



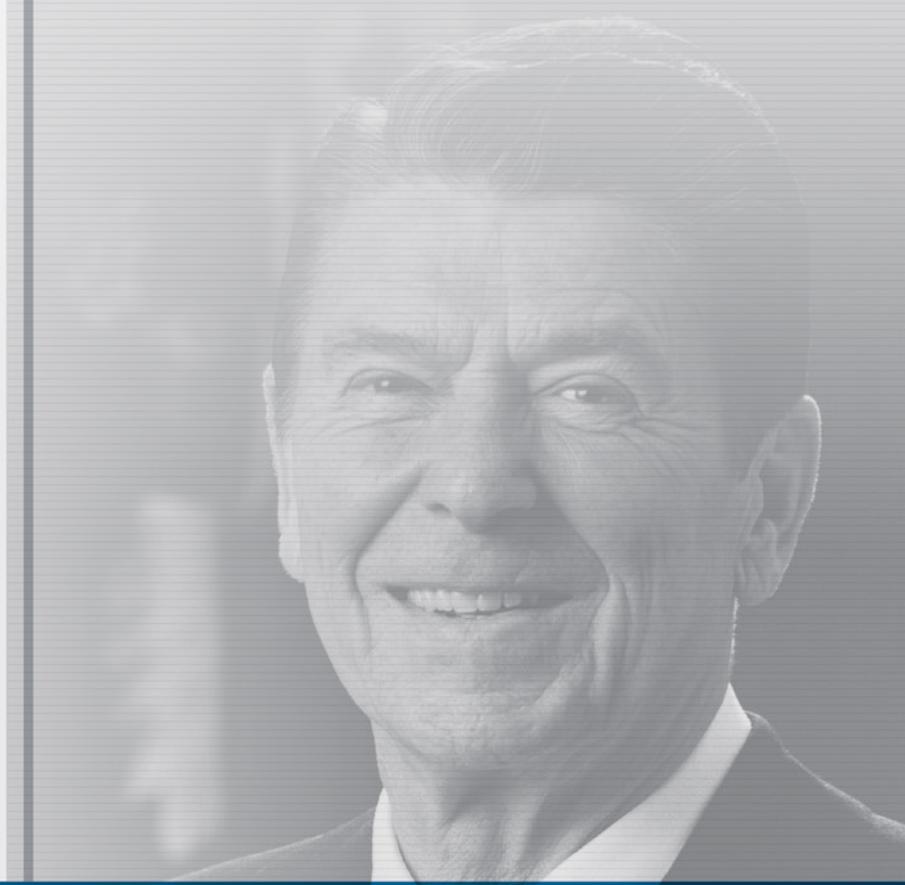
# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## TWENTY YEARS OF PROMOTING BETTER PUBLIC POLICIES

“ The basic economic problem with trade protectionism is that it is a political intervention that distorts markets. One political intervention leads to another, and the cumulative consequence is higher prices, less investment and slower economic growth. ”

# WSJ

*Editorial, April 7, 2018*



Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

Ronald Reagan

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Hélène Desmarais

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\* Mr. Brenner was a member of the Board until January 2019.

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President and CEO



**MATHIEU BÉDARD**  
Economist



**GERMAIN BELZILE**  
Senior Associate Researcher,  
Current Affairs



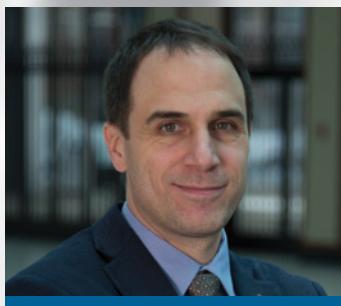
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**DANIEL DUFORT**  
Director, External Affairs



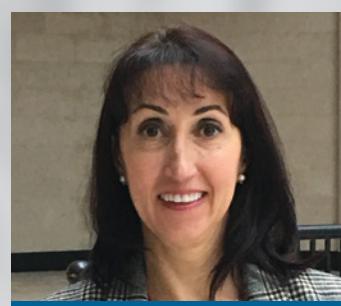
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Vice President of Operations



**ALEXANDRE MOREAU**  
Public Policy Analyst



**AVI SOKOLOVA**  
Administration and  
Operations Coordinator

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

# HÉLÈNE DESMARAIS



Twenty years ago, in 1998, the Montreal Economic Institute obtained its charitable status from Revenue Canada. In the months that followed the securing of this status, Michel Kelly-Gagnon was hired as Director, and the MEI obtained start-up funding. The organization was thus able to start its activities in earnest.

As we all know, Michel and the MEI's other pioneers, Adrien Pouliot among them, had to surmount major challenges two decades ago when they set out to establish a beachhead for wealth-creating ideas in Quebec. It's an understatement to say that Michel and his team have enjoyed a resounding success. The MEI would not be what it is today without the contributions of its numerous donors, employees, members of the Board of Directors, friends, and advisors over the years.

I joined the MEI's Board of Directors in 2002, and for more than eleven years now, I have had the privilege of chairing it. I have thus seen this organization take root in the Quebec media landscape, and then across Canada, and I have seen it grow substantially.

After two decades, the MEI is an organization with fourteen employees and an annual budget of just over \$3 million. Its reach is now solidly pan-Canadian, and even international in certain respects due to its involvement in some debates in the United States in which Canada can be a source of inspiration, and also through the training and mentoring support our President and CEO lends to young think tanks around the world. This growing reach and the resulting recognition are moreover directly related to the leadership role that Michel plays within the free-market movement in general. They lead to very concrete benefits for the Institute, allowing it among other things to attract donations from foundations with global mandates based outside the country.



With over ten thousand media mentions in 2018—which is an average of more than 27 mentions per day—as well as a growing presence on social media, our firepower and our impact on public debates are undeniable. No other organization of its kind in Quebec comes close to the MEI’s level of participation in public debates and influence on those debates.

Public policy think tanks play an important role in stimulating societal debates and educating the general public and decision-makers about significant economic facts and about the fundamental principles underlying the proper functioning of markets.

The MEI’s mission is to foster an understanding of market mechanisms in order to usefully contribute to the implementation of better public policies. Over the years, we have worked on topics in a whole range of areas, like health care, education, public finances, energy policies, regulation, free trade, and many others.

Clearly, the MEI’s first 20 years have been very successful. The Institute is proud of its past, but it is resolutely turned toward the future. The MEI’s recent growth, as well as our ambitious plans for the organization, will ensure its flourishing in the years to come.

It is in this context that we need, more than ever, your renewed support. Because more than ever, the ideas that we share need to find an echo across the country. And the MEI is perfectly positioned to accomplish this inspiring goal.

*Hélène Desmarais*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

# MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON



In 1998, when hardly anyone among the intellectual and political class in Quebec was openly advocating an approach based on market principles and entrepreneurship, the Montreal Economic Institute took on the mission of spreading these ideas, knowing that a non-negligible proportion of the population shared them. Thanks to its loyal supporters, the MEI has since solidly established itself as an indispensable voice—unique in Quebec—when it comes to presenting a rigorous economic perspective in the debates surrounding the elaboration of public policies.



