

NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL
ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

PARTNERS
for PROGRESS

2023 CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 28-30, 2023

NEW GLASGOW, N.S.

**CHECK OUT OUR AMAZING
SPONSORS**

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

PRESENTED BY

NOVA SCOTIA



PROUDLY HOSTED BY


**PICTOU
COUNTY**
Partnership



Conference *at a* Glance

Tuesday, November 28th

- 10:00 - 10:30 **WELCOME**
- 10:30 - 11:30 **PRESENTATION:** *IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT (AND I FEEL FINE)*
- 11:30 - 12:30 **PANEL:** *BUILDING BRIDGES: PARTNERING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES*
- 12:30 - 1:00 **LUNCH** *PREPARED BY JCONWAY CATERING*
- 1:00 - 2:00 **PRESENTATION:** *YOU GOTTA LET ME KNOW: SHOULD I SELL OR SHOULD I GROW?*
- 2:00 - 2:45 **DISCUSSION:** *INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY: FOCUSING ON STRATEGIC SECTORS, INCREASING WAGES, BUILDING OUR SKILLED WORKFORCE, AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS PROVINCE-WIDE.*
- 2:45 - 3:45 **PANEL:** *THINK BIG! CULTIVATING A GROWTH MINDSET IN NOVA SCOTIA*
- 3:45 - 4:15 **PRESENTATION:** *REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORKS: PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS*

Wednesday, November 29th

- 7:30 - 8:30 **BREAKFAST** *PREPARED BY CHEFS FROM AWAY*
- 8:30 - 8:45 **WELCOME**
- 8:45 - 9:30 **PRESENTATION:** *THE PATH TO 2 MILLION: NOVA SCOTIA'S POPULATION GROWTH STRATEGY*
- 9:30 - 10:45 **PANEL:** *BUILDING FOR TOMORROW: ADDRESSING HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS IN NOVA SCOTIA*
- 10:45 - 11:30 **PANEL:** *THE 3 F'S: FISHING, FARMING & FORESTRY*
- 11:30 - 12:30 **PRESENTATION:** *EXPLORING NOVA SCOTIA'S SECTOR POTENTIAL: INSIGHTS FROM DIVERSE INDUSTRIES*
- 12:30 - 1:00 **LUNCH** *PREPARED BY CHEFS FROM AWAY*
- 1:00 - 2:15 **PANEL:** *THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLUTION*
- 2:15 - 2:45 **FIRESIDE CHAT:** *GALACTIC RURAL GATEWAY WITH HARVEY DOANE ON MARITIME LAUNCH'S ODYSSEY IN RURAL NOVA SCOTIA*
- 2:45 - 3:00 **BREAK**
- 3:00 - 3:30 **PRESENTATION:** *REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORKS: PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS*
- 3:30 - 4:30 **PRESENTATION:** *MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY*

Conference *at a* Glance

Thursday, November 30th

7:30 - 8:30

BREAKFAST PREPARED BY PANTRY KITCHEN

8:30 - 9:30

LIVE INSIGHTS PODCAST: INTERVIEW WITH THE HONOURABLE SEAN FRASER - MEMBER OF PARLIMENT, CENTRAL NOVA | CANADA'S MINISTER OF HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITIES

9:45 - 10:30

INTERVIEW: LEARNINGS FROM INSIGHTS PODCASTS

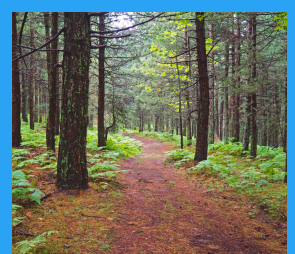


Acknowledgement

The Pictou County Partnership would like to acknowledge that we are on the land known as Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people. The Mi'kmaq are the first people of this land and have been here in present-day Nova Scotia for more than 10,000 years.

Today, Nova Scotia continues to be home to over 24,000 Aboriginals, including well over 13,000 Mi'kmaq. Pictou Landing First Nation is the Mi'kmaq community closest to us.

We also recognize the African Nova Scotians whose culture, heritage, and history have been and remain a key part of our province for more than 400 years.





