

EXECUTIVE OBSERVATIONS

Canada needs a national strategic growth plan to address its lagging economic indicators. This message was reiterated by several speakers at the Fall Member Forum.

Such a plan begins with abandoning the default mindset of determinism. Instead of passively expecting to respond after destabilization occurs, we must prepare ourselves strategically for instability. It's critical that we move from a reactive stance to a proactive, forward-facing posture that embraces flexibility and foresight.

At WESTAC, we know that Canada's ability to achieve economic success as a trading nation is founded on its ability to move goods to market in a timely and predictable way. As transportation systems and services improve, so will our economic and social prosperity. A successful economic plan for Canada must include a transportation infrastructure plan as a key element.

In turn, a sustainable long-term transportation infrastructure plan should include a corridor strategy to address infrastructure bottlenecks and increase innovation in the transportation industry. It also needs to build on provincial corridor and goods movement strategies and be developed in concert with industry. We can build resiliency by looking beyond the immediate horizon and planning for disruptive events.

To achieve sustainable prosperity that leaves no one behind, new pathways are needed. Speakers offered a range of insights into how we can change our business and social environments to blaze these trails. Approaches include investing in workforces, adopting technologies and weaving climate concerns into business and strategic plans. This report serves as a summary of these lessons.



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