

2023 SPRING MEMBER FORUM
Creating Corporate Advantage

May 4 & 5, 2023
Fairmont Hotel, Winnipeg

For 50 years, WESTAC has been navigating the challenges of promoting system-wide, strategic advancement of transportation and goods movement in Western Canada. Never has this mission been more critical, given the pace at which challenges faced by the industry continue to change and multiply.

The 2023 Spring Forum will focus on exploring opportunities that create a corporate advantage for companies in the transportation industry. The transportation industry has its work cut out for itself. How we navigate labour challenges and stakeholder expectations and address economic reconciliation and regulatory hurdles will greatly impact the transportation sector's success and the growth of the Canadian economy.

We're delighted to confirm that Premier Heather Stefanson will be a keynote speaker to outline Manitoba's efforts to drive economic growth and innovation. Following her remarks, a "Spotlight on Manitoba" session will highlight its diverse economy and the opportunities ahead.

- 7:45 am **Hot Buffet Breakfast**
- 8:45 am **Annual General Meeting**
- 9:00 am **Welcoming Remarks & Introductions**
- Hon. Doyle Piwniuk, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Government of Manitoba & Chair, WESTAC
 - Lindsay Kislock, President & CEO, WESTAC
- 9:15 am **A Report Card on a Trading Nation**
- Marie-France Paquet leads a team of analysts in reporting and advising on international trade, investment, and economic issues. Dr. Paquet will provide an overview of Global Affairs' current economic research and analysis projects, including the impact of trade agreements and the vulnerability of Canadian supply chains, emphasizing the trade outlook and opportunities in Western Canada.
- Marie-France Paquet, Chief Economist, Global Affairs Canada
- 10:00 am **Break**
- 10:30 am **Economic Reconciliation**
- Building strong and lasting relationships with Indigenous Peoples founded on mutual trust, respect, and shared prosperity is the key to developing successful businesses and infrastructure projects in Canada. This session will provide an opportunity to learn from organizations whose successful partnerships support economic reconciliation and create corporate advantage.
- Heather Exner-Pirot, Director of Energy, Natural Resources and Environment, Macdonald-Laurier Institute
 - Christian Sinclair, First Nation Economic Strategic Planner
 - Rob Booker, Chief Executive Officer, Trigon Pacific Terminals
 - Ian Anderson, Former CEO of the Trans Mountain Corporation
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00 pm

Managing Skilled Labour Shortages

For the first time in the history of the Compass Report, skilled labour shortages were both the top business and top transportation challenges. Given the declining working-age population in Canada, innovative approaches to retaining and recruiting employees are required. This panel will discuss the labour challenges in transportation and potential solutions.

- Pedro Antunes, Chief Economist, Conference Board of Canada
- Shelly Voth, Immigration Coordinator for the City of Morden
- David Radford, Senior Director, Operations and Training, CN

2:30 pm

Break

3:00 pm

Opportunities Ahead

In this tumultuous time, people, companies, and investors are recognizing that Manitoba is the answer to many of the world's problems. The Honourable Heather Stefanson will join us to outline Manitoba's efforts to facilitate economic growth, drive innovation and create opportunities for Manitoba.

- Hon. Heather Stefanson, Premier, Province of Manitoba

3:45 pm

Spotlight on Manitoba

Rich with resources, a skilled workforce and a diversified economy located at the centre of North America's trade corridors, Manitoba is well placed to build an inclusive economy where all Manitobans can compete, innovate and thrive.

In a panel facilitated by Minister Pivniuk, we will hear from industry leaders about why Manitoba is the right choice for their business and the opportunities they see ahead.

- Michelle Finley, Communications and Public Affairs Manager, Roquette Canada
- Todd Burns, Chief Executive Officer, Cypher Environmental
- Charles "Duff" Sullivan, Country Leader, Managing Director and President, Boeing Canada

5:00 pm

Session Ends

5:30 pm

Reception at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

85 Israel Asper Way, Winnipeg (*transportation provided*)

7:45 am **Breakfast** (open to all attendees)

WESTAC LEADER'S COUNCIL – Focus on Transport Canada

The Leader's Council is open to official representatives of member organizations. Sustaining members are allowed one additional representative.

8:30 am Each forum concludes with an in camera, frank discussion among the most senior representatives of member organizations. Participation is limited to the Official representative from each member organization and excludes non-members. No reporting will take place.

The 2022 Federal Fall Economic Update and 2023 Budget indicated that the government remains committed to bringing forward a National Supply Chain Strategy to improve Canada's supply chains and bolster the country's economic capacity.

Additionally, with the recent appointment of Arun Thangaraj as Deputy Minister of Transport Canada, there is lots to learn and discuss with the federal government. The Spring Forum Leader's Council will be focused on a transportation update from the federal budget and a discussion related to Transport Canada priorities including a digital transportation strategy.

Speakers:

- Arun Thangaraj, Deputy Minister, Transport Canada
- Serge Bijimine, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Transport Canada
- Christian Dea, Director General, Transportation & Economic Analysis and Chief Economist, Transport Canada
- Paul Sandhar-Cruz, Director General, Strategic Policy, Transport Canada

10:30 am Meeting adjourns

10:45 am **Board of Directors Meeting**

12:00 pm **Board Meeting Adjourns**