

11TH ANNUAL



# MASS24

MARITIME & ARCTIC SECURITY & SAFETY CONFERENCE

## EVENT PROGRAM

[www.maritimearcticsecurity.ca](http://www.maritimearcticsecurity.ca)  
[www.ac-ada.ca](http://www.ac-ada.ca)

# WELCOME TO MASS 2024!



Dear MASS 2024 Attendees:

The Maritime and Arctic Security and Safety (MASS) Conference takes place annually in beautiful St. John's, with speakers and themes carefully constructed to link to trending arctic, maritime, safety, and security topics of importance to the A&D industry in Canada.

In its 11th year, we consider the MASS Conference as increasingly important in a world where tensions are rising and temperatures are warming. This year, our agenda is focused on challenges and opportunities associated with northern and maritime environments. Specifically, we have assembled an excellent suite of speakers that can address emerging threats and how, by way of opportunities, Atlantic Canadian companies are leading the way to provide a safe, secure, and successful future for Canada, North America, and the world.

ACADA's goal for the next few days is to see meaningful connections forged and strengthened between our members, government, academia, and military personnel from across the country. We hope the conversations sparked here can carry through the year to come and that, together, we can influence and improve safety and security for our region, country, and global allies. The support from the Government of Canada, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and our many sponsors will help us achieve this goal.

Thank you to all the registrants, exhibitors, sponsors, and speakers for your participation. I look forward to seeing you at #MASS24.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Belbin  
CEO, ACADA

## SHARE ON SOCIAL



#MASS24



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@ACADA\_Atlantic

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**MASS24**

MARITIME & ARCTIC SECURITY & SAFETY CONFERENCE



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[WWW.CANADIANDEFENCEREVIEW.COM](http://WWW.CANADIANDEFENCEREVIEW.COM)

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

5:00pm-10:00pm **Pre-Conference Social**  
at Bannerman Brewing Co. (90 Duckworth Street)

Sponsored by:  **PALaerospace**

## THURSDAY, JULY 18

7:00am **Registration, Networking, and Breakfast**  
Exhibit hall is open!

8:30am **Opening Remarks**

- Victoria Belbin (CEO, ACADA)
- Honourable Bernard Davis (Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Minister Responsible for Labour, Minister Responsible for Workplace NL, Government of NL)

8:45am **Opening Session**  
Madeleine Redfern (COO, CanArctic Inuit Networks)

9:45am **Inuit Development Corporations as key Actors in Northern Security and Defence**

- Garry Best (President & CEO, Nunatsiavut Group of Companies)
- Lee Carson (President, NORSTRAT Consulting)
- Patrick Duxbury (Executive Director, Inuit Development Corporation Association)
- Moderated by: Victoria Belbin (CEO, ACADA)

Explore the pivotal role of Inuit Development Corporations ('DevCorps') in Canada's Arctic economy. This session delves into DevCorps' contributions to arctic security and defence, including their capabilities in civil construction, transportation, and logistics. Learn about their ambitions to enhance involvement in arctic defence, focusing on NORAD modernization, within a broader strategy of northern economic development. Key policy issues such as Federal Indigenous Procurement, investments in northern infrastructure, and Canada's commitment to the '2% NATO target' in a more northern-focused NATO will also be addressed.

10:45am **MAST: Establishing Canada's First Marine Autonomous Test Zone**  
Kelley Santos (Director, The Launch)

The Launch, located in Holyrood, NL, provides year-round access to deep water, cold ocean research and development. It supports a comprehensive approach to ocean research, offering vessels, technology, technical expertise, and collaborative partnerships. This facility advances Canada's Blue Economy Strategy, Defence Policy, and the UN Decade of Ocean Science. Featuring a digitally connected living lab, it supports technology development, testing, validation, and commercialization in marine and related sectors. The Launch is home to SmartAtlantic, Canada's largest applied ocean observatory system, and a data provider to CIOOS. In March 2024, it became a NATO DIANA test centre, joining a network that fosters cooperation

among universities, industry, and governments to solve defence and security problems and promote civilian innovation.

In this session, Kelley will outline the Marine Autonomous Systems Testbed (MAST) program, and how autonomous systems will impact Canadian transportation, defence, and oceans sectors. In addition, she will explore The Launch's new NATO designation which will enhance research capacity, eliminating barriers to technology innovation, development, and testing.

11:00am **Coffee Break**

Sponsored by: 

11:15am **Conference Keynote | Preparing for Polar: Seaspan's path to constructing the Canadian Coast Guard's new flagship vessel**

John McCarthy (CEO, Seaspan Shipyards)

Join John McCarthy, CEO of Seaspan Shipyards, as he discusses Seaspan's journey through the National Shipbuilding Strategy over the last 12 years, and the preparations that are being made to begin construction on the first heavy Polar Icebreaker to be built in Canada in 60 years.

Presenting Sponsor:



12:15pm **Lunch**

1:00pm **Doing Business with Indigenous Businesses**

- Honourable Peter MacKay, KC PC (Counsel, McInnes Cooper)
- Gregory Rich (CEO, Innu Development Limited Partnership)
- Sheri Wicks (Partner, McInnes Cooper)

The number of Indigenous businesses and their contribution to multiple sectors of Canada's economy is growing – and so is the Canadian government's support for Indigenous businesses and those that do business with them. This support flows from the Truth and Reconciliation Report's Calls to Action and Canada's international commitments which have led to the implementation of government policies and procedures, including government procurement generally and in the defence sector specifically. These, in turn, have driven doing business with Indigenous businesses to the top of many non-Indigenous businesses' minds, both because it's the right thing to do and because there are benefits to doing so.

Doing business with Indigenous businesses isn't difficult. However, there are unique nuances to doing business with Indigenous businesses that non-Indigenous businesses must understand to maximize the potential for a mutually beneficial and successful relationship. And there are many questions: What can you gain by doing business with Indigenous businesses? Exactly what is an "Indigenous business"? Does it matter where an Indigenous business is located? What are the ways in which you can do business with Indigenous businesses? Why is the way in which an Indigenous business is structured so important? Join Sheri, Peter, and Gregory for the answers to your questions about doing business with Indigenous businesses.

