**

- ❖ The 2019 federal budget includes a reconciliation of the budget with the end of year financial statement.

### **E-Brief “[Talkin’ ’Bout My Generation: More Educated but Less Skilled Canadians](#)” by Parisa Mahboubi**

- ❖ Federal budget 2019 focuses on skills development among adults, creates Canada Training Benefit, which is available for Canadians aged 25-64.

### **E-Brief “[Headed for the Poorhouse: How to Ensure Seniors Don’t Run Out of Cash before they Run Out of Time](#)” by Bonnie-Jeanne Macdonald**

- ❖ Federal budget 2019 introduces Variable Payment Life Annuities.

**Commentary: “[Blown Budgets: Canada’s Senior Governments Need Better Fiscal Controls](#)” by William B.P. Robson and Farah Omran**

- ❖ Ontario's 2018 Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements adopts public sector accounting standards and devotes section to Institute fiscal accountability grades.

**Commentary: “[Small Business Preferences as a Barrier to Growth: Not so Tall After All](#)” by Ben Dachis and John Lester**

- ❖ Federal budget eliminates income limit on eligibility for 35% SR&ED Credit.

**Commentary: “[Making the Money Last: The Case for Offering Pure Longevity Insurance to Retiring Canadians](#)” by Don Ezra**

- ❖ Federal budget introduces Advanced Life Deferred Annuities.

**Commentary: “[What to Do about Canada's Declining Math Scores](#)” by Anna Stokke**

- ❖ Ontario government to scrap Discovery Math.

**Commentary: “[High Drug Prices, Big R&D Spenders and "Free Riders": Canada in the Topsy Turvey World of Pharmaceutical](#)” by Rosalie Wyonch**

- ❖ Government will create new arm's length national agency to assess the effectiveness of new prescription drugs and negotiate prices on behalf of Canada’s drug plans.

**Intelligence Memo: “[Canada’s Food Guide: Building on Shaky Foundations](#)” by Rosalie Wyonch**

- ❖ Government of Canada scrapped the outdated Canada Food Guide and replaced it with an updated version.

1. [The Evolving Wealth of Canadians Approaching Retirement](#), March 28, 2019 – Bob Baldwin
2. [Next-Gen Financial Advice: Digital Innovation and Canada’s Policymakers](#), March 21, 2019 – Chuck Grace
3. [Tax Policy Next to the Elephant: Business Tax Reform in the Wake of the US Cuts and Jobs Act](#), March 14, 2019 - Kenneth McKenzie, Michael Smart
4. [Measuring and Managing the Unknown: Methane Emissions form the Oil and Gas Value Chain](#), March 7, 2019 – Sarah Marie Jordaan, Kate Konschnik
5. [Entrepreneurial Finance and Economic Growth: A Canadian Overview](#), February 28, 2019 – Pierre Lortie
6. [Health and Grades: Nutrition Programs for Kids in Canada](#), February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Rosalie Wyonch, Abby Sullivan
7. [High Drug Prices, Big R&D Spenders and “Free Riders”’: Canada in the Topsy Turvy World of Pharmaceuticals](#), February 26, 2019 – Åke Blomqvist, Rosalie Wyonch
8. [A Crisis of Our Own Making: Prospects for Major Natural Resource Projects in Canada](#), February 21, 2019 – Grant Bishop, Grant Sprague

9. [What the Doctor Ordered: Improving the Use and Value of Laboratory Testing](#), February 14, 2019 – Christopher Naugler, Rosalie Wyonch
10. [Less Debt, More Growth: A Shadow Federal Budget for 2019](#), February 7, 2019 – William B.P. Robson, Farah Omran
11. [Managing Uncertainty: The Search for a Golden Discount-Rate Rule for Defined-Benefit Pensions](#), January 31, 2019 – Stuart Landon, Constance Smith
12. [Intergenerational Fairness: Will Our Kids Live Better than We Do?](#) January 24, 2019 – Parisa Mahboubi
13. [Dammed if You Do: How Sunk Costs Are Dragging Canadian Electricity Ratepayers Underwater](#), January 17, 2019 – A.J. Goulding
14. [Mothers at Work: The Fiscal Implications of the Proposed Ontario Childcare Rebate](#), January 10, 2019 – Jacob Kim, Alexandre Laurin

