



ACG[®] Toronto 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC NETWORK 2025

Halifax, Nova Scotia
September 24, 2025 | Opening Reception
Stewart McKelvey
September 25, 2025 | Conference
Pier 21, Canadian Museum of Immigration

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

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Presenting Sponsors



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW – August 6, 2025 FOR DISTRIBUTION – Version #7.2

ACG presents the 4th Atlantic Network Conference – on September 24 & 25, 2025.

The Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) Toronto is the premier organization driving middle-market growth for the Private Equity and Mergers & Acquisition industry in Canada.

Conference agenda:

- **Wednesday, September 24th**
 - (Noon – 4:00 p.m.) - **DealSource North Atlantic (new program to be hosted at DELOITTE HALIFAX)**
 - (6.00 – 9.00 p.m.) - **Welcome Reception** for Speakers, Sponsors and Conference attendees - hosted at the rooftop patio at **STEWART MCKELVEY**
- **Thursday September 25th**
 - (8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.) – Conference – hosted at **PIER 21 – CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION**

The ACG Atlantic Network facilitates opportunities for business leaders looking for capital, networking and thought leadership throughout the Atlantic region. The ACG Toronto chapter hosts 30+ programs in Halifax, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal in partnership with ACG Quebec.

The ACG Network has 60 chapters, 14,000+ members and hosts 1,000+ programs across North America.

SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO MEET:

- C-suite executives, Business owners and Founders
- Chartered Banks, Private equity, and institutional investors
- M&A Advisory and Investment Banks
- Service Providers and Intermediaries (law, accounting, and advisory firms)
- Single and Multi-Family Offices
- Government and Economic development Agencies
- Industry Associations

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

- **ACG MEMBERS**
 - Early-Bird rate (up to August 17th) - \$199 + tax
 - Regular rate (after August 18th) - \$249 + tax
- **NON-MEMBERS**
 - Early-Bird rate (up to August 17th) - \$249 + tax
 - Regular rate (after August 18th) - \$299 + tax

ATLANTIC NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Jillian Murray – Doane Grant Thornton LLP, Co-Chair
- Jack Dallaire – SeaFort Capital, Co-Chair
- Christine Pound – Stewart McKelvey
- Andrew Frazer – CIBC
- Geoff Bennett – Bennett Brown Capital Partners
- Derrick Dempster – Deloitte Canada
- Jeff MacKenzie – Confederation M&A
- Adrian Snow - Founders East Capital
- James Rathbun - BDC
- Sally Ng – East Valley Ventures
- Chris Crowell – Tidal Ventures Partner
- Vaughn MacLellan – ACG Board member – DLA Piper (Canada) LLP
- Mike Fenton – ACG President & CEO

PRESENTING SPONSORS – 2025



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4th Annual Atlantic Network Conference Agenda

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

DealSource North Atlantic (new program) - Noon – 4:00 pm

Location: Deloitte Office – 1741 Lower Water St Suite 700, Halifax, NS B3J 0J2-

- Pre-scheduled 1:1 meetings for Investment Banks and M&A Advisors to meet with Private Equity, Capital Providers, Family Offices, and Corporate Development teams
- Senior executives from across Atlantic Canada, ACG Toronto & Quebec members and the U.S ACG chapter network
- Participation is curated for invitation-only networking in an efficient, focused format

Opening Reception – 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Stewart McKelvey Office – Rooftop Patio, 1741 Lower Water St Suite 600, Halifax, NS B3J 0J2- <https://www.stewartmckelvey.com/>

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Location: PIER 21 – CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION

8:00-08:30 **Registration and Networking Breakfast**

8:30-08:45 **Welcome Remarks**

Conference Co-chairs:

- **Jillian Murray** – Partner, Doane Grant Thornton LLP
- **Jack Dallaire** – VP, SeaFort Capital
- **Sean McKinnon**, Head of Business Development, Sagard Holdings & Chair, ACG Board of Directors

8:50-9:40 **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION – DEFENSE, DEVELOPMENT AND SOVEREIGNTY - WE ARE IN A CANADIAN MOMENT**

Speaker:

- **Hon. Erin O'Toole**, P.C., C.D. – Managing Director, ADIT North America

Moderator: Christine Pound – Partner, Stewart McKelvey
Sponsor: Stewart McKelvey

9:45-10:30

PANEL TOPIC: ATLANTIC EXPANSION IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR

Speakers:

- **Melanie Nadeau**, CEO – COVE
- **Cory Bell**, President & CEO – Lindsay Construction
- **David Benoit**, President & CEO – BUILD Nova Scotia
- **Tim Houtsma**, CEO – Marid Industries

Moderator: TBC

Sponsor: TBC

Session Themes: TBC

Introduction: TBC

10:30-11:00

Networking Break

11:05-11:50

PANEL TOPIC: HOW AI AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IS IMPACTING THE M&A SECTOR

Moderator: Mike Young, Partner, M&A and Value Creation, Private Capital AI Leader – Deloitte Canada

Speaker:

- **Jennifer LaPlante**, Deputy Minister, Cyber Security & Digital Solutions – Government of Nova Scotia

Speakers: TBC

Introduction: TBC

Sponsor: Deloitte

Panel Overview:

The M&A landscape is undergoing a seismic shift as artificial intelligence and digital transformation redefine how deals are sourced, evaluated, and executed. This dynamic panel brings together leaders from private equity, advisory, and AI technology to explore how cutting-edge tools are streamlining due diligence, uncovering hidden value, and accelerating post-merger integration. Attendees will gain firsthand insights into how AI is not just modernizing the transaction process but also reshaping competitive advantage and risk management in a rapidly evolving market.

Whether you are a dealmaker, advisor, or business owner, this session will equip you with actionable strategies to harness digital innovation and stay ahead in the next era of M&A.

11:55-12:40 **PANEL TOPIC:
"EXPANDING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH INDIGENOUS
PARTNERS"**

Moderator: Sean Stager, Director - Transactions - Doane Grant
Thornton - National FP&A Leader

Speakers:

- **Gioia Usher**, Chief Executive Officer, We'koqma'q L'nue'Kati
- **Michael Maracle-Polak**, Chief Administrative Officer - Glooscap
First Nation

Session Themes: TBC

Introduction: TBC

Sponsor: Doane Grant Thornton LLP

12:45-1:45 **LUNCH & NETWORKING BREAK**

1:50 – 2:35 **PANEL TOPIC – NAVIGATING CROSS-BORDER M&A
TRANSACTIONS**

Moderator: Matthew Galgay, Partner Atlantic Canada – BDO

Speaker:

- **Loren Rafeson**, Partner, Growth Equity Partners – BDC Capital
- **Corey McKinnon**, Chief Legal Officer - Cooke Seafood

Session Themes: TBC

Introduction: Jeff MacKenzie, Partner – Confederation M&A

Sponsors: BDC & BDO

2:40-3:30 **CLOSING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**Session Theme: TOWARD PROSPERITY – THE TRANSFORMATION
OF ATLANTIC CANADA'S ECONOMY**

Moderator: Don Mills, Co-Host: INSIGHTS PODCAST

Speakers:

- **Greg Wanger** – CEO, Oberland Agriscience
- **Michelle Robichaud** - President, Atlantica Centre for Energy

Sponsor: TBC

3:35-3:45

Closing Remarks

Conference Co-chairs:

- **Jillian Murray** – Partner, Doane Grant Thornton LLP
- **Jack Dallaire** – VP, SeaFort Capital

3:45-4:45

CLOSING RECEPTION & NETWORKING