2:00pm

## Arctic Outlook

We are proud to welcome an impressive lineup of speakers for the Arctic Outlook at MASS 2024. Attendees will have a front seat to the latest in operations, technology, geopolitical status, risks, and outlook for defence of Canada's North from multiple branches of the CAF and those associated with arctic security.

1: LCdr Will Sarty (Royal Canadian Navy) – Northern Engagement and the Canadian Armed Forces

2: Heather Sherwood, CD (Maritime & Arctic Security Analyst, MSOC East, Canadian Coast Guard) – Marine Security Operations Centre

3: Captain (N) Norm Gautreau (Royal Canadian Navy) – Maritime Forces Atlantic

3:30pm

## Coffee Break

Sponsored by:



3:45pm

## Industry Spotlight

*ACADA is once again welcoming four members to show off their relevant capabilities, services, or research related to arctic and marine defence in dynamic 10-minute presentations, facilitated by Randy Billard, President and CEO of Virtual Marine!*

Sponsored by:



### 1: Node Zero Project

Paul Mitten (Vice-President & Co-Owner, Compusult)

Led by Compusult Limited in Mount Pearl, NL, Node Zero aims to be the first true node for both Digital Harbour and an emerging global network of next generation data collection buoys. The outcome of this project is effectively Node Zero of a self-powered offshore ocean observation network that can be rolled out across Atlantic and Pacific Canada and extend into the Arctic and other regions globally. Node Zero will create green jobs and empower coastal communities with critical information. Project partners include GRi Simulations in NL, the Institute for Ocean Research Enterprise in NS, Pure Marine Gen Ltd. In the UK, Queen's University in Belfast, and PicSea Ltd. in Edinburgh with a total project value of almost \$2.3 million. Canada's Ocean Supercluster is investing over \$575,000 with the balance of funding coming from the project partners and Innovate UK.

### 2: Lessons Learned from the First 5 Years of Polar Code Training

Capt. Anthony Patterson (Lead IMO Consultant, Polar Code Training, Virtual Marine)

Is Polar Code training meeting its intended outcome? One of the specific risks unique to operating in polar waters is the lack of crew experience. In 2018, a globally recognized training regime for seafarers operating in polar waters came into force

through the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeepers for Seafarers (STCW). The International Maritime Organization (IMO) convened a group of Ice Advisors, Ship's Captains, Polar Code Instructors and Regulators to review the effectiveness of the Polar Code training program. This presentation will present the outcome of the international meeting organized by IMO and held in Argentina in 2023.

### **3: Dynamic Response Analysis for Modern Vessel Design**

Greg Horwich, P.Eng (Lead Project Engineer, Defence & Aftermarket, Gastops Ltd.)

The design of ship propulsion systems is a significant undertaking for even the most experienced shipbuilders, and the challenges are compounded due to the rapid advancements in shipbuilding technology and long development cycles. Using advanced simulation tools and validated physics-based component models, Gastops helps incorporate information from multiple OEMs to predict vessel performance and ensure the ship will meet operational targets before any steel is cut. The use of dynamic simulations can be leveraged early in the design process, allowing designers to sail the ship before it's built, resulting in significant reductions in program risk and cost associated with late-stage design changes. Gastops specialized analysis provides an integration of data from power generation to propeller thrust in a holistic analysis of a vessel's performance. This analysis is relied upon by navies and coast guards around the world, including in Canada with the new CCG Multi-Purpose Vessel under construction by Seaspan.

### **4: Maritime Surveillance Using Remote Sensing Technologies**

Paul Griffin (President & CEO, C-CORE)

So, what happens when you combine international collaboration with the increasing number of satellites and sensors in space, along with advances in unmanned aerial systems (UAS), aircraft capabilities, subsea platforms, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence (AI) with distributed situational awareness? Well, many things, including the ability to monitor, in near real time, very large areas of the marine environment in a very cost-effective manner! C-CORE, in conjunction with Boeing and other international partners, formed the Integrated Remote Sensing for the Arctic (IRSA) Development Group (IDG) that has successfully demonstrated maritime surveillance capabilities to multiple defence authorities over the last three years, and they'd like to share a few of those developments with you.

4:45pm

#### **B2B Program**

*For those who have scheduled meetings with our partners at ACOA.*

For those who have coordinated meetings, head to Salon EF at your scheduled time. Please contact Andrea Plante-Featherston ([Andrea.Plante@acoa-apeca.gc.ca](mailto:Andrea.Plante@acoa-apeca.gc.ca)) directly with any questions.

#### **or Explore the Exhibit Hall**

*For those who do not have B2B meetings.*

5:30pm-  
7:00pm

#### **Networking Reception**

In the Exhibit Hall

Sponsored by:



**North Atlantic**

## FRIDAY, JULY 19

7:30am **Registration, Networking, and Breakfast**

Exhibit hall is open!

8:30am **Opening Remarks**

Victoria Belbin (CEO, ACADA)

8:45am **Northern Access: Land, Sea, and Air**

- Joseph Galimberti (Senior Vice-President Public Affairs, PAL Aerospace)
- Trevor Hodgson (Regional Director of Operations, Canadian Coast Guard)
- Carolann Harding (CEO, SmartICE)
- Marcel Montrose (General Manager, Glovertown Shipyard Ltd.)
- Moderated by: Willis Jacobs (Board Chair, ACADA)

It is no secret that a warming environment and changing geopolitical landscape is opening the arctic like never before – to opportunity and to threat. As is stated in *Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence*, “The most urgent and important task we face is asserting Canada’s sovereignty in the Arctic and Northern regions, where the changing physical and geopolitical landscapes have created new threats.” This session will delve in to what industry can do to meet the challenge – from sensor technology to innovative vessel and aircraft, to multi-use infrastructure, and community engagement. Hear from our expert panel on what we should all be on the lookout for when it comes to accessing, protecting, and engaging the North.