While our organization celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the company of none other than Steve Forbes, which the MEI had the honour of hosting this year to mark this very special occasion, we also reached a new peak by being mentioned over ten thousand times in the media in 2018! By way of comparison, we were mentioned fewer than fifty times in our first year of existence. This is an eloquent illustration of the growth of the MEI and of its influence.

The MEI is excelling more than ever at what it has always done best, which is provide content to various media outlets across the country (print, radio, TV, and web) in a timely manner, always offering a perspective different from the one generally presented by the media elite.

## OUR INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE “GROUND GAME”

To this media impact must be added the groundwork we do, which we have expanded since last summer. Concretely, this process favours direct contact with political decision-makers. This generally takes place in the context of personalized presentations of the conclusions of our studies, most of the time in response to questions that these decision-makers may have following the dissemination of our publications.

We now have more resources and time to devote to this groundwork, and the results speak for themselves. In 2018, we met with decision-makers dozens of times at the federal and provincial level, including in Alberta and in Ontario, during which we were asked to make personalized presentations of our studies.

And so, when the Ontario government cancelled its further increase of the minimum wage to \$15, planned for January 2019, we supported this justified decision with the publication of a study. We showed that certain effects normally associated with minimum wage increases had already, in less than a year, led to the loss of 56,000 jobs in the province among those aged 15 to 24. The new Labour Minister, Laurie Scott, called us personally to congratulate us for our work on this topic.

Premier Doug Ford also shared our publication with his thousands of Twitter followers.

This fruitful groundwork even extended to the United States. We made a presentation before the White House’s Council of Economic Advisers on the successful reform of Canada’s corporate taxation, and co-signed a publication on this theme with a political analyst from The Heritage Foundation. We also organized a joint Heritage-MEI event in Washington, at the head offices of Heritage, on the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) and Nav Canada as potential models for the reform of airport security and air traffic control in the United States. It is in this context that we are pursuing our “Canada-USA Best Practices” initiative, the goal of which is to build bridges between policy-makers and experts on opposite sides of the border, in order to facilitate the spread of better public policies.



# THE MEI'S PUBLICATIONS IN FIGURES

In order to advance our ideas for improving public policies among the general population, the media, and policy-makers, our researchers have once again been hard at work.

**In 2018, the MEI released:**

**28 publications**

including a booklet in celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**4 opinion polls**

**28 ad hoc press releases**

in addition to those that accompany our main publications

**177 opinion pieces and blog posts**

published in the country's newspapers and on our platforms

**27 MENTIONS  
PER DAY**

All of these were occasions to debunk myths and set the record straight on issues that shape public policies.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF MEDIA MENTIONS**



**DECEMBER 2018**  
**CHRISTMAS COSTS LESS THAN IT USED TO**  
By David Deschéneaux

With Christmas around the corner, stories about consumption and purchasing power tend to focus on what we can't afford, or that "everything is more expensive" or that "our purchasing power is stagnating." What are the facts of the matter?

Discussions of purchasing power often focus on the evolution of salaries or of prices. Yet this kind of approach fails to take into account the fact that keeps raising our capacity to purchase products: productivity. Indeed, when purchasing power is evaluated based on the time spent working and services in terms of hours of work needed to purchase them, the picture changes considerably. By the numbers, it's clear that there is a gap between what people can consume today and what they could consume three decades ago.

To illustrate this point, in fact, we have compared the prices in 2018 of a basket of goods that could be offered today as Christmas gifts with those offered in 1984. As you can see, in 1984, "To properly measure purchasing power, we have also taken into account the average

**RESEARCH PAPERS**  
**MAY 2018**  
**THE STATE OF COMPETITION IN CANADA'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY – 2018**

The report provides an in-depth analysis of the telecommunications industry in Canada, examining various aspects such as market structure, competition, and regulatory environment. It highlights the challenges faced by the industry and suggests policy recommendations to promote greater competition and innovation.

# 20

1998 - 2018  
TWENTY YEARS OF PROMOTING BETTER PUBLIC POLICIES

**Report**

**New Carbon Tax**  
Survey of Quebecers

**NATIONAL POST**

**Large majority of Quebecers open to more private health services: poll**

**FINANCIAL POST**

**Ontario's Ford government is right: Wages should be set by 'economics not politics'**

**Opinion:** A substantial increase in the minimum wage contributes to an increase in poverty due to the jobs it destroys

**BUSINESS COMMENTARY**  
**OPINION**  
**Quebecers don't want to pay for the carbon tax**

**GERMAIN BELZÉ**  
CONTRIBUTOR, THE GLOBE AND MAIL  
PUBLISHED DECEMBER 12, 2018  
79 COMMENTS

Between the minimum wage law's adoption and September 2018, there has been a 5.6-per-cent increase in restaurants, a sector in which nearly 70 per cent of workers earned less than \$10 an hour before September 2018.

**PACT FOR THE TRANSITION** In Quebec and the latest IPCC report on climate change have given rise to much debate in recent weeks. The Montreal Economic Institute asked Leger to poll the opinions of Quebecers regarding carbon taxation and the province's green(GHG) reduction targets. The results of the poll will certainly give and decision makers something to consider.

When it comes to the principle of the new carbon tax, 62 per cent Quebecers are in favour, while 25 per cent are against. This supports the principle, which 76 per cent of the tax allows the GHG reduction to be fully reached. Only 37 per cent of Quebecers, though, continue to pay the tax if it does not allow those targets to be fully reached.

However, even though they are prepared under certain circumstances to support the taxing of carbon, only 40 per cent of Quebecers were prepared to pay more for a litre of gasoline from this tax. A little less than a quarter of Quebecers (24 per cent) are ready to pay up to 5 cents and less than 9 per cent up to 10 cents. And only 2 per cent of Quebecers are prepared to pay up to 50 cents more a litre, yet this is the minimum

**Montreal Gazette**

**NEWS** **OPINION** **SPORTS** **BUSINESS** **ARTS** **LIFE** **CAREERS** **OBITS**

**Opinion: 'Free' university tuition would be bad for Quebecers**

While it might look attractive, such a policy would be costly and unfair for taxpayers, and be apt to have little impact on graduation rates.

**ALEXANDRE MOREAU, SPECIAL TO MONTREAL GAZETTE & MIGUEL OUELLETTE, SPECIAL TO MONTREAL GAZETTE**

Updated: August 16, 2018

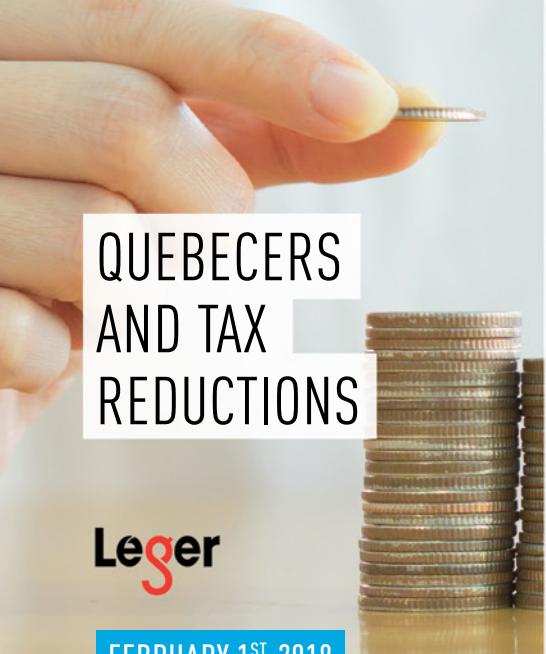
**Opinion: The First Nations are the first entrepreneurs**

Calgary Herald Updated November 13, 2018

Many First Nations are strong participants in the natural resource sector. Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Senator (C) Diane Blackford cut the ribbon at the opening of the First Nations and Treaty Natural Resources Sector Interceptor Line. POSTMEDIA

As soon as a natural resource development project gets underway, an outcry can be expected from environmental activists and First Nations members. If we follow the news, we may come to believe that Indigenous Peoples are unanimously opposed to development. But this is not the case.

