

## ***EDITORIAL***

### **Education and the New Trump Era in Canada**

One of the things a journalist editor has to think about is what is going on in a major way around them. One of the biggest things is that a dangerous man has returned to the White House in the United States and he seems determined to make it miserable for his friends and allies in the most outrageous ways. In the case of Canada he has threatened excessive tariffs on most goods coming from Canada to the United States. This will affect in large part three main sectors of the Canadian economy: oil, automobiles and forests. The irony of this is that these three sectors are dominated by American companies that produce most of the oil, automobiles and wood products that Canada produces since it is American companies that own most of these sectors of the Canadian economy. So the impact will not only be harder times for these American companies due to Trump's tariffs but harder times for these Canadians who work in these sectors for the American companies. It will also affect the possible tax revenue that the Canadian provincial governments can generate due to the location of such companies exploiting access to cheap Canadian oil, trees and the Canadian workforce.

Since Education is a provincial responsibility in the context of the Canadian constitutional arrangements this means that the amount of funds available for the educational sector, along with the health care sector, is accordingly reduced and weakened. It is not clear yet just what the future numbers will be for the educational sector, but in nearly all provinces the amount of money going to educational from the provincial coffers has been reducing for the last while. At the same time the reduction in the number of foreign students being admitted with visas that make it possible for them to gain permanent residence in Canada has been severely reduced by the Federal government. So an important source of income to many provincial post secondary institutions has also been reduced. It is not difficult to see that this is likely to affect those institutions significantly. My own doctoral students who work in such institutions across the country have all pointed out to me that this situation might very well affect their institutions severely and perhaps even their own jobs, particularly in the college sector.

As the Trump tariffs are about to be imposed very shortly I will try to keep up on the impact of this on the educational sector in future editorials.

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