10:00am **Cyber Threats Facing the Maritime Sector**

Rita Cooper (Senior Cyber Engagement Analyst, Canadian Centre for Cyber Security)

This presentation will provide an overview of the current cyber threat landscape, highlighting current trends, and unique threats to the maritime sector. It will discuss examples of cyber incidents affecting the maritime sector, and basic cyber security actions organizations can take to protect themselves. Finally, it will introduce the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security and highlight their role in helping secure critical infrastructure against cyber threats, as well as explain how the forthcoming Critical Cyber Systems Protection Act will affect organizations in the maritime sector.

10:45am **Coffee Break**

Sponsored by:



11:00am **Building a Digital Twin to Practice Arctic Operations**

- Joshua Barnes (Researcher, National Research Council of Canada)
- Dr. Randy Billard (President and CEO, Virtual Marine)
- Dr. Jennifer Smith, PhD, PEng (Research Officer, National Research Council of Canada)

The National Research Council of Canada and Memorial University, in collaboration with Virtual Marine, have teamed up to enhance seafaring capabilities in the Arctic. Combining expertise in numerical modeling, scale model testing, simulation, and training, they are developing high-fidelity virtual environments (digital twins) to accurately model vessels

operating in ice-covered waters. This Newfoundland and Labrador-based team, recognized globally for their expertise in ice modeling and simulation, provides a 'digital lab' to advance research in Atlantic Canada.

The focus is on using physical and simulator data to predict vessel performance, practice ice operations (management, breaking, navigation), and leverage AI and Machine Learning for improvement. The Arctic Digital Twin serves as a valuable tool for organizations like the Navy and Coast Guard expanding their Arctic operations.

11:30am

### **Ship-ice Interaction Research at Memorial University**

Dr. Bruce Quinton (Deputy Head, Associate Professor, Department of Ocean & Naval Architectural Engineering, Memorial University)

This talk will cover the impact of ice on both ice-class and non-ice-class ships, highlighting the world-class research facilities at Memorial University (MUN). With the Arctic "opening up," there's a misconception that lower or non-ice-class vessels can safely navigate these waters. Our research at MUN tests the strength of ships against realistic ice loads from sea ice and glacial ice.

12:00pm

### **Sustainable Horizons: The Path to Green Energy in A&D**

- Jason Aspin (CEO/CTO, AKA Energy Systems)
- Dr. Tom Cooper (Professor, Strategic Management, Faculty of Business Administration, Memorial University)
- Sean Leet (Managing Director and CEO, World Energy GH2)
- Moderated by: Victoria Belbin (CEO, ACADA)

As the effects of climate change intensify, the A&D industry in Canada must be at the forefront of the energy transition. This panel session will delve into the critical need for more fuel-efficient engines, green fuels, and robust environmental policies. The session will emphasize the industry's pivotal role in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and advancing towards a carbon-neutral supply chain while adhering to stringent environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria. This panel discussion aims to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the energy transition, foster innovation, and contribute to a sustainable future in A&D.

Sponsored by:



1:15pm

### **Closing remarks**

Victoria Belbin (CEO, ACADA)

1:30pm

### **Conference & Exhibit Hall Close**

*Presented in alphabetical order.*

## BULLETPROOF

With locations across North America & around the globe, Bulletproof has decades of IT, security & compliance expertise. Bulletproof works with various industries of all sizes & leverages its extensive industry experience to mitigate risk & improve client processes, systems, and business infrastructure.

Bulletproof is a member of the Microsoft Intelligent Security Association (MISA) & are proud winners of the 2024 MISA Excellence Award, 'Security Trailblazer', for demonstrated excellence across security, identity, management, compliance & privacy. Bulletproof was also named Microsoft's global Security Partner of the Year in 2021 for delivering excellence & innovative end-to-end security solutions.

Bulletproof is a certified CMMC Practitioner Organization & has been at the forefront of helping organizations comply with many stringent standards for many years. Bulletproof's solutions are purpose-built to help you accomplish CMMC certifications. Beyond CMMC, we work to support multiple industries' compliance requirements - including CMMC/CP-CSC/HIPAA/NIST/ISO/MARS-E & others - via Consulting, Audits & our Managed Services / Managed Security Services.

## COMPUSULT LIMITED

Compusult Limited is an international technology company with expertise in geospatial software, robotics, and electronics. We are headquartered in Mount Pearl, with additional offices in Halifax, Ottawa, Chantilly, and The Hague. Our flagship product, Web Enterprise Suite, is a robust, secure, web-based, and mobile GIS platform trusted by top-tier international organizations, including the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, NATO, and Natural Resources Canada.

Currently, Compusult is spearheading several critical maritime safety and security initiatives. These include:

- **Incident Command System** for the Canadian Coast Guard.
- **Canada's Ocean Supercluster Wave Powered Ocean Observation System.**
- **Climate Resilience, Preparedness, and Response System** in partnership with the Miawpukek First Nation in Conne River, NL.

Join us at our booth at MASS 2024 to discuss these projects and explore potential collaborations. We look forward to connecting with you!

## GALE FORCE WINS

Navy veterans and life-long friends, Gerry Carew and Allan Dale, were used to from their nautical backgrounds. These incredibly strong and persistent winds can feel very tumultuous, but when you come out the other side after having gone through them, it's smooth sailing. A perfect metaphor for a brand born during a global pandemic, where the only goal to start was to create a podcast that featured positive and uplifting conversations with business leaders and change-makers to INSPIRE. Mission accomplished. In fact, Gerry and Allan were so successful in spreading optimism, telling great stories through real conversations, and sharing inspirational content, that companies began taking notice and hiring them to create content for them. GALE FORCE WINS expanded, and in addition to its well-known podcast, it's now a media company producing content for companies to tell their people-centric stories and help them win with employees and consumers.

