



DAY ONE | FRIDAY | 18 SEPTEMBER

Inn On Prince Hotel & Conference Centre Truro

1:00 pm	Registration Opens	Crush Lobby
4:00 pm	Mayors and Wardens Roundtable Opportunity for Mayors and Wardens to share success stories, update on activities in their community and seek advice from their peers.	Elm Room
8:00 pm	Opening Reception – Hosted by Mayor Hinton and Mayor Blair	Oak Room

DAY TWO | SATURDAY | 19 SEPTEMBER

Inn On Prince Hotel & Conference Centre Truro

8:30 am	Opening/Welcome - Mayor Blair, Municipality of Colchester County, - Mayor Hinton, Town of Truro, - Craig Pollett, Atlantic Mayors' Congress	Elm Room
9:00 am	Future of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress – Session 1 The Atlantic Mayors' Congress has changed a lot since its inception roughly 25 years ago. What started as a meeting for a handful of Mayors has grown and changed. We've tried some new approaches in the last few years and it's time to discuss how that's gone and where we see the AMC going. Craig will lead a two-part engagement session to get your thoughts on what you think the AMC should be in 2027 and beyond. Facilitated by Craig Pollett	Elm Room
9:30 am	Break	Crush Lobby
10:00 am	Building Innovation Economies – What Municipal Leaders Can Do Innovation is increasingly important to the economic future of Atlantic Canadian communities, but supporting an innovation economy requires more than attracting technology companies. Municipalities can play an important role by embracing innovation within their own organizations and creating an environment where innovative local businesses can grow and succeed. Craig Rowe, CEO of ClearRisk and a founding member of the Council of Canadian Innovators and Ian Fogan, CAO for the City of Saint John, will share their perspectives on how municipalities can become better adopters of technology and stronger partners in innovation-based economic development. The session will conclude with an opportunity for questions and discussion. Guest speakers: - Craig Rowe, CEO, ClearRisk - Ian Fogan, CAO, City of Saint John	Elm Room



11:00 am	 Accelerating Community Energy Transformation – University of Victoria This session will share information about the work of Accelerating Community Energy Transformation, a \$86 million dollar federally funded research initiative operated out of the University of Victoria. ACET works with communities to design projects around community-based energy, unlocking the economic potential of that energy, and value for community partners. Our team will present ACETs background, examples of existing projects and the opportunity that exists for communities across Atlantic Canada. Guest speakers: • Ryan Osterberg, Associate Director, Community and Government Relations • Raelene Bergen Harder, Special Advisor, Indigenous	Elm Room
12:00 pm	Buffett Lunch – Sponsored by ACET - University of Victoria	Crush Lobby
1:30 pm	Indigenous-Municipal Partnerships Join your municipal and indigenous colleagues to learn more about how indigenous and municipal governments can collaborate, nation-to-nation, to build our collective capacity for economic development and get important projects done, together. Guest speakers: • David Phillips, CEO, Truro-Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity • Micheal Peters, CEO, Glooscap-Kluskap Ventures	Elm Room
2:30 pm	A Cross-Continental Energy Dialogue: Practical Approaches to Energy Opportunity in Atlantic Canada An East Coast–West Coast community dialogue/workshop. West Coast leaders share lessons from saying “yes” to natural gas development in British Columbia; Atlantic leaders explore how those successes can be translated locally. This interactive session prioritizes peer-to-peer advice and insight for the “people in the places where things happen.” Guest speakers: • Shannon Joseph, Chair, Energy for a Secure Future • Chief Terry Richardson, Pabineau First Nation (Oinpegitjoig L’Noeigati) • Gary Sullivan, Councillor, City of Saint John	Elm Room
3:30 pm	Break	Crush Lobby
4:00 pm	Honourable John A. MacDonald, Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs A conversation with Minister MacDonald on emerging trends facing the municipal sector and how provincial governments approach the future of the sector.	Elm Room