# OUR OPINION POLLS: DID YOU KNOW ?



QUEBECERS  
AND TAX  
REDUCTIONS

Leger

FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2018

**63%**

of respondents agree that the tax reductions announced by the Quebec Finance Minister in his recent economic update are a positive thing.

**59%**

of respondents think that tax cuts are good for the economy.

**67%**

of respondents believe they pay too much in taxes.



QUEBECERS  
AND CARBON  
PRICING

Leger

DECEMBER 12, 2018

Only  
**2%**

When it comes to the principle of the new carbon tax, 62% of Quebecers are in favour versus 25% against. This support in principle climbs to 76% if the tax allows the GHG reduction targets to be fully reached.

of Quebecers are prepared to pay up to 50 cents more per litre, yet this is the minimum needed for Quebec to fully reach its GHG reduction targets.

**70%**

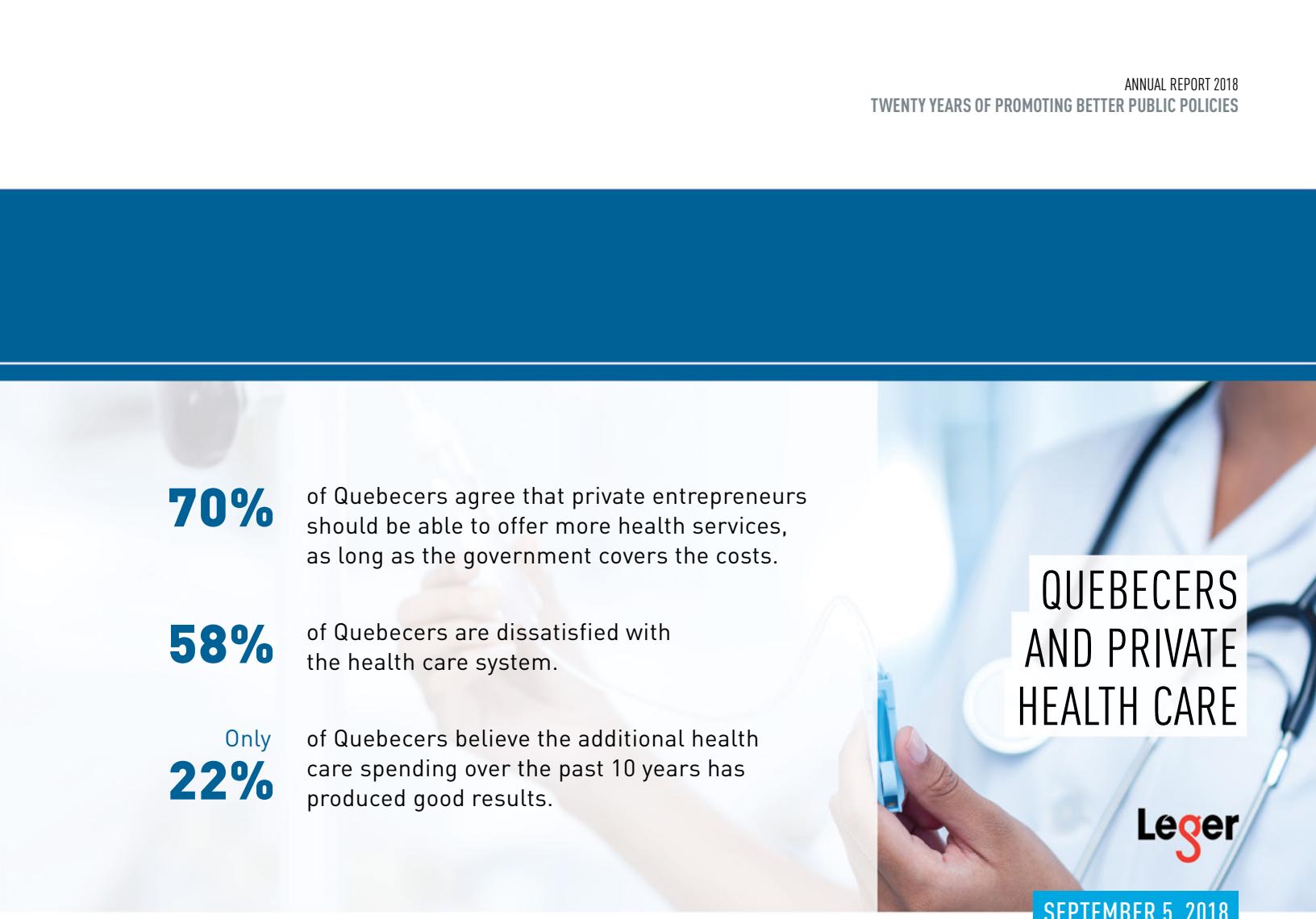
of Quebecers agree that private entrepreneurs should be able to offer more health services, as long as the government covers the costs.

**58%**

of Quebecers are dissatisfied with the health care system.

Only  
**22%**

of Quebecers believe the additional health care spending over the past 10 years has produced good results.



