2025 SPRING MEMBER FORUM
CHARTING THE COURSE IN AN ERA OF UNCERTAINTY

APRIL 30 & MAY 1
FAIRMONT HOTEL MACDONALD & GOVERNMENT HOUSE, EDMONTON

Global economic forces, shifting trade dynamics, and political uncertainty in the U.S. are redefining the landscape for Canada's freight transportation and export sectors. WESTAC's 2025 Spring Member Forum will provide a forward-looking analysis of key economic and political developments, equipping industry leaders with the knowledge to navigate risks and seize new opportunities. From U.S. policy shifts and trade diversification to overcoming barriers in major projects, this forum will bring together top experts and industry leaders to discuss actionable strategies for securing long-term prosperity in Western Canada.



VENUES

Fairmont Hotel Macdonald (F)
10065 100 St NW Tel: (780) 424-5181
Edmonton, AB

Meeting Rooms
All meetings and meals take place on the lobby level.

Government House (GH)
12845 102 Ave. Tel: (780) 424-5181
Edmonton, AB

Note: Known as "The Room of No Secrets," the Alberta Room has excellent acoustics—a whisper can be heard across the room.

*Complimentary shuttles via taxi will be provided between venues at designated times.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

7:00 am	Hot Buffet Breakfast	Wedgewood Room (F)
7:45 am	Annual General Meeting	Empire Ballroom (F)
8:00 am	Welcoming Remarks	Empire Ballroom (F)
8:15 am	Working Sessions begin	
10:00 am	Break	
10:30 am	Working Sessions (cont.)	
11:30 pm	Lunch w/ Speaker	Wedgewood Room (F)
1:00 pm	Working Sessions (cont.)	Empire Ballroom (F)
2:30 pm	Break	
3:00 pm	Working Sessions (cont.)	
5:00 pm	Sessions end	
5:00 pm	Reception	Wedgewood Room (F)

Thursday, May 1, 2025

7:15 am	Buffet Breakfast	Wedgewood Room (F)
8:00 am	Travel to Government House	
8:30 am	Leaders Council [1]	Alberta Room (GH)
10:30 am	Break	
10:45 am	Board of Directors Meeting	Bowen Room (GH)

[1] Each member organization may have **one*** representative at the Leaders Council. The representative should be a senior executive and a regular attendee at WESTAC.
* Two representatives per sustaining member organization.

2025 SPRING MEMBER FORUM

Charting the Course in an Era of Uncertainty

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

7:00 am	**Hot Buffet Breakfast**
7:45 am	**Annual General Meeting** **Hon. Devin Dreeshen,** Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, Government of Alberta, and Chair, WESTAC
8:00 am	**Welcoming Remarks and Introductions** **Hon. Devin Dreeshen,** Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, Government of Alberta, and Chair, WESTAC **Lindsay Kislock,** President and CEO, WESTAC
8:15 am	**The First 100 Days and Beyond** At the 100-day mark of President Donald Trump's second term, the administration has been moving quickly to implement its agenda, delivering on many campaign promises that are reshaping domestic and global dynamics. What can we anticipate from the administration for the remainder of 2025 and beyond? From trade and taxation to industrial policy and energy security, this session will uncover the enduring trends shaping American politics and how they will influence business and policy in the years ahead. **Bruce Mehlman,** Partner, Mehlman Consulting **Hon. James Moore**, former federal cabinet minister for Industry, and Secretary of State for the Asia-Pacific Gateway; member of Canada-U.S. Trade Council
10:00 am	**Break**
10:30 am	**Trading Up** Trade is dominating the news these days. With a litany of mixed messages coming from the US, including continued talk about buy America and the threat of tariffs, it's easy to forget that much of our economic growth and prosperity comes from international trade. This session will focus on the realistic prospects for Western Canada to meaningfully diversify goods exports. **Ross Prusakowski,** Deputy Chief Economist, Export Development Canada
11:30 pm	**Lunch with Speaker** **Dan Gardner,** Author, *How Big Things Get Done*

2025 SPRING MEMBER FORUM

Charting the Course in an Era of Uncertainty

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

1:00 pm

Getting Big Things Done

Major infrastructure and industrial projects are essential for Canada's economic growth, yet they face daunting challenges—from cost overruns and delays to regulatory hurdles, investment uncertainty, and the need for meaningful Indigenous partnerships. This session will explore why so many projects fail, what it takes to get them right, and how smarter planning, better regulation, and stronger collaboration can unlock Canada's potential. Experts will share insights on streamlining approvals, improving execution, and ensuring government policies support—not obstruct—major investments.