Welcome | *Pjila'si*

I am delighted to welcome you all to the 2023 Partners for Progress conference on behalf of the Pictou County Partnership Board of Directors. Your presence here reflects a shared dedication to the growth of our community, and we are honored to have you join us for these significant three days. As Chair of the Board, I am eager about the potential for meaningful discussions, collaboration, and the exchange of innovative ideas that will contribute to the progress of Nova Scotia. Over the next three days, we have an impressive lineup of panels, presentations, and engaging discussions. I encourage you to actively participate, share your insights, and take full advantage of the networking opportunities available. Your presence makes this event truly special, and I look forward to the incredible discussions and collaborations that will unfold.

Ryan Fraser
Chair, Board of Directors
Pictou County Partnership

Thank You | *Wela'lin*

On behalf of the Pictou County Partnership, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for joining us for the 2023 Partners for Progress Conference. Your presence has added immense value to this gathering, and we are honored to have welcomed fellow Regional Enterprise Networks from across Nova Scotia, along with a diverse array of business and community leaders. Your commitment to regional community economic development is truly commendable. We are inspired by the collective energy and dedication you each bring to this event. Thank you for being an integral part of this transformative experience. We look forward to continued partnerships and collaborations in the pursuit of progress.

10:00 - 10:30

Welcome

Today's Host: Ann MacGregor | *Career Connections*

Land Acknowledgement: *Andrea Paul* | *Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nova Scotia Nations*

Mayor Nancy Dicks | *Mayor of New Glasgow*

Nicole LeBlanc | *Chair, Liaison Oversight Committee, Pictou County Partnership*

10:30 - 11:30

It's The End of the World as we Know It (and I Feel Fine)

Presentation by Brock Dickinson

We have grown up in a world of steady economic growth, predictable demographic cycles, and a stable international system. But this world – the only one we've ever known – is about to be forever altered, and the old rule books are out the window! From increasing workforce shortages to global pandemics, and from rampant inflation to the collapse of our supply chains, Brock Dickinson takes a look at the sometimes-frightening world of tomorrow, and what this means for our businesses and our communities. How can we position ourselves for success in this frightening new reality? This session will surprise, alarm and enlighten – but as always, Brock also promises a few laughs along the way!

Brock Dickinson | Presenter

Entrepreneur in Residence & Director, Economic Development Program
University of Waterloo

About Brock

Brock Dickinson is the Chief Economic Development Officer with Blue Cardinal Capital, steering economic development planning and investment attraction efforts on its projects across North America. He holds a number of other appointments, including a role as the Entrepreneur-in-Residence and an Adjunct Professor with the University of Waterloo, and as Director of the University's Economic Development Program, which provides the training leading to certification as a professional economic developer in Canada. Brock also serves as an Executive-in-Residence with Innovate Niagara, which operates a number of incubators, and as Chair of the Industry Advisory Board of the Canadian Food and Wine Institute Innovation Centre. He also serves as an advisor to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) on environmental innovation hubs in the United States, Canada and Mexico.



11:30 - 12:30

Building Bridges: Partnering with Indigenous Communities

This thought provoking panel discussion will aid to inspire attendees to recognize the value of collaborating with Indigenous communities in Mi'kma'ki. Participants will be encouraged to explore ways to create mutually beneficial relationships that promote economic growth, environmental stewardship, and cultural preservation. Ultimately, this discussion seeks to foster understanding, respect, and inclusivity, leading to a more prosperous and harmonious future for both industry and Indigenous communities in Mi'kma'ki.



Michael Peters | Panelist

Chief Executive Officer | *Glooscap Ventures*

About Michael

Michael currently serves as the CEO at Glooscap Energy, a Glooscap First Nation energy developer and has been with the organization since its founding in 2017. Michael started out as an Economic Development Officer with Glooscap First Nation in 2015 and eventually moved into other management roles and then to the CEO position. In 2020, Michael attended Dalhousie University where he studied renewable technologies and graduated with the Sustainable Energy Technologies Professional Certification (SEPT).

He also has a Bachelor of Commerce and MBA from Saint Mary's University. Michael's background is in business development where he contributed to the development of Glooscap Landing, Glooscap Corner and expanding the Glooscap Fisheries companies. Today, those companies employ over 100 people and generate their own source of revenue for the community of Glooscap First Nation. Michael is the current Co-Chair for the Mi'kmaq-Canada-Nova Scotia Triparted Economic Development Committee and a Vice President of the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Shivani Chotalia | Panelist

Director, Development & Partnerships | *NRSTOR INC.*

About Shivani

As Director of Development & Partnerships with NRSTOR Incorporated, Shivani has worked to deploy innovative energy storage projects, including the first commercial flywheel facility in Canada and the first commercial fuel-free compressed air energy storage facility in the world. Shivani has been recognized by Forbes 30 Under 30 in the Energy category, Corporate Knights 30 Under 30, and Canada Clean50 as an Emerging Leader. She serves as a Board Member of Environmental Defence Canada and a co-founder of Bold Realities.