## GENOA DESIGN INTERNATIONAL

As the Digital Ship Experts, Genoa Design has been providing detail design and 3D modeling services for shipbuilders in Canada and the United States for 30 years. With more than 230 employees spread across Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Southern US, the company plays crucial roles in Coast Guard and Navy projects in North America. Today, Genoa is a valued partner on the Polar Icebreaker project in Canada and the Polar Security Cutter project in the United States. As a tier-1 supplier under the National Shipbuilding Strategy in Canada, Genoa has become an industry leader and continues to work to strengthen the marine sector in its home province of Newfoundland and Labrador and abroad.

## GLAMOX

Glamox Canada are the leading Canadian marine lighting manufacturer and supplier, based in Newfoundland, offering a range of high-quality Glamox lighting solutions, with brands including Aquasignal, Glamox, LINKSrechts, Luminell, Norselight and others.

Glamox are extremely proud to have been selected for all Federal build programs over the last 30+ years, including POLAR Ice Breaker, MPV, JSS, AOPS, NLT, OOSV, OFSV, ORCA, MCDV and CPF programs, with significant ongoing support, obsolescence management and upgrading on all existing fleets throughout their time in service. This includes over 16,000 LED upgrade solutions for original Halifax Class fluorescent lights, designed and produced here in Newfoundland.

Glamox can fulfil all marine lighting requirements, whether to commercial marine standards or full MIL spec requirements including NVIS compatible lighting. This includes navigation lights, searchlights, floodlights, HVLAS (Helideck) and Ex lighting for outside, as well as downlights, recessed lighting, galley lighting, berth lights etc. for accommodation areas, red/white/dimming options, and all technical lighting for machinery spaces, holds and other work spaces.

## GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR – DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY (IET)

The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology (IET) is the lead for innovation, economic development and diversification in Newfoundland and Labrador. The department focuses on creating a competitive environment to support private sector investment and business growth; and supporting industries in Newfoundland and Labrador such as mining, energy, ocean tech and aerospace and defence. Working closely with key stakeholders, the department also develops and monitors supporting regulatory and benefits activities.

## INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENCE EXCELLENCE AND SECURITY (IDEaS)

Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security (Ideas) is the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) access to innovation program. It transforms defence and security challenges being faced by the various partners in DND/CAF into innovative solutions to improve Canada's defence capabilities.

IDEaS continuously taps into the extraordinary talent and ingenuity resident in Canada with various calls for proposals every year. With its five funding elements, IDEaS supports the development of solutions by helping push technology forward from early R&D to a demonstrable level that can increase defence capabilities.

IDEaS is for all Canadian innovators, from defence primes to academia, small- and medium-sized enterprises to not-for-profits, municipal/provincial/territorial entities to individuals. Details of the program and well as announcements of opportunities are available on the IDEaS website.

## PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE CANADA

Procurement Assistance Canada (PAC), as part of Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), makes it easier for smaller and diverse businesses to navigate the federal procurement process. PAC does this by offering free seminars, resources and personalized assistance.

With PAC's help, businesses can:

- understand how the government buys goods and services;
- learn how to find and bid on contracting opportunities; and
- discover procurement programs and services for equity-deserving businesses.

In addition, PAC works to:

- find out what stops businesses from submitting a bid;
- advise government buyers and policy-makers on the concerns of small and medium businesses; and
- suggest ways to make tools and processes better so that it's easier for smaller businesses to compete for contracts.

Subscribe to PAC Atlantic's **new supplier newsletter!**

## PARLEE MANUFACTURING

Since 1985, Parlee Manufacturing Company has been manufacturing high-quality, functional and durable products on site in Liverpool, Nova Scotia. Highly responsive to customer needs, our products have evolved to meet or exceed requirements and standards through flexible, modular designs. Developed in consultation with defence, emergency, and medical service professionals, our newest product, the Parlee VIP (Versatile Integrated Pack) System, boasts an efficient and customizable configuration which incorporates the extreme durability that has earned us a solid reputation in quality and service.

## PURELOGIC IT

- Valued Added Reseller & Solutions Integrator of IT Enterprise Equipment
- Sell everything from the end point (NB, DT) up to Enterprise 5G.
- Core Pillars of our business:
  - **Modern Data Center** (Server, Storage, Networking, Software, Application Development, Pre-Sales, and Professional Services).
  - **Deployable Kits** (PacStar, HPE EL8000 and Dell)
  - **Cyber Security** (Battle lab where we conduct Blue>White>Purple Teaming exercises, POC, Show case IoT, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and OT (Operational Technologies), plus much more.
- 100% Canadian, woman-owned, social economic qualified and ITB contributor.
- Focuses on Government of Canada, based out of Ottawa with national reach. Recently added local grassroots resources here in Atlantic Canada. Opened a Halifax office location.
- 16+ year old company, 30+ years IT experience (Darryl), 20+ years military (DND/Navy) & GoC experience (Rob).
- Top Security Clearance (Reliability, Secret, Top Secret, NATO, Control Goods, Protected B, TSSA).
- We are known as Procurement Ninjas as we are listed on many supply arrangements and vehicles, such as the PISA, SLSA, MCE (Miscellaneous Communication Equipment), MPA (VMWare), CSPV, Professional Services such as TBIPS and THS.

## SOCIETY OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS AND MARINE ENGINEERS

The [Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers](#) is an internationally recognized non-profit, professional society of individual members serving the maritime and ocean industries. Founded in 1893, the Society's scope includes all aspects of production, maintenance and operation of ships, submersibles, yachts, boats, offshore and ocean bottom structures, hydrofoils and surface effect ships. It administers and supports an extensive technical and research (T&R) program involving over 6,000 individuals as voluntary members and permanent staff in cooperation with government and regulatory agencies, scientific and research laboratories, academic institutions, and the marine industry.

## VIRTUAL MARINE

[Virtual Marine](#) specializes in pioneering maritime safety training simulators to improve the safety of personnel and assets. Situated near one of the most dangerous offshore environments on the planet, Virtual Marine's safety training simulators offer skill enhancing, hands on, realistic, risk free training. The ability to frequently practice in realistic scenarios using simulation technology is proven to increase the confidence and competence of seafarers, and Virtual Marine incorporates human performance science and AI into their advanced training systems to produce unique and transferable learning experiences. Combining innovation in both hardware and software, they provide applications for the marine, arctic, defence, coast guard, energy and shipping sectors through made-in-Canada solutions, including high-fidelity digital technologies such as those being developed through the Digital Twin Development Centre in partnership with the National Research Council of Canada's Ocean, Coastal and River Engineering Research Centre.

