

EXECUTIVE OBSERVATIONS

It was wonderful to gather in person in Vancouver after a stretch of online forums. We hope to do so again for our Spring Member Forum in Regina.

Our Fall Forum guest speakers and discussions reflected a range of dynamic factors that are influencing the transportation and logistics sector. The upshot is that the goods movement sector must rethink how things are done, starting from the planning stages: plans can no longer be based on simple variations of current operations. Instead, scenario planning needs to be bold and reflect a range of pressing implications, such as climate change and emerging technologies, with resources ready to move quickly toward implementation if required.

New planning processes must also focus on resilience and risk management. Resilience requires planning for extreme weather events, multi-faceted cyberattacks and the scarcity of goods or means of conveyance. Factoring shifts in global trade and the flow of goods, the complexity facing transportation today is unparalleled.

The events of the past 2 years have revealed how interconnected and interdependent our infrastructure is and how capacity constraints continue to impede competitiveness. We cannot continue to increase the volume of goods moved with this system with any certainty or reliability. We need to better coordinate our planning, increase our investments, and expand our use of technology. Otherwise, our economy will stagnate.

At the Fall Forum, some members mentioned initiatives that reflect the nimbleness of Canada's business sector, whether in terms of redefining business models or managing operations to mitigate risks and leverage new opportunities. Remaining agile and open to inevitable change remain key to our future prosperity.



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