Jason Parisé | PanelistDevelopment Director | *SWEB Development***About Jason**

Jason Parisé is Development Director with SWEB Development, a Halifax-based renewable energy company that develops, constructs, and operates wind and solar energy projects in eastern Canada and the northeast United States. He has over nine years of experience in the wind and solar industries throughout Ontario, Atlantic Canada, Maine, New York, and Virginia. Beyond general project development, he is focused on partnership development with communities and Indigenous communities throughout the region. Jason previously served as the New Brunswick Director for the Maritime Energy Association and has previous work experience including silviculture and forestry, environmental assessment management with WSP Canada, and environmental education.

Michael Polak | ModeratorExecutive Director | *Pictou Landing First Nation***About Michael**

Michael is Mohawk, Bear Clan with Ancestry in Tyendinaga on his mother's side and Polish on his father's side. He currently serves on the Board of Directors at Glooscap Ventures, is Executive Director at Pictou Landing First Nation, is President of Akewkon Enterprises, and is Co-Founder of Starberry Drink Co. Michael is a person of principles, passionate about solving problems, innovation, design, and traditional teachings. Persistently curious, Michael enjoys attempting to understand the mechanics of human-made systems and how to align them better with nature-made systems.

12:30 - 1:00

Lunch | Prepared by JConway Catering
Baked Goods Prepared by The Little Pastry House



1:00 - 2:00

You Gotta Let Me Know: Should I Sell or Should I Grow?

Rob Normandeau | Presenter

Managing Partner & President | *Seafort Capital*
Chair | *Wallace McCain Institute Board*

About Rob

President and Managing Partner of SeaFort Capital, a Private Equity firm based in Halifax, SeaFort invests across Canada, partnering with entrepreneurs and senior managers to build best-in-class businesses in the industrial and business services sectors.

As a business owner, it is important to have a plan to maximize the overall return you achieve on the capital, time and energy you invest in your business. Deciding whether and when to sell all or a portion of your business will help determine your success. Key considerations include (i) the number of years you are willing to commit to the future management of the business; (ii) the depth of your management team; (iii) your personal appetite for risk; and (iv) the marketability and scalability of your business. During this session we will explore each of these topics and review:

- Alternative transaction structures and approaches, including sales to a strategic buyer, management buy-outs and private equity sponsored deals.
- Tips for increasing financial sustainability for the long term (for you or a future buyer) through diversification, greater market share, potential synergies and cost reductions.
- And much more.

Rob will be joined by Cindy James and Wendy Brookhouse for a post presentation discussion.

Cindy James, boasts a two-decade career with profound contributions to the pet industry, business development and higher education. In 2020, she created and founded Crafty Beasts Breweing Company. Additionally, she is the Entrepreneur in Residence at the Pictou County Partnership.

Wendy has been assisting Business Owners in building their wealth for almost two decades. Her firm, Black Star Wealth, is a boutique financial planning firm that serves clients across the country. She is the host of The Real Bottom Line Podcast and the author of Burn Your Budget: How to Spend Your way to Financial Freedom.



Cindy James



Wendy Brookhouse

2:00 - 2:45

Sponsored By:



Discussion: Investment and Productivity: Focusing on Strategic Sectors, Increasing Wages, Building our Skilled Workforce, and Supportive Environments Province-Wide.



Chandra Pottle

Director of Investment Attraction | *Invest Nova Scotia*

About Chandra

Chandra Pottle is the Director of Investment Attraction at Invest Nova Scotia, the business development agency for the province of Nova Scotia, Canada. Together with a team of almost 15 individuals, Chandra works to help businesses expand and scale in Nova Scotia. Before devoting her work to provincial business development, Chandra achieved an exemplary track record in sales, leadership, business development; and service delivery, and successfully managed and delivered multi-million-dollar professional services projects with full accountability for P&L, Resource & Talent Management and Client Success. With her husband and two puppies, Chandra lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia and enjoys yoga, hiking, meeting new people and travelling.