Moderator:

Kyle Toffan, Deputy Minister of Highways, Government of Saskatchewan

Speakers:

Brad Gilmour, Partner, Regulatory, Indigenous and Environmental, Osler
Tim Philpotts, Government & Public Sector Strategy and Transactions Market Segment Leader, EY Canada
Chief Raymond Powder, Fort McKay First Nation
Ryan Tones, Director, Senior Vice President, Kiewit Construction

---

2:30 pm

Break

3:00 pm

Getting to 100: Unlocking the Full Potential of the Northern Corridor

The economic corridor linking Northern Alberta to the Port of Prince Rupert is a vital gateway for Canadian exports, offering exceptional access to global markets. But how can this corridor scale up to handle 100 million metric tonnes of cargo, generating $100 billion in annual trade? This session will explore the investments, infrastructure, and innovations needed to unlock its full potential. Industry leaders will share insights on market opportunities, supply chain efficiencies, and policy considerations that will shape the future of this critical trade route.

Moderator:

Shaun Stevenson, President & CEO, Prince Rupert Port Authority

Speakers:

James Shelford, Chief Commercial Officer, Midstream, AltaGas
Peter Keeshan, Managing Director, Vopak Canada
Charles Raymond, President & CEO, Ray-Mont Logistics
Sandra Ellis, Vice-President, Bulk, CN

4:30 pm

Keynote Address

Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier, Province of Alberta

5:00 pm

Reception

2025 SPRING MEMBER FORUM

Charting the Course in an Era of Uncertainty

Thursday, May 1, 2025

7:15 am	**Buffet Breakfast (all guests welcome)**
8:00 am	**Travel to Government House (complimentary shuttle via Co-op taxi)**
8:30 am	**WESTAC LEADERS' COUNCIL** In 2024, the Leaders' Council focused its discussions on infrastructure—specifically, the need for increased investment in trade infrastructure, identifying existing gaps, defining what qualifies as nationally significant trade infrastructure, and setting clear investment priorities. The Spring Forum's Leaders' Council will build on this foundation, shifting its focus to seizing the opportunity to elevate trade and economic issues with the soon-to-be-elected federal government. **Additional information:** Each forum concludes with an in camera, frank discussion among the most senior representatives of member organizations. Participation is limited to the Official representative from each member organization and excludes non-members. No reporting will take place.
10:30 am	Meeting adjourns
10:45 am	**Board of Directors meeting**
12:00 pm	**Board of Directors meeting adjourns**

Complimentary Co-op taxis will depart from Government House back to the Fairmont following the Leaders' Council and Board meeting. Please share taxis with other members. Call 780-917-5206 if there isn't a taxi at the venue when you want to leave.

GUEST SPEAKERS



DAN GARDNER

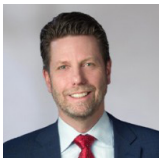
Author
How Big Things Get Done

Can we improve our ability to forecast the future and manage risks to do better in business and life? Award-winning journalist and bestselling author Dan Gardner tackles these questions and more in his eye-opening and mind-expanding talks.

A former journalist and national affairs commentator, Gardner's work has won or been nominated for every major award in Canadian newspaper journalism, including the National Newspaper Award, the Michener Award, and the Canadian Association of Journalists Award.

Gardner is also the *New York Times* bestselling author of four books — *Risk: The Science and Politics of Fear; Future Babble; Superforecasting: The Art and Science of Prediction*, which was named one of the best books of 2015 by *The Economist, Bloomberg*, and *Amazon*; and, his most recent, *How Big Things Get Done*, co-written with Oxford University Professor Bent Flyvbjerg. His books have been published in 26 countries and 21 languages.