## *Our Website's Five Most-Visited Publications in Q1*

1. [A Crisis of Our Own Making: Prospects for Major Natural Resource Projects in Canada](#), February 21, 2019 – Grant Bishop, Grant Sprague
2. [Dammed If You Do: How Sunk Costs Are Dragging Canadian Electricity Ratepayers Underwater](#), January 17, 2019 – A.J. Goulding
3. [Managing Uncertainty: The Search for a Golden Discount-Rate Rule for Defined-Benefit Pensions](#), January 31, 2019 – Stuart Landon, Constance Smith
4. [Intergenerational Fairness: Will Our Kids Live Better than We Do?](#) January 24, 2019 – Parisa Mahboubi
5. [What the Doctor Ordered: Improving the Use and Value of Laboratory Testing](#), February 14, 2019 – Christopher Naugler, Rosalie Wyonch

### *January Op-Eds*

- ❖ [Why Ontario should hold a second cannabis retail lottery](#) – Globe and Mail Op-Ed, January 28
- ❖ [EI eligibility requirements need to be reconsidered with part-timers in mind](#) – Globe and Mail Op-Ed, January 17
- ❖ [Doug Ford can end ‘hallway medicine’ by letting health-care providers actually compete](#) – Financial Post Op-Ed

### *February Op-Eds*

- ❖ [Hold the panic: Maybe Canadians aren’t facing a debt insolvency crisis after all](#) – Financial Post Op-Ed, February 8
- ❖ [Who’s afraid of open banking?](#) – Globe and Mail Op-Ed, February 12
- ❖ [Canada’s youngest generations bear the largest tax burden](#) – Globe and Mail Op-Ed, February 20
- ❖ [The flawed Bill C-69 will worsen, rather than solve the crisis in Canada’s resources sector](#) – Globe and Mail Op-Ed, February 25

### *March Op-Eds*

- ❖ [NAFTA investment sun may be setting](#) – Globe and Mail Op-Ed, March 4
- ❖ [The end of China’s growth miracle](#) – Globe and Mail Op-Ed, Mar 4
- ❖ [Federal budget 2019: On Pharmacare, the Liberals offer big questions and small investments](#) – Globe and Mail Op-Ed, March 19
- ❖ [Ottawa flings the big bucks in one direction while grabbing for loose change in the other](#) – Globe and Mail Op-Ed, March 22



### January Intelligence Memos

1. [Jon Johnson – Does the USMCA Comply with WTO Requirements?](#) January 2, 2019
2. [Ambler, Kronick - Monetary Policy in a Low-Interest-Rate, Low-Inflation World](#), January 3, 2019
3. [Daniel Schwanen - Welcome to the CPTPP – Year 2](#), January 4, 2019
4. [Åke Blomqvist - Ontario needs a new approach to medicare, not binding arbitration for doctors](#), January 7, 2019
5. [Jon Johnson - December 19 Hearing in Constitutional Challenge to Section 232](#), January 8, 2019
6. [Robson, Kronick - Money Growth in Canada is Ominously Weak](#), January 9, 2019
7. [James Mancini - Market studies: Time for Canada’s Competition Policy Framework to Catch Up](#), January 10, 2019
8. [Schwanen, Wyonch - The Three Cs, Why We Don’t Get that Flu Shot](#), January 11, 2019
9. [William B.P. Robson - Canada’s Cities are Richer than We Think](#), January 14, 2019
10. [Maria Carvalho - Carbon Taxes Need Not Hurt the Middle Class to be Effective](#), January 15, 2019
11. [Alexandre Laurin - Ottawa Wins from Ontario’s Proposed Childcare Rebate](#), January 16, 2019
12. [Jon Johnson – The United States Reciprocal Trade Act](#), January 17, 2019
13. [Ambler, Kronick - Central Bank Independence Remains Important](#), January 18, 2019
14. [Will Falk - Hallway Medicine and Value-based Funding](#), January 21, 2019
15. [Parisa Mahboubi - Regional unemployment points to the need for reforms in Employment Insurance](#), January 22, 2019
16. [Blomqvist, Wyonch - Pharmacare and Politics](#), January 24, 2019
17. [John Gruetzner - A Blueprint for China Engagement](#), January 25, 2019
18. [Denis Meunier - Why is Canada Still the World’s Money Laundering Pawn?](#), January 28, 2019
19. [Jon Johnson - Another bad US trade idea marches forward](#), January 29, 2019
20. [Irvine, Wyonch - Moving Ontario’s Cannabis Retail Plan from Good to Great](#), January 31, 2019

