



# WEST AT A GLANCE – OCTOBER

NOVEMBER 2016



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## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS - OCTOBER

### British Columbia

- BC Tech Fund to be managed by Toronto's Kensington Capital Partners** – Toronto-based Kensington Capital Partners [has been selected by the BC government](#) to manage the new \$100 million BC Tech Fund, and will also take over management of the older \$90 million BC Renaissance Capital Fund. Investment dollars are limited to BC companies. Kensington is establishing a Vancouver office that will be led by Dr. Gerri Sinclair, who chaired the federal Telecom Policy Review Panel. Four sub-sectors will be targeted for funding: digital media, information and communications technology, life sciences and clean technology. The fund's first investment will be in Mojo, a Vancouver-based company providing an open platform for connected cars.
- Canada and BC bilateral agreement for water and wastewater upgrades** – The governments of Canada and BC [signed a bilateral agreement](#) that will make more than \$450 million in combined funding available under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. The provincial government will invest 33 percent of the funding, while up to 50 percent will come from the federal government. This enable local governments to contribute as little as 17 percent of project costs instead of the typical 33 percent. The funding represents the largest local government infrastructure program in over 15 years in BC. The agreement is part of Phase 1 of the federal government's \$120 billion, 10-year *Investing in Canada* plan.
- BC Premier urges Ottawa to fix tech talent gap, promises funds for education** – In response to a talent shortage in BC's high tech sector, BC Premier Christy Clark [is pressing Ottawa](#) to increase the number of high-skilled tech workers immigrating to Canada. The Premier's call echoes those made by tech companies across Canada who have said the current immigration process is too time-consuming and that Canadian companies are in danger of losing out to other countries in the search for talent needed to grow their businesses. In addition, the Premier [has promised that her government](#) is set to make significant investments in postsecondary technology education to help address the chronic talent shortage in the BC tech sector.

### Alberta

- Alberta Energy Diversification Advisory Committee** – The Government of Alberta has [announced](#) the members of the province's Energy Diversification Advisory Committee. The committee's role will be to help diversify Alberta's energy sector and explore opportunities for adding value, including through partial upgrading, refining, petrochemicals, and chemicals manufacturing. The panel is co-chaired by representatives from GE Canada and the Alberta Federation of Labour; other members represent organizations like the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta, Building Trades of Alberta, Oak Point Energy, Edelyn Gower Consulting Limited, and the Alberta Indian Investment Corporation. The committee will present the Minister of Energy with recommendations by the fall of 2017.



## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS - OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