## QUEBECERS AND PRIVATE HEALTH CARE

Leger

SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

**66%**

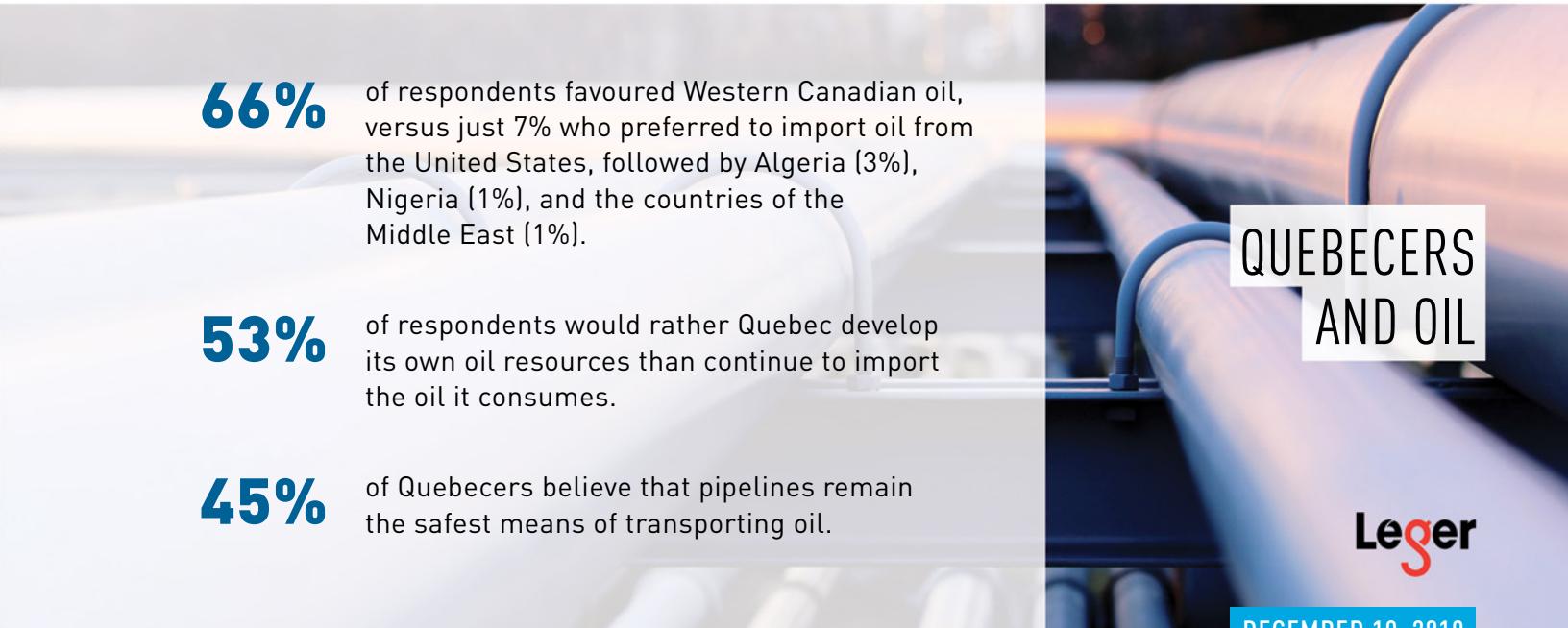
of respondents favoured Western Canadian oil, versus just 7% who preferred to import oil from the United States, followed by Algeria (3%), Nigeria (1%), and the countries of the Middle East (1%).

**53%**

of respondents would rather Quebec develop its own oil resources than continue to import the oil it consumes.

**45%**

of Quebecers believe that pipelines remain the safest means of transporting oil.



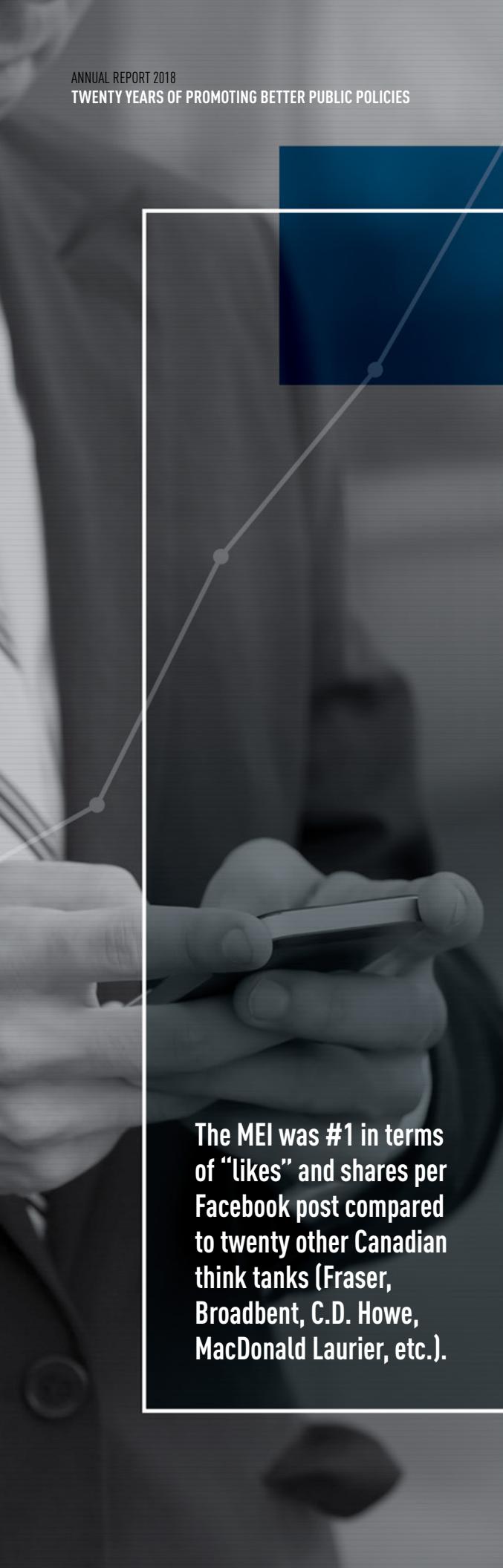
## QUEBECERS AND OIL

Leger

DECEMBER 19, 2018

## SOCIAL MEDIA

# THE MEI IS GROWING FAST



Another 2018 highlight for our organization was the spectacular growth of our presence on social media. We are devoting more resources than before to this area, which allows us to share our messages in both languages with a vast audience, thanks among other things to the posting of simple, bold graphs, caricatures, and short video clips produced in-house by our Social Media Coordinator.

In all, we sent 794 tweets and published 809 Facebook posts (English and French) throughout the year. Our total French Facebook page “likes” almost doubled (+95%) compared to last year.

The MEI was #1 in terms of “likes” and shares per Facebook post compared to twenty other Canadian think tanks (Fraser, Broadbent, C.D. Howe, MacDonald Laurier, etc.). While the MEI’s French page does not yet have the most followers, its growth is the fastest among these organizations.

The MEI’s English Facebook page also benefited from the additional resources that we devoted to social media this past year. Our publications on this page are now more frequent, and its content and the target audience of the page are tailored for pan-Canadian reach. The number of “likes” of this page more than doubled last year. Although it has fewer “likes” than our French page, the number of interactions is proportionally higher, which bodes well for the future.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the MEI is the only organization of its kind in Canada that, in addition to sharing its own publications, also shares external content, which gives it a big advantage over the others.

**The MEI was #1 in terms of “likes” and shares per Facebook post compared to twenty other Canadian think tanks (Fraser, Broadbent, C.D. Howe, MacDonald Laurier, etc.).**

# FACEBOOK IN FIGURES

## FRENCH PAGE

- **455 posts** in 2018
- **95% increase** in the number of "likes" of the page (from 4,049 to 7,900)
- **3.3 million** views of our posts
- **111,200 interactions**, including:
  - 57,000 reactions ("like," "love," "angry," etc.)
  - 29,500 comments
  - 25,700 share

## ENGLISH PAGE

- **354 posts** in 2018
- **124% increase** in the number of "likes" of the page (from 882 to 1,973)
- **706,000 views**
- **43,000 interactions**

# TWITTER IN FIGURES

- **794 tweets** in 2018
- **32,752 visits**
- **2,222 mentions**

## SOME OF OUR BEST FACEBOOK CAMPAIGNS

 Montreal Economic Institute  
Published by Alexandre bernier (7) · 5 December 2018 · 3

Taxpayers support the government and the civil service, and come to the aide of those in need. Here is a table that corrects certain inaccurate linguistic wrinkles that are all too common. Please share! (Thanks to the Adam Smith Institute for the idea)

To respect taxpayers	
Instead of:	Say:
The government's money	Taxpayers' money
The government is "investing" in...	The government is spending taxpayers' money on...
We are asking those who can afford it to pay their fair share.	We are forcing some people to pay more taxes.
Free	Paid for with taxpayer money

