

## 2020 FALL MEMBER FORUM

### WHAT'S NEXT?

#### The Aftermath of the COVID-19 Crisis

#### OCTOBER 14, 16, 21 & 23 – ONLINE EVENT

The COVID-19 pandemic is, first and foremost, a global health crisis that triggered enormous economic consequences. The World Trade Organization estimates that global merchandise trade plunged 18.5% in the second quarter of 2020 and forecasts an overall contraction of 13% for the year. In Canada, unemployment reached 13.7% in May, and GDP is likely to have plunged by a record of 12% in the second quarter. These indicators will improve as the economy recovers from earlier lockdown measures.

The 2020 Fall Member Forum will address the pressing concerns that Canadian transportation leaders have as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts will provide their insights on the scale and permanency of damage caused by the pandemic, and outline responses for businesses and governments to thrive in the coming years.

#### SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, October 14: 10:30 - 12:00 (PDT)**

Session 1: Globalization & Trade

**Friday, October 16: 10:00 - 12:00 (PDT)**

Session 2: Economic Implications & Prospects for Recovery

**Wednesday, October 21: 10:00 - 12:00 (PDT)**

Session 3: COVID-19: An Inflection Point for Freight Transportation?

**Friday, October 23: 10:00 - 12:00 (PDT)**

Session 4: Annual General Meeting, Keynote Speaker & COVID-19 Townhall: Your Questions Answered

**A Note on Format:**

Since travel and large in-person conferences are restricted, WESTAC has made the decision to go online for this year's Fall Member Forum. The Forum will run across four days – two 2-hour sessions per week, for two weeks. Though Forums are traditionally limited to the Official and Alternate representatives to the Council, we would like to take the opportunity to open up each session to other executives within WESTAC member organizations.

10:30 am **Opening Remarks**

**Honourable Ric Mclver**, Minister of Transportation, Government of Alberta

**Lisa Baratta**, Interim President, WESTAC

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10:40 am **Session 1: Globalization & Trade**

The pandemic has prompted a wave of globalization obituaries and speculation that it is likely to redraw the map of world trade. Are we headed for a post-globalization era? How will global trade patterns change? Will Canada be better or worse off?

Speakers:

**Karen Harris**, Managing Director, Macro Trends Group, Bain & Company

**Dr. Daniel Trefler**, Professor, Economic Analysis & Policy, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

Moderator:

**Rudyard Griffiths**, Chair of the Munk Debates and Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

At the conclusion of the moderated discussion, participants will have the choice to continue the discussions with either of the speakers or meet with a small group of peers at a virtual table. *We encourage you to be camera-ready and join us via video to fully participate in these breakout sessions.*

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12:00 pm **Session ends**

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**Please note that all times are Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)**

10:00 am **Session 2: Economic Implications & Prospects for Recovery**

Uncertainty about the future trajectory of the global and national economies continues to be high as the spread of the virus and the effect of reduction measures are challenging to predict. What is the economic outlook for Western Canada's primary trading partners? What is the outlook for Canada? What are the emerging economic challenges to overcome?

Speakers:

**Louis-Vincent Gave**, Founding Partner & CEO, Gavekal Research

**Jean-François Perrault**, Vice President & Chief Economist, Scotiabank

**Jim Stanford**, Economist & Director, The Centre for Future Work

Moderator:

**Rudyard Griffiths**, Chair of the Munk Debates and Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

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12:00 pm **Session ends**

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**10:00 am Session 3: COVID-19: An Inflection Point for Freight Transportation?**

This crisis has highlighted the importance of freight transportation. Transportation firms have had to be nimble and adapt to quickly changing conditions and significant volatility. What will the lasting effects be on the maritime and rail sectors? Will the industry need to adapt to a low growth reality? What role will technology play?

Speakers:

**Lars Jensen**, Chief Executive Officer, SealIntelligence Consulting

**Tony Hatch**, Consultant, ABH Consulting

**Keith Dierkx**, Principal, Keith Dierkx LLC

Moderator:

**Hon. Lisa Raitt P.C.**, Vice-Chair of Global Investment Banking, CIBC and Former Minister of Transport, Labour and Natural Resources

Following the moderated discussion with the three speakers, two executives will share their views on the trends most likely to impact Canada's transportation system.

**Wolfgang Schoch**, Managing Director, Hapag Lloyd (Canada)

**James Cairns**, Senior Vice-President Rail Centric Supply Chain, CN

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

At the conclusion of the session, participants will have the choice to continue the discussions on maritime, rail, or technology trends or meet with a small group of peers at a virtual table. *We encourage you to be camera-ready and join us via video to fully participate in these breakout sessions.*

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**12:00 pm Session ends**

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**Please note that all times are Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)**

10:00 am **Annual General Meeting**

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**Session 4: Keynote Address – Not Every Crisis is a Turning Point**

Dr. Richard Haass, the New York Times best-selling nonfiction author will discuss his view on how the pandemic will accelerate history rather than reshape it. In his latest book, *The World*, he provides readers with a foundation to navigate the challenges that lie ahead.

Speaker:

**Dr. Richard Haass**, President, Council on Foreign Relations

Moderator:

**Lisa Baratta**, Interim President, WESTAC

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**COVID-19 Townhall: Your Questions Answered**

In this Townhall session, one of Canada’s leading experts in infectious diseases and emerging viruses will answer your questions about COVID-19. When will the pandemic end? What are the prospects for a vaccine? What precautions should firms take to protect workers? *We encourage you to be camera-ready for an engaging experience.*

Speaker:

**Dr. Jason Kindrachuk**, Assistant Professor, Canada Research Chair, Department of Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases, University of Manitoba

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12:00 pm **Session ends**

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