DAY THREE | SUNDAY | 20 SEPTEMBER

Inn On Prince Hotel & Conference Centre Truro

8:30 am	Future of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress – Session 2 Facilitated by Craig Pollett	Elm Room
9:30 am	Workshop: Bridging the Trust Gap - Harassment and Incivility in Local Government Perhaps no other issue in the municipal sector has gotten as much attention as quickly as incivility and harassment. From dysfunctional Councils to threats and abuse from the public, municipal leaders are facing new and disturbing trends that make the job harder than ever. Craig and Tyler will lead an interactive workshop designed to surface what's behind this trend and help participants design the practical and policy solutions that will work for their situation. Facilitated by Craig Pollett and Tyler Downey	Elm Room
10:30 am	Break	Crush Lobby
11:00 am	Workshop cont'd: Bridging the Trust Gap - Harassment and Incivility in Local Government	Elm Room
12:00 pm	Closing	Elm Room

Atlantic Mayors Congress | SPEAKER BIOS

Hosted by the municipalities of Colchester County and Truro

Craig Rowe, CEO, ClearRisk, Council of Canadian Innovators



Craig has led ClearRisk since he founded the company in 2006, navigating through notable growth while serving over 150 customers throughout North America.

Craig is an expert in risk management and insurance, technology development, data management, and business development with over 30 years of industry experience. He has written and presented extensively in the insurance and risk management industries across North America since 1989.

Ian Fogan, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Saint John



Mr. Fogan brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in both the public and private sectors and a strong record of service to the Saint John community. A long-time member of the City's senior leadership team, he has played a significant role in advancing key initiatives, including long-term financial and capital planning, transit modernization, enterprise risk management, and intergovernmental relations.

Throughout his career with the City, Mr. Fogan has demonstrated thoughtful leadership, strong operational knowledge, and a collaborative approach to working with Council, staff, community partners, and other levels of government. His experience and deep understanding of the organization has positioned him well to lead the City as it continues advancing Council's priorities, supporting sustainable growth, and delivering high-quality services to residents.



Mr. Fogan holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Brunswick and professional designations in risk and insurance management. He has held several senior leadership roles with the City and was appointed to the City's CAO position by Saint John Common Council in March 2026.

Shannon Joseph, Chair, Energy for a Secure Future



Ms. Joseph is an accomplished sustainable development and public affairs professional, currently serving as Chair of Energy for a Secure Future (ESF) — a nonpartisan initiative of business, labour, municipal and Indigenous leaders, as well as industry organizations across various sectors, focused on building a secure energy future for Canada and its international allies.

She is motivated by the strong conviction that energy is about people and that abundant, affordable, low-emission energy is a pre-condition for growing the middle class, protecting the environment and in Canada, advancing reconciliation.

In addition to her role with ESF, Ms. Joseph is a member of the board of directors of Tamarack Valley Energy, a Canadian oil and gas company operating in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin. She is also an Energy Forum Fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and a member of the Energy Committee of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan.

Previously, Ms. Joseph served as Vice-President, Government Relations and Indigenous Affairs with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and as the founding Director of the \$75 million Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Over her career, she has served in senior roles focused on federal environmental policy, Indigenous and stakeholder relations and environmental program implementation. Ms. Joseph is a professional engineer with the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec and holds a Bachelor of Engineering from McGill University and a Master of Applied Science – Civil Engineering from the University of Toronto.

Chief Terry Richardson, Pabineau First Nation, Energy for a Secure Future



Terry Richardson has been serving as Chief of Pabineau First Nation (Oinpegitjoig L'Noeigati) in New Brunswick since April 2020.

Prior to being elected Chief, Mr. Richardson served his community as a councillor for eight years and was the Mi'kmaq Benefits Manager for Trevali Mining (NB) Ltd. (Caribou Mine). Additionally, Terry served 25 years in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), working within the construction engineering field in administration, finance, and contracting. His experience includes serving in the Gulf War in 1990, in Bosnia in 1998, and in Afghanistan in 2007 to 2008.

Terry strongly believes that leadership is all about teamwork and feels very fortunate to have such a strong team working with him in Pabineau at all levels. Terry has facilitated the signing of business Memorandum of Understandings and Impact Benefit Agreements, as well as carried out successful initiatives with the Belledune Port Authority through their mutual Relationship, Engagement & Consultation Protocol agreement. Mr. Richardson has a bright vision for the future and is passionate about advancing opportunities for Northern New Brunswick by encouraging a non-myopic approach and working together, thus communicating that what is good for the region is good for Pabineau First Nation.

