



## Supply Chain Symposium Recap



*Recovery. Resilience. Reimagine* was the theme of Food, Health and Consumer Products of Canada’s (FHCP) Supply Chain Symposium on May 18, 2022. The Symposium brought together supply chain experts to discuss how the industry can be more resilient by reimagining business for a post-pandemic future. Featured were five enlightening keynote presentations and a panel discussion about the future of infrastructure.

To start off, FHCP’s **Frank Scali**, Vice President, Industry Affairs, rode up to the stage on his electric bicycle to demonstrate how going electric is key to reimagining the future of supply chain.

### Supply chain: problems and solutions

**Derek Burleton**, Vice President & Deputy Chief Economist at [TD Bank Group](#), began the day by discussing different economic factors affecting supply chains, including the pandemic, inflation, and export bans. Burleton noted that despite all this economic turmoil, the “economy has been showing tremendous resilience” so far, but he warned the latter half of 2022 and into 2023 will be “below trend.”



**Harry Moser**, Founder and President of [Reshoring Initiative](#)<sup>®</sup>, then defined reshoring as companies bringing the manufacturing process back to be done domestically and said its biggest benefit is that it will create thousands of jobs in North America. Currently, with so many goods being imported from abroad, supply chains are faced with more potential disruptions, including natural disasters, shipping delays, and wars.

**Sandra Pupatello**, former Ontario provincial minister and Co-founder of [Reshoring Canada](#), shared that the top three supply chain issues companies are facing are cost instability, logistics and capacity restraints, but reshoring can help address them. “This is not pandemic-related – this is life in 2022,” she said.

### Panel: Reimagining infrastructure

Next, there was a panel discussion, featuring (L-R) moderator **Rajiv Sujan**, Senior Director, Supply Chain, Transformation at [PwC Canada](#); **Guillaume Brossard**, Vice President, Development, Marketing and

International Relations at [Port of Montreal](#); **Girish Nair**, Assistant Vice President, International Intermodal at [CN Rail](#); **Stephen Laskowski**, President, [Ontario Trucking Association](#); **Rob Nichols**, Senior Director, Domestic Intermodal Sales at [CP Rail](#); and **Peter Xotta**, Vice President, Operations and Supply Chain at [Port of Vancouver](#).



The panel covered topics including building resilience and growth, innovation and digital, diversity, and strengthening the industry. Nair noted that the “resiliency of the network depends on how quickly you can recover [from disruptions],” which has been top-of-mind the past few years with the COVID-19 pandemic and several natural disasters. The importance of employee health and safety and innovating to adopt digital tools, including artificial intelligence, mobile apps, social media, and renewable energy, were also highlighted.

#### Industry trends shaping consumer behaviour



**Aman Singh**, Senior Director at [Kantar](#), then explained that the Canadian shopper has changed because of the effects of the pandemic and growing inflation, and while the physical store is still the main way Canadians shop, the number of omnichannel shoppers is increasing. Singh also explained the “fluid ecosystem” that requires coordination from suppliers and retailers.



**Nino Di Cara** (left), Founder and President, and **Ilana Weitzman**, Vice President, Strategic Development, Clean Transportation of [Electric Autonomy Canada](#), highlighted that electric vehicles are available in several models and sizes; reduce greenhouse gas emissions, 25 per cent of which are caused by transportation in Canada; and will help organizations prepare for expected government



regulations requiring them in the next few years. “The opportunity is right now to start planning for the decarbonization transition,” Di Cara said.

## Tackling employee burnout

[Hamza Khan](#), marketer, entrepreneur and empowerment expert, explained that 76 per cent of workers have experienced burnout that manifests in many ways including energy depletion, mental distance from one's job, and reduced professional efficacy. However, Khan noted that building resiliency is key to avoiding burnout. "If you don't make time for your wellness, you will be forced to make time for your illness," Khan said.



FHCP's 2022 Supply Chain Symposium was informative and enjoyed by over 100 supply chain experts. The speakers shared timely and relevant insights on the issues, potential solutions, and trends shaping the industry. Join FHCP again next year!