An honourary senior fellow at the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Gardner has spoken and consulted with organizations worldwide, including Google, Goldman Sachs, Siemens, Zurich Insurance, Khosla Ventures, and a variety of hedge funds and governments.



BRAD GILMOUR

Partner, Regulatory, Indigenous & Environment
Osler

Brad is a partner in the Regulatory, Indigenous and Environmental Group in Osler's Calgary office and Co-Chair of the Environmental Disputes, Investigations and Enforcement Group.

His practice focuses primarily on environmental, energy, natural resources, regulatory and Indigenous law. Brad has experience in facility approval applications associated with a wide array of industry and project types, including energy, natural resource, chemical, petrochemical, hydro, oil sands, carbon capture and storage, biofuel and renewable power.

Brad appears before the Alberta Energy Regulator, the Alberta Environmental Appeals Board, the Alberta Utilities Commission, the Natural Resources Conservations Board, the British Columbia Environmental Appeal Board and the Canada Energy Regulator. Brad also advises clients regarding regulatory compliance issues, spills, contaminated sites and environmental and regulatory prosecutions and has appeared before various courts, including the Provincial Court of British Columbia, the Alberta Court of Justice, the Court of King's Bench of Alberta, the Court of Appeal of Alberta, the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan, the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Supreme Court of Canada.

GUEST SPEAKERS



PETER KEESHAN

Managing Director
Vopak Canada



BRUCE MEHLMAN

Partner
Mehlman Consulting

With over three decades of experience in public policy, business and the law, Bruce Mehlman helps leaders and organizations understand, anticipate and navigate political risk.

Mehlman is a highly sought-after keynote speaker on policy and political trends, regularly headlining business conferences and strategic planning sessions. His quarterly infographic analyses are consistently picked up by national media and eagerly consumed by tens of thousands of readers worldwide.

Bruce previously served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy under President George W. Bush. He also worked as a senior leadership aide in the House of Representatives, general counsel to a national political party committee and policy counsel to Cisco Systems.

Bruce received a BA degree from Princeton University and a JD from the University of Virginia Law School, where he served on the Virginia Law Review.

GUEST SPEAKERS



HON. JAMES MOORE

former federal cabinet minister for Industry, and Secretary of State for the Asia-Pacific Gateway; member of Canada-US Trade Council

Hon. James Moore is a strategic advisor to various leading Canadian businesses and previously served as Canada's Minister of Industry in the Conservative government led by Stephen Harper.

He previously served as Canada's Minister of Industry, Minister of Canadian Heritage & Official Languages, Secretary of State for the Asia Pacific Gateway, and Minister for the 2010 Olympics. He was chair of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Prosperity and Vice Chair of the Operations and Social Affairs Cabinet Committees. He also served as the Senior Regional Minister for the province of British Columbia. He was on the NAFTA Council for the Government of Canada and has long advocated for pro-trade and pro-growth policies and business leaders worldwide seek his counsel.



TIM PHILPHOTTS

Government & Public Sector Strategy and Transactions Market Segment Leader
EY Canada

Tim leads EY Canadian Government & Public Sector Strategy and Transactions. A highly experienced corporate finance executive, he is recognized as one of the leading financial advisors on infrastructure transactions.

Tim has advised on infrastructure projects for more than 20 years and has advised on over 70 projects with total capital value of more than $35 billion that have reached financial close.

His diverse experience includes extensive work on numerous accommodation, health care, education, and transportation projects, and he has advised governments, private sector partners and acted as principal on major infrastructure projects. Tim is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, also BC Chartered Professional Accountant and holds a BSc in Theoretical Physics from the University of Exeter in England.

GUEST SPEAKERS



CHIEF RAYMOND POWDER

Fort McKay First Nation

A proud member of the Fort McKay First Nation, Raymond attended post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan and Alberta, including religious studies at Briercrest Bible College, Business Administration at Keyano College, and Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. (SAIT). In recent years, he has furthered his education, completing an Aboriginal Leadership, Governance, and Management Excellence certificate at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta.