### ***February Intelligence Memos***

1. [Glen Hodgson - Four \(Macroeconomic\) Reasons to Worry](#), February 1, 2019
2. [Landon, Smith - Discount Rates Matter and Here's Why](#), February 4, 2019
3. [Dyer, Ragan, Shaffer - After Redwater, Environmental Cleanup Risks Remain](#), February 5, 2019
4. [Parisa Mahboubi - Talking about the Generations](#), February 6, 2019
5. [William B.P. Robson - Canada's Exchange Rate: No Fear of Floating](#), February 7, 2019
6. [Robson, Laurin - Tax Relief for the 2019 Federal Budget](#), February 11, 2019
7. [Robson, Laurin - Moving Forward with Regulatory Reform](#), February 12, 2019
8. [Robson, Laurin - Measuring Education and Reforming EI](#), February 13, 2019
9. [Ambler, Kronick – What to Make of Rising Consumer Insolvency](#), February 14, 2019
10. [William B.P. Robson - Legislating fiscal accountability & transparency – what might work?](#) February 15, 2019
11. [Koepl, Kronick - Three Questions About Open Banking](#), February 19, 2019
12. [Alejandro Adem - Future Skills, Future Work](#), February 20, 2019
13. [Jon Johnson - US Approval of the new NAFTA – Pitfalls?](#) February 21, 2019
14. [Grant Bishop - Ottawa needs a Plan B if courts find only it can regulate GHGs](#), February 22, 2019
15. [William B.P. Robson and Farah Omran - Fiscal Transparency: How the Federal Government Can Get an A+](#), February 25, 2019
16. [Randy V. Bauslaugh - End Discrimination against Non-Union Workplaces](#), February 26, 2019
17. [Åke Blomqvist - Hallway Medicine vs Two-Tier Medicine: The Canadian Dilemma](#), February 26, 2019
18. [Grant Bishop - Federal cabinet must get TMX right this time](#), February 27, 2019

### March Intelligence Memos.

1. [Åke Blomqvist and Rosalie Wyonch - Is Canada a Free-Rider on Pharmaceutical R&D in the US?](#) March 1, 2019
2. [A.J. Goulding - Sunk Costs Are Dragging Canadian Electricity Ratepayers Underwater](#), March 4, 2019
3. [Naugler, Wyonch - How to Improve the Use and Value of Laboratory Testing](#), March 5, 2019
4. [Konrad W. von Finckenstein - Direction to CRTC Re: Competition](#), March 6, 2019
5. [Fortin, Sullivan - Earnings Inequality and the Gender Pay Gap in Canada](#), March 7, 2019
6. [Tammy Schirle - The varying size of the gender pay gap](#), March 8, 2019
7. [William B.P. Robson - You Need Better Tools to Compete](#), March 11, 2019
8. [Lawrence Herman - On Investor-State Disputes, NAFTA Can't End Too Soon](#), March 12, 2019
9. [Jeremy M. Kronick - What to do about housing?](#) March 13, 2019
10. [William B.P. Robson - Toronto's Farcical Budget Cycle – Around We Go Again](#), March 14, 2019
11. [David Johnson - Class size and student outcomes: a mystery yet to be resolved](#), March 15, 2019
12. [Nick Pantaleo - It's Time to End Over-Taxation of Lump Sum Pension Payouts](#), March 19, 2019
13. [Glen Hodgson - A Pre-Election Budget with Limited Economic Consequences](#), March 20, 2019
14. [Don Ezra - Some welcome steps towards longevity insurance](#), March 21, 2019
15. [Ambler, Kronick - The softer outlook for inflation](#), March 22, 2019
16. [Alexandre Laurin - The Good, the Bad and the Bottom Line](#), March 25, 2019
17. [Jeremy M. Kronick - Are shared mortgages the fix?](#) March 26, 2019
18. [Omran, Robson - Spending without Authorization – Did You See a Budget Yet?](#) March 26, 2019
19. [William B.P. Robson - Ottawa Flings the Big Bucks While Grabbing for the Loose Change](#), March 27, 2019
20. [Fenner Stewart - Supreme Court decision in Redwater was the right result but does not solve Alberta's orphan well problem](#), March 28, 2019
21. [William B.P. Robson - The Struggle to Grow Canada's National Wealth](#), March 29, 2019

