






September 16-18, 2025 | Halifax, NS
PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 16, 2025



Time	Program Location	
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Registration Early Check-in <i>Conference Desk, Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i> Check-in early to pick up your badge at the conference information and registration desk. Scan the conference app QR code in your hotel room or at registration to not miss anything.	
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	CEOs EXCLUSIVE COCKTAIL <i>Trade Show Hall (Atlantic Ballroom), Westin Nova Scotian</i> Sponsors and exhibitors are invited to meet CPA CEOs over cocktails.	Sponsored by: ATLANTIC REGION CPAs  BULLETPROOF <small>a GLI company</small> 
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	WELCOME RECEPTION <i>Trade Show Hall (Atlantic Ballroom), Westin Nova Scotian</i> A Ports Canada tradition, all delegates are welcome to join us for this meet and greet.	Sponsored by:  DP WORLD

Wednesday, September 17, 2025




Time	Program Location
7:30 – 8:15 am	Optional Harbour Fitness Walk <i>Rendez-vous point: Lobby, Westin Nova Scotian</i> Lane Farguson, Chief of Staff and External Relations, Port Halifax <div> Hosted by;  </div>
7:30 am – 3:00 pm	Registration Check-in and Information <i>Conference Desk, Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i>
7:30 – 8:45 am	Breakfast <i>Mezzanine hallway, Conference Level, Westin Nova Scotian</i> <i>Join fellow delegates and participants for either a light start to your day or a hot breakfast from the buffet.</i>
7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Trade Show Hall <i>Atlantic Ballroom and Mezzanine, Conference Level Westin Nova Scotian</i> <div> Sponsored by: ATLANTIC REGION CPAs   </div>
9:00 – 9:30 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth Room A)</i> <i>Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i> Join Daniel-Robert Gooch , President and CEO, Association of Canadian Port Authorities and Lori MacLean , Director of Communications Marketing, Halifax Port Authority as they welcome delegates to the 2025 edition of Ports Canada. <i>With:</i> Chevalier Dr. Joe Michael , Elder, Keptin – Mi'kmaq Grand Council Fulvio Fracassi , President and CEO Halifax Port Authority Ian Hamilton , Chair of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities and President and CEO of the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority
9:30 – 10:15 am	CN Outlook <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth Room A)</i> <i>Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i> Rail is a critical partner for moving goods between Canada's ports, producers and consumers. Ms. Drysdale


	<p>will touch on how CN is adjusting to the everchanging trade and supply chain landscape and anticipating and innovating for the future, and the intersection between rail and ports.</p> <p><i>Keynote: Janet Drydsdale, Interim Chief Operating Officer</i></p>	
10:15 – 10:45 am	<p>Morning Networking Coffee Break <i>Innovation Pitch Stage (Maritime Room)</i> <i>Trade Show Hall (Atlantic Ballroom)</i> <i>Mezzanine Exhibitor Area</i></p> <p>Explore the trade show, attend an Innovation Pitch stage presentation, and make connections with delegates, speakers, and sponsors while enjoying a snack.</p>	
10:45 – 11:40 am	<p>Global Ports and Marine Outlook <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth Room A) Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>Leticia Astudillo, Deputy Director, Drewry, will provide the global state of play in ports and shipping while also giving a sense of what can be expected for the upcoming year.</p>	
11:40 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Medal Of Merit Ceremony <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth Room A) Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>Join us in honoring Fritz King, the former Managing Director of ACL Shipping in Canada, at the ACPA Medal of Merit Ceremony.</p> <p>The award will be presented by Fulvio Fracassi, President and CEO of Halifax Port Authority, and Ian Hamilton, Chair of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities and President and CEO of the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority.</p>	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	<p>Lunch <i>Mezzanine, Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>Enjoy a full buffet lunch and network with your fellow attendees in the Atlantic Ballroom or Commonwealth B room.</p>	<p><i>Sponsored by:</i></p> <p><u>POMERLEAU</u></p>