Brock Dickinson

Entrepreneur in Residence & Director | *Economic Development Program University of Waterloo*

2:45 - 3:45

Sponsored By:



Think BIG! Cultivating a Growth Mindset in Nova Scotia

Join us for an insightful panel discussion featuring a group of accomplished rural entrepreneurs from Nova Scotia who have transformed their businesses into thriving ventures through the power of a growth mindset. This thought-provoking session aims to inspire and empower aspiring entrepreneurs to embrace a growth-oriented mindset, overcome challenges, and unlock their full potential for success. The panelists, hailing from diverse industries and regions, will share their personal journeys, experiences, and strategies that enabled them to scale their businesses and create a lasting impact within their communities.

Sarah Young | Panelist

Founding and Managing Partner | *Sandpiper Ventures*
Partner & Senior Council | *NATIONAL Public Relations*

About Sarah

Sarah Young is an entrepreneur, a business leader and one of Canada's sought-after communications advisors. Sarah is a Founder and Managing Partner with Sandpiper Ventures, the team empowering women investors and founders to thrive through venture capitalism.





Jim Fitt | Panelist

Chief Executive Officer | *Velsoft*

About Jim

A former instructor with the Nova Scotia School of Fisheries and Nova Scotia Community College system, Jim has combined his educational background with his natural entrepreneurial abilities to create Velsoft, a training materials company that is on the leading edge of the \$200 billion annual workplace learning and performance (WLP) industry. Jim is active within his community and has held positions that include president of the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the United Way Fundraising Committee, Chair of the Canadian Entrepreneurs Club, Co-Chair of the Business Advisory Committee and he has sat on the board of directors of the Rural Innovation District, Christmas Fund Telethon, as well as served on Community Economic Development committees and Community Strategic Planning committees.

Jim is a recipient of the Jack Pink United Way Volunteer Award, I-3 Technology Start-Up Competition 1st Place award (2015), EY Entrepreneur of The Year Finalist (2014), Business Person of the Year (2013), Nova Scotia's Exporter of the Year (2013), Regional Export Achievement Award (2013) and Entrepreneur of the Year (2007).



Don Mills | Panelist

Partner & Director | *CABCO Communications Group*

About Don

Don Mills is currently the President of Crane Cove Holdings Limited, his family investment firm, a partner and Director with CABCO Communications, an IT infrastructure company and Total Marketing & Communications, a Bermuda based company he co-founded. He is the co-founder and former owner and CEO of Corporate Research Associates (now Narrative Research). He is a regular columnist with both the Saltwire Network and Brunswick News, as well as being a frequent media commentator on public affair issues. He is also the Co-host of the Insights Podcast on the Huddle Network.



Dr. Dharendra Shukla | Moderator

Professor & Chair | J Herbert Smith ACOA

Technology Management and Entrepreneurship | University of New Brunswick
Lead Coordinator | Scale Up Atlantic



3:45 - 4:15



Regional Enterprise Networks Project Highlights

In this session, we'll explore the innovative strategies and collaborative efforts that have transformed the economic landscape of Nova Scotia. RENs have played a pivotal role in fostering entrepreneurship, supporting local businesses, and driving sustainable economic growth. Be prepared to be inspired by their success stories, learn about their effective models, and gain insights into the unique regional development initiatives that have made Nova Scotia a shining example of economic development at its finest.

6:00 - 8:00

Kitchen Party Reception

Museum of Industry | [147 N Foord St, Stellarton, NS B0K 1S0](#)

Speaking Order

Scott Ferguson | *Pictou County Partnership*

Mayor Danny MacGillivray | *Mayor of Stellarton*

The Honourable Tim Houston | *Premier of Nova Scotia*

Ryan Fraser | *Chair, Pictou County Partnership Board of Directors*

The Honourable Tim Houston

Premier of Nova Scotia

Tim Houston is Nova Scotia's 30th Premier. He and his wife, Carol, have been married for 26 years and have two children, Paget and Zachary.

Tim attended Saint Mary's University where he obtained a Bachelor of Commerce. He then earned his Chartered Accountant designation in Halifax.

On November 2, 2020, Tim was awarded his profession's highest mark of distinction, the Fellow (FCPA) designation, by Chartered Professional Accountants of Nova Scotia. He successfully sought the Pictou East PC nomination in 2012 and was first elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly in the 2013 provincial election. He was re-elected in 2017 and again in 2021.

In 2018, Tim was elected Leader of the PC Party of Nova Scotia.

Tim was sworn in as premier on August 31, 2021. Premier Houston also serves as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade.

Live Music

The reelin' little combo of Heather Cameron & Kenny Stewart met initially at local Irish session. Finding an irresistible spark in their music, they began meeting for their own private ceilidhs.