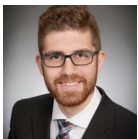


J. David Phillips, CEO, Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity



David leads the TCPEP effort to grow the economic prosperity of the Truro Colchester region. Working with his amazing team and collaborating with stakeholders across the region, David is deeply engaged in designing, executing, and supporting initiatives to drive business growth, attract people to our region, and remove barriers to the success of our communities.

Michael Peters, CEO, Glooscap Ventures



Michael currently serves as the CEO at Glooscap Ventures, Glooscap First Nation's economic development corporation. He has been with the organization since 2015. 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 2023 Michael graduated with his Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Saint Mary's University in Halifax. Michael also attended Dalhousie University where he studied renewable energy technologies and graduated with the Sustainable Energy Technologies Professional Certification (SEPT). Before both Saint Mary's and Dalhousie, Michael had attended the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) where he studied International Business.

Before post-secondary and Glooscap Ventures, Michael was an entrepreneur with investments in the food and beverage industry.

Michael's background is in business development where he contributed to the creation of Glooscap Landing, Glooscap Corner, Glooscap Energy and the Glooscap Seafood companies. Today these companies employ many community members and generate own source 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, Chair of the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce, Governor on the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Board of Governors and Board Member of Wskijinu'k Mtmo'taqnow Agency (WMA) a corporate partnership owned by all 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities. Michael also serves as the Chair of Indigenous Gaming Partners (IGP) Board of Directors. IGP is one of the largest entertainment companies in Canada. He is also an active member of the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO), Canadian Renewable Energy Association (CanREA), and Project Management Institute (PMI).

In 2025, Michael was named as one of the Top 50 CEO's in Atlantic Canada by the Atlantic Business Magazine., Michael is a proud member of Glooscap First Nation.

The Honourable John A. MacDonald, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Nova Scotia



John A. MacDonald was first elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly as MLA for Hants East in 2021 and was re-elected in 2024.

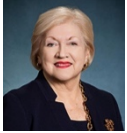
In 1999 John opened a small business; his company supports Transportation companies in North America working with international companies regarding automating the movement of freight.

John has served on various boards and still an active volunteer in the community. Served municipal councillor for 9 years in East Hants, chaired Planning Advisory Committee and was Deputy Warden twice.

John lives in Lantz with his wife Chantelle, his daughter Teresa.



Christine Blair, Mayor, Colchester County



Christine Blair is Mayor of the Municipality of Colchester and has a long record of municipal and community service in the Colchester region.

Her municipal career began as an elected Commissioner for the Village of Bible Hill, where she served for 13 years, including three years as Chair. She later served three terms as a Colchester County Councillor representing District 1 and was the inaugural President of the Association of Nova Scotia Villages.

Mayor Blair has also been actively involved with numerous community organizations, including the Rotary Club of Truro, United Way of Colchester and the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce. Her professional career included senior administrative positions with the Province of Nova Scotia and the forestry sector.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Saint Vincent University and a Business Administration diploma from Acadia University.

Cathy Hinton, Mayor, Town of Truro



Cathy became Truro's first female Mayor in 2024. A lifelong resident, Cathy attended Cobequid Educational Centre and went on to Mount Saint Vincent University. She brings over 32 years of experience with the Government of Nova Scotia, where she worked in Sport & Recreation, Culture & Heritage, Natural Resources, and Residential Tenancy, with a focus on mediation and housing.

Cathy was first elected to Council in 2016 as Councillor for Ward 3, re-elected in 2020, and later served as Deputy Mayor. Known for her commitment to Truro, Cathy co-founded a non-profit organization to address local concerns in her Ward. Cathy lives in Truro, where she enjoys being a mother and grandmother, as well as an active volunteer dedicated to enhancing her community's well-being.

Ryan Osterberg, Associate Director, Community and Government Relations, Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET)



Ryan Osterberg is a senior government and community-relations leader with more than 14 years of experience advancing public policy, advocacy, strategic communications, and stakeholder partnerships across municipal, provincial, and federal contexts. He is Associate Director, Community and Government Relations with the University of Victoria's Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET) initiative, where he helps connect research, government policy, community priorities, and clean-energy innovation.

