



# The Mobile Mortgage Specialists Report

## Comforts of Home

### Regular maintenance is the key



Inspecting your home on a regular basis and following good maintenance practices is the best way to protect your investment in your home. Whether you take care of a few tasks at a time or several all at once, it is important to get into the habit of doing them. Establish a routine for yourself and you will find the work is easy to accomplish and not very time consuming. A regular schedule of seasonal maintenance can put a stop to the most common and costly problems, before they occur.

### Fall Maintenance Tips:

- Inspect the exterior of your home to identify repair work to be done before the cool weather kicks in such as painting, caulking or siding repairs.
- Clean leaves from eavestroughs and roof, and test downspouts to ensure proper drainage from the roof.
- Ensure all doors to the outside shut tightly, and check other doors for ease of use. Renew door weather stripping if required.

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- Lubricate circulating pump on hot water heating system.
- If there is a door between your house and the garage, check the adjustment of the self-closing device to ensure it closes the door completely.

By following the information noted here, you will learn about protecting your investment and how to help keep your home a safe and healthy place to live.

Source: *Comforts of Home* eNewsletter Archives


 TD Economics

## Provincial Economic Forecast: Provincial Economies Firing on All Cylinders with Growth Converging in 2018

### Recent laggards to climb the growth charts

Importantly, these hefty revisions to the 2017 view do not change the overriding theme embedded in recent forecast publications of convergence among provincial performances. After a three-year hiatus, we expect a rebound in the oil-producing provinces to propel them up the leaderboard this year and next. Indeed, after two years of deep recession, Alberta is anticipated to record nation-leading growth of 3.7% in 2017 – a sharp turnaround that is poised to account for a full percentage point of the 1.3 percentage point acceleration in Canada's forecasted growth rate to 2.8% this year. On the flip side, expansions in Ontario and B.C. are projected to decelerate, but remain at or slightly ahead of the national average. The remaining provinces are expected to record steady but modest gains in the 1-2% range over the forecast horizon.

While economic prospects have brightened this year, the outlook is not without risks. Ongoing uncertainty surrounding trade policy, with NAFTA renegotiation likely to kick off this summer, will keep exporters on their toes. The uncertainty is likely to limit business investment in regions dependent on trade with the United States. Already the Trump Administration has announced a countervailing duty on Canadian softwood lumber, which will hurt producers in a number of provinces, with B.C., Quebec and New Brunswick most exposed. An anti-dumping duty could follow in the coming weeks, exacerbating the impact.

The recent pullback in crude oil prices below US\$45 per barrel highlights the ongoing challenges facing

oil-producing provinces. We expect this decline to be transitory, with the WTI benchmark likely to rebound above US\$50 per barrel in the second half of this year, as the OPEC/non-OPEC production cuts begin to impact global balances. However, persistent weakness in prices remains a possibility and poses downside risk to our forecast for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador.

On the domestic front, the housing market remains the key risk, particularly in regions that have seen an outsized contribution to growth in recent years such as B.C. and Ontario. In Ontario, the impact of recent measures by the provincial government to cool housing activity in the Greater Golden Horseshoe has so far had the intended consequences. Meanwhile, other markets – such as in B.C., Quebec and PEI – have experienced significant upside momentum. Ultimately, all markets will be impacted as interest rates begin to rise off their current extraordinarily low levels later this year.

*Source:* Beata Caranci, TD Economics, June 22, 2017

### Did you know?

Walls cold to the touch, cold floors, high heating costs and uneven heating levels within the home are signs of insulation problems.



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