 Ideas for a More Prosperous Society

**46,000 VIEWS**  
2,000 INTERACTIONS  
INCLUDING 600 SHARES

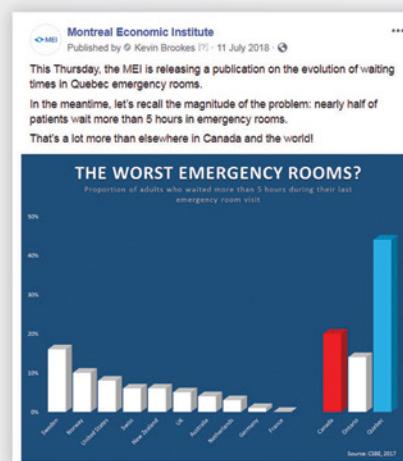
 Montreal Economic Institute  
Published by Alexandre bernier (7) · 29 May 2018 · 3

Surprise! Canadians are now the owners of a pipeline purchased by the federal government with \$4.5 billion of their money. Trans Mountain is a private project that received all necessary approvals, but instead of making sure the law is respected, the government is nationalizing a pipeline. It's a poor decision that sends the wrong message to investors.

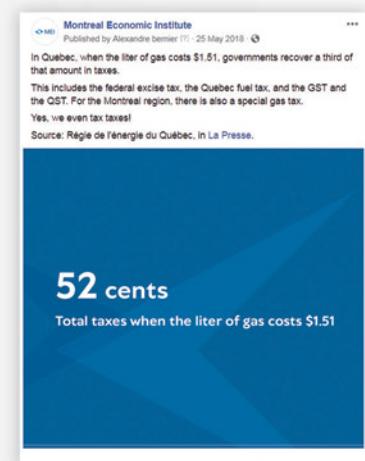


\* May contain traces of subsidies

**40,000 VIEWS**  
1,300 INTERACTIONS  
INCLUDING 360 SHARES



**130,000 VIEWS**  
4,400 INTERACTIONS INCLUDING  
1,300 SHARES AND 1,500 COMMENTS



**68,000 VIEWS**  
2,200 INTERACTIONS  
INCLUDING 800 SHARES



**40,000 VIEWS**  
1,000 INTERACTIONS  
INCLUDING 230 SHARES  
AND 360 COMMENTS



**50,000 VIEWS**  
1,100 INTERACTIONS INCLUDING  
360 SHARES AND 310 COMMENTS

# OUR THEMES

## ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In the wake of the challenging or the cancelling of several large energy projects in Canada, the MEI launched a publication explaining that to stop the exodus of investment from the country, governments should eliminate the discretionary power of politicians to block a project once it has received all of the necessary approvals, and even that it should impose budgetary sanctions to agencies that do not respect the timeframes established in the law. This study echoed widely in English Canada, and its conclusions were reported on by *The Globe and Mail* and by BNN Bloomberg, among others. We also intervened more specifically when the Trans Mountain pipeline project was suspended, and when it was purchased by the federal government.

**FINANCIAL POST**

NEWS · INVESTING · MARKETS · PERSONAL FINANCE · INNOVATION · FP COMMENT · ENTREPRENEUR · EXECUTIVE · FP MAGAZINE · SUBSCRIBE · MORE · NATIONAL POST

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We want to improve your reading experience  
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LATEST COMMENT

Jack Marz: Alberta's economy remains very sick and the NDP's medicine isn't working

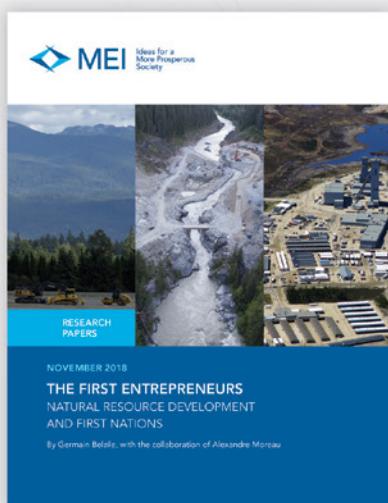
Terence Corcoran: Jason Kenney's tax-cut plan could remake Alberta (and maybe Canada)

Terence Corcoran: Liberals turn up anti-Indigenous population to distract from their scandals

Indigenous Canadians are upset with the Liberal government's Bill C-69, too



Quebec Premier François Legault. Andrew Meade/The Canadian Press



We too often have the impression that First Nations wish to earn a living from traditional activities alone and are opposed to mining and forestry or the building of energy infrastructure. The underappreciated truth is that many favour such development and wish to take advantage of the resulting wealth and jobs. This was the message of one of our Research Papers, which not only enjoyed good media coverage across the country, with 300 mentions, but also had an impact within the industry and among indigenous communities. Notably, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) promoted our publication among its members and on social media. Our Director of External Affairs also participated in a National Coalition of Chiefs (NCC) event in Vancouver, where he had the opportunity to officially present the publication to the indigenous leaders who were present.

Certain themes are particularly important to us because they have a direct link with the economic vitality of the country, or because they contribute to the elaboration of public policies that achieve their objectives and respect the ability of taxpayers to pay. Here, then, are the main publications that went to the heart of the Institute's mission.



In Ontario, new Premier Doug Ford announced that Ontario would be withdrawing from the carbon market, which also counts Quebec and California as members. The same week, the MEI launched a publication showing how the imposition of a price on carbon through the cap-and-trade scheme will have a negligible effect on GHG emissions, all while having a sizeable negative impact on the economies of Quebec and Ontario.

In addition to having insisted on numerous occasions and in different ways on the importance of the energy sector for the Canadian economy, we also published the results of two polls showing, once again, the disconnect that can sometimes exist between the media's take on an issue and public opinion. One of them looked at the preferences of Quebecers regarding the provenance of their oil and how to transport it, and the other at the level of carbon taxation that they were ready to accept.

These two polls echoed widely from coast to coast with nearly 450 media mentions. Our opinion pieces were published in *The Globe and Mail*, *La Presse+*, the *National Post*, and *Le Journal de Montréal*. We also gave nearly thirty radio and TV interviews, and *La Presse+* even devoted its letters page to reactions to our poll.

Finally, always ready to correct misconceptions, we also published a study showing that contrary to a widespread myth, forest harvesting is not synonymous with deforestation and does not threaten the sustainability of our forests, which are actually under-harvested. This message, too seldom heard, also bears repeating.

**"IT'S NOT BY SENDING CAPITAL OR JOBS ABROAD THAT QUEBEC AND ONTARIO ARE GOING TO REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS."**

A screenshot of a news article from The Hill Times. The article is titled "What happens if Ontario makes good on plan to scrap cap and trade?" by Sébastien Belzile and Pierre-Marc Johnson. It features a photo of Doug Ford speaking at a podium. The sidebar includes related stories like "Climate at the crossroads" and "Time for Ottawa to cry foul over Nova Scotia cap-and-trade proposal". There are also links to "Climate plan in focus as Ontario first minister's meeting" and "Policy choice on carbon price mechanisms important".