- **Alberta-Mexico energy meetings** – Minister of Energy Margaret McCuaig-Boyd [travelled to Mexico City](#) September 29–October 3 to promote Alberta companies and investment opportunities. The Minister signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mexican Energy Secretariat in order to share best practices on emissions reductions, renewable power, development of heavy oil and unconventional resources, and value added developments and trade. From October 4–5, more than 20 Alberta mid-stream energy companies participated in a Mexico Midstream Mission to discuss opportunities for the development of energy infrastructure across North America.
- **Alberta tuition freeze** – The Government of Alberta will [continue to freeze post-secondary tuitions](#) for the 2017-18 academic year while it reviews the current model with Alberta stakeholders. The review is intended to set the future direction of post-secondary cost increases while providing predictability to students. It will also include discussions about mandatory non-instructional fees, international student tuition and supporting students through student aid. The Government of Alberta estimates that 250,000 full and part time students and apprentices will save \$16 million per year through the freeze.
- **Alberta solar energy Request for Information** – The Government of Alberta has [posted a Request for Information](#) seeking advice on the potential costs and best approach for procuring solar power to produce 135,000 megawatt hours a year for government operations. Currently, there are three electricity contracts that provide approximately 250,000 megawatt hours per year to more than 1,500 government-owned buildings and sites. Replacement of two of these contracts with solar power would result in approximately ten times the current solar energy production in Alberta, which could create an opportunity for the province's first solar farm.
- **Alberta Indigenous renewables pilot programs** – The Government of Alberta has [launched two small-scale pilot programs](#) for First Nations and Métis Settlements to undertake renewable energy projects and energy efficiency audits in their communities. The Alberta Indigenous Solar Program (AISP) and Alberta Indigenous Community Energy Program (AICEP) will receive a total of \$2.5 million in funding, with up to \$200,000 per project under AISP and up to \$90,000 per audit for AICEP. The Government of Alberta will also work with successful applicants to develop educational programs for students and community members.
- **Wildfire relief funding ending** – Emergency wildfire relief funding, used to cover immediate housing and day-to-day purchasing needs for northern Alberta wildfire evacuees, [ended October 31, 2016](#). Approximately \$100 million of relief funding went towards 96,000 evacuees from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Long-term supports will continue to be available through the Red Cross and Alberta Works Income Support program.
- **Alberta Advisory Panel on Coal Communities** – The Government of Alberta has [created](#) a three-member expert panel to meet with key community, labour and industry stakeholders in regions affected by the transition away from coal-fired electricity. Through consultations, the panel will gather information regarding challenges and opportunities facing communities, provide information to stakeholders about available supports and programs, and generate ideas for new training opportunities. A report with options and recommendations for the provincial government to support transitioning communities is anticipated in early 2017.
- **Alberta Heritage Fund investments** – Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo) has [announced](#) nearly \$100 million in investments on behalf of the Heritage Fund, including \$45.9 million to TransAlta Renewables for clean energy, \$46.4 million to Calfrac Well Services to support innovation and environmental stewardship in the oil and gas industry, and \$6.1 million to Pine Cliff Energy to consolidate natural gas assets. In the October 2015 Budget, the Government of Alberta instructed AIMCo to invest up to three percent of the Heritage Fund (\$540 million) in Alberta companies with strong growth potential.

### Saskatchewan

- **Premier Wall outlines Saskatchewan plan for Climate Change** – On October 18, 2016, the Government of Saskatchewan released a [White Paper on Climate Change](#) outlining recommendations to the federal government with the aim of changing Canada's policy response to climate change. The White Paper recommends abandoning plans for a national carbon price, suggesting that the federal government should instead support development and commercialization of clean technology, in



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## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS - OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

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particular, carbon capture and storage. Carbon pricing policies, which include taxes on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as cap-and-trade systems, have widespread support among climate scientists and economists, but would impose a burden on provinces with high per-capita GHG emissions, like Saskatchewan.

- **Joint consultation on long-term transportation plans** – Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart [met with federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau](#) to discuss the importance of moving this year's crop to market and the actions required to ensure a reliable transportation network is in place. Access to rail, adequate levels of service and a fair price for freight is important to the success of Saskatchewan's producers and the agriculture industry. Stewart also requested long-term changes to the transportation system to accommodate future growth.
- **Keeping trained doctors practising in Saskatchewan** – [The Government of Saskatchewan is making progress](#) in keeping more locally-trained family medicine graduates in the province with the retention rate increasing by 17 percent over the past three years. Because of the Saskatchewan government's recruitment and retention initiatives, the province has 650 more physicians currently practicing than there were nine years ago.

### Manitoba

- **Manitoba eliminates senior positions in government** – The Manitoba Government [announced on October 6](#) that it will eliminate 112 senior management positions through attrition, retirements and workforce reductions. The cuts will take effect over two phases, ending March 31, 2017 and December 31, 2017, respectively. When fully implemented, the measures are expected to result in an annual cost savings of at least \$10 million.
- **Province releases labour market consultation results** – Provincial officials [toured Manitoba over the summer](#) to discuss employment and skills training with a variety of stakeholders. Priorities identified by participants include a desired focus on Indigenous skills and training, accessibility for a variety of groups including youth, newcomers, and older workers, and better and more accessible labour market information.
- **2017 Budget consultations begin** – Finance Minister Cameron Friesen [is hosting several in-person consultations](#) to hear citizens' opinions on provincial budget priorities. Citizens can also use an [interactive website](#) that features an interactive tool allowing individuals to build their own provincial budget. Participants are asked a series of questions about their provincial budget preferences on topics ranging from health care and red tape to infrastructure and innovation.
- **New funding for Indigenous training** – Municipal Relations Minister Eileen Clarke [announced a new multi-year funding agreement](#) with Winnipeg-based Frontier College to ensure that Indigenous students have summer learning opportunities. The province will provide over \$160,000 to the college to operate summer literacy camps in ten First Nations communities across the province.



