Saskatchewan Forum 2013

Tuesday, May 14, and Wednesday, May 15, 2013
Delta Bessborough • Saskatoon

Chief Darcy Bear, Whitecap Dakota First Nation
Dr. Karen Chad, University of Saskatchewan
Chief Wallace Fox, Onion Lake Cree Nation
Paul J. Hill, Hill Group of Companies
Iman Stratenus, World Business Council for Sustainable Development
The Hon. Ken Krawetz, Executive Council and Office of the Premier

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NSI The North-South Institute
**Building on Saskatchewan’s Vision**

The Conference Board of Canada is convening the second annual Saskatchewan Forum, drawing in Canadian, international, provincial, and Aboriginal thought leaders, decision makers, and influencers to consider the issues affecting Saskatchewan’s future.

The Saskatchewan Forum 2013 builds on the Foundational Themes established at the inaugural event in 2012, namely: (i) developing people; (ii) managing growth; and (iii) assessing key sectors. This year’s event focuses on two additional themes:

1. **Investing in Cities and Communities.** Saskatchewan’s major cities are in need of investment. So are many smaller communities. The Saskatchewan Forum provides a venue for deliberation, with sessions on:
   - Saskatchewan’s Urban Legacy and a Vision for the Future
   - Saskatchewan’s Opportunity to Achieve Competitive Advantage in Financing Urban Infrastructure
   - Investing in Saskatchewan’s Rural and Remote Communities
   - Regionalization
2. **Managing the Relationship with China.** Economic growth in China is one of the major reasons for Saskatchewan’s own projected growth. The Forum provides opportunities to share knowledge and lessons, with sessions on:
   - Optimizing Saskatchewan’s China Strategy—Challenges and Opportunities in the Decade Ahead
   - Aboriginal-China Business Partnerships
   - Doing Business with China

Additional sessions include:
- An Economic Forecast and Social Outlook for Saskatchewan
- Financing Saskatchewan’s Growth
- Competitiveness and Market Access in Saskatchewan’s Resource Sectors—Risks and Opportunities
- Leading on Canada’s Behalf—The Role of the New Saskatchewan

**Saskatchewan’s Future**

Saskatchewan is in the right place, at the right time. The province has agricultural capacity and large quantities of natural resources, including potash, oil, gas, and uranium, at a time when the world needs higher crop yields and more energy. Saskatchewan also enjoys favourable growth potential due to strong institutions, stable politics, and a capacity to absorb a larger workforce.

Saskatchewan is forecast to have the strongest economy in Canada in 2013. It has record low unemployment and is embarking on an era of rapid population growth. But with growth comes both opportunities and risks. The Forum will help leaders in the province think it all through.

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**Keynote Speakers:**

- **Paul J. Hill**
  Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
  Hill Group of Companies

- **Wallace Fox**
  Chief
  Onion Lake Cree Nation

- **The Hon. Ken Krawetz**
  Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance
  Executive Council and Office of the Premier

**Gala Dinner**

All delegates are invited to a gala dinner on May 14th at the Delta Bessborough. **Iman Stratenus** from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development will present on “**Vision 2050: A New Agenda for Business.**” This session is delivered through a collaboration of The Conference Board of Canada, The North South Institute, and The Montreal Council on Foreign Relations.
Day 1—Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Forum Objectives:

- Learn about the Conference Board’s economic and social outlook for Saskatchewan and implications for the short-, medium-, and long-term
- Hear about findings from the research program of the Saskatchewan Institute
- Hear from business leaders from Saskatchewan and across Canada about the current economic climate and the forces driving decisions in their firms
- Discuss issues and policy in two key areas:
  1. Investing in Cities and Communities
  2. Managing the Relationship with China

7:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks
Dr. Daniel F. Muzyka, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Conference Board of Canada

Opening Remarks from the Co-Chairs
Dr. Karen Chad, Vice-President, Research, University of Saskatchewan
Darcy Bear, Chief, Whitecap Dakota First Nation

8:30 a.m. Plenary Session 1
The Economic Forecast and Social Outlook for Saskatchewan

Welcoming Remarks:
Dr. Ilene J. Busch-Vishniac, President, University of Saskatchewan

Speakers:
Glen Hodgson, Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist, The Conference Board of Canada
Dr. Michael R. Bloom, Vice-President, Organizational Effectiveness and Learning, The Conference Board of Canada

Commentator:
Sharon Lee Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Western Economic Diversification Canada

The Conference Board will present an economic forecast for Saskatchewan that examines all the major components of the provincial economy within the context of global, national, regional, and sector-by-sector trends. Components include demographics, labour market developments, capital flows, business investment, consumer expenditures, trade, monetary and fiscal policy, and more.

