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## Market Update

20 January 2017

As I'm writing this article listening and watching the news on president to be Donald Trump's inauguration. The usual honeymoon of a new leaders is ending quickly as protesters plan to descend on Capitol Hill. How did we get here? Global winds are wanting to bring change as most citizens of democratic nations are disillusioned with career politicians and their self serving ways. The lack of accountability, squandering of tax payer money and at times the outright underhanded acts. Netflix's House of Cards is surprisingly accurate depiction of the ugliness of the political ruling class. Unfortunately, this is a global pandemic. This will be a presidential inauguration filled with violent protests and much ongoing anger. Conversations are already about that Barrack Obama will move away from being a quiet past president to being active in taking Trump's administration head on. President Trump will have a long and challenged filled road ahead of him in delivering on economic prosperity even more so given that out going president Obama being more popular and influential that president Trump.

Economically, America will be returning to its pre great recession power house. The all important wage inflation numbers are coming quickly. Reducing taxation, repatriating of capital and infrastructure spending should bring about economic reflation. Markets have been on a wait and see approach with today on inauguration day a mix of upbeat and down beat views. The first 100 days will be vital. The stage is set for growth as execution will be the uplifting factor. What is clear is that influencing the American



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Federal Reserve will not go as planned by Trump. Head Chair Janet Yellen has no desire to back down nor do any of the existing of the regional chairs. Wage inflation will determine how fast interest rates will incline.

In the EU, ECB Chair Mario Draghi known as "Super Mario" as he pushes hard in expanding quantitative easing. The Euro dollar continues to slump as the EU currency is further weakened.

Oil prices fail to respond the way OPEC leaders wish. After cutting supply by 320,000 a day, the International Energy Agency expects the oil cartel to further cut oil production. However reality is that American shale producers are ramping up oil production as prices stay above \$50 a barrel. Baker Hughes reported new oil rig counts in America rose continually for the last 10 months along with stockpiles raising by 2.3 million barrels in the week ending January 13th deifying market expectation of stock pile declines. A Trump presidency will see the easing of restrictions on oil drilling only adding to the oversupply. Oil prices struggle to push past the \$55 and ultimately the \$60 a barrel level.

China endeavours to grow as the politburo pumps massive stimulus into the dragon economy. It is the sixth successive year the Chinese economy has slowed and the lowest annual GDP growth in 26 year. Economic collapse may be avoided while economic slow down moves from rapid decline to moderate.

The Bank of Canada failed to take decisive action on interest rates by holding pat. Analysts expected that increases rates would decline by 25 basis points. Economic protectionism is on the rise and Canadian will see the loss of jobs as America looks to grow inwards. This year will prove to be a challenging year for overall growth. The volume of homes sold posted their biggest decline in November with December being lower than past December. Prices have declined in Vancouver as compared to past December by 6.6%. For real estate markets in Ontario to move forward in price, wage appreciation has to meet or exceed the pace of affordability.

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