## NEWS AND OPINIONS HIGHLIGHTS - OCTOBER

- **Canada-US softwood lumber uncertainty continues** – The deadline to reach a new Canada-United States (US) Softwood Lumber agreement [expired in October](#), and it is widely expected that the US industry will pursue countervailing and anti-dumping tariffs which could take effect as early as spring 2017. Restrictive trade measures would hurt the BC forest industry, which has already seen significant mill closures and job losses resulting from the expiration of the previous agreement. The industry has worked to minimize these risks by making gains in other markets, most notably China, and by acquiring US mills.
- **Quark Venture and Chinese firm launch \$656 million life sciences fund** – Vancouver-based venture capital firm Quark Venture [announced in October](#) that it was partnering with GF Securities Company, a Chinese investment bank with a Canadian subsidiary, to launch the Global Health Sciences Venture Fund. The \$656 million fund, based in Vancouver, is the largest of its kind in Canada, and plans to invest in a global portfolio of biotechnology and health sciences companies.
- **UBC partners with University of Toronto to help tech startups** – The University of British Columbia's (UBC) Sauder School of Business [is launching the Western arm](#) of the Creative Destruction Lab (CDL), a seed-stage program based at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Business, to help high-tech ventures driven by university research to maximize their commercial impact and benefit to society. CDL-West will support scaleable startups by providing advice from technical experts, coaching from entrepreneurs, and access to venture capital. The program will serve ventures originating from UBC and other universities across Western Canada.
- **Saskatchewan economy to post modest growth** – BMO Financial Group [is forecasting](#) Saskatchewan's economy to grow a modest 0.5 percent this year before rebounding to two percent growth in 2017. The forecast is part of BMO's Blue Book, a report on Canada's provincial economies. The oil sector in the province is expected to decline further due to weaker prices impacting business tied to the sector. The outlook for other commodities is mixed, with weakness in potash as production rises but with lower prices, while agriculture is having a strong year, albeit with lower prices.
- **Hylife to invest \$95 million** – Hylife, a major Manitoba-based pork producer, [plans to invest \\$95 million](#) on the expansion and modernization of their hog-processing plant in Neepawa, a town in south-western Manitoba, over the next three years. Construction is slated to begin in 2017 and is expected to create over 80 local jobs. Hylife currently employs 1,200 people in Neepawa, recently constructed a feed mill in Randolph and owns a restaurant in Tokyo. As Canada's number one fresh-chilled pork exporter to Japan, they are looking to expand their brand presence to capture more of the Japanese pork market.
- **More Job Loss in Manitoba's North** – The IGA grocery store in Opaskwayak Cree Nation, near The Pas in northern Manitoba, is [set to close in the coming weeks](#), leaving 47 people unemployed. Sobeys West representative, Keri Scobie, released a statement blaming the current economic situation and the underperformance of the store for the closure. The Pas Mayor Jim Scott is worried this will not be the end of the bad news for the 5,000 people in The Pas and 3,000 living on reserve after previously announced closures at the Tolko paper mill and employment reductions due to reduced rail service to Churchill from The Pas by OmniTRAX.
- **Group seeks funds for machine learning technology** – About 200 business and government leaders [met in Winnipeg](#) to show support for a not-for-profit Enterprise Machine Intelligence and Learning Initiative (EMILI) that is looking to create a centre of excellence in Winnipeg for research, commercialization and training with respect to machine learning technology. The group is hoping that the federal government will contribute \$100 million over five years towards the project. Supporters of EMILI include Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba; Jim Balsillie, co-founder of Research in Motion; and other prominent Manitoban entrepreneurs and business leaders.
- **Alberta Surface Rights Board Claims** – The Alberta Surface Rights Board (SRB), a quasi-judicial tribunal that resolves compensation disputes between landowners and oil, gas, and coal operators, has [experienced a significant increase](#) in claims against oil companies in 2016. In 2015, the SRB received a total of 764 recovery of rental applications under the Surface Rights Act from landowners who had not received payment from oil companies leasing their land. Between January and August 2016, the number of applications totalled 1,501, worth approximately \$3 million. In response, the SRB has streamlined its procedures for recurring applications, bringing total processing time down from six months to three. Companies that fail to make payments following two written notices from the SRB are stripped of their rights of entry to the site and the provincial government is then responsible to pay the outstanding amount to the landowner through the General Revenue Fund.



## KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS - OCTOBER

	 British Columbia	 Alberta	 Saskatchewan	 Manitoba	 Canada	Last Update
<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>						
<b>Real GDP<sup>1</sup></b> (2007 \$billions, forecast)	\$214	\$292	\$58	\$55	\$1,673	2016 (f)
% ch. from year earlier	3.0%	-2.0%	0.2%	2.1%	1.5%	
<b>Labour Market</b>						
<b>Employment (SA, thousands)</b>	2,386	2,264	569	632	18,117	Sep-16
Change from previous month	-0.6	13.3	0.3	-2.1	67.2	
% ch. from previous month	0.0%	0.6%	0.1%	-0.3%	0.4%	
% ch. from year earlier	2.6%	-2.0%	-1.1%	-1.0%	0.8%	
<b>Unemployment Rate (SA,%)</b>	5.7%	8.5%	6.8%	6.4%	7.0%	Sep-16
percentage points from previous month	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.5	0	
percentage points from year earlier	-0.7	1.9	1.6	1.2	-0.1	
<b>Regular EI beneficiaries (SA)</b>	53,570	86,570	16,980	15,160	563,000	Aug-16
Change from previous month	-1440	-18,160	-3700	-110	-17,210	
% ch. from previous month	-2.6%	-17.3%	-17.9%	-0.7%	-3.0%	
% ch. from previous year	-2.3%	61.9%	20.4%	2.0%	4.3%	
<b>Average weekly earnings</b>	\$923.92	\$1,123.48	\$985.21	\$891.15	\$960.49	Aug-16
Change from previous year	\$20.64	-\$6.11	\$10.34	\$13.31	\$15.17	
<b>Prices</b>						
<b>CPI (y/y)</b>	1.8%	0.5%	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%	Sep-16
CPI (y/y) previous month	2.0%	0.7%	0.7%	1.1%	1.1%	Aug-16
<b>Consumers and Business</b>						
<b>Retail Sales (SA, \$millions)</b>	\$6,247	\$6,060	\$1,539	\$1,598	\$43,984	Aug-16
% ch. from previous month	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.4%	1.7%	-0.1%	
% ch. from previous year	4.9%	-5.0%	-1.7%	3.5%	0.9%	
<b>Manufacturing Sales (SA, \$millions)</b>	\$3,891	\$5,230	\$1,212	\$1,424	\$51,124	Aug-16
% ch. from previous month	2.1%	2.2%	7.4%	6.0%	0.9%	
% ch. from previous year	8.1%	-7.6%	2.9%	1.3%	-1.0%	
<b>Building Permits (SA, \$millions)</b>	\$1,157	\$1,008	\$150	\$261	\$7,331	Aug-16
% ch. from previous month	15.9%	1.3%	-7.7%	10.5%	10.4%	
% ch. from previous year	4.5%	-22.0%	-36.2%	47.4%	-2.2%	
<b>Housing Starts (SAAR, thousands)</b>	48	29	5	5	219	Sep-16
% ch. from previous month	33.7%	47.4%	-25.2%	6.1%	19.1%	
% ch. from previous year	65.4%	-21.6%	28.8%	-38.7%	-6.0%	
<b>International Trade</b>						
<b>Merchandise Exports (\$millions)</b>	\$3,276	\$7,035	\$2,109	\$1,041	\$39,595	Aug-16
% ch. from previous month	0.9%	14.7%	-3.0%	0.7%	11.0%	
% ch. from previous year	5.3%	-14.3%	-17.6%	-0.7%	-2.4%	
<b>Merchandise Imports (\$millions)</b>	\$4,282	\$1,972	\$685	\$1,674	\$46,010	Aug-16
% ch. from previous month	0.3%	4.7%	-14.1%	13.4%	9.5%	
% ch. from previous year	-1.0%	-17.7%	-17.9%	-7.2%	0.3%	
<b>Demographics</b>						
<b>Population (estimate)</b>	4,751,612	4,252,879	1,150,632	1,318,128	36,286,425	Q3 2016
% ch. from previous year	1.5%	1.3%	1.5%	1.9%	1.2%	
<b>Largest Cities (CMAs)</b>	Vancouver (2,504,340)	Calgary (1,439,756)	Saskatoon (304,975)	Winnipeg* (793,428)		2015
	Victoria* (365,291)	Edmonton* (1,363,277)	Regina* (241,422)			

