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2026 Event Briefing



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Atlantic Mayors' Congress AGENDA

Mayors and Wardens Roundtable
An open discussion of the successes, challenges, and opportunities facing municipalities in Atlantic Canada, and how Mayors can respond.

Opening Reception
Courtesy of the Municipality of the County of Colchester and the Town of Truro

Future of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress – Session 1
Part 1 of a strategic planning session focused on the future of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress, facilitated by AMC Executive Director, Craig Pollett

Building Innovation Economies – What Municipal Leaders Can Do
A panel discussion on innovation-based economic development with municipalities, from Craig Rowe, CEO of ClearRisk, and Ian Fogan, CAO of the City of Saint John, NB

Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET), University of Victoria
A presentation and discussion on the work of ACET, a University of Victoria-based organization, working with communities to design projects around community-based energy, and how municipalities can partner with ACET to get community energy projects built. Presented by Ryan Osterberg and Raelene Bergen Harder of ACET.

*Luncheon **c**ourtesy of ACET of the University of Victoria*

Indigenous-Municipal Partnerships
A discussion on the many ways municipal and indigenous governments can and are collaborating to build collective economic development capacity, presented by David Phillips, CEO of the Truro-Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity, and Micheal Peters, CEO of Glooskap-Kluskap Ventures.

A Cross-Continental Energy Dialogue: Practical Approaches to Energy Opportunity in Atlantic Canada
A practical discussion focused on real outcomes for energy opportunity development in Atlantic Canada, with lessons learned from the West Coast. Presented by Shannon Joseph, Chair, Energy for a Secure Future, Chief Terry Richardson, Pabineau First Nation (Oinpegitjoig L'Noeigati), and Gary Sullivan, Councillor, City of Saint John.

Honourable John A. MacDonald, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Nova Scotia
A conversation with Nova Scotia Minister of Municipal Affairs, John MacDonald, on emerging trends facing the municipal sector and how provincial governments are approaching the future of the sector.

Future of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress – Session 2
Part 2 of a strategic planning session focused on the future of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress, facilitated by AMC Executive Director, Craig Pollett

Workshop: Bridging the Trust Gap - Harassment and Incivility in Local Government
An interactive workshop facilitated by Craig Pollett and Tyler Downey from Pollett Strategy Inc. on combatting the rising tide of incivility and harassment affecting elected municipal officials across Canada.

Executive Summary

Hosted by Municipality of the County of Colchester and the Town of Truro. September 18-20, 2026. Inn on Prince Hotel & Conference Centre, Truro, NS

40 speakers, panelists, and attendees including Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Councillors, Wardens, and CAOs from all four Atlantic Canadian provinces.

Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Councillors, Wardens, and CAOs from across the Atlantic region gathered in Truro-Colchester County for discussions focusing on community energy generation and energy opportunities, indigenous-municipal economic partnerships, building capacity for innovation, the rising incivility and harassment of local officials, and the strategic direction of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress.

Throughout the Congress, attendees had many opportunities to meet and talk with one another, to follow-up on discussions from the roundtable, catch up on current affairs, and get advice from Mayors who have experience with a host of issues that affect all local governments.

Day One

The Congress kicked off Day One with the Mayors and Wardens Roundtable, an open discussion of the successes, challenges, and opportunities facing municipalities in Atlantic Canada, and how Mayors can respond. The opening reception followed, where attendees enjoyed the musical stylings of bagpiper George MacIntosh and the Gordon Tucker Duo and followed up on the topics discussed at the roundtable.

Day Two

Day Two began with the introduction of the strategic planning process for the Atlantic Mayors' Congress, to be completed on Day Three. Following this was a panel discussion on innovation-based economic development with municipalities, from Craig Rowe, CEO of ClearRisk, and Ian Fogan, CAO of the City of Saint John, NB. Presenters discussed how planning for calculated risks and supporting innovation can have real economic benefits for local governments.

Day Two continued with a presentation and discussion on the work of ACET, a University of Victoria-based organization working with communities to design projects around community-based energy, and how municipalities can partner with ACET to get community energy projects built. Presented by Ryan Osterberg and Raelene Bergen Harder of ACET, who gave examples of community-led projects on the West Coast and internationally on which ACET were partners, providing funding and expertise to local governments.

The next discussion focused on the many ways municipal and indigenous governments can and are collaborating to build collective economic development capacity, presented by David Phillips, CEO of the Truro-Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity, and Micheal Peters, CEO of Glooskap-Kluskap Ventures. Presenters gave local examples of collaboration and joint success of initiatives, providing unique perspectives on how economic development is viewed by municipal and Indigenous governments.

The final panel of the day featured a practical discussion focused on real outcomes for energy opportunity development in Atlantic Canada, with lessons learned from the West Coast. Presented by Shannon Joseph, Chair, Energy for a Secure Future, Chief Terry Richardson, Pabineau First Nation (Oinpegitjoig L'Noeigati), and Gary Sullivan, Councillor, City of Saint John. Presenters discussed the importance of seeking insight from all parts of society, particularly on energy projects, and the value of working with neighbouring communities to develop energy affordability and resilience.

To close out Day Two, the Congress hosted a conversation with Nova Scotia Minister of Municipal Affairs, John MacDonald on emerging trends facing the municipal sector and how provincial governments are approaching the future of the sector. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions directly of the Minister, who spoke about his views of the needs of the municipal sector and his experience as a municipal councillor.

Day Three

Day Three focused on two key topics – strategic planning for the future of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress, and the rising harassment of, and incivility toward, elected officials. Attendees provided feedback on their experiences at AMC and what was important to them in considering the future of the Congress, including purpose, size, number of meetings, event structure, and funding structure. The Congress concluded with an interactive presentation on harassment and incivility, in which attendees responded to questions live in-session. The results of those questions are included below.

To close the Congress, Deputy Mayor Tara Pollett of the Town of Gander, NL proudly announced that the next AMC will be held in Gander in September 2027. We thank all attendees for joining us and we look forward to seeing you next year in Newfoundland and Labrador!

Incivility and Harassment Live-Survey Results:







