

# EXECUTIVE OBSERVATIONS

It was terrific to gather in Regina for the 2022 Spring Member Forum. Focusing on the forces driving the Canadian economy, we examined the activities underway in Saskatchewan to support communities and families and build a stronger province. As Premier Scott Moe proclaimed during our forum, Saskatchewan is “back on track.” With the return to in-person forums, WESTAC is back on track too!

The experts we convened in Regina delved into several different issues that are poised to affect Canada’s economic opportunities and how we need to rethink and reimagine supply chains:

- Darrell Bricker, CEO of Ipsos Public Affairs, schooled us in three demographic shifts that are underway: Canada’s population is aging, rapidly becoming more suburban and the fertility rate is declining.
- At the same time, the changing climate is wreaking havoc on our transportation infrastructure.
- Related, Canada has a big role to play in the climate solution because it can deliver world-leading low-carbon products—such as critical minerals, hydrogen, lithium, helium and biofuels—to global markets.
- Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has intensified the focus on national security, driven up demand for agriculture products, and heightened international awareness of geopolitical influences on globalization. These interrelated topics were addressed by distinguished Canadian scholars Dr. Wesley Wark and Dr. Nicolas Lamp.

Overall, our Regina forum provided an opportunity to consider Canada’s changing and emerging economic opportunities based on these developments and trends. A key message is that with a sustained focus on increasing the capacity and fluidity of our trade transportation network, we can export our low-carbon products to world markets and get the Canadian economy back on track in a post-pandemic world.



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