

Six Months of Trump. What are the lessons learned as we head into NAFTA negotiations? New School of Public Policy paper

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CALGARY- Donald Trump has been President of the United States for six months now. According to a recent [Washington Post Poll](#), he has the lowest approval rating of any president in 70 years. But does that matter to the President? And will that influence his decision making around a promised renegotiation of NAFTA?

The School of Public Policy, CGAI and author Colin Robertson released a new report today that examines the first six months of the Trump administration. The paper highlights the current policies, the shifts in strategy, and more importantly, what should Canadians expect for the future.

According to author Colin Robertson, “Canada will have to actively engage with Congress, the states and the private and public interests that drive the American agenda. We will also have to put more effort and contribute more to the rules-based order of which we have been a beneficiary. Traditional statecraft is based on predictability and stability, both hallmarks of U.S. post-war foreign policy practised by both Democrats and Republicans. Predictable, Mr. Trump is not. The deliberation and careful planning that characterized the Obama administration have been replaced by Mr. Trump’s reliance on gut and instinct. Such unpredictability will continue to create heartburn inside foreign chancelleries, whether friend or foe.”

Where once the USA was prepared to cover the spread on trade and security, under Donald Trump there will be more take than give. Now, Canada and the allies will have to make their own investments in hard power to preserve collective security. But less dependence and reliance on US leadership and more collective responsibility would be a good thing.

Middle powers, like Canada, will have to step up their diplomacy, both collective and individual. Focusing on their own niche capacities they will have to shore up the space left by Trump Administration decisions on climate, migration and at the international institutions that sustain the rules-based order. Ironically, one effect of the Trump presidency may be to make the western alliance stronger.

The report can be found online at www.policyschool.ca/publications/

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To request an interview with the author(s) or for more information please contact:

Morten Paulsen
403.220.2540
Morten.paulsen2@ucalgary.ca