The social outlook will present the findings of the Saskatchewan Institute’s province-wide household survey. The survey examines the human, community, and social capital building blocks that promote the well-being of Saskatchewanians. The presentation will include the implications of the findings for governments, businesses, and other stakeholders.

10:00 a.m. Networking Break

10:30 a.m. Plenary Session 2
Optimizing Saskatchewan’s China Strategy—Challenges and Opportunities in the Decade Ahead

Moderator:
Cindy Termorshuizen, Director, Greater China, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

Panellists:
Michael Grant, Director, Research, The Conference Board of Canada
Wes Jickling, Associate Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Affairs, Saskatchewan Executive Council
Sarah Kutulakos, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Canada China Business Council
Lionel LaBelle, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership

During this session, a cross-section of leaders from different sectors will discuss their views on current and foreseeable business opportunities with China. They will present the strategy for managing Saskatchewan’s relationship with China, and discuss how Saskatchewan businesses cultivate and develop opportunities for trade, investment, and human capital formation.

12:15 p.m. Luncheon and Keynote Presentation
Saskatchewan’s Urban Legacy and a Vision for the Future

Introduction:
Gwen Keith, Executive Director, Mother Teresa Middle School

Keynote Speaker:
Paul J. Hill, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Hill Group of Companies

Appreciation:
Roger Brandvold, Senior Vice-President, Connor, Clark & Lunn

Hear one of Canada’s most successful leaders in bringing investment to Saskatchewan.
2:00 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions—Set A

Delegates can choose to attend one of the following concurrent sessions:

**Concurrent Session A1:**
**Green Machine: Financing Saskatchewan’s Growth**

**Presenter:**
**Michael Grant,** Director, Research, The Conference Board of Canada

**Panellists:**
- **Sheri Lucas,** Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President, Finance, SaskCentral
- **Greg W. Willner,** General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Farm Credit Canada
- **June Verhelst,** Vice-President, Industrial, Graham Group of Companies

The Conference Board will present new research on how aggressive expansion of the province’s resource-based economy requires the development of additional sources of investment capital. This session will help leaders understand the nature of the growing demand for investment, the financial challenges facing the province over the longer term, and how financial reforms might help to address those challenges.

**Concurrent Session A2:**
**Investing in Saskatchewan’s Rural and Remote Communities**

**Moderator:**
**Dale Harvey,** Executive Director, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

**Panellists:**
- **Keith Fonstad,** Provincial Director (SK), Aboriginal Services, MNP LLP
- **Kent Dubreuil,** Reeve, Rural Municipality of Biggar
- **Duane Favel,** Mayor, Ile-a-la-Crosse
- **Arnold Boldt,** Acting Provost and Vice-President, Academic, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

Saskatchewan’s rural and remote communities are, like the urban centres, experiencing pressures and seeing opportunities. Factors such as resource development, the accessibility of employment or educational opportunities, and the lure of the city are all having an impact. In this session, panellists will discuss how different rural and remote communities are making investments and managing the direction of their economic and social well-being.

**Concurrent Session A3:**
**Open Dialogue on the Saskatchewan Institute’s Research Plan**

**Dr. Michael R. Bloom,** Vice-President, Organizational Effectiveness and Learning, The Conference Board of Canada

**Diana S. MacKay,** Director, Education, Health and Immigration Programs, The Conference Board of Canada

This session provides delegates with an opportunity for interactive dialogue on the research agenda of the Saskatchewan Institute.

3:45 p.m.  Refreshment Break

4:00 p.m.  **The Dialogue of the Day**

**Co-Chairs:**
- **Darcy Bear,** Chief, Whitecap Dakota First Nation
- **Dr. Karen Chad,** Vice-President, Research, University of Saskatchewan

**Session Leaders:**
- **Dr. Michael R. Bloom,** Vice-President, Organizational Effectiveness and Learning, The Conference Board of Canada
- **Glen Hodgson,** Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist, The Conference Board of Canada
- **Cindy Termorshuizen,** Director, Greater China, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
- **Dale Harvey,** Executive Director, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- **Michael Grant,** Director, Research, Centre for Food in Canada, The Conference Board of Canada

Co-Chairs, Karen Chad and Darcy Bear, as well as session leaders, Michael Bloom, Glen Hodgson, Cindy Termorshuizen, Dale Harvey, and Michael Grant, will present key takeaway messages stemming from the day’s deliberations and invite reflections from delegates.

5:00 p.m.  **Networking Reception**

Take the opportunity for an informal conversation with your fellow delegates and the experts after the event. Share your thoughts on the day’s discussions and create new connections with your peers.