1:00 – 2:15 pm	<p>Resilience and Emergency Response <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth Room A) Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>North America ports often deal with operational disruptions, such as extreme weather or sudden events like the container ship collision in Baltimore that are impossible to predict. However, planning and response can lessen the impact and provide the foundation for the resilience ports and supply chains must have when faced with these unanticipated challenges. Captain Sean Griffiths, CEO, Atlantic Pilotage Authority will invite Frederick Dolbow, Port Security & Recovery Specialist, U.S. Coast Guard to present a case examination of the Key Bridge collapse in Baltimore followed by a facilitated discussion on key learnings from this and other major supply chain disruptions.</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i> Fulvio Fracassi, President and CEO, Halifax Port Authority Sean Pierce, CEO, Logistec Trevor Hodgson, Senior Director of Fleet, Canadian Coast Guard</p>
2:15 - 2:45 pm	<p>Afternoon Networking Break <i>Innovation Pitch Stage (Maritime Room) Trade Show Hall (Atlantic Ballroom) Mezzanine Exhibitor Area</i></p> <p>Explore the trade show, attend an Innovation Pitch stage presentation, and make connections with delegates, speakers, and sponsors while enjoying a snack.</p>
2:45 – 3:45 pm	<p>North American Trade Diversification <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth Room A) Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>North American trade has undergone significant and ongoing disruption. Diversifying trade is an imperative yet increasingly a challenge within this context. Lead by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, hear from panelists on how business and government are adjusting to this new reality.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Pascal Chan, VP Strategic Policy and Supply Chains Canadian Chamber of Commerce</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i> Hon. Colton LeBlanc, Minister of Growth and Development, Province of Nova Scotia Serge Bijimine, Assistant Deputy Minister, Transport Canada Laura Dawson, Future Borders Coalition</p>

4:15 – 6:15 pm	Port Boat Tour and Georges Island Experience <i>International Ships' Quay, located at the Halifax Seaport, a key part of the Port of Halifax</i> Embark on a delightful journey from the International Ships' Quay, where you'll enjoy stunning views of the harbour while learning about the Port of Halifax. We'll make a stop at Georges Island for a group photo, capturing the moment with the picturesque backdrop. The tour concludes at the Cable Wharf pier, where delegates and guests can walk to the Cable Wharf reception for an evening of mingling and refreshments.	Sponsored by: 
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Evening Reception at the Cable Wharf <i>Cable Wharf</i> 1751 Lower Water St, Halifax, NS B3J 1M4 Experience the magic of Halifax's waterfront at our evening reception at Cable Wharf. As the sun sets, enjoy live music and being right on the water. Mingle with guests, sponsors, and delegates while savoring delicious hors d'oeuvres and refreshing drinks. It's the perfect way to unwind and connect at the end of a full conference day.	Sponsored by: 

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Time	Program Location	
7:30 – 8:15 am	Optional Harbour Fitness Walk <i>Rendez-vous point: Lobby, Westin Nova Scotian</i> Hosted by: Lane Ferguson, Chief of Staff and External Relations, Port Halifax	Hosted by: 
7:30 am – 3:00 pm	Conference Desk and Information <i>Conference Desk, Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i>	
7:30 – 8:30 am	Breakfast <i>Mezzanine, Conference Level, Westin Nova Scotian</i> Join fellow delegates and participants for either a light start to your day or a hot breakfast from the buffet.	
7:30 am – 3:00 pm	Trade Show Hall <i>Atlantic Ballroom and Mezzanine, Conference Level Westin Nova Scotian</i>	Sponsored by: ATLANTIC REGION CPAs  