## *Q1 Member Events & Special Meetings*

1. China's Economic Outlook and its Implications for Canada and the World – Roundtable Luncheon with John McCallum, January 21, 2019
2. Mental Health Services in a Digital Age – Roundtable Luncheon with Michael Green, Karim Mamdani, and Katherine Hay, January 22, 2019
3. Canada's Domestic Stability Buffer: Swimming Against the Tide – Roundtable Luncheon with Jamey Hubbs, January 23, 2019
4. Growing the Public Purpose: The Future of Public Fund Investing – Roundtable Luncheon with Bert Clark, January 31, 2019
5. Non-Financial Risk and Operational Resilience: The Rise of Machines – Roundtable Luncheon with Ben Gully, February 7, 2019
6. Building a Nation of Innovators – Roundtable Luncheon with The Hon. Navdeep Bains, February 12, 2019
7. Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness: Tackling the Red Tape Challenge – Roundtable Luncheon with The Hon. Todd Smith, February 25, 2019

## *Q1 Member Events & Special Meetings*

8. Impact Investing: The Opportunity for Corporations, Government and Philanthropists – Roundtable with Malcolm Burrows, Adam Jagelewski, and Bill Young, February 26, 2019
9. Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister, Health Canada – Roundtable Luncheon, March 5, 2019
10. What's at Stake? The Challenges Facing Resource-Sector Investment in Canada – Roundtable Luncheon with Chris Bloomer, Sheila Leggett, and Grant Sprague, March 13, 2019
11. Post-Budget Briefing – Roundtable Luncheon with Paul Rochon, March 21, 2019
12. Building Financial Resilience: CDIC's Role in Promoting Confidence in Canada's Financial System – Roundtable Luncheon with Peter Routledge, March 26, 2019
13. Working Together for Canada's Economic Future – Roundtable Luncheon with Goldy Hyder, March 28, 2019

# Q1 Selected Media Coverage

## NATIONAL

NATIONAL POST

THE GLOBE AND MAIL



iPOLITICS

CTV NEWS

VICE

THE HUFFINGTON POST  
CANADA

## ONTARIO

OTTAWA  
CITIZEN

TORONTO STAR

WINDSOR STAR

THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR



## Q1 Selected Media Coverage

WESTERN

EDMONTON  
JOURNAL

CALGARY  
HERALD

THE VANCOUVER SUN

QUEBEC



LE DEVOIR

L'actualité



TVA



## *Q1 Policy Outreach by Institute Staff*

1. *Grant Bishop* was consulted by the National Energy Board on the optimization of pipeline allocation – Calgary, January 10
2. *Jeremy Kronick* took part in a Q&A session with the Federal Department of Finance on the subject of Open Banking – Toronto, January 30
3. *Alexandre Laurin* delivered a tax policy lecture for the Master's program at the School of Public Policy & Governance at the University of Toronto – Toronto, Feb 7, 2019
4. *Jeremy Kronick* was interviewed by the IMF as part of their 2019 Financial Sector Assessment Program for Canada – Toronto, February 12
5. *Grant Bishop* discussed policy priorities and research initiatives on energy and environment with Environment and Climate Change Canada – Teleconference, February 12
6. *Parisa Mahboubi* was invited by the Office of the Minister of Labour to take part in a workshop on the future of work – Toronto, February 12
7. *Grant Bishop* delivered keynote speech on "Today's Crossroads for Canadian Energy" for informal "breakfast club" at Calgary Petroleum Club comprised of Calgary senior executives and community leaders – Calgary, February 20
8. *Bill Robson* presented on Canada's Future Population at the Massey College Walter Gordon Symposium – Toronto, March 1
9. *Bill Robson* was part of a group of economists invited to meet with Ontario Minister of Finance Vic Fedeli to discuss economic challenges facing Ontario and priorities for the 2019 budget – Toronto, March 4



