



SUMMARY



WESTAC members during welcoming remarks.

The new initiatives, emerging technologies, and changes in policy and operations outlined at the 2018 Spring Member Forum in Winnipeg indicate that Western Canada's transportation sector is stepping up to meet many of the new challenges to efficiency and competitiveness.

Governments at all levels are responding by investing additional resources to ensure that regulatory frameworks facilitate trade and enhance the efficiency, safety and sustainability of goods movement. Governments are also playing a vital role in digital innovation by funding and supporting exploratory work and creating supply chain data banks to help stakeholders improve competitiveness. Four of the five provincial ministers spoke of their current funding priorities and challenges, striking similar notes on issues from climate change to the importance of the interprovincial trade flow.

Technology is emerging as a driver of positive change and growth. Our members are actively engaging in collaborative pilot programs and technological initiatives that are reshaping the operational environment and establishing new markets. While new partnerships are being struck through superclusters and digital networks, the successful implementation of new technology still relies on old-fashioned relationships, trust and a willingness to collaborate — so our work continues.

Even as we saw welcome examples of members' responsiveness, adaptability and innovation, it was clear that we still face challenges when it comes to resolving some of the system-wide inefficiencies and obstacles that impede supply chain competitiveness. There is widespread concern that many stakeholders are still working in silos without the technology or data they need, or within business models that pit one's interest against another's to the detriment of the system.

Other countries are moving quickly to take advantage of new and emerging opportunities. To compete, we need to work together at all levels. Technology may solve certain challenges, but we need to continue to discuss other solutions to the problems articulated in Winnipeg. Some of these are earmarked as *Points of Discussion* in the text.

Much work remains to be done. As a more diversified group participates at WESTAC, including more shippers, the opportunities to find new solutions and productive collaborations will grow.