\* Provincial Capital

<sup>1</sup> Real GDP at basic prices, forecast (Conference Board of Canada Provincial Outlook Spring 2016)

SA - Seasonally adjusted

SAAR - Seasonally adjusted at annual rates

Sources: Statistics Canada and Conference Board of Canada



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Description	Location	Date
<b>British Columbia</b>			
<b>BC Business Summit 2016</b>	The Business Council of BC will host its annual BC Business Summit. This year's event is entitled, <i>BC 2035: A Vision for Economic Growth and Prosperity</i> .	Vancouver, BC	<a href="#">November 1, 2016</a>
<b>Pipeline Success: Getting to Yes Takes a Willingness to Listen and Learn</b>	The Vancouver Board of Trade will host Ian Anderson, President, Kinder Morgan Canada, for a keynote address on his experience with the Trans Mountain expansion project.	Vancouver, BC	<a href="#">November 3, 2016</a>
<b>Western Innovation Forum 2016</b>	The Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI), in participation with Western Economic Diversification Canada, will host a conference aimed at connecting Western Canada's aerospace, marine, defence and security industries to investment, partnership and business opportunities.	Vancouver, BC	<a href="#">November 8-9, 2016</a>
<b>Growing the Future Together: BC Agrifood and Seafood Conference</b>	The Province of BC will host an agrifood, seafood, and food processing sector conference, including producers, processors, retailers, institutional purchasers, transporters and agritech suppliers.	Kelowna, BC	<a href="#">November 14-15, 2016</a>
<b>The New US President: What it means for Canada</b>	The Vancouver Board of Trade will host this event featuring Gary Doer, Former Ambassador of Canada to the United States, and Gordon Giffin, Former United States Ambassador to Canada.	Vancouver, BC	<a href="#">November 18, 2016</a>
<b>Housing in Canada and the Imaginary City: Addressing Vulnerabilities, Data Gaps and Affordability</b>	The Vancouver Board of Trade will host Evan Siddall, President and CEO of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, for a keynote address.	Vancouver, BC	<a href="#">November 30, 2016</a>
<b>Port of Vancouver</b>	The Vancouver Board of Trade will host Port of Vancouver President and CEO Robin Silvester for his annual address.	Vancouver, BC	<a href="#">December 8, 2016</a>
<b>The Future of Vancouver International Airport</b>	The Vancouver Board of Trade will host Craig Richmond, President and CEO of the Vancouver Airport Authority for a keynote address.	Vancouver, BC	<a href="#">January 18, 2017</a>
<b>University of British Columbia</b>	The Vancouver Board of Trade will host UBC's new President and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Santa Ono, for his inaugural address.	Vancouver, BC	<a href="#">January 24, 2017</a>
<b>Western Business Outlook: Vancouver</b>	The Conference Board of Canada will partner with the Vancouver Board of Trade to deliver its annual business outlook.	Vancouver, BC	<a href="#">January 27, 2017</a>
<b>Alberta</b>			
<b>Petrochem Canada 2016 Conference</b>	A conference providing insights into Canada's competitive advantage on the global petrochemical stage.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">November 1-2, 2016</a>
<b>Unmanned Systems Canada 2016 Annual Conference</b>	A conference bringing together industry, government, military and academia to promote the education and innovation of unmanned systems for use in air, land, and sea.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">November 1-3, 2016</a>
<b>EUREKA/EUROSTARS Information Session</b>	An information session hosted by the National Research Council of Canada, El Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial and the Government of Alberta on generating financing for international innovation projects.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">November 2, 2016</a>



## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Event	Description	Location	Date
<b>Roundtable Luncheon</b>	A roundtable luncheon hosted by the C.D. Howe Institute, featuring AIMCo's CEO, Kevin Uebelein.	Calgary, AB	<a href="#">November 3, 2016</a>
<b>AHIA Breakfast Meeting: "Edmonton: Canada's Health City"</b>	The Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors (AHIA) will host a meeting with guest speaker, Don Iveson, Mayor of Edmonton.	Edmonton, AB	November 4, 2016
<b>Empower: Women in Business Conference</b>	A conference for entrepreneurs, business owners, and other business professionals to network, learn about business planning and hear from successful Canadian women in business.	Camrose, AB	<a href="#">November 5, 2016</a>
<b>Indigenous Innovation Summit</b>	A summit bringing together Canada's social innovators, entrepreneurs and Indigenous leaders to share ideas and build new fields of innovation.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">November 7-9, 2016</a>
<b>Calgary Economic Development's 2017 Economic Outlook</b>	A presentation by the Chief Economist of ATB Financial, Todd Hirsch, and the Chief Economist of the Conference Board of Canada, Glen Hodgson, on the global, national, regional, and local economic forecasts for 2017.	Calgary, AB	<a href="#">November 8, 2016</a>
<b>A Discussion with Minister Deron Bilous: Exploring Alberta's Growth Opportunities</b>	Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, will discuss export expansion and market diversification and government attraction of global investors with Edmonton Chamber members.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">November 8, 2016</a>
<b>Kinder Morgan Luncheon – Pipeline Success: Getting 'Yes' Takes a Willingness to Listen and Learn</b>	A luncheon hosted by the Edmonton Chamber focused on the industry's role in providing decision-makers with the ability to "get to yes" on pipeline approvals.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">November 9, 2016</a>
<b>District Ventures Demo Day</b>	An exclusive event featuring Canada's consumer packaged goods; entrepreneurs are able to pitch innovative businesses to investors, retailers and distributors.	Calgary, AB	November 10, 2016
<b>Luncheon: Building Canada's Future through Infrastructure</b>	Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Amarjeet Sohi, will discuss the federal government's priorities for infrastructure development and growth.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">November 10, 2016</a>
<b>Startup Calgary Launch Party</b>	Startup Calgary's annual Launch Party will introduce technology startups that have demonstrated product market fit and an ability to attract users or generate revenue.	Calgary, AB	<a href="#">November 17, 2016</a>
<b>Parkland Institute's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference - Shifting Gears: Transitioning to the Future Economy</b>	A conference exploring the many transitions that are taking place in Alberta and the world in public services, the economy, the environment, and many other areas.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">November 18-20, 2016</a>



## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Event	Description	Location	Date
<b>Inclusion Works – Indigenous Workplace Inclusion Event and Recruitment Fair</b>	A recruitment fair hosted by the Aboriginal Human Resource Council, featuring discussions on indigenous innovation, leaders, and partnerships.	Banff, AB	<a href="#">November 22-24, 2016</a>
<b>Aboriginal Connections</b>	Hosted by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and the Alberta Enterprise Group, this keynote address will provide an opportunity for business leaders across western Canada to learn from the experiences of Fort McKay First Nations Chief, Jim Boucher.	Calgary, AB	<a href="#">November 23, 2016</a>
<b>Creating the New Alberta Vision &amp; Leadership Convention</b>	A convention featuring panelists from 18 Alberta industries and professions, including agriculture and food processing, transportation and logistics, health and biotech, tourism, manufacturing and export, and environment and cleantech, sharing innovative business ideas.	Red Deer, AB	<a href="#">November 26, 2016</a>
<b>AI-EES Tech Talks</b>	Alberta Innovates-Energy and Environment Solutions (AI-EES) will host an interactive technology event examining economic diversification, adaptation, and climate change.	Calgary, AB	<a href="#">November 30, 2016</a>
<b>Alberta Venture -Business Person of the Year</b>	The 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alberta Venture's Business Person of the Year awards, featuring past winners and culminating in a gala event to honour this year's recipient.	Calgary, AB	<a href="#">November 30, 2016</a>
<b>Annual Aboriginal Oil and Gas Forum</b>	The 15 <sup>th</sup> annual forum focused on how legislative and regulatory changes impact Aboriginal communities in Western and Northern Canada.	Banff, AB	<a href="#">December 1-2, 2016</a>
<b>International Oil Sands Tailings Conference</b>	A conference bringing together experts and individuals interested in tailings technology and management in Alberta's oil sands industry.	Lake Louise, AB	<a href="#">December 4-7, 2016</a>
<b>2017 ESNA Economic Outlook Conference</b>	An annual conference held by the Economics Society of Northern Alberta (ESNA), presenting various economic and industry outlooks for the year ahead.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">December 8, 2016</a>
<b>2017 Impact Luncheon</b>	A lunch hosted by Edmonton Economic Development to celebrate the city's successes over the last year and to discuss how a global mindset translates into a more resilient economy.	Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">January 10, 2017</a>



## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Event	Description	Location	Date
<b>Saskatchewan</b>			
<b>Science, Technology, Innovation and Collaboration Awards (STIC)</b>	The STIC Awards celebrate the brightest minds in the Saskatoon Region and honours the people, projects, and products that contribute to Saskatoon's world-class science and technology cluster.	Saskatoon, SK	<a href="#">November 16, 2016</a>
<b>First Nations Power Authority Forum</b>	This one-day forum will focus on renewable energy and answer questions about how First Nations can participate in future power and procurement opportunities to provide meaningful, long-term economic benefits and growth.	Saskatoon, SK	<a href="#">November 16, 2016</a>
<b>FUEL Small Business Information Expo</b>	FUEL is a business-to-business (B2B) tradeshow and networking event that connects entrepreneurs and SMEs to various government departments, non-profit organizations, and businesses that support small business.	Saskatoon, SK	<a href="#">November 16, 2016</a>
<b>Canola Industry Meeting and Canola Innovation Day</b>	The event is for delegates to hear researchers and industry experts discuss the latest developments in the growing canola industry and recent developments in canola genomics.	Saskatoon, SK	<a href="#">November 30-December 1, 2016</a>
<b>Manitoba</b>			
<b>Manitoba Association of Business Economics (MABE) Economic Outlook Conference</b>	The conference includes an overview of national, provincial and local economic conditions combined with focused sessions on Indigenous Economic Growth, downtown development and consolidation in the agricultural sector.	Winnipeg, MB	<a href="#">November 3, 2016</a>
<b>Canadian Space Society Annual Summit</b>	Summit 2016 brings together academia, industry, and the public. The theme "At the Centre of It All" will focus on the unifying factors that bring Canada, and the rest of the world, together within the space industry.	Winnipeg, MB	<a href="#">November 14-15, 2016</a>
<b>Manitoba Farm Women's Conference</b>	A forum for women to meet, acquire skills, and share ideas that benefit their families, farms, and communities.	Portage la Prairie, MB	<a href="#">November 20-22, 2016</a>
<b>Western Business Outlook</b>	The Conference Board of Canada hosts the Western Business Outlook – Manitoba.	Winnipeg, MB	<a href="#">November 24, 2016</a>
<b>Manitoba Precision Agriculture Workshop</b>	The workshop features speakers, explaining how UAV technologies can simplify farm operations and management, reduce risk, and help increase efficiencies, yields and profits.	Southport, MB	<a href="#">December 13, 2016</a>
<b>Driving Innovation</b>	A Manitoba conference focused on small-to medium-sized businesses. Keep abreast of new technologies, reach new markets and enhance business productivity.	Winnipeg, MB	<a href="#">January 25-26, 2017</a>

### Western Economic Diversification Canada

The role of Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) is to improve the long-term economic competitiveness of Western Canada by supporting programs and services that enhance innovation, business development, and community economic development. In addition, the department undertakes policy, advocacy and coordination activities in order to advance the interests of Western Canada in national economic decision-making.