To register, visit [www.conferenceboard.ca/conf](http://www.conferenceboard.ca/conf)
6:30 p.m. Gala Dinner and Keynote Presentation

Welcoming Remarks:
Joseph K. Ingram, President and Chief Executive Officer, The North-South Institute

Keynote Speaker:
Iman Stratenus, Managing Director, Business Relations, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

All delegates to the Forum are invited to join a gala dinner at the Delta Bessborough Hotel.

Vision 2050: The new agenda for business

“Under the Vision 2050 project of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 29 WBCSD member companies developed a vision of a world well on the way to sustainability by 2050, and a pathway that will require fundamental changes in governance structures, economic frameworks, business and human behaviour. It emerged that these changes are necessary, feasible, and offer tremendous business opportunities for companies that turn sustainability into strategy.”

8:30 p.m. Gala Dinner Adjourns

DAY 2—WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013

7:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:15 a.m. Opening Remarks and Summary of Day One

The Conference Board team will open the day with highlights of the previous day’s discussions.

8:30 a.m. Plenary Session 3
Panel of New Entrepreneurs

Moderator:
Nathan Elliott, President, Insightwest Research

Panellists:
Marc Kelly, Partner, Kanuka Thuringer LLP
Brett Marcoux, President, AFI Distribution Group
Rachel Mielke, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Hillberg & Berk
Greg Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, TinyEYE Therapy Services

This plenary session will challenge delegates to consider the challenges and opportunities facing Saskatchewan’s entrepreneurs. Panellists will present their outlook on the future of starting and growing new businesses.

9:30 a.m. Plenary Session 4
Keynote Presentation: Saskatchewan’s Plan for Growth—An Update

Welcoming Remarks:
Dr. Karen Chad, Vice-President, Research, University of Saskatchewan

Keynote Speaker:
The Hon. Ken Krawetz, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, Executive Council and Office of the Premier

In this session, the Government of Saskatchewan will provide an update on its plans to achieve balanced growth in Saskatchewan by controlling spending while continuing to invest in priority areas, supporting quality of life for Saskatchewan’s growing population, and balancing economic and social progress.

10:30 a.m. Networking Break

11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions—Set B

Delegates can choose to attend one of the following concurrent sessions:

Concurrent Session B1:
Saskatchewan’s Opportunity to Achieve Competitive Advantage in Financing Urban Infrastructure

Moderator:
John Longbottom, Smart Cities Executive, IBM Canada Ltd.

Speakers:
Mario Lefebvre, Director, Centre for Municipal Studies, The Conference Board of Canada
Craig Gates, Practice Leader, Consulting Services, MNP LLP

Panellists:
Murray Totland, City Manager, City of Saskatoon
Debra Button, Mayor, City of Weyburn
Lee Clayton, Vice-President, Global Strategic Initiatives, PCL Constructors Canada Inc.
This session will consider the demands being placed on Saskatchewan’s urban infrastructure, and the options for responding. The speakers and panellists will discuss the challenges and address a range of possibilities for leading on the issues.

**Concurrent Session B2:**
Aboriginal—China Business Partnerships

**Moderator:**
Velma McColl, Principal, Earnscliffe Strategy Group

**Panellists:**
David Porter, Chief Executive Officer, First Nations Energy and Mining Council
Bernd Christmas, Chief Executive Officer, Bernd Christmas Law Group

In this forward-looking session, panellists will discuss the context, issues, strategies, and best practices associated with business partnerships between First Nations groups and China—either one-on-one, or in combination with other partners.

**Concurrent Session B3:**
Competitiveness and Market Access in Saskatchewan’s Resource Sectors—Risks and Opportunities

**Moderator:**
Kent D. Campbell, Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy

**Panellists:**
Alanna Koch, Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Pam Schwann, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Mining Association
Brad Herald, Manager, Operations, and Health and Safety, Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

Saskatchewan is growing, and uniquely positioned for long-term, sustainable growth. But what is the potential? What is the scale of the opportunity? What are the risks? This session will consider the factors that could influence the resource sector’s capacity to drive economic prosperity.

**12:30 p.m. Luncheon and Keynote Presentation**

**Keynote Speaker:**
Wallace Fox, Chief, Onion Lake Cree Nation

This keynote presentation will share Onion Lake Cree Nation’s success as an economic partner at the local, regional, national, and international forum of business and investment. As a Treaty Nation, Okimaw (Chief) Wallace Fox will share his walk as a leader for indigenous peoples in creating a path and learning journey, as our Treaty ancestors envisioned in engaging First Nations in a honourable relationship for economic growth opportunities based on mutual respect, understanding, and benefit.