## *Q1 Policy Outreach by Institute Staff*

10. *Bill Robson* presented to the Rotary Club of North Scarborough on the C.D. Howe Institute's annual municipal budget report card – Toronto, March 6
11. *Jeremy Kronick* gave a guest lecture at the University of Toronto's Masters in Financial Economics program on the causes of missing inflation since the Great Recession – Toronto, March 6
12. *Daniel Schwanen* delivered a lecture to 4<sup>th</sup> year economics students at Guelph University students on the topic "What is a Good Trade Agreement?" – Guelph, March 11
13. *Daniel Schwanen* and *Farah Omran* presented the main conclusions of *A Roadmap to Municipal Reform* to officials and staff of the Ontario Public Service – Toronto, March 16
14. *Grant Bishop* gave the keynote presentation at the Annual General Meeting of the Electricity Distributors Association – Toronto, March 25
15. *Grant Bishop* met with Australian Trade and Investment Representative to discuss the Canadian-Australian perspective on the resource sector – Toronto, March 25
16. *Rosalie Wyonch* was invited by the Brookfield Institute to take part in a workshop on employment in 2030 – Toronto, March 26
17. *Rosalie Wyonch* was consulted for the initial report of the Future Skills Council – Toronto, March 29

## *Academics Using the Institute's Research in Their Courses*

1. *John Richards*, Professor, School of Public Policy, **Simon Fraser University**
2. *Carolyn Tuohy*, Professor Emeritus, School of Public Policy & Governance, **University of Toronto**
3. *Ian Irvine*, Professor, Economics, **Concordia University**
4. *Paul Jenkins*, Senior Distinguished Fellow, Faculty of Public Affairs, **Carleton University**
5. *Jonathan Rhys Kesselman*, Professor, School of Public Policy, **Simon Fraser University**
6. *Kevin Milligan*, Professor, Vancouver School of Economics, **University of British Columbia**
7. *Ugurhan Berkok*, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, **Wilfrid Laurier University**
8. *Pierre Siklos*, Professor, Department of Economics, **Wilfrid Laurier University**
9. *Zachary Spicer*, Assistant Professor, **Brock University**
10. *William Watson*, Professor, Department of Economics, **McGill University**
11. *Jim Davies*, Professor, Department of Economics, **Western University**
12. *Patrick Fafard*, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, **University of Ottawa**
13. *Joerg Wittenbrinck*, Lecturer, **Ryerson University**

### **Institute Staff Teaching Positions**

1. *Bill Robson* teaches public finance at the **School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto**

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- The C.D. Howe Institute is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that aims to improve Canadians' standard of living by fostering sound economic and social policy.
- It is Canada's most trusted source of essential policy intelligence: its rigorously refereed work is evidence-based, timely, constructive, and authoritative.
- It has an established public policy track record: its work helped lay the foundation for such key initiatives as continental free trade, inflation control, balanced budgets, more sustainable pensions, lower tax rates, and immigration reform.
- The Institute's nationwide activities include regular policy roundtables and presentations by policy staff in major centres, as well as before parliamentary committees.
- The Institute's individual and corporate supporters are drawn from business, universities, the public service and the professions across Canada.
- The Chairman of the Institute is [Hugh MacKinnon](#), Chairman & CEO of Bennett Jones; [William B.P. Robson](#) is President & CEO.
- For more information about the Institute, please visit its website: [www.cdhowe.org](http://www.cdhowe.org)