This duo features a blend of lively Celtic dance tunes, jigs, reels, and airs, with a dash of folk and Americana for good measure.

After Party Begins

The Thistle Gastropub | [612 E River Rd, New Glasgow, NS B2H 3S1](#)

8:30



7:30 - 8:30

Breakfast | Prepared by Chefs From Away

8:30 - 8:45

Welcome

Morning Host, Joey Desmond | *Career Connections*

8:45 - 9:30

The Path to 2 Million: Nova Scotia's Population Growth Strategy

The Deputy Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration, Ava Czapalay, will provide an overview of the province's population growth strategy. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A.

Ava Czapalay | Presenter

Deputy Minister & CEO | *Labour, Skills, & Immigration*

About Ava

Deputy Minister and Chief Executive Officer of Labour, Skills and Immigration, Ava's department includes responsibility for the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, Skills and Learning, Labour Services, Safety, Immigration and Population Growth and the Workers Compensation Board.



9:30 - 10:45

Building for Tomorrow: Addressing Housing & Infrastructure Needs in Nova Scotia

Join us for an enlightening discussion as we collectively explore solutions to address housing affordability, housing supply, and the essential infrastructure needed to support Nova Scotia's population growth and build sustainable communities for the future.

Dianne Kelderman | Panelist

President & CEO | *Nova Scotia Co-operative Council*

About Dianne

Dianne is President & CEO of the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council, a position she has held for over two decades, working to develop new and innovative economic tools that address some of society's most pressing problems. She is a graduate of Harvard Business School and has done extensive work in business support and alternative financing programs across Atlantic Canada. In 2010, Dianne was named one of Canada's 8 Women of Influence, in 2014 was inducted into the Atlantic Business Hall of Fame, and in 2021 was named one of Atlantic Canada's 25 Most Powerful Women. In 2022 Dianne received the Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award.





Duncan Williams | Panelist

President & CEO | *Construction Association of Nova Scotia*

About Duncan

Duncan Williams, BSW, MSW, ICD.D, joined the Construction Association of Nova Scotia as its President & CEO on January 31, 2011. During the past decade, Duncan has held Senior and Executive level positions with CNIB in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. As General Manager for Caterplan, CNIB's food service operation, Duncan had responsibility for more than 55 full-service catering and restaurant outlets. Since 2015, he has sat on the Board of Directors of Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia. He has also been Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of Construction Safety Nova Scotia since 2018. He holds a Masters from Dalhousie University and Bachelors from Memorial University of Newfoundland. He also earned his ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors through the Rotman School of Business. Duncan is a Doctoral Fellow recipient for his research in vision loss and employment.



Lisa MacDonald | Panelist

Chief Administrative Officer | *Town of New Glasgow*

About Lisa

Since December 2007, Lisa has been the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. From 2003 to 2007, she held positions with the Pictou Regional Development Commission, initially as a Municipal Project Officer, providing services to assist the six municipalities in Pictou County with economic development plans and projects, and later, as the Executive Director. Currently, she serves on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Infrastructure-Housing Advisory Committee, Chairperson of the Aberdeen Health Foundation, Vice-President of the Summerstreet Foundation, as well as serving on the boards of Citizens for a Healthy Pictou County, the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia, and as a Trustee on the Atlantic Police Association Pension Plan.



David Campbell | Moderator

President | *Jupia Consultants*

About David

David Campbell is the President of Jupia Consultants Inc., an economic development consulting and research firm based in New Brunswick.

Previously, he was Chief Economist with the Government of New Brunswick. In that role, he led the development of economic growth and people attraction strategies for the provincial government.

10:45 - 11:30

The 3 F's: Fishing, Farming & Forestry

Nova Scotia's economy is deeply rooted in its natural resources and the sustainable management of its coastal waters, farmlands, and forests. These three economic sectors—fishing, farming, and forestry—play a pivotal role in the province's economic development, culture, and environmental stewardship. This panel discussion aims to shed light on the challenges, opportunities, and strategies within these sectors, emphasizing their importance in Nova Scotia's future sustainability.

