



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 23rd**
 - (12.00 – 4:00 p.m.) - **DealSource North Atlantic (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 24th**
 - (8.00 a.m. to 3.45 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 20+ 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

ATLANTIC NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Co-Chair - Sally Ng – BDC Advisory
- Co-Chair - Jeff MacKenzie – Confederation M&A
- Jillian Murray – Doane Grant Thornton LLP
- Ben MacDonald – SeaFort Capital
- Andrew Frazer – CIBC
- Geoff Bennett – Bennett Brown Capital Partners
- Derrick Dempster – Deloitte Canada
- James Rathbun - BDC
- Alanna Waberski – Stewart McKelvey
- Matthew Galgay - BDO
- Alex MacCullam – Tidal Venture Partners
- Vaughn MacLellan – ACG Board member – DLA Piper (Canada) LLP
- Ben Gibbons – Interim ACG CEO

PRESENTING SPONSORS – 2026



5th Annual Atlantic Network Conference Agenda

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

DealSource North Atlantic – 12.00 – 4:00 pm

Location: DELOITTE

- 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
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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 24, 2026

Atlantic Capital Connection: 8:00 am – 3:45 pm

Location: CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT PIER 21

8:00 - 8:30 Registration and Networking Breakfast

8:30 - 8:45 OPENING REMARKS

Conference Co-chairs:

- **Sally Ng** – BDC
- **Jeff MacKenzie** – Confederation M&A

8:50-9:40 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Speaker: Honourable Peter MacKay, PC KC

Introduction: Sponsor

Moderator: Geoff Bennett, Bennett Brown Capital

Sponsor: TBC

9:45-10:30 PANEL: FOUR DIMENSIONS OF DEFENCE

Capitalizing on Opportunities in Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Canada is uniquely positioned to lead in the next wave of defence growth, with 40% of Canada's deployable military assets and a strong concentration of personnel across the region. This panel explores how organizations can unlock opportunities across the four dimensions of defence:

- Infrastructure (physical + digital assets)
- Industry & Supply Chains (manufacturing, SMEs, procurement)
- Security & Regulation (controlled goods, export controls, cyber)
- People & Innovation (talent, R&D, dual-use tech)

With this foundation, the discussion will focus on how Atlantic Canada can capitalize on a major shift toward defence and regulated industries to drive corporate growth and long-term competitiveness.

**Atlantic Canada has 20% of Military personnel, 11% is in NS.

Speakers:

1. **Emily Smits** - Modest Tree
2. **Duncan McSporran** - Vimy Forge Accelerator
3. **Justin Martin** - First Spear Group

Introduction: Sally Ng, BDC

Moderator: Victoria Belbin, CEO, Atlantic Canada Aerospace & Defence Association

Sponsor:  bdc

10:30-11:00 Networking Break

11:05-11:50 PANEL: Managing Change and Growth in Unstable Landscapes

Speakers:

1. **Brian Dunphy** (Cvent)
2. **Steve Drummond**, Former President, Source Atlantic

Moderator: Vaughn MacLellan, DLA Piper

Introduction: Sponsor

Sponsor: TBC

11:55 – 1:00 LUNCH & NETWORKING BREAK

1:05-1:50 PANEL TOPIC: Building Global Businesses from Atlantic Canada: Success stories of growth investment & scaling
****Atlantic Canada building**

Speakers:

1. **JP Deveau** - Acadian Seaplants
2. **Kevin Rogers** - Nautel
3. **Andrea Feunekes** - Remsoft

Introduction: Sponsor

Moderator: Derrick Dempster

Sponsor: TBC

1:55 – 2:45 CLOSING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Atlantic Economic Panel: Findings & Report from the Committee

Speaker: Don Mills, Chair – Atlantic Economic Panel

Introduction: Sponsor

Moderator: TBC

Sponsor: TBC

2:50-3:00 CLOSING REMARKS

Conference Co-chairs:

- **Sally Ng** – BDC
- **Jeff MacKenzie** – Confederation M&A

3:00-3:45 CLOSING RECEPTION & NETWORKING