Raymond has always felt a strong duty to give back to the First Nation in appreciation for all the support he received in terms of his education and career. Raymond has devoted himself to promoting and enhancing the opportunities for his First Nation.

Raymond values working with the people of Fort McKay and his opportunity to make a difference one step at a time the most. What makes him proudest about the community is knowing that Fort McKay is making significant strides in creating a better life for the Nation and its people.

During his spare time, Raymond enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, watching hockey, keeping physically and spiritually fit, and spending time with friends and family.



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

Deputy Chief Economist

Export Development Canada

Ross Prusakowski is the Director of Export Development Canada's Economic and Political Intelligence Center (EPIC). EP-IC is responsible for country and sector risk analysis and highlighting risks to the global economy to EDC and our customers and partners.

During nearly a decade with EDC, Ross has led the EDC Economics forecasting committee and served as the analyst for Canada, countries in the Middle East and North Africa, and the energy, aerospace, and forestry sectors.

Prior to joining EDC, Ross worked as an economist for the Conference Board of Canada on energy, environment, and transportation policy issues and with the Government of Alberta's Department of Finance. Ross holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Ottawa and an undergraduate degree in economics and history from the University of Alberta.

GUEST SPEAKERS



HON. DANIELLE SMITH

Premier
Province of Alberta

Danielle Smith is a proud Albertan. As Leader of the governing United Conservative Party, she was sworn in as the 19th Premier of Alberta on October 11, 2022. She represents the riding of Brooks-Medicine Hat in the Legislative Assembly.

Ms. Smith has had a lifelong interest in Alberta public policy and finding the right balance between free enterprise and individual freedom, and the role of government. She was previously MLA for Highwood and leader of the Official Opposition.

Before re-entering politics, Ms. Smith worked extensively in the media and in business, most recently as President of the Alberta Enterprise Group. Before that, she was a radio host with Corus Entertainment for 6 years.

Danielle Smith holds degrees in both Economics and English from the University of Calgary. She is married to David and proud stepmom to his son. They live in High River with their dog Buck.



RYAN TONES

Senior Vice President
Kiewit Construction

Ryan Tones is a Senior Vice President at Kiewit, one of the largest engineering and construction firms in Canada. With over 25 years of industry experience, Ryan oversees a team of 1,000 employees, $1.5B in annual revenue and an active marine yard in Coquitlam, BC.

Throughout his career, Ryan has successfully led infrastructure projects across western Canada, including the Port Mann/Highway 1 Improvement (BC), G3 Terminal Vancouver (BC), Southwest Calgary Ring Road (AB), Warman and Martensville Interchanges (SK) and the Pointe du Bois Spillway (MB). His experience includes all facets of transportation and its related infrastructure: highways, marine, rail, and rapid transit.

Ryan has also contributed to the industry through his service on multiple boards and committees, including BCIT's Board of Governors and the Canadian Infrastructure Safety Council, a national organization advocating for improved safety standards across the country. In 2023, Ryan was recognized for his significant philanthropic efforts, receiving the Burnaby Hospital Foundation's Keith and Betty Beedie Leadership in Philanthropy Award.

He holds a Diploma of Civil Technology from BCIT and a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Civil Engineering from UBC.

PARTICIPANTS

Sohee Ahn
Executive Director,
Integrated Transportation
& Infrastructure
Services Division,
BC Ministry of Transportation
& Transit

Rob Ashton
President,
ILWU Canada

Atash Askarian
Regional Manager,
Coordination & Policy,
Transport Canada

Lisa Baratta
Vice President,
WESTAC

Serge Bijimine
Assistant Deputy
Minister, Policy,
Transport Canada

Gerard Bos
Executive Director,
Transportation &
Economic Corridors,
Government of Alberta

Paul Boucher
President,
Teamsters Canada
Rail Conference

Randy Brake
Director, Major
Projects Development,
Trans Mountain Corporation

Genevieve Brazzell
Director, Sales,
BNSF Railway

Steve Bromley
Chief Commercial Officer,
Cando Rail & Terminals

Lee Burton
Policy Advisor, Transportation
& Economic Corridors,
Government of Alberta

Jeremy Clarke
Senior Intergovernmental
Consultant,
City of Calgary

Svenja Clausen
Managing Director,
Hapag-Lloyd (Canada) Inc.

