

HOT TOPICS!

First Nations but Second Tier Democracy

There has been a great deal of discussion around the federal government's proposed Fair Elections Act, which looks to reform Canada's existing election laws. These proposed reforms have resulted in public outcry from some elected officials, leading to town halls, countless media

panels, extensive debates in the House of Commons, and even a public letter writing campaign from a group of international scholars. And rightfully so; election laws are the cornerstone of a democracy and any proposed reforms should be the subject of analysis and rigorous debate.

With so much debate over federal election reforms, how would you expect our elected officials to react when democratic rights are being stifled in First Nations communities in Canada? Unfortunately, in recent weeks, they've responded with neglect and evasion.

Read the article [HERE](#)



Economic Freedom and Air Quality

It is well established that economic freedom is one of the main drivers of economic prosperity. Economic freedom is the extent to which you can pursue economic activity without government interference as long as your actions don't violate the rights of others. Pollution is generally given as an example of a situation where the economic actions of one person violate the rights of others, thus justifying government intervention. However, the same economic institutions that contribute to economic freedom may actually lead to a cleaner environment at the same time.

Property rights, open markets, and a vibrant private economy are critically important economic institutions that affect environmental outcomes. Openness to trade is key to ensuring that new, cleaner technologies can be adopted across borders. This paper examines a multicountry data set for over a hundred countries spanning a period from 2000 to 2010 to identify the relationship between economic freedom and two environmental indicators (concentrations of fine particulate matter and carbon dioxide emissions).

Read the study [HERE](#)