# TAXATION AND PUBLIC FINANCES

When taxes are high, there are fewer entrepreneurs, and fewer businesses are created, which means that less wealth is created. This is the key takeaway from the Research Paper entitled *Entrepreneurship and Fiscal Policy – How Taxes Affect Entrepreneurial Activity*. Politicians and commentators love talking about entrepreneurship, but they rarely consider the impact of high taxes on business creation and on the number of entrepreneurs there are. This MEI publication disseminated this important message. Moreover, our researcher spoke before a group of students at McGill University to explain the conclusions of his research.

**"ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS A HOT TOPIC, A BUZZWORD THAT LEAVES NO POLITICIAN INDIFFERENT. HOWEVER, POLITICAL DECISION-MAKERS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS AFFECTED BY FISCAL POLICY. WHEN TAXES ARE HIGH, THERE ARE FEWER ENTREPRENEURS, AND FEWER BUSINESSES ARE CREATED, WHICH MEANS THAT LESS WEALTH IS CREATED"**

As always, our Department of Current Affairs responded quickly to the hot topics of the day. On the occasion of the federal budget, we pointed out that the current government had systematically broken its fiscal promises since taking power. (Indeed, it continues to spend more and more, and has shut the door on returning to a balanced budget.) We also pointed out that Ottawa should first of all lower corporate income taxes to address our competitiveness problem. One of our publications thus described how the bipartisan effort to reduce the corporate income tax in Canada, at the start of the 2000s, led to more investment and growth and to higher wages. Our researchers also gave interviews across Canada on this important question.

Through its multiple interventions, the MEI continues to have an impact on the sound management of public finances. One publication explained how Ontario is tending more and more toward the Quebec model with increasingly high levels of spending, taxation, and indebtedness. In Quebec, on the contrary, the first economic update of the new government thankfully showed that it is following in the footsteps of its predecessor in terms of reimbursing the public debt—a theme on which we have intervened many times—which gave us the opportunity to underline the soundness of this policy.



# FREE TRADE AND THE LIBERALIZATION OF MARKETS

The conflict surrounding NAFTA and Canada-US free trade was an occasion for us to reiterate the fact that protectionist measures are lose-lose, hurting American companies and consumers as much as Canadian companies and consumers. We continued to be active on the crucial issue of free trade, both internationally (the renegotiation of NAFTA and the imposition of tariffs) and domestically (interprovincial trade).

In Quebec, our researchers seized the opportunity created by a strike of SAQ workers to revive the debate on the liberalisation of trade in wine and spirits. In the wake of the debate that followed and that the MEI helped launch, then-Premier Philippe Couillard said he was in favour of opening this sector up to competition. This is an important breakthrough for the spread of our ideas among the political class, and we plan to follow this file closely in order to continue to influence the discussion. Members of the MEI staff also expressed their views on the relevance of other public monopolies, notably the one set up by the creation of the SQDC.

The MEI had started the year strong with a publication on corporate subsidies that elicited a lot of reaction. Quebec pays out twice as much as Ontario, in proportion to the size of its economy; and yet, this policy does not enrich Quebecers. Indeed, if the use of subsidies led to a higher level of wealth, Quebec would be the richest province in Canada. This is far from being the case.



Montreal Economic Institute  
Published by Alexandre bernier · 8 August 2018

Did you know that Quebec is a corporate subsidy "champion" among Canadian provinces?

For each dollar the government collects in taxes from private companies, 41 cents are spent on various forms of subsidies!

Instead of favouring certain companies or industries, the government should reduce taxes for all.

**\$3.1 billion**  
Corporate subsidies granted by Quebec in 2016-2017

A graphic from the Montreal Economic Institute's website. It features a blue-tinted background with a calculator and a grid of numbers. The text highlights that Quebec grants \$3.1 billion in corporate subsidies annually, making it a 'champion' among Canadian provinces. The graphic includes a small logo for the MEI and a timestamp of 8 August 2018.

# HEALTH CARE

The regulatory path of new drugs, from approval to the patient

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE FOR THE DRUG BY HEALTH CANADA

PROVINCIAL PUBLIC PLAN BENEFICIARIES

PATENTED MEDICINE PRICES REVIEW BOARD → HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AGENCIES → PAN-CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL ALLIANCE → PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS' DECISIONS

15 MONTHS

**Dr Gaétan Barrette @drgbarrette - 12 juill. 2018**  
L'IEDM dans le champs: on «n'attend» pas sur civière dans nos urgences. On y est activement observé, investigué et traité idéalement en moins de 12h. Après 12h, soit le patient est transféré à l'étage, soit il reçoit son congé #polqc #PLQ #AssNat #impro\_Legault #cacheCAQ

44 23 38

**IEDM - MEI @iedm\_montreal - 12 juill. 2018**  
Vous faites erreur @drgbarrette. Les statistiques de votre propre ministère montrent que 212 000 patients ont séjourné à l'urgence plus de 24h l'an dernier, et 30 000 plus de 48h, AVANT le transfert à l'étage ou le congé. mssss.gouv.qc.ca/lnr/documents/... #assnat #polqc #santé

1 12 22

**Patrick Dery @PatrickDery - 12 juill. 2018**  
En réponse à @drgbarrette  
Vous pouvez appeler ça comme vous voulez, mais il demeure que parmi les pays développés, c'est au Québec qu'on est "activement observé" le plus longtemps avant de pouvoir sortir de l'hôpital ou d'être transféré à l'étage. #assnat #polqc #santé

LES PIRES URGENCES AU MONDE?  
Proportion d'adultes ayant attendu plus de 5 heures lors de leur dernière visite aux urgences

Coutry	Proportion (%)
Canada	~15%
United States	~25%

Source: CM, 2017

We published a Viewpoint describing the cumbersome regulatory process that delays the reimbursement of new drugs by Canada's public plans. This publication also showed that new drugs help people live longer, healthier, more productive lives. They also allow our health care systems to save substantial amounts of money.

We showed moreover that we need to make more room for entrepreneurship in health care, notably to care for seniors: With the population aged 75 and over expected to double by 2031, Quebec should rely more on entrepreneurs to meet the demand for senior housing and care. Our publication on the topic pointed out among other things that some sixty of the public system's 432 long-term care facilities (CHSLDs) are managed by entrepreneurs and that these private "funded" CHSLDs, which have the same resources as those run by the government, provide better service and even succeed in turning a profit, without cutting on care.

While the defenders of a bureaucratic health care system were celebrating an apparent reduction of nearly two hours in the average time spent on a stretcher in Quebec emergency rooms, our researchers wasted no time in throwing some cold water on this claim. An MEI publication indicated that the median time spent in an emergency room, more representative of the typical patient experience, actually increased slightly. This publication was mentioned nearly 300 times in the media, and forced the Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Gaétan Barrette, to react publicly. A media blitz made our publication one of the day's most popular stories, notably on the TVA network, and our researcher gave a dozen interviews on the topic.

Montreal Gazette

NEWS OPINION COLUMNISTS EDITORIALS AVAILIN AND OTHER EDITORIAL CARTOONS

**Opinion: How to cure wait times in Quebec emergency rooms**

Despite what the government says, the situation is not getting better. So let's try this: Allow the private sector to run some hospitals.