Ben Coleman
Director, Government Policy
& Regulatory Advocacy,
Keyera Corp.

Tyson Compton
Recording Secretary,
GWU Local 333 ILWU

Elizabeth Cornfield
Director, Business
Development,
Western Canada,
Genesee & Wyoming Canada

Brian Cornick
President & CEO,
Cando Rail & Terminals

Andy Coté
Director, Logistics,
EVR Operations Ltd.

Marko Dekovic
Vice President, Public Affairs,
GCT Global
Container Terminals

Robert Dick
Assistant Deputy Minister and
Head, Supply Chain Office,
Transport Canada

Tabare Dominguez
Vice President, Commercial,
DP World (Canada) Inc.

Hon. Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Transportation
& Economic Corridors,
Government of Alberta

Jeff Edwards
Assistant Vice President,
Facilities, Real Estate
& Development,
CPKC

Sandra Ellis
Vice President, Bulk,
CN

Sam Farris
President,
K+S Potash Canada

Ryan Finnson
Vice President,
Teamsters Canada
Rail Conference

Mitch Furlong
Executive Director,
Connecting Canada's Economy

Dan Gardner
Author

Brad Gilmour
Partner, Regulatory
Indigenous and
Environmental,
Osler

James Gorman
Senior Vice-President,
Corporate Services,
West Fraser

Rod Graham
Director,
Prince Rupert Port Authority

Rocky Hartline
General Manager,
Genesee & Wyoming Canada

Liam Hastings
Manager, Industry
Engagement & Strategic
Partnerships,
BC Coast Pilots

Mike Hennessy
Business Representative,
Teamsters Canada

Stan Hennessy
President, Local 31,
Teamsters Canada

Daniel Howell
Chief Operating Officer,
GCT Global
Container Terminals

Peter Keeshan
Managing Director,
Vopak Canada

Capt. Steve Kennedy
Vice President,
Pacific Pilotage Authority

Kris Kinnear
Manager, Special Projects,
Office of the Premier,
Government of Alberta

Lindsay Kislock
President & CEO,
WESTAC

Ryan Klos
Deputy Minister,
Infrastructure,
Government of Manitoba

Vinesh Kohli
Senior Vice President,
Operations,
Canpotex

Nathan Lauer
Director, Business Operations,
Seaspan Marine

PARTICIPANTS

Curtis Layton
Vice President,
Transportation, Midstream,
AltaGas Ltd.

Douglas Lea-Smith
President,
GWU Local 333 ILWU

Tom Lees
Assistant Deputy Minister,
PPCS, Ministry of Highways,
Government of Saskatchewan

Wade Leslie
President & CEO
Sultran Ltd.

Rishi Luthra
Manager, Marine Operations,
Chamber of Shipping of BC

Don MacDonald
Vice President, Operations,
G3 Canada

Kate Macdonell
Writer & Editor,
Wordsure Communications

Rob MacKay-Dunn
Vice President, Government
& Public Affairs,
BC Maritime
Employers Association

Ian Marr
President & CEO,
Nanaimo Port Authority

Hon. Vince McKay
Minister of Infrastructure,
Government of the
Northwest Territories

Rick McLellan
President,
Genesee & Wyoming Canada

Eric McNeely
Provincial, President,
BC Ferry & Marine Workers'
Union (BCFMWU)

Bruce Mehlman
Partner,
Mehlman Consulting

Jason Michell
Vice President,
Business Development,
Nanaimo Port Authority

Hon. James Moore
former federal cabinet
minister for Industry, and
Secretary of State for the
Asia-Pacific Gateway;
member of Canada-US Trade
Counci