**2:00 p.m. Networking Break**

**2:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions—Set C**

Delegates can choose to attend one of the following concurrent sessions:

**Concurrent Session C1:**
Leading on Canada’s Behalf—The Role of the New Saskatchewan

**Moderator:**
Tanya Knight, Regional Managing Partner, MNP LLP

**Panellists:**
Dr. Jayson Myers, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
Mark MacLeod, Chair of the Board, Communities of Tomorrow
Peter D. Federko, Chief Executive Officer, Saskatchewan Workers’ Compensation Board

This session will involve presentations on how Saskatchewan’s policies and practices can be positioned for national leadership in areas such as human capital development, investment, productivity, and innovation. The discussion will explore Saskatchewan’s current and potential jurisdictional advantages.

**Concurrent Session C2:**
Doing Business with China

**Moderator:**
Grant J. Kook, President and Chief Executive Officer, Westcap Management Ltd.

**Panellists:**
Yuen Pau Woo, President and Chief Executive Officer, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
Ryan Baerg, Senior Specialist, Government Relations, Cameco Corporation
This session will feature a dialogue between experts involved in doing business with China on topics such as innovative opportunities, strategic partnerships, and more.

Concurrent Session C3: Regionalization

Moderator:
Roy Tutschek, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Nipawin

Panellists:
Tim D. LeClair, Chief Executive Officer, Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority Inc.
Bruce Elke, Reeve, Prairie Rose, and Chairman, Mid Sask Municipal Alliance
Valerie L. Mushinski, Chief Executive Officer, Cumberland Regional College

In this session, experts will provide examples of different approaches to regionalization and will consider the strategies and supports that are required to ensure that regionalization efforts for different areas and types of partnerships are successful.

3:45 p.m. Final Session and Closing Remarks

Co-Chairs:
Dr. Karen Chad, Vice-President, Research, University of Saskatchewan
Darcy Bear, Chief, Whitecap Dakota First Nation

Commentator:
Diana S. MacKay, Director, Education, Health and Immigration Programs, The Conference Board of Canada

This interactive session will summarize the key take-away messages from this year’s Forum and will engage delegates in articulating the next steps for action. Delegates will be invited to comment on the highlights of the second day and the issues requiring follow up action. This final session will clarify what delegates can expect to happen as a result of the forum.

4:45 p.m. Forum Adjourns

Connect with senior business, government, and international experts responsible for:

- labour market strategies
- education, training, and development
- infrastructure investment, planning, and development
- economic policies and practices
- public policy
- attracting and engaging current employees and potential immigrants
- new business development

The Conference Board of Canada as a Source of Knowledge

The Conference Board of Canada has a long history of engagement in Saskatchewan. Through our economic analysis and outlooks, executive networks, governance and leadership development programs, research initiatives, and conferences, the Conference Board has a track record of connecting leaders in Saskatchewan with the latest knowledge and insights on a wide range of issues.

As an independent, applied-research organization focusing on building leadership capacity for a better Canada, the Conference Board generates expert knowledge covering topics relevant to Canada’s future. Saskatchewan’s success is a major component of a prosperous Canada.

About the Saskatchewan Institute

The Saskatchewan Institute is a major, new, multi-year initiative of The Conference Board of Canada that focuses exclusively on issues relevant to Saskatchewan. It brings together the Conference Board’s full range of expertise in economic analysis and forecasting, public policy research, and organizational performance to address themes of leadership, governance, innovation, competitiveness, and more.

The Institute works with partners in Saskatchewan to produce research that will help public and private sector leaders sharpen their vision for Saskatchewan’s future and find solutions to the challenges they need to address.

Please visit www.conferenceboard.ca/si
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Saskatchewan Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs

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**REGISTRATION**

**Fees**

| Regular Rate | $1,855 |

Your registration in this event includes the sessions, continental breakfasts, breaks, reception, luncheons, and a link to speaker presentations.

**To Register**

**Online:** [www.conferenceboard.ca/conf](http://www.conferenceboard.ca/conf)

**Fax:** Complete the Fax Registration Form on the back cover and fax form to 613-526-4857

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**Hotel and Forum Venue**

**Delta Bessborough**
601 Spadina Cres E
Saskatoon SK S7K 3G8
306-683-6910

Conference fees don’t include accommodations. Please contact the hotel directly for reservations, and mention The Conference Board of Canada to receive the preferred rate of $179, available until May 4, 2013.

**Having trouble registering?**

**Phone Registrar:** 1-800-267-0666 or 613-526-4249
**E-mail Registrar:** registrar@conferenceboard.ca

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Kansas Forum 2013
Tuesday, May 14, and Wednesday, May 15, 2013• Delta Bessborough, Saskatoon

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Fees

| Forum | $1,855 |

Please confirm attendance at event functions:

- Luncheon and Keynote Presentation
- Networking Reception
- Gala Dinner

Day 1 Concurrent Sessions: Set A: (please choose one) A1, A2, A3

Day 2 Concurrent Sessions: Set B: (please choose one) B1, B2, B3, Set C: (please choose one) C1, C2, C3

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