PATRICK DÉRY, SPECIAL TO MONTREAL GAZETTE  
Updated: July 12, 2018

# RESEARCH PAPERS THAT GET PEOPLE TALKING

Pursuing its role of economic education, the MEI also published a Research Paper on the “miracle” of supermarkets. This publication, which adopts the perspective of the Austrian School of Economics, shows how, by transmitting information through the food supply chain, intermediaries help improve the quality and diversity of foods, all while reducing their price. Our researchers notably presented their results at the University of Guelph, which is the gold standard in Canada when it comes to agri-food economics and reflections on the elaboration of public policies in this sector, as well as at the Université de Montréal, before numerous young economists and future leaders.

The launch of our popular telecom paper was also a big success. This publication alone generated nearly 450 media mentions, including texts in *La Presse+* and the *Financial Post*. Our paper shows among other things that the prices of Canadian wireless services are competitive, despite the results of certain simplistic comparisons, and questions the relevance of the CRTC now that Canada is in a competitive situation. The Canadian Press also shared the conclusions of the paper, which helped ensure coverage in many media outlets and specialized magazines across the country. Numerous radio and television interviews were given, including for BNN Bloomberg.

The cover features the MEI logo (blue diamond icon and text) and the tagline "Ideas for a More Prosperous Society". Below the logo are two photographs: one showing a man in a supermarket aisle and another showing a supermarket interior with refrigerated sections. A blue banner at the bottom left reads "RESEARCH PAPERS". At the bottom right, the text "NOVEMBER 2018" and "THE MIRACLE OF SUPERMARKETS THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE AUSTRIAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS" is displayed, followed by "By Pierre Desrochers and Kevin Brookes".

A blue banner at the top reads "FINANCIAL POST". Below it, the headline "The CRTC should celebrate its 50th birthday by giving up telecom regulations entirely" is displayed. The background of the entire block shows silhouettes of telecommunications towers against a city skyline.

# A FEW EXCERPTS FROM OUR OPINION PIECES



MARCH 17, 2018

## LOOMING TRADE WAR ISN'T THE ONLY PROBLEM FOR CANADA'S ECONOMY



Falling investment is a very big problem, as living standards are directly related to productivity, which is itself closely linked with business investment. If we continue down this path, Canadians will become poorer and poorer compared to Americans. Our future does not only depend on President Trump; our to-do list is considerable, so we'd better stop sitting on our hands.



APRIL 10, 2018



## INNOVATIVE DRUGS NEED A NEW REGULATORY APPROACH

In 2015-16, the economic assessment process added an average of 450 days, or about 15 months, between the moment when drugs are approved by Health Canada and the moment when they are reimbursed by public insurers, and sometimes a lot more. In the recent case of a breast cancer drug, registration on the list of drugs reimbursed by Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) only happened 23 months after Health Canada's approval.



APRIL 11, 2018



## A CARBON TAX – ON TWO CONDITIONS ONLY

This is the heart of the problem. At prices ranging from \$10 to \$50 per tonne of carbon, as is the case now and for the medium term, a carbon tax is not much more than "virtue signalling," a kind of phoney commitment rather than a serious effort to achieve objectives. People will sooner or later contest policies that cost them money but have little effect.



MAY 2, 2018



## FREER MARKETS, FREER MEDIA

In Western Europe and North America, free markets and a free press generally go together. Countries with a low level of economic freedom—think Venezuela, Bolivia, Argentina or Algeria—also have a low level of press freedom. By increasingly controlling and regulating their economies over the past decade and a half, the governments of these countries have substantially wounded the media.



JUNE 14, 2018

 **HILL TIMES**

## WHAT HAPPENS IF ONTARIO MAKES GOOD ON PLAN TO SCRAP CAP AND TRADE?

Yet the main studies that have looked into the matter predict that the price of carbon in the cap-and-trade scheme will be between \$30 and \$100 per tonne in 2030, which will not be sufficient for people to change their behaviour. They will continue to emit almost as much, merely paying a little more than they do today for the right to do so.



AUGUST 16, 2018

 MONTREAL GAZETTE

## FREE UNIVERSITY TUITION WOULD BE BAD FOR QUEBECERS

The abolition of university and college tuition fees and related costs would mean an extra \$1.1 billion a year if applied solely to Quebec students, and \$1.3 billion if extended to Canadian and foreign students, supposing that the number of students remained constant. Did somebody say "free"? The central argument invoked by those who favour this policy is that it would considerably improve accessibility to higher education. This is a myth.



NOVEMBER 13, 2018

 CALGARY HERALD

## FIRST NATIONS WERE THE 'FIRST ENTREPRENEURS'

As soon as a natural resource development project gets underway, an outcry can be expected from environmental activists and First Nations members. If we follow the news, we may come to believe that Indigenous Peoples are unanimously opposed to development. But this is not the case. Natural resource development has transformed many communities, which now have the means to provide decent infrastructure and services to their populations. We must let them continue in this direction.



DECEMBER 19, 2018

 NATIONAL POST

## SURPRISE! QUEBECERS WANT ALBERTA'S OIL

We need to stop conflating oil production with oil consumption. We can very well want to reduce our consumption of oil and reduce GHGs, without denying ourselves the economic prosperity that accompanies the development of our resources and that enriches us all. Instead of demonizing Western Canadian oil, Quebec politicians should adopt behaviours that are more in line with the desires of the people, and stop interfering with the production and transport of Canadian oil.

# ONE COUNTRY, ONE MARKET

The vast “One Country, One Market” information campaign launched on social media, carried out in collaboration with the Canadian Constitution Foundation (CCF) and the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) throughout the year, was a resounding success. Canadians have a greater appreciation of interprovincial trade barriers than ever before, and the chances of bringing them down have never been better.

## FACEBOOK PAGE

- **6,800 followers**
- **32,000 people** reached in a single day
- **300 reactions** per day

## WEBSITE

- **Over 31,000 users** over the year
- **79,000 page views**



## PETITION

- Over **10,000 signatures**

All our work and our multiple interventions on the topic have made a difference. Thanks to striking short videos, press releases, opinion pieces, and studies, all released at key moments, the MEI and its partners have succeeded in making free trade one of the hottest national public policy debates at the moment. Indeed, this issue was on the agenda of the recent federal-provincial First Ministers’ Meeting. Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia are all provinces that are arguing for the reduction of trade barriers.

The Premier of Nova Scotia chose the occasion of the meeting to announce the abolition of numerous interprovincial trade barriers, notably those on alcohol, as well as others affecting various aspects of the regulation of businesses in his province.



*One Country, One Market* recently won a 2019 Reed Award for its social media campaign, and was also a finalist in the “Best International Campaign” category. Thanks to *The Zoldak Agency* for its valuable collaboration on this initiative.