Kevin Moraes
Director, Government &
External Relations,
Port of Prince Rupert

Louise Murgatroyd
Director, Communications
& Engagement,
Pacific Pilotage Authority

Sarah Myers
Senior Executive Assistant,
WESTAC

Hon. Lisa Naylor
Minister of Transportation
& Infrastructure,
Government of Manitoba

Craig Olley
President,
Trigon Pacific Terminals

David Payne
President,
Harbour Link
Container Services

Tim Philpotts
Government & Public Sector
Strategy and Transactions
Market Segment Leader,
EY Canada

Mark Plamondon
Executive Director,
Alberta's Industrial
Heartland Association

Mayor Herb Pond
Mayor,
City of Prince Rupert

Chief Raymond Powder
Fort McKay First Nation

Ross Prusakowski
Deputy Chief Economist,
Export Development Canada

Jennifer Radbourne
Director of Sales,
Western Canada,
GATX Rail

Geoff Ray
Ministerial Special Advisor to
the Minister of Infrastructure,
Government of the
Northwest Territories

Charles Raymond
President,
Ray-Mont Logistics

Monty Reich
Chief Executive Officer,
South West Terminal (SWT)

Marzia Rizvi
Manager, Program
Development &
Communications,
WESTAC

Dominic Ross
Senior Industry Development
Officer, Transportation
& Logistics, Ministry of Job,
Economy & Trade,
Government of Alberta

Lorraine Royer
General Manager,
Sustainability, Government
& Indigenous Relations,
Inter Pipeline Ltd.

Cale Runions
Manager, Policy &
Government Relations,
AltaGas Ltd.

Paul Sandhar-Cruz
Director General, Strategic
Policy, Policy Group,
Transport Canada

Sam Shannon
Assistant Deputy Minister of
Infrastructure,
Government of the
Northwest Territories

Ciara Shattuck
Director of Ministerial Affairs,
Ministry of Transportation
& Infrastructure,
Government of Manitoba

James Shelford
Chief Commercial Officer,
AltaGas Ltd.

Chris Shubert
CEO & Chief Commercial
Officer,
Ashcroft Terminal

Oyin Shyllon
Program Manager, Prairie
Economic Gateway,
City of Calgary

PARTICIPANTS

Pat Sinnott
Honorary Member,
WESTAC

Shivaughan Sky
Director, Commercial
Operations,
Keyera Corp.

Hon. Danielle Smith
Premier,
Province of Alberta

Shaun Stevenson
President & CEO,
Port of Prince Rupert

Bryce Stewart
Deputy Minister of
Transportation &
Economic Corridors,
Government of Alberta

Natashia Stinka
Director, Public Affairs,
Canpotex

Stacy Terlecki
Manager, Rail & Truck
Business Development,
Cenovus Energy Inc.

Kyle Toffan
Deputy Minister of Highways,
Government of Saskatchewan

Ryan Tones
Senior Vice President,
Kiewit Construction
Services ULC

Steve Torgerson
General Secretary,
Grain & General
Services Union

Annette Toth
President,
MoveUP

Ruslan Tracz
Issues Manager, Prairie &
Northern Region,
Transport Canada

Hugh Wagner
Honorary Member,
WESTAC

Terry Wallin
Associate Vice President,
Supply Chain Operations,
Federated Co-operative Ltd.

Christine Wan Jones
Regional Director, Programs -
Prairies & Northern,
Transport Canada

John Wilson
Chief Executive Officer,
Pacific Pilotage Authority

Alan Windhorst
Executive Director, Strategic
& Integrated Services
Division, Transportation
& Economic Corridors,
Government of Alberta

Peter Xotta
President & CEO,
Vancouver Fraser Port
Authority

Mitchell Zulinick
Chief Operating Officer
& Co-Chief Executive Officer,
Arrow Group of Companies

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

2025 Fall Member Forum
October 29 & 30, 2025
Yellowknife, NT

New date!

2026 Spring Member Forum
April 16 & 17, 2026
Regina, SK

2026 Fall Member Forum
November 18 & 19, 2026
Vancouver, BC