

**2023 FALL MEMBER FORUM**  
**The Road to Sustainability**

**November 16 & 17, 2023**  
**Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver**

Canada is warming faster than the world as a whole—at more than twice the global rate. The rapidly changing climate has resulted in the hottest months on record, forest fires burning out of control, devastating drought conditions, and communities and infrastructure at significant risk.

The changing climate requires that we adapt the way we approach transportation in terms of protecting infrastructure, using cleaner fuels and power sources, and changing operations. We must also have and continually review plans to reduce transportation carbon emissions and look for ways to expedite our progress toward net zero.

Join us in Vancouver as we discuss the road to sustainability and what it means for the Western Canadian transportation industry. We will conclude the day with a reception celebrating WESTAC's golden anniversary with our current and past colleagues.

Register [online](#)

# THURSDAY

November 16, 2023

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7:30 am **Hot Buffet Breakfast**

8:30 am **Welcoming Remarks and Introductions**

- Lindsay Kislock, President & CEO, WESTAC

8:45 am **Climate Anarchy**

Decarbonization of the global economy will impact international affairs and reshape commerce. The global shift toward clean energy will inevitably reshape geopolitics and profoundly impact the transportation sector. Robert D. Kaplan, geopolitical expert and best-selling author, will highlight how the transition to clean energy sources will alter trade patterns, create new alliances, and potentially lead to resource competition.

- Robert D. Kaplan, Best-selling author & Atlantic Monthly correspondent *(confirmed)*

10:00 am **Climate Change as an Investment Risk**

For years now, BlackRock has been tracking investment risk and opportunities in the global transition to a low-carbon economy. The transition is among a handful of major structural shifts that BlackRock sees rewiring economies, sectors, and businesses. The impact of climate change is already apparent as we've witnessed increased natural disasters in Canada and globally. It's hard to find a part of our ecology—or our economy—that's unaffected. Finance is not immune to these changes. In this session, we will hear how BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, is approaching investment opportunities and mitigating risk on behalf of clients, globally.

- Marcia Moffat, Managing Director and Country Head of Canada, BlackRock *(confirmed)*

10:45 am **Break**

# THURSDAY

November 16, 2023

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11:15 am

## Sustainability Transformation

With margins under pressure and the cost of capital significantly higher, some companies are questioning the timing and value of sustainability initiatives. Stephan will make a case for how companies can both decarbonize and boost long-term growth to create rather than destroy value.

- **Stephan Görner**, Senior Partner and Global-Co Leader of Transformation, McKinsey & Company *(confirmed)*

12:00 pm

## Lunch

1:00 pm

## New West Rail Bridge (NWRB) Update

Since its construction in 1904, the NWRB has been the subject of much discussion, and more recently on the list of top pinch points identified in the western corridor. Transport Canada and the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) have been studying transportation needs for freight traffic over the NWRB to understand the needs for freight traffic through the Asia-Pacific Gateway. This session will provide members with an update on this work.

- **Chris Hoff**, Regional Manager, Transport Canada *(confirmed)*
- **TBD**, HDR

1:45 pm

## Investment in Resiliency

Two years after the atmospheric river events that cut off access to southern British Columbia, the transportation partners have been seeking options to ensure future events do not cause similar disruptions for the movement of goods through the western trade corridor. Colorado faced a similar series of natural disasters in 2013 and developed a resiliency office and program in response.

Minister Fleming will facilitate a panel that spotlights Colorado's resiliency program and other activities including the BC Clean Transportation Action Plan and the BC Goods Movement Strategy to support the resiliency of the transportation industry.

- **Heather Paddock**, Transportation Director, Colorado Department of Transportation *(confirmed)*
- **Kenedee Ludwar**, Executive Director, Engineering Services, BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure *(confirmed)*
- **Rahim Karmali**, Chief Engineer for Western Canada, CN *(confirmed)*

3:00 pm

## Break

# THURSDAY

November 16, 2023

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3:30 pm

## **Taking Action: Innovations on the path to Net Zero**

Transportation firms are making significant investments and achieving measurable results as they work towards a net zero future. Many are testing alternative fuels, building new vehicles and forging new partnerships to accelerate progress. This session will showcase the innovations occurring in the transportation industry to reduce emissions.

- **Harly Penner**, Vice President, Seaspan Ferries and Energy Transformation, Seaspan *(confirmed)*
- **David Payne**, President, Harbour Link Container Services *(invited)*
- **TBD**, Air Canada *(invited)*
- **TBD**, CPKC *(invited)*

4:45 pm

## **Session ends**

5:00 pm

## **Reception celebrating 50 years of forward-thinking transportation.**

# FRIDAY

November 17, 2023

7:45 am

## **Breakfast with Keynote Speaker: The Next Green Revolution**

*(open to all attendees)*

- **John Stackhouse**, Senior Vice-President, Office of the CEO, RBC  
*(confirmed)*

### **WESTAC LEADER'S COUNCIL**

9:15 am

Each forum concludes with an in camera, frank discussion among the most senior representatives of member organizations. No reporting will take place.

#### **Government Update: What's new and next?**

Ministers and senior government officials will provide an update on the latest policies, regulations, and strategic investments influencing the future of the freight transport sector. They will share anticipated outcomes and initial results from recent actions, shedding light on their collaborative efforts in priority areas such as the development of western economic corridors and the formulation of a national infrastructure plan. Leader's Council will conclude with an important update from Robert Dick, Transport Canada regarding the National Supply Chain Office.

#### **Additional information:**

Participation is limited to one representative from each member organization. (Sustaining members are allowed one additional representative).

11:15 am

Meeting adjourns

11:20 am

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

12:15 pm

## **Meeting Adjourns**