

2019 FALL MEMBER FORUM EXCEPTIONAL SPEAKER SERIES II

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 WESTIN CALGARY AIRPORT

The global economic, political and social landscape remains unsettled. In Canada, political environments are shifting with the recent election in Alberta and citizens headed to the polls in Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and federally before the end of the year.

Global trade conflicts are escalating, as is the new norm, with rules-based trading frequently challenged and tariffs imposed unilaterally. The uncertainty is taking its toll, with economies under threat and recession fears escalating.

And for the workforce, the constant threat of automation is posing challenges to middle-class jobs and futures. These uncertain times are guaranteed to have a wide-ranging impact on Canada's economy and transportation sector.

This forum aims to prepare WESTAC members to identify opportunities and strategies to navigate the unsettled waters ahead. To help WESTAC is hosting two acclaimed economists: David Rosenberg and Jim Stanford for in-depth discussions on a range of issues from threats to global economic stability to the future of work.

One of WESTAC's strengths is the ability to bring world-class, thought-provoking speakers exclusively for its members. Each speaker will host up to a 90-minute "Executive Dialogue" session, which will include a formal presentation and a facilitated roundtable discussion. The purpose is to determine how the issues raised will impact individual stakeholders and the Western Canadian transportation system.

[Register online](#)

Venue:

Westin Calgary Airport
671 Aero Drive NE, Calgary, AB

A Note on Format:

WESTAC is exploring ways to reduce out of office time, while not compromising quality. The Forum aims to provide powerful and provocative insights in just one day! The event takes place at the Westin Calgary Airport to offer quick access for travellers.

FORWARD THINKING. TRANSPORTATION.

8:00 am **Opening Buffet Breakfast**

8:45 am **Opening Remarks**

9:00 am **Threats to Global Economic Stability**

David Rosenberg is Gluskin Sheff + Associates' **Chief Economist and Strategist**. He is one of Canada's best known and most quoted economists. A "permabear", David has been recognized for his accurate economic predictions on many occasions. He is a regular commentator in the media and one of the Financial Post's five most influential Canadians in investing. David is able to distill his predictions into relatable and interesting economic projections for clients and the public.

Topics:

- outlook on the global economy
- preparing for the looming U.S. recession
- global effects of the U.S. – China trade war and
- why deflation is still the #1 threat to global economic stability.

David Rosenberg, Chief Economist & Strategist, Gluskin Sheff

Facilitated roundtable discussion.

10:30 am **Break**

11:00 am **The Future of Work: It's Not What You Think**

Dr. Jim Stanford is one of Canada's most recognized labour economists, providing valuable insights and economic analysis for Unifor, the Progressive Economics Institute and now the Australia Institute in Sydney. He is the author of *Economics for Everyone*. Jim is uniquely able to shed light on the future of work in the transportation sector.

"We must build a more collective and democratic capacity to analyze and understand what is happening in the world of work, negotiate competing interests and priorities, and then wield policies and institutions that allow to make the most of the positive potential of technology, while minimizing its downsides and prohibiting its abuses." – Jim Stanford

Topics:

- the rapid growth of low-wage, low-tech, labour intensive jobs
- factors in the slower-than-expected spread of robots, AI, and other labour-saving technology
- side-effects digital platform businesses
- skills and training are not a "magic bullet"

Dr. Jim Stanford, Economist & Director, Centre for Future Work at the Australia Institute

Facilitated roundtable discussion with panelists (to be determined).

12:30 pm **Lunch with Speaker**
Deciphering the Federal Election and the New Government

Speaker *(to be determined)*

OTHER EVENTS

2:00 pm

Leaders Council (closed session)

The purpose of the Leaders Council is to have a frank dialogue among senior WESTAC Members. To encourage frankness and build trust, each member organization may have one representative at the Leaders Council. The representative should be a senior executive and a regular attendee at WESTAC.*

**Sustaining Members may have two participants (Provincial & Federal Governments, BNSF, CN, CP, VFPA)*

Discussion: A Strategy for Western Trade Corridors

Additional information will be provided in October.

3:30 pm

Leaders Council ends

3:45 – 4:30 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

4:45 – 6:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

More about our Exceptional Speakers:

David Rosenberg
Chief Economist and Strategist, Gluskin Sheff + Associates
Threats to Global Economic Stability

For more than 30 years, David Rosenberg has been a trusted name in global economics and one of Canada's most recognizable "permabears." He was the only economist recognized for his accurate economic projections in Fortune Magazine's "Best and Worst of Wall Street 2011," and was ranked most accurate forecaster for 2011 by MSNBC. More recently, he has been ranked one of the five most influential Canadians in investing by Financial Post Magazine and one of the 12 smartest people on Wall Street by Business Insider.

Prior to joining Gluskin Sheff in 2009, he was Chief North American Economist at Bank of America-Merrill Lynch in New York and prior thereto, he was a Senior Economist at BMO Nesbitt Burns and Bank of Nova Scotia. He received both a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Jim Stanford
Economist and Director, Centre for Future Work, The Australia Institute

The Future of Work: It's Not What You Think

He recently relocated to Sydney, Australia from Toronto, where he is one of Canada's best-known economic commentators. He served for over 20 years as Economist and Director of Policy with Unifor, Canada's largest private-sector trade union (formerly the Canadian Auto Workers).

Jim received his Ph.D. in Economics from the New School for Social Research in New York. He also holds an M.Phil. from Cambridge University, and a B.A. (Hons.) from the University of Calgary.