

# Semi-Annual Meeting 2012

## *The world as we don't know it...* Game Changers & Transportation's Response

November 20 & 21  
Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside Hotel, Vancouver, BC

At the Semi-Annual Meeting, Members will have the opportunity to hear from two unique thought-leaders who will present **game-changing scenarios** that will challenge the *world as we know it* on globalization, transportation networks and infrastructure development. In an increasingly turbulent world with market volatility, economic uncertainty and environmental challenges, how do we plan?

It is natural to plan based on current trends continuing into the future. However, it is necessary to also consider whether there are any potential game changers – truly dramatic events – that would transform or disrupt these trends and change the world as we know it. Two keynote speakers will present scenarios with dramatic implications for the transportation system.

After each presented scenario, Members will engage in a planning exercise on the impacts of the scenario on the supply chain. A skilled, neutral facilitator with a transportation background will engage Members in a roundtable dialogue using each scenario.

The main scenario sessions will be supplemented with shorter presentations addressing specific drivers of change that will impact the transportation industry.

At the end of the meeting, Members will leave with a heightened awareness of possible scenarios that could impact the industry. Members are encouraged to come with open minds and ideas on how the system could respond and remain resilient, effective and financially viable in a potentially turbulent future.

### SCENARIOS

#### CHALLENGING THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>SCENARIO 1</b> | <b>The coming collapse of China</b>         |
| <b>SCENARIO 2</b> | <b>Surprising impacts of climate change</b> |

Tuesday, November 20

10:00 am **Board of Directors Meeting**

11:45 am **Lunch**

1:00 pm **Opening Remarks by the Chairman**

- **Hon. Ric Mclver**, Minister of Transportation, Government of Alberta

## SCENARIO 1

1:15 pm

### THE COMING COLLAPSE OF CHINA

Our Scenario 1 speaker argues that the collapse of China is imminent. The IMF predicts that China's economy will surpass the United States' in size by 2016. Many are predicting at least two more decades of 8 percent growth (or higher). Gordon Chang, the author of *The Coming Collapse of China*, says, "don't believe any of this". He backs it up with economic, political and social arguments and data that will give members pause to re-think and consider these risks.

- **Gordon Chang**, Author

#### Roundtable Discussion – Members Respond

Facilitated by **Dr. Roger Gibbins** - a discussion on how the collapse of China would impact Western Canada's transportation industry.

- Will we still be exporting commodities?
- What's the new role of the Asia Pacific Gateway?
- What is happening in container trade?
- Will China still play into Canada's energy discussion?

3:15 pm **Break**

3:45 pm

### DRIVER OF CHANGE

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – THE FOURTH REVOLUTION IN URBAN TRANSPORTATION

Governments everywhere are challenged to fund & maintain transit and road networks. This session will explore innovative funding alternatives.

- **Dr. Michael Poulton**, Professor, Faculty of Architecture & Planning (retired), Dalhousie University

*Roundtable discussion*

4:15 pm

### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT VIEWPOINTS

- **Hon. Ric Mclver**, Minister of Transportation, Government of Alberta
- **Hon. Mary Polak**, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure, Government of BC

5:00 pm Meeting adjourns for the day

5:15 – 7:15 pm **Reception**

## Wednesday, November 21

7:00 am Hot Buffet Breakfast

8:00 am **DRIVER OF CHANGE – THE FUTURE OF UNIONS**

Exploring the impact of unions – past, present and future. What innovations should we expect?

- **Dave Coles**, President, Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP)

*Roundtable discussion*

**SCENARIO 2**

8:45 am

**SURPRISING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

In his book, *The World in 2050*, Dr. Laurence Smith constructs a thought-experiment to establish a scenario of what the world will look like in 2050. His analysis is based on examining four global forces that have shaped our world for hundreds of years: demography, growing demand for natural resources, globalization and climate change. In this session, Laurence Smith will focus on the impacts of climate change and how they will transform Canada.

- **Dr. Laurence Smith**, Professor and Vice-Chair, Department of Geography, UCLA

**A Provincial Government Viewpoint – Preparing for Climate Change**

- **Hon. Steve Ashton**, Minister of Infrastructure & Transportation, Government of Manitoba

Break

**Roundtable Discussion – Members Respond**

Facilitated by **Dr. Roger Gibbins** - a discussion on how climate change will impact transportation infrastructure and the wider transportation industry.

- Water levels – oceans & rivers
- New shipping routes through the Arctic
- Rail & road construction and routes
- Farming – crops and planting regions
- Natural disaster response, readiness – if climate change is creating more disasters what is the response mechanism, how resilient is the system

11:20 am

**Closing Remarks**

11:30 am

**Working Lunch – BRAND INSIGHT SESSION**

In the 2011 Member Survey, Members identified the need for a stronger brand. Please join us for a brainstorming session to share your unique point of view and kick-off development of an updated WESTAC brand. Claire Booth of Lux Insights and Don Cleland of Cleland Creative will lead the session.

*(A buffet lunch will be available to guests and Members unable to participate in this session).*

2:30 pm

Meeting ends