*Presented in alphabetical order by last name.*

## JASON ASPIN

**CEO/CTO | AKA Energy Systems | He/Him**

Jason Aspin co-founded AKA Energy Systems (AKA) in 1996. Since graduating in marine engineering from the Canadian Coast Guard College in 1987 with specializations in power engineering and systems integration, he has built over 37 years of progressive experience in systems engineering.

He is currently the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Technical Officer of AKA Energy Systems. As an innovator, he designs solutions that are both socially and environmentally responsible – often introducing energy storage technologies to new applications. He has collaborated with other global innovators to develop new technologies of which several have been patented and have made a significant contribution in reducing the environmental footprint, increasing reliability, and reducing operating costs.

## VICTORIA BELBIN, M.M.S. ICD.D

**CEO | ACADA | She/Her**

With a strong, national reputation as an effective and compelling leader, Victoria channels her experience, strategic thinking, and business acumen into her role as CEO for the Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defence Association (ACADA) and her many volunteer board positions.

As an experienced association leader, Victoria has successfully transformed organizations into key drivers of policy, advocating on behalf of industry, resulting in responsive and collaborative partnership environments. Victoria's success in leading strategic initiatives is due to her ability to bring diverse teams together to find commonality and clarity.

Currently, as CEO of ACADA, Victoria leads a team across all Atlantic Provinces with the goal of creating the climate for growth by ensuring industry members are prepared to thrive locally, nationally, and internationally.

In addition, Victoria has gained significant corporate governance, business, and management experience in complex regulatory environments by leading industry organizations and as a board member in a variety of settings including not-for-profit organizations, charities, and crown corporations. Some of her board experience includes boards such as Workplace Health and Safety Commission (WNL), NL Liquor Corporation, TaskForceNL, Wonderbolt Circus, and the Governor General of Canada Leadership Conference (GGCLC) Board.

With a proven track record of building robust governance processes with Boards of Directors and volunteer teams, and bringing diverse stakeholders together, Victoria fosters strong relationships that enable action-oriented planning to respond to industry and community needs.

Victoria holds a Master of Marine Studies from Memorial University and stays on top of governance practices through her commitment to continuing education through the Institute for Corporate Directors and ICD.D designation.

## GARRY BEST

**President and CEO | Nunatsiavut Group of Companies | He/Him**

Garry Best is a Beneficiary of the Nunatsiavut Land Claim Agreement. Prior to his recent appointment as President and CEO of the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies (NGC), he was Board Chair of the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust, the body that oversees NGC's operations.

Garry holds both a Bachelor of Engineering from Memorial University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Naval Architecture from University College London, UK. He served in various leadership roles as an officer in the Royal Canadian Navy for more than 23 years, followed by a 17-year career as an executive in the Federal Public Service.

Garry has more than 35 years of progressively senior leadership and management experience, as well as experience working with Boards, developing corporate business strategies, managing budgets/ finances, and engaging in Indigenous-government relations. Most recently, he was a Senior Advisor with Indigenous Services Canada as part of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB).

## DR. RANDY BILLARD

**President and CEO | Virtual Marine | He/Him**

Dr. Randy Billard, President and CEO of Virtual Marine has been a passionate contributor to maritime safety training since joining the company's technical team in 2004. With a Ph.D. in Engineering and extensive expertise in small vessel motion and wave modeling, Randy's career spans pioneering research in human factors, simulation-based training effectiveness, and performance assessment in extreme conditions. His recent work focuses on developing automated tracking and adaptive learning software using cutting-edge machine learning techniques.

A passionate advocate for marine safety and ecosystem sustainability, Randy serves on the boards of TechNL and ACADA, dedicating over two decades to advancing safety standards at sea. His leadership continues to propel Virtual Marine as industry trailblazers, committed to enhancing the lives of maritime professionals worldwide. Join Randy and his team at Virtual Marine to explore the future of marine training and technology, ensuring our oceans remain safe and sustainable. #BeReady

## LEE CARSON

**President | NORSTRAT Consulting | He/Him**

Lee is a senior consultant with a unique specialty: Federally sponsored nation building projects in Canada's North. For the last 14 years he has offered those services as the President of his own consultancy company NORSTRAT Consulting Inc.

Lee's passion for the Canadian Arctic and polar regions in general is life-long, but prior to consulting Lee spent over 30 years working in Canada's aerospace and defence sector: as a systems engineer, as a project manager, as a VP of Business Development, and as a Defence Business lead. His grey hair can be attributed toiling for many years in Canada's defence procurement process.

## RITA COOPER

**Senior Cyber Engagement Analyst | Canadian Centre for Cyber Security | She/Her**

Rita Cooper is a Senior Cyber Engagement Analyst at the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security. She has been working for the organization for ten years in various roles. In her current role, she is passionate about connecting with critical infrastructure owners and operators in the transportation sector, to help them improve their cyber security posture and reduce their risk of costly cyber incidents. She lives in Ottawa with her partner and children.

## DR. TOM COOPER

**Professor, Faculty of Business | Memorial University | He/Him**

Dr. Tom Cooper is a Professor in Strategic Management at the Faculty of Business Administration, Memorial University of Newfoundland as well as being an advisor/consultant to the private, public, and not-for-profit sector. His research, advisory, and teaching interests include risk management, sustainability, and strategic planning.

Related to this presentation, Tom has advised on the development of ESG related reports for local and national organizations.

Prior to taking his position at Memorial, Tom was a Senior Consultant in PwC's Consulting practice in London, United Kingdom where he worked with major international firms on governance, risk, and compliance.