Amy Ferguson | Panelist

Captain | *Lobster Boat* Board Member | *Pictou County Partnership*

About Amy

Born and raised in Pictou County, Amy followed her hockey dream. She played NCAA D1 Hockey at Dartmouth College, NH, graduating with BA in Sociology and Psychology. Amy made her way back to Nova Scotia with pit stops in Edmonton AB and the Arctic Circle. She returned to NSCC and completed a Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management. Her professional career was spent with Canadian Gypsum Company (USG) and J.D. Irving Limited. After 13 years in the corporate world, Amy traded her office for a Lobster Boat. She has completed her 5th season Lobster Fishing out of Caribou, NS and completed her Master Fishing IV License as well as Master Limited <60T certificate. During the off season, she joined the Discover the Strait Program, providing charters on Pictou County's beautiful waters. You can find Amy and her family on the water, at the fields and at the rink.



Emily Lutz | Panelist

Executive Director | *Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association*

About Emily

Emily Lutz is the Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association, a 160 year old organization that aims to promote the development of a sustainable tree fruit industry in Nova Scotia. Emily has been the Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of the County of Kings for seven years, winning elections in both 2016 and 2020. She has a degree in Political Science from St. Thomas University and a Masters in Social and Political Thought from Acadia, where she studied land-use planning in municipal government.



Julia MacMillan | Panelist

Director | *MacMillan Forest Inc.*



About Julia

Julia is a Forest Technician and has been working in the forestry sector for 38 years. Julia works with her husband David in their forestry company, managing woodlands in the Tatamagouche area.

Julia also works with other forestry companies auditing safety programs and assisting in bookkeeping, as well as mentoring forestry workers with best practices in harvesting operations. Julia's passion is to help gain social acceptability in the forestry sector. She loves living, working and playing on their family's 5th generation home and woodlands in Tatamagouche.



Maxine Mann | Moderator

Principal | *Nova Scotia Community College - Pictou Campus*



11:30 - 12:30

Exploring Nova Scotia's Sector Potential: Insights from Diverse Industries

This conference panel brings together representatives from diverse sectors to discuss the potential of their industries in Nova Scotia. The panelists, each representing a different sector, will provide valuable insights into the growth prospects, challenges, and opportunities within their respective industries in the region.

Trent Soholt | Presenter

Executive Director | *Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council*

About Trent

Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council (NSCSC) - a not-for-profit organization that collaborates with industry partners to provide human resource solutions and labour market information for Nova Scotia's industrial, commercial, and institutional construction sector.

Bill Culp | Presenter

Creative Economy Development Officer | *Cape Breton Partnership*

About Bill

Bill Culp is the Creative Economy Development Officer at the Cape Breton Partnership. He works to increase the economic impact and opportunities for the creative sector across Unama'ki - Cape Breton. He supports and works alongside artisans across all creative disciplines. Bill has an extensive background as a career musician, songwriter, voice actor, and author.





Sean Kirby | Presenter

Executive Director | *Mining Association of Nova Scotia*

About Sean

Sean Kirby is the Executive Director of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia. He is a public relations and government relations expert who has worked in Ottawa, Toronto, and throughout Atlantic Canada.

In the public sector, he was a media spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Canada during the 1997 election campaign. Prior to that, he served as Press Secretary to Canada's Secretary of State for Science, Research and Development and Western Economic Diversification. Sean's volunteer work includes having served as Chair of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada's Atlantic Division.

Claire Quirion | Presenter

Director, Project & Program Delivery | *Digital Nova Scotia*

About Claire

An Ontario native, turned East Coast enthusiast, Claire has a special place in her heart for Nova Scotia. With over 7 years in the digital space, Claire is thrilled by the innovation that surrounds us and loves being involved in the growth of the technology sector. As an obvious extrovert, her passion for building meaningful relationships has always been the backbone of her career. Her experience in marketing, web development, project management, and business strategy and operations make her a strong member of the leadership team at Digital Nova Scotia.

12:30 - 1:00

Lunch | Prepared by Chefs From Away
Baked Goods Prepared by The Little Pastry House

1:00

Afternoon Sessions Begin

Afternoon Host - Alex McCann, Executive Director | *ONSIDE*

1:00 - 2:15

The Economic Development Revolution

In an era of increasing complexity, economic development organizations are taking on a broader and more impactful role in shaping the well-being and prosperity of communities. This panel discussion brings together experts and thought leaders to delve into the multifaceted aspects of community development that contribute to an enhanced quality of life.

From essential services like child care and health care to the critical building blocks of key infrastructure, transportation, education, a welcoming community and beyond, this session will explore how these pieces interlock to form the foundation of prosperous and thriving societies.