His career spans post-secondary education, national municipal advocacy, provincial government, local government, and political affairs. Before joining UVic, Ryan directed advocacy and communications for the Alberta Post-Secondary Network, advising institutional leaders and coordinating sector-wide government relations for Alberta's universities, colleges, polytechnics, and institutes. He has also held roles with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, City of St. Albert, Alberta Municipal Affairs, and the Alberta Legislature.

Ryan's work focuses on building durable relationships among governments, institutions, Indigenous and community partners, and industry stakeholders. At ACET, he supports a community-centred approach to clean-energy transformation, including international collaboration with the Estonian Islands Energy Agency and dialogue on the role of municipalities in designing practical, locally grounded energy solutions.



Raelene Bergen Harder, Special Advisor, Indigenous, Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET)



Raelene Bergen Harder is a senior strategic advisor and Michif leader, serving as Special Advisor, Indigenous, with the University of Victoria's Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET) initiative. A proud citizen of the Red River Métis Nation (MMF), she provides direct strategic guidance to align complex, multi-partner institutional frameworks with community-led stewardship and long-term relational accountability.

Her career spans national and international initiatives, public institutions, and executive leadership, with a focus on guiding organizations through complex structural shifts and intergovernmental relationships. At ACET, Raelene leads the development and implementation of the project's Advancing Reconciliation Plan, helping institutional, municipal, and community partners build durable, long-term frameworks for collaboration.

Raelene holds a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies and brings extensive experience in governance, land-based learning, and protocol. Guided by responsibility to Nations, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers, she works alongside executive teams and local government partners to support culturally grounded initiatives, participate in international Indigenous learning circles, and mentor early-career professionals across sectors.

Craig Pollett, Executive Director, Atlantic Mayors' Congress | President and Co-Owner, Pollett Strategy Inc.



Craig Pollett is a municipal governance and public policy specialist with more than 25 years of experience working with local governments across Atlantic Canada. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress and is co-owner of Pollett Strategy Inc.

Craig spent 25 years with Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL), including many years as its chief executive, where he led advocacy and policy initiatives on municipal finance, infrastructure, regionalization, economic development and regulatory reform.

Through Pollett Strategy, Craig works with municipalities, organizations and community leaders on governance, strategic planning, government relations and public policy. He is also a frequent speaker and commentator on municipal governance, economic development and issues affecting communities across Atlantic Canada.

Craig holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Memorial University and a master's degree in development economics from Dalhousie University.

Tyler Downey, Consultant, Pollett Strategy



Tyler Downey is a public policy and municipal governance professional with more than a decade of experience working across the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government in Canada.

As part of Pollett Strategy Inc., Tyler works with municipalities and organizations on public policy, governance, research, government relations and strategic communications. His work combines policy analysis and research with practical experience navigating complex issues facing local governments and elected officials. Tyler's background spans government, politics and the not-for-profit sector, complemented by experience in research, data analysis and communications.

His current work includes a particular focus on harassment, intimidation and incivility in local government, examining both the experiences of municipal elected officials and practical approaches that municipalities can use to strengthen respectful, effective local governance. At the Atlantic Mayors' Congress, Tyler will join Craig Pollett in leading the workshop "Bridging the Trust Gap – Harassment and Incivility in Local Government."



Gary Sullivan, Councillor, City of Saint John



Appointed to serve as Deputy Mayor from 2028 to 2030.

Councillor Gary Sullivan was first elected in 2008 to represent Ward 2 and was elected Councillor at Large in 2016, 2021, and 2026. A teacher at Saint John High School, Gary brings a strong commitment to education and community service to his role on Common Council.

He has served in leadership roles with a number of organizations, including as Past President of ONE Change, the St. Patrick's Society of Saint John, the New Brunswick Sailing Association, and Saint John Youth Minor Hockey. His Council and committee experience includes the Regional Facilities Commission, Leisure Services Advisory Committee, Finance Committee, Trade and Convention Centre Oversight Committee, Harbour Station Commission, Police Commission, Saint John Energy, and the Planning Advisory Committee. From 2021 to 2026, he served as Chair of the Finance Committee.

A lifelong Saint Johner, Gary lives in Millidgeville with his wife Colleen and their two children who are attending UNBSJ. His priorities include fiscal responsibility, sustainable growth, and maintaining a high quality of life for residents. He is focused on retaining current residents while attracting new people to Saint John.