## PATRICK DUXBURY

**Executive Director | Inuit Development Corporation Association | He/Him**

Patrick Duxbury advocates for nation building through Inuit-led economic development efforts. He has over 22 years of experience providing strategic advice and operational support to Indigenous and northern organizations and businesses. His sectoral experience includes mining, defence, contaminated sites and infrastructure. Patrick currently serves as Executive Director of the Inuit Development Corporation Association (IDCA), a post that he has held since 2018. In this capacity, he helps the association to champion Inuit prosperity by executing its mission to create business development opportunities for IDCA's seven development corporation members.

Patrick holds degrees from the University of Guelph and McGill University. Before moving to Ottawa with his family in 2018, Patrick previously resided in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Montreal and Southwestern Ontario. In his spare time, Patrick enjoys the outdoor sports that Ottawa has to offer, and he is also an avid visual artist and musician.

## CAPT (N) NORMAN GAUTREAU

**Chief of Staff, Maritime Component Commander | Royal Canadian Navy | He/Him**

Capt(N) Gautreau was born in Middleton, Nova Scotia in 1975. After finishing high school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he enlisted in 1993 as a Naval Warfare Officer. In 1997, he obtained his baccalaureate at RMC. During his career, he has had the opportunities of conducting several operations at sea and assignments on land.

In 1998, he joined the fleet aboard HMCS Fredericton. Obtaining his Bridge Command Certificate qualification and his ship diver qualification, he deployed with his unit in a NATO task group. Afterwards, he was qualified as an Anti-Air warfare director and was posted to HMCS Montréal which deployed to Operation APOLLO.

Between 2003-06, he was an instructor and operations officer at the leadership and recruit school (CFLRS) before transferring to HMCS St John's as a deck officer. Obtaining his Boarding Officer and demolitions officer qualifications during that posting, he then attended the Operations Room Officer course in 2008. Following, he was employed on HMCS Athabaskan as an operations room officer, and he performed the role as the anti-air warfare commander (AAWC). After Operation HESTIA the disaster response to the earthquake in Haiti (2010), Capt(N) Gautreau worked at the Canadian Fleet Atlantic headquarters and challenged the command board obtaining the qualification.

He then held a staff appointment embedded in the Australian commanded rotation and participated in CTF 150 deployed to Bahrain to support maritime security. In 2013 he was selected for Joint Command Staff College prior to his staff posting to C Navy.

On completion of his staff tour at the Navy's strategic management directorate, in 2016 he was appointed as Executive Officer of HMCS Vancouver. After conducting WESTPLOY, Op PROJECTION and supporting the effort in NZ during Op RENAISSANCE in the Indo Pacific region, Capt(N) Gautreau was posted to Ottawa to serve as the maritime component commands liaison officer to CJOC. During the pandemic, he moved to Halifax to command NCSM Ville de Quebec where he led his team to accomplish Op NANOOK and participate in a UK led international exercise as a command platform in the waters surrounding Scotland.

While the frigate was in drydock, Capt(N) Gautreau coordinated and led the international exercise in Nova Scotia and NFLD waters in 2021. Upon completion, he was employed as Deputy Director NFR until being selected for second language training. He is now employed as Chief of Staff for the Maritime Component Command.

## PAUL GRIFFIN

**President & CEO | C-CORE | He/Him**

Paul Griffin is President and CEO of C-CORE. Since 1975, C-CORE has been providing research-based advisory services and innovative technology solutions to a wide range of players in the energy, space, defence, and other industries, and has developed solutions to problems quite literally from the seabed to hundreds of kilometers in space.

Paul holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Memorial University and has over 20 years of senior management experience in small, medium and large organizations in the technology and transportation sectors. Prior to joining C-CORE, he was the President and CEO of Marine Atlantic.

## CAROLANN HARDING

**CEO | SmartICE Sea Ice Monitoring & Information Inc. | She/Her**

Carolann Harding ICD.D is a dynamic leader and team player that thrives on creativity, problem-solving, collaboration and engagement. As CEO of SmartICE, Carolann is leading a diverse coast to coast to coast award-winning team, focusing on meeting SmartICE's social enterprise mandate, strategic directions and social impacts. Working collaboratively with indigenous communities, SmartICE co-designs projects that focus on climate change monitoring and adaptation, workforce development and Indigenous and local knowledge. In May 2023, Canadian Geographic named SmartICE #1 on the list of 20 Canadian Innovations you should know about. Carolann is currently the Chair of FoodFirst NL, director on the Pinnguaq Board, incoming Chair of the ICD NL Chapter Executive and a Member of the MUN Faculty of Business Advisory Board. Carolann is a graduate from both Memorial and Dalhousie Universities. In 2021, Atlantic Business Magazine named Carolann as one of Atlantic Canada's 25 most Powerful Women in Business and was 1 of 3 national finalists in the RBC Women of Influence – Social Change Award – National Impact. In May 2024, Carolann was named one of the Top 50 CEOs in Atlantic Canada.

## GREG HORWICH, P.ENG

**Lead Project Engineer, Defence & Aftermarket | Gastops Ltd. | He/Him**

Greg Horwich, P.Eng is the Lead Project Engineer for Gastops' Defence and Aftermarket business unit, and is focused on bringing the best of Gastops technology and engineering services to the Defence market. The dedicated Gastops team is focused on development and delivery of in-service support services and MRO for various defence programs, including the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Coast Guard. Greg has gained experience in Power Generation and Controls before joining the Gastops team in 2018. Since then, he has held various positions with a focus on condition monitoring and control system design and development. Greg holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) degree and a Bachelor of Science (Physics), both from Dalhousie University. Greg is happy to call Halifax, Nova Scotia his home where he resides with his partner Danielle and their rescue dog Lotus.

## SEAN LEET

**Managing Director & CEO | World Energy GH2 | He/Him**

Sean Leet leads World Energy GH2's operations and is involved in various activities and companies that are focused on sustainable business and enabling green solutions throughout the ocean economy and other industries.

Sean's career started at an early age as a sea-going cadet in a family-owned marine business. Since that time, he has worked in various roles, including founding two start-up companies and managing the marine division of a large privately owned corporation. He serves on a number of corporate boards, including First Nations Joint Ventures, and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Western University.