Danny MacGillivray | Panelist

Executive Director | *CHAD Transit*

About Danny

Executive Director of CHAD Transit, a non-profit charitable organization that provides door to door on demand transit services to the people of Pictou County. Danny is also the Manager of Pictou County Transit, a one-hour bus loop between the towns of Stellarton and New Glasgow. As well, Danny is serving his eighth year as Mayor for his hometown of Stellarton.



Sarah MacIntosh Wiseman | Panelist

Director (Canada) | *Shapiro Foundation*

About Sarah

Sarah joined The Shapiro Foundation as their Canadian Director in 2021, having worked in partnership with them since 2018 on a variety of refugee-focused humanitarian and economic programs.

In her previous career, Sarah was a Partner in a regional Nova Scotian law firm, where she practiced management-sided Labour & Employment law for fifteen years. In 2015, at the height of Canada's Syrian refugee resettlement effort, she co-founded and Chaired a local community refugee sponsorship group, Pictou County Safe Harbour.

In 2019, Sarah was hired as the inaugural CEO of the Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network, now known as Pictou County Partnership.

In her role as Canada Director for the Shapiro Foundation, Sarah works closely with their refugee-serving NGO partners, provincial and federal governments, and employers and sector associations as a contact point in The Shapiro Foundation's Canadian activities, and specifically to support efforts to scale-up EMPP opportunities across Canada.



Nicole LeBlanc | Panelist

Project Navigator | *Healthy Pictou County*
Chair | *LOC, Pictou County Partnership*

About Nicole

Nicole is the Project Navigator for Healthy Pictou County, a physician-led grassroots effort focused on attraction and retention of healthcare providers and students. Nicole has been in the role since 2018. Nicole is a graduate of Mount Saint Vincent University and StFX, and prior to this role was the former Communications Manager for local Member of Parliament Sean Fraser, a former Communications Specialist at Sobeys, and was the Communications Fundraising Manager for the Pictou County Wellness Centre.

2:15 - 2:45

Galactic Rural Gateway: A Fireside Chat with Harvey Doane on Maritime Launch's Odyssey in Rural Nova Scotia

This conversation will focus on Maritime Launch's journey to date, why they chose rural NS, the challenges they have faced and may face in the future, as well as the opportunities they see for their own journey and rural NS in general. How can economic developers encourage more of this innovation in rural communities? How can we help support their success moving forward?



Harvey Doane

Chief Operating Officer | *Maritime Launch Services*

About Harvey

Harvey Doane is the Chief Operating Officer of Maritime Launch Services. With a wealth of experience in organizational leadership, operations, and international business development, Harvey is a valuable asset to the senior management team at Maritime Launch Services. Having worked many years in foreign direct investment, Harvey brings a unique perspective and a broad international network to the table. He is committed to shaping the future of the company and driving its success on a global scale. At Maritime Launch Services, Harvey, as part of the senior leadership team, is instrumental in the development of Canada's first commercial launch facility. This innovative project has huge implications for the Canadian space sector and is a reflection of Harvey's forward-thinking and innovative approach to leadership. He is dedicated to ensuring that the project is completed on time and on budget, while also meeting the highest standards of operational efficiency. As Chief Operating Officer, he is responsible for safeguarding that the facility design and construction meets the highest standards of safety and quality, as well as ensuring compliance with all environmental regulations. Harvey is committed to making sure that Maritime Launch Services is a leading player in the global space industry.



Alex McCann

Executive Director | *ONSIDE*

About Alex

Alexandra "Alex" McCann is the Executive Director of ONSIDE, the Organization for Nova Scotia Innovation Driven Entrepreneurship. Previous to this role, Alex was the COO for Dockside Investco, a Nova Scotia-based portfolio management company; as well as the CEO for Baie Run Pet Products. In addition, Alexa has been an Investment Attraction lead for Invest Nova Scotia (formerly NSBI) covering clean tech, ocean tech, life sciences, as well as bioresources, agri-foods and seafoods. She has also held positions with the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. in Asset Management, as well as the Office of Renewable Energy & Environmental Exports.

2:45 - 3:00

Break

3:00 - 3:30

Truro & Colchester **Partnership**
for Economic Prosperity
Halifax | Miramichi | Moncton | Truro



Western Regional
Enterprise Network

Cumberland Business
CONNECTOR

Regional Enterprise Networks - Project Highlights

In this session, we'll explore the innovative strategies and collaborative efforts that have transformed the economic landscape of Nova Scotia. RENs have played a pivotal role in fostering entrepreneurship, supporting local businesses, and driving sustainable economic growth. Be prepared to be inspired by their success stories, learn about their effective models, and gain insights into the unique regional development initiatives that have made Nova Scotia a shining example of economic development at its finest.

