



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

REGISTER NOW

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Presenting Sponsors



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 – BDC
- Chris Crowell – Tidal Venture Partners
- 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

- 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
- Curated networking in an efficient, focused format
- **Location: DELOITTE**

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, Principal - 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

Introduction: Geoff Bennett, President – Bennett Brown Capital Partners

9:45-10:30

PANEL TOPIC: ATLANTIC EXPANSION IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR

Moderator: Tim Robbins, Market Vice President, Atlantic - CIBC Commercial Banking

Speaker:

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

Introduction: Sally Ng, Partner – BDC

Sponsor: CIBC

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

Speakers:

- **Jennifer LaPlante, Deputy Minister, Cyber Security & Digital Solutions – Government of Nova Scotia**
- **Jordan Kyriakidis, Co-founder & CEO – QRA Corp. and Advisory Council Member – Canadian Advisory Council on AI**
- **Louis Beaubien, Chief Scientific Officer - ResolveHD and Academic Director - Creative Destruction Lab Atlantic**
- **Jack Dallaire, Principal – SeaFort Capital**

Introduction: Sean Flinn, VP M&A Practice – BFL Canada

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 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

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
- Chief Jenny Brake, Qalipu First Nation

Introduction: Andrew Frazer, Director & Team Leader, National Accounts (Atlantic) & Mid-Market (NB & PEI)

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
- Zac McIsaac, Managing Partner – McCain Capital Partners
- Damian Burke, Managing Director - Main Street Capital Corp.
- 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 CANADAS ECONOMY

Moderator: Don Mills, Co-Host: INSIGHTS PODCAST

Speakers:

- **Greg Wanger, CEO - Oberland Agriscience**
- **Michelle Robichaud, President - Atlantica Centre for Energy**
- **Cathy Bennett, Founder & Co-Managing Partner – Sandpiper Ventures**
- **Lauren Ledwell, CEO - PEI BioAlliance**

Introduction: Derrick Dempster, Partner, Audit & Advisory – Deloitte

3:35-3:45

Closing Remarks

Conference Co-chairs:

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

3:45-4:45

CLOSING RECEPTION & NETWORKING