8:30 – 9:15 am	<p>Innovation and Impact at the Port of Hamburg <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth A)</i> <i>Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>The Port of Hamburg, Germany, is recognized as a leader in technological and digital innovation, with a long history as Germany's gateway to the world. Karsten Schonewald, CEO of Fleet Hamburg, will talk about how he spearheaded the digitalization and use of innovative propulsion technologies to develop eco-friendly vessels for the Port of Hamburg fleet.</p>	<p>Sponsored by:</p> 
9:15 – 10:15 am	<p>The Canadian Shipping and Supply Chain Response to Global Change <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth A)</i> <i>Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>From conflict in Europe and the Middle East to trade and tariff disputes much closer to home, rapidly evolving geopolitical events have put a strain on planning and predictability in global trade and transport flows. Halifax Port Authority VP, Paul MacIsaac will lead a panel discussion to focus on the interplay of these dynamics and how shippers and supply chains are responding.</p> <p>Panelists: Steven Van Roestel, Vice President, Transportation, Canadian Tire Jody Fitzpatrick, Vice President, Supply Chains, Sobeys/Empire Domenico Costantino, Vice President, Kuhne and Nagel Leticia Astudillo, Deputy Director, Drewry Joel Werner, Chief Operating Officer, DP World in Canada</p>	
10:15 – 10:45 am	<p>Morning Networking Coffee Break <i>Innovation Pitch Stage (Maritime Room)</i> <i>Trade Show Hall (Atlantic Ballroom)</i> <i>Mezzanine Exhibitor Area</i></p> <p>Explore the trade show, attend an Innovation Pitch stage presentation, and make connections with delegates, speakers, and sponsors while enjoying a snack.</p>	
10:45 – 11:45 am	<p>Enhancing Port Operations: A Collaborative Approach <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth A)</i> <i>Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mike Davie, VP, Operations, Sustainability and Technology, Port Halifax</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i> Colin Gardham, Rail Manager, PSA Halifax Corey Gleason, Deputy Harbour Master, Port Halifax</p>	
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	<p>Lunch <i>Mezzanine, Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>Enjoy a full buffet lunch and network with your fellow attendees in the Atlantic Ballroom or Commonwealth B room.</p>	<p>Sponsored by :</p> 

1:00 – 1:45 pm	<p>Halifax's PIER at the Centre of Port Innovation <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth A)</i> <i>Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>Ports and the marine industry are innovative by nature; hear how some of the Port of Halifax's Port Innovation and Engagement and Research (The PIER) members are fulfilling its mandate.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> David Thomas, Executive Director, The PIER</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Case studies to be announced</i></p>
1:45 - 2:15 pm	<p>Afternoon Networking Break <i>Innovation Pitch Stage (Maritime Room)</i> <i>Trade Show Hall (Atlantic Ballroom)</i> <i>Mezzanine Exhibitor Area</i></p> <p>Explore the trade show, attend an Innovation Pitch stage presentation, and make connections with delegates, speakers, and sponsors while enjoying a snack.</p>
2:15 – 3:15 pm	<p>The Growing Importance of Cruise to Atlantic Canada <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth A)</i> <i>Conference Level 1st Floor, Westin Nova Scotian</i></p> <p>Canada's major cruise markets have all seen tremendous growth in cruise passengers over the past decade, with the industry experiencing strong rebound. Sarah Rumley, Executive Director, Cruise Atlantic Canada will engage our panel to look at cruise from the Atlantic region perspective.</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i> Robyn Stewart, Manager of Cruise Development, Halifax Port Authority Danielle Timmons, Vice President, Cruise Operations & Shore Excursions, Aquila Centre for Cruise Excellence Marie-Andrée Blanchet, Director, Cruise Development and Business Ecosystem, Port of Québec Darlene MacDonald, Executive Director, Tourism Nova Scotia</p>
3:15 - 3:45 pm	<p>Closing Remarks and Reveal of Ports Canada 2026 <i>Conference Plenary Hall (Commonwealth A)</i></p> <p>As we come to the end of this incredible conference, we invite you to join us for the closing remarks, to reflect on the insights and connections made over the past few days. This will mark the end of the beginning as we reveal the location for Ports Canada 2026.</p>

6:00 – 11:00 pm	Transportation to Celebration Night <i>Rendez-vous point: Front Door, Westin Nova Scotian</i> A group shuttle service will be offered from the Westin to the Celebration Night location.	
6:00 – 11:00 pm	CELEBRATION NIGHT <i>Pacifico, 5171 George St, Halifax, NS B3J 1M6</i> This is the night we close out the conference in a big way. Hosted by Port Halifax, explore a multi-level celebration with plenty of food, music and dancing!	Sponsored by: 