3:30 - 4:30

Mobilizing Communities for the Climate Emergency | Virtual Presentation

Seth Klein explores how we can align our politics and economy with what the science says we must do to address the climate crisis. But Klein brings an original and uniquely hopeful take to this challenge. His book and talks are structured around lessons from the Second World War – the last time Canada faced an existential threat. Canada's wartime experience, Klein contends, provides an inspirational reminder that we have done this before – we have mobilized in common cause across class, race and gender, and entirely retooled our economy in the space of a few short years. In his talk, Klein will outline the "6 Markers of Emergency" – the framework he and his team employ to indicate when a government or institution is actually in emergency mode – and he will share concrete ideas for how local governments and communities can manifest these markers as we confront the climate crisis. He will provide examples of new public/crown and community enterprises and other innovative public programs needed to drive down greenhouse gas emissions, and he will share examples of municipal-level policies that are expediting the transition off fossil fuels. Klein's talk will expand our imagination and leave people with a clear sense of what leadership looks like in a time of emergency.

Seth Klein | Presenter

Team Lead & Director of Strategy | *Climate Emergency Unit*

About Seth

Seth is the Team Lead and Director of Strategy with the Climate Emergency Unit. Prior to that, he served for 22 years as the founding director of the British Columbia office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Canada's foremost social justice think tank. He is now a freelance policy consultant, speaker, researcher and writer, and author of *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency*. Seth is a regular columnist with Canada's National Observer, an adjunct professor with Simon Fraser University's Urban Studies program, and remains a research associate with the CCPA's BC Office.



6:00 - 8:00

Dine Around Town

An opportunity to sample Pictou County’s restaurants and network with other conference attendees.

8:30

After Party Begins

Blue Lobster Public House | [230 South Foord St, Stellarton, NS B0K 0A2](#)

7:30 - 8:30

Breakfast | Prepared by Pantry Kitchen

8:30 - 9:30

Insights Podcast | Live Recording

An exciting live recording for the Insights Podcast – Don Mills and David Campbell will talk to the Honourable Minister Sean Fraser about federal strategies to address housing and infrastructure challenges to build prosperous communities in Nova Scotia.

The Honourable Sean Fraser

Canada’s Minister of Housing & Infrastructure | Member of Parliament for Central Nova

About Sean

Sean Fraser was born and raised in Pictou County and after a successful legal career in Alberta returned to settle back home here in Pictou County in 2015. First elected that same year as Member of Parliament for Central Nova, he went on to serve in roles including Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Middle-Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change as well as Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister. In October 2021, Sean was appointed as Canada’s Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. During this time, Canada welcomed a record number of workers with the skills our economy needs, reunited more families who can be with their loved ones, and resettled more refugees fleeing violence, war, and persecution than any other country in the world. These measures have helped Canada to have one of the most remarkable economic recoveries from COVID-19 in the world, and the strongest amongst the G7. In July of this year, Sean was appointed as Canada’s Minister of Housing and Infrastructure.



9:30 - 9:45

Break

9:45 - 10:30

Turning the Mic: A Conversation with the Hosts of the Insights Podcast

Join us for a unique conversation as we turn the mic on the hosts of the popular Insights Podcast. Wade Tibbo of the Pictou County Partnership will engage with the hosts in a dynamic discussion, diving into their learnings and experiences from engaging with entrepreneurs and leaders across Atlantic Canada over the past two years. This conversation will explore key takeaways from the various sessions of the conference, offering valuable insights into the evolving business landscape of the region. Additionally, the dialogue will touch on actionable strategies and priorities for economic developers.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of regional entrepreneurship and leadership through the lens of those who have been chronicling these journeys.



David Campbell

President

Jupia Consultants



Don Mills

Partner & Director

CABCO Communications Group



Wade Tibbo

Director of Business
Development &
Innovation

Pictou County Partnership

10:30 - 10:45

Break

10:45 - 12:45

REN Working Session

REN and Department of Economic Development staff will discuss best practices and chart the course for future collaboration. Discussions will be focussed on the development of action plans in key strategic areas.



We are grateful for the generous contributions from our sponsors, who have made this conference possible.



**BLACK STAR
WEALTH™**



SWEB Development
a W.E.B company
sweb.energy