**“WE NEED TO MOVE TOWARDS BEING A MORE PRO-TRADE COUNTRY INSIDE OF OUR COUNTRY.”**

STEPHEN MCNEIL  
PREMIER OF NOVA SCOTIA

**“I SUGGEST WE CONSIDER GOING FURTHER BY FULLY REMOVING THOSE LIMITS, A MOVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY CANADIANS FROM EVERY REGION OF THE COUNTRY.”**

BRIAN PALLISTER  
PREMIER OF MANITOBA

**“MOST OF BARRIERS WHEN IT COMES TO FREE TRADE BETWEEN PROVINCES IS REGULATIONS. WE’RE GOING TO PUT A LIST TOGETHER, BOTH MYSELF AND PREMIER MOE, OF DIFFERENT SECTORS—LET’S USE TRANSPORTATION FOR EXAMPLE—WHERE WE CAN START KNOCKING DOWN SOME REGULATIONS.”**

DOUG FORD  
PREMIER OF ONTARIO

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA

As a part of this collaborative initiative, we organized a national conference that was held on November 1<sup>st</sup> in Ottawa. It brought together some of Canada's top economists and constitutional scholars, as well as organizations like the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, and the Consumer Choice Center. The former Minister of Industry, the Honourable James Moore, former Liberal MP Martha Hall Findlay, and the Honourable Darrell Dexter, Former Premier of Nova Scotia, all shared their opinions about the future of free trade within Canada.



As our featured guest, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade, made a passionate appeal for the elimination of trade barriers. Renowned columnist Andrew Coyne, for his part, insisted on the fact that it is high time for politicians to take concrete steps to promote completely free trade within our borders.

Note that on Twitter, the hashtag #OCOMconference (for One Country, One Market) was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> among trends the day of the National Conference.

TrendWiki Canada  
@TrendWikiCanada

\*\*\*New Trend Alert\*\*\*

1. #Movember
2. Finnish
3. #FlaPanthers 🏈
4. #MLSCupPlayoffs
5. #OCOMconference
6. #FinancialLiteracyMonth
7. #Spooky

Traduire le Tweet

15:37 - 1 nov. 2018

# THE MEI SURPASSES THE \$3 MILLION MARK!

Thanks to you, our generous donors, the MEI's annual budget hit a new record, exceeding the threshold of \$3 million for the first time. This is excellent news for an organization that, remember, receives no public funding. The MEI remains in good financial health, with a solid financial reserve equivalent to almost twelve months of operations, as recommended by the best practices applicable to the management of think tanks.

In 2018, the MEI's total revenues amounted to \$3,077,227, which represents an increase of 9.6% compared to 2017. Spending amounted to \$2,801,862, an increase of 8.6%. The surplus was \$275,365.

## CHALLENGES AHEAD

Despite all of this good news, we will be faced with very real challenges in 2019. We already know that over \$400,000 of our revenues will disappear, notably due to certain foundations ceasing their activities. It is in this context that we need, more than ever, your renewed support.

Also, as you know, 2019 will be an election year at the federal level. Therefore, whether it's a question of public finances or the development of natural resources, it is crucial that a voice like the MEI's, both independent and favourable to wealth creation, be heard. Voters will then be able to make informed choices when it comes time to make their voices heard.

In conclusion, our solid financial reserve and the great loyalty of our supporters are robust pillars. They will allow us to successfully meet the challenges that the future holds. We will thus pursue, relentlessly and passionately, our mission of promoting "ideas for a more prosperous society."

# EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

## NAFTA: NEW CHALLENGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADA

Presentation by Mathieu Bédard, Economist at the MEI, before the members of Generation Screwed: McGill.

MAY 8, 2018

## THE IAN SOUTAR LECTURE SERIES PRESENTED BY PEMBROKE MANAGEMENT

For the second edition of the Ian Soutar Lecture Series, the MEI welcomed Daniel Hannan, writer, journalist, and British politician.

FEBRUARY 21, 2018

## DEBATE ON THE MINIMUM WAGE

Debate between Alexandre Moreau, Public Policy Analyst at the MEI, and Robert Laplante, Director General of the Institut de recherche en économie contemporaine (IREC), before Collège de Bois-de-Boulogne students.

AUGUST 3, 2018

## WHAT IS A PUBLIC GOOD?

Presentation by Vincent Geloso, Associate Researcher at the MEI, at the Free Market Seminar organized by the Institute for Liberal Studies at McGill University.

MARCH 21, 2018

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FISCAL POLICY – HOW TAXES AFFECT ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY

Presentation by Mathieu Bédard, Economist at the MEI, at the University of Calgary, Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking.

AUGUST 4, 2018

## SUBSIDIES IN THE CULTURAL FIELD

Presentation by Germain Belzile, Senior Associate Researcher at the MEI, at the Free Market Seminar organized by the Institute for Liberal Studies at McGill University.

MAY 3, 2018

## THE REDUCTION OF THE FEDERAL CORPORATE TAX RATE IN CANADA FROM 2001 TO 2012

Presentation by Michel Kelly-Gagnon, President and CEO of the MEI, and Mathieu Bédard, Economist at the MEI, before the Council of Economic Advisers of the White House in Washington on the positive effects of the reduction in the rate of federal taxation of corporate income on business investment, economic growth, and wages.

AUGUST 4, 2018

## SAY'S LAW: DOES DEMAND CREATE SUPPLY?

Presentation by Martin Massé, Senior Writer and Editor at the MEI, at the Free Market Seminar organized by the Institute for Liberal Studies at McGill University.

AUGUST 4, 2018

## THE FLAWS OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

Presentation by Kevin Brookes, Public Policy Analyst at the MEI, at the Free Market Seminar organized by the Institute for Liberal Studies at McGill University.

AUGUST 4, 2018

## DOES ECONOMIC GROWTH ONLY BENEFIT “THE 1%”?

Presentation by Vincent Geloso, Associate Researcher at the MEI, at the Free Market Seminar organized by the Institute for Liberal Studies at McGill University.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

## CATSA AND NAV CANADA AS POTENTIAL MODELS FOR U.S. REFORMS

Participation of Michel Kelly-Gagnon, President and CEO of the MEI, and Mathieu Bédard, Economist at the MEI, at an event organized by the MEI in collaboration with The Heritage Foundation in Washington on Canadian models for the reform of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

OCTOBER 4, 2018

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FISCAL POLICY – HOW TAXES AFFECT ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY

Presentation by Mathieu Bédard, Economist at the MEI, at McGill University, Conservative Students Club.

OCTOBER 11, 2018

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FISCAL POLICY – HOW TAXES AFFECT ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY

Presentation by Mathieu Bédard, Economist at the MEI, at the University of Edmonton, Wirth Symposium, organized by Professor Peter Boettke.

OCTOBER 22, 2018

## SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT PRE-FILL YOUR TAX RETURNS?

Presentation by Kevin Brookes, Public Policy Analyst at the MEI, at the Canada 2020 Tax and Competitiveness Summit in Ottawa.

OCTOBER 24, 2018

## HOW MARKETS TRANSMIT INFORMATION - THE CASE OF SUPERMARKETS (UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH)

Conference featuring Professor Pierre Desrochers.

NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2018

## ONE COUNTRY, ONE MARKET CONFERENCE - A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF FREE TRADE WITHIN CANADA

Conference bringing together some of Canada's top economists, constitutional scholars, industry representatives, and politicians for a one-day conference in Ottawa to discuss the future of free trade within Canada.

NOVEMBER 5, 2018

## THE FIRST ENTREPRENEURS – NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND FIRST NATIONS

Presentation by Daniel Dufort, Director of External Relations at the MEI, at the National Coalition of Chiefs: Energy Summit.

NOVEMBER 14, 2018

## THE MIRACLE OF SUPERMARKETS – THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE AUSTRIAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL)

Panel discussion featuring Professor Pierre Desrochers and Kevin Brookes.

[iedm.org](http://iedm.org)

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