Supporting charitable and not-for-profit organizations such as the St. John's YMCA, Business & Arts NL, Young Adult Cancer Canada and other valued community building initiatives, are high on Sean's priority list. While focused on his role as Managing Director & CEO of World Energy GH2, Sean continues to maintain involvement in the company he co-founded, Horizon Maritime, as Board Chair. Sean is an avid supporter of sustainable, diverse business activities and technologies that can improve the green economy, devoting time to advising early-stage companies such as Graphite Innovation & Technologies and Integrative Nanotech.

Sean is dedicated to providing strategic direction, operational leadership and the entrepreneurial drive to ensure Project Nujio'qonik is a success that our region can be immensely proud of and significantly benefit from.

## HONOURABLE PETER MACKAY, KC PC

**Counsel | McInnes Cooper | He/Him**

The Honourable Peter MacKay served in the Parliament of Canada for over 18 years as a Member of Parliament, including as a Cabinet Minister in the Harper Government for 10 years. In that time, he served as Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Minister of National Defense, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Mr. MacKay chaired the Government National Security Committee for almost 10 years and served on numerous other inter-parliamentary committees. Prior to politics he served as a Crown Attorney in the Central Region of Nova Scotia. He worked in private practice and prior to joining Deloitte was a Partner with the global law firm Baker McKenzie in their Toronto office. He is now working as a Strategic Advisor with Deloitte Canada and Counsel with McInnes Cooper, an Atlantic Canadian law firm. He works nationally and internationally in areas such as aerospace and defense, procurement, infrastructure, and justice reform, financial crimes, anti-corruption & compliance.

Peter serves as a Board Member for Cielo Waste Solutions Corp. and on numerous volunteer boards including Wounded Warriors Canada, the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, Integrity Initiatives International, the Canada United States Law Institute and the Stanfield Conversations, Dalhousie University. He has been active in Special Olympics, Big Brothers Big Sisters, children's aide, the ship Hector foundation, the Campaign for Acadia.

He and his wife Nazanin, who is a human rights activist and author, have three children and live in Pictou Co. Nova Scotia.

## JOHN MCCARTHY

**CEO | Seaspan Shipyards | He/Him**

John was appointed CEO of Seaspan Shipyards in September 2022, following four years as the organization's Chief Program Officer. To this role, he brings more than 30 years of extensive experience in surface combatant and offshore vessel construction for American and International shipyards. Prior to joining Seaspan, John was President of an independent ship construction consultancy with experience working for US and International clients in Canada, Australia and Taiwan. Before that, he spent nearly three decades at General Dynamics – Bath Iron Works Corporation, ending his service there as Vice President, Planning and Information Technology.

## PAUL MITTEN

**Vice-President | Compusult Limited | He/Him**

Mr. Mitten is the Vice-President and Co-owner of Compusult Limited. He's been involved in a broad range of Information Technology, Electronics, Robotics and related projects since 1979, or for the past 45 years. He holds a B.Sc. in Physics with a specialisation in Computer Science from Acadia University, Canada. In addition to his extensive work experience, he's also served on the boards of directors of a number of organisations, as well as expert advisory groups to agencies such as NATO and Industry Canada.

## CAPT. ANTHONY PATTERSON

**Lead IMO Consultant, Polar Code Training | Virtual Marine | He/Him**

Managing Director, Virtual Marine Training; member Canadian delegation to IMO; Chair International Marine Simulation Forum. 20 years Canadian Coast Guard, former Director Centre for Marine Simulation at the Marine Institute. Extensive involvement in the development and implementation of Polar Code and Ice Navigation training programs.

## DR. BRUCE W.T. QUINTON, PHD, PENG

**Deputy Head and Associate Professor, Department of Ocean & Naval Architectural Engineering | Memorial University | He/Him**

Dr. Bruce Quinton is an Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Ocean & Naval Architectural Engineering at Memorial University of Newfoundland. His expertise includes capabilities of low- and non-ice-class vessels in ice infested waters; ship hull structural response to extreme/accidental loads (specializing in sliding loads causing damage); numerical simulation/application of ice and accidental loads; advanced material characterisation and behaviour of Arctic shipbuilding materials; and full-scale laboratory ship impact experimentation. Dr. Quinton's novel experimental and numerical work related to moving/sliding loads on hull structures was awarded the 2013 Vice Admiral E. L. Cochrane Award – an international award from the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME). He is a member of the V.1 – V.1 Limit States During Accidental and Damage Conditions Committee of the 23rd International

Ship and Offshore Structures Congress, 2025; and technical member of the NATO STO AVT-367 - Sea-Ice Collision Risk Prediction and Mitigation for Naval Ships Panel and chair of the Structural Design Working Group.

Prior to commencing his faculty appointment, Dr. Quinton worked in industry on Arctic related projects including: ice strengthened vessel design, Arctic issues related to structural safety, Arctic escape, evacuation and rescue (EER) performance criteria, and others.

## MADELEINE REDFERN

**COO | CanArctic Inuit Networks | She/Her**

Indigenous woman involved in high-tech and innovation. Actively involved in transformative technologies in telecommunications, transportation and energy. COO of CanArctic Inuit Networks Inc committed to building 3000 km of marine fibre optic cable into Canada's Arctic to significantly improve telecommunications in Inuit Nunangat and Nunavut. CEO of SednaLink Marine Systems which would transform segments of SednaLink fibre optic cable into a SMART (science monitoring and reliable telecommunications) to monitor marine climate changes, assist with environmental monitoring especially near marine protected areas plus assist in collecting marine intelligence.

## GREGORY RICH

**CEO | Innu Development Limited Partnership | He/Him**

Gregory Rich is a member of the Mushuau Innu First Nation. In 2006, he served as the Land Rights Co-Chief Negotiator of Innu Nation for 7 years. From 2013-2016, he was elected as the Chief of Mushuau Innu First Nation. From 2017-2020, he was elected as the Grand Chief of Innu Nation. He was also employed as an Economic Development Officer in August 2021 for the Mushuau Innu First Nation. He has over 18 years of experience in leadership, land claims, negotiations and social development working for both First Nation communities of Natuashish and Sheshatshiu. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Innu Development Limited Partnership (IDL) since September 2023. While respecting his traditions and values, he enjoys spending time out on the land with his family.

## KELLY SANTOS

**Director | The Launch, Fisheries and Marine Institute (MUN) | She/Her**

Kelley Santos is the Director of The Launch, the Fisheries and Marine Institute's and Memorial University's state of the art living lab and ocean innovation centre, based in Holyrood, NL. Her leadership at **The Launch** provides invaluable support to industry, researchers, students, and stakeholders in a unique operational field environment where she collaborates with highly skilled engineering and technical teams, facilitating access to research focused on ocean mapping, habitat delineation, forecasting, modelling, management, and operational decisions, providing ideal conditions for industry, academia, and other stakeholders to come together and collaboratively implement leading initiatives.

For 15 years, Kelley's work with Memorial University of Newfoundland has focused on the development and management of multidisciplinary research initiatives that connect the talents and abilities of academic and student researchers with the innovation and ingenuity of the public and private sector. Her work with the Marine Institute supports initiatives that leverage the talents and capabilities of Canada's oceans communities and the adoption of technology in the ocean sector.

Kelley's passion for supporting greater diversity and inclusion across STEM fields and ocean sectors is reflected in her roles as a core team member with the Canadian Women in Ocean Industries Leadership (CWOIL) initiative, Chair of the Board of Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador and her contributions to Memorial's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and

Anti-Racism Strategic Plan. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Dalhousie University and a Masters of Marine Studies from Memorial University.

## LCdr WILL SARTY

**Senior Staff Officer - Strategic Outreach, Royal Canadian Navy (Atlantic/Arctic) | Canadian Armed Forces | He/Him**

Lieutenant Commander (LCdr) Will Sarty enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 2002 as a Non-Commissioned member within the Supply Technician trade. After serving on several HMC Ships, FLS Commander for the submarine Fleet and a deployment to Afghanistan for Operation Athena in 2007, LCdr Sarty took his Commission and graduated from Saint Mary's University with a bachelor's degree in business. Upon graduation, he attended his Logistics Officer training and completed his Head of Department qualification while also deploying to Iqaluit on Operation Nanook. In 2016, LCdr Sarty retired from the Regular Force and joined the Reserves leading the Light Urban Search and Rescue division for the Army. Once completed, was posted to the 5th Cdn Division and deployed immediately to Operation Reassurance in Latvia for one year followed by Operation Maple Arch in Georgia just as the Ukraine war was breaking out.

In 2023, LCdr Sarty joined back with the Navy under the Director Naval Strategic Management section responsible for Strat Outreach in Atlantic Canada and the Arctic. He is responsible for the Affiliations between the Indigenous Communities and the Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessels (AOPVs) and takes great pride and ownership in fostering a long-standing relationship between the RCN and the northern communities.

Beyond LCdr Sarty's military career, he is a retired two-time World Arm Wrestling champion for Team Canada and is an avid outdoor rock climber where he volunteers his time developing the climbing community across Nova Scotia.

## HEATHER SHERWOOD, CD

**Maritime & Arctic Security Analyst, MSOC East | Canadian Coast Guard | She/Her**

Heather Sherwood previously served in the RCN for 13 years as a Naval Intelligence Officer. Her Naval career included postings as the CANLANT Analyst at TRINITY before transferring to Maritime Security Operations Center (MSOC) East as the DND Civil Maritime Analyst and Other Government Department Liaison Officer in 2004. She has varied operational experience having participated as part of joint RCMP/DND Operation CHABANEL onboard HMCS FREDERICTON (2006) and as the Arctic Maritime SME in several Northern Operations and Exercises such as OP LANCASTER, and the NORPLOY and NANOOK series. In 2010, she was posted to N31 MARLANT Operations with the NATO Exercise planning team before taking a position with the Canadian Coast Guard and returning to MSOC(E) as a Maritime Security Officer and Arctic Analyst in 2011. Her current duties include providing both Eastern Canadian and Arctic Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) trends and events analysis relating to fisheries, oil and gas, foreign and domestic research, shipping and Arctic adventurers/expeditions, illegal migration, marine smuggling and marine terrorism.

## DR. JENNIFER SMITH, PHD, PENG

**Assistant Research Officer | National Research Council of Canada | She/Her**

Jennifer Smith, PhD, PEng, is an Assistant Research Officer at the Ocean, Coastal and River Engineering Centre (OCRE) of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) in St. John's, Newfoundland. She is an Adjunct Professor with Ocean & Naval Architectural Engineering at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. Her research focuses on human-centred safety: the integration between people and autonomous ship technologies. Specifically, the design and evaluation of adaptive instruction and decision support systems.

Dr. Smith has 15 years of experience in research and development related to maritime human factors and simulation-based training. Prior to joining NRC, she worked as an instructor with the Fisheries & Marine Institute and a research engineer with the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at Memorial University. She is also a collaborator with the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative: a partnership of Memorial University and the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Canada.

## SHERI WICKS

**Partner | McInnes Cooper | She/Her**

Sheri Wicks is a Partner based in McInnes Cooper's St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador office. With extensive experience with partnerships and joint ventures and an in-depth knowledge of Aboriginal and Indigenous Law, Sheri advises and represents Indigenous peoples and entities in the establishment of partnership agreements and provides advice on commercial issues ranging from general corporate to corporate governance to complex litigation matters. Sheri has also been active in professional and volunteer associations. She is a former Director with techNL, a former Governor with the Law Foundation of Newfoundland & Labrador, and for over ten years served in various positions within the Executive Committee of the Newfoundland and Labrador Branch of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA), including a year as the Branch President and a year on the CBA's National Board of Directors. She is also a former member of the CBA's National Equality Subcommittee. For the last several years Sheri has also managed McInnes Cooper's Pro Bono program.