

12TH ANNUAL



MASS25

MARITIME & ARCTIC SECURITY & SAFETY CONFERENCE

EVENT PROGRAM

www.maritimearcticsecurity.ca
www.ac-ada.ca

WELCOME TO MASS 2025!



Dear MASS 2025 Attendees,

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the 12th annual Maritime & Arctic Security & Safety (MASS) Conference.

What began over a decade ago as a regional conversation is now one of Canada's most important platforms for exploring how we protect sovereignty, enable collaboration, and advance innovation in the face of growing global uncertainty. This year's agenda reflects that evolution — with a clear focus on emerging threats, strategic opportunities, and the unique role Atlantic Canada plays in both.

Our region continues to punch well above its weight. With deep-rooted defence expertise, a growing ecosystem of innovators, and strong alignment across government, military, industry, and academia, Atlantic Canada is not waiting to catch up — we are leaning in. MASS is where that momentum comes together.

As always, ACADA's goal is to foster meaningful partnerships — the kind that don't end when the conference does. Whether you're a first-time attendee or a long-standing champion of this work, thank you for being here, for sharing your voice, and for shaping the future with us.

On behalf of our team and partners, welcome to MASS 2025.

Sincerely,
Victoria Belbin
CEO, ACADA

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

3:00pm-
6:30pm

Arctic Showcase / Opening Reception

At The Launch, Marine Institute in Holyrood Bay. (Northside Road)
Transportation departing Delta St. John's at 2:30pm - returning 6:30pm

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THURSDAY, JULY 17

7:00am
-8:00am

Breakfast, Registration, and Networking

Exhibit hall is open!

Buffet Served in Salon D

Sponsored by:



8:15am

Opening Remarks

- Victoria Belbin (CEO, ACADA)
- Dr. Chief Misi'e Joe (Strategic Advisor with Horizon Naval Engineering Services)
- Minister Steve Crocker (Minister of Energy, Industry & Technology, Minister Responsible for Trade Opportunities, Government of NL)

8:45am

Panel #1- New Geopolitical World: Changing Landscape of Maritime and Arctic Security and Sovereignty

- Paul Peyton (Military Director, North America - NATO DIANA)
- Hon Seamus O'Regan (Senior Business Advisor Stewart McKelvey)
- Hon Peter MacKay (Executive Advisor, Deloitte Canada)
- Moderated by: Clark Bain (Senior Vice President Strategic Development, IMP Aerospace & Defence; ACADA Board Chairperson)

9:45am

Conference Keynote | Tradition and Technology: The Role of AI in Indigenous Knowledge in Maritime Defence

- Leslie Canavera (CEO, PolArctic)

10:15am

Coffee Break

Networking in Exhibit Hall

Sponsored by:



11:00am

Panel #2 – Setting the Stage: Arctic Opportunities Strengthening North America’s Defence Sovereignty

- Garry Best (CEO, Nunatsiavut Group of Companies)
- Madeleine Redfern (COO, Can Arctic Inuit Networks, Interim CEO at NWAC)
- Leslie Canavera (CEO, PolArctic)
- Moderated by Carolann Harding, CEO SmartICE

12:00pm

Lunch

Buffet Served in Salon D

12:30pm

Presenting Sponsor: “Ships Stop Here” Initiative

- Introduction by Gina Pecore (CEO, Genoa Design International)



Presenting Sponsor Keynote | Title: Future of Shipbuilding

- John Risley (Co-Founder and Director, Arctic Economic Development Corporation)

1:30pm

Presentation: Canada’s Ocean Supercluster

- Kendra MacDonald (CEO, Canada’s Ocean Supercluster)

1:45pm

Arctic Opportunities Roundtable

- Northern Leaders & Conference Attendees
- Facilitated by Carolann Harding (CEO, SmartICE)

Arctic Governance and Business Development

Presentation by Patrick Duxbury (Executive Director, Inuit Development Corporation Association)

2:45pm

Coffee Break

Networking in Exhibit Hall

Sponsored by:



3:15pm

Industry Spotlight

Introduced by Malinda Matchett (Director of Operations and Business Development, ACADA)

Session MC: Dr. Randy Billard (President and CEO, Virtual Marine)

- BAE Systems Submarines
 - Olivia Whitehead, Principal Engineer - Systems Engineering
- Lastwall
 - Karl Holmqvist, CEO
- Datifex
 - Corey Kirkhus, Director of Business Development

4:00pm-
5:30pm

ACOA B2B/B2G Program

For those who have coordinated meetings, head to Salon ABC at your scheduled time. Please contact Andrea Plante-Featherston (Advisor, Marine, ACOA) directly with any questions.

Networking Reception

In the Exhibit Hall – Cash Bar available

6:00pm

Evening at Quidi Vidi Brewery

*Separate Ticket Required (Not included in Conference Registration)

Sponsored by:



North Atlantic

FRIDAY, JULY 18

7:30am **Breakfast, Registration, and Networking**
-8:15am Exhibit hall is open!

Sponsored by:  **Hanwha Ocean**

8:30am **Opening Remarks – Day 2**
Victoria Belbin (CEO, ACADA)

8:45am **Canadian Arctic Outlook**

- Commodore Jake French, Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic
- BGen Daniel Riviere, Commander Joint Task Force North
- BGen Mark Parsons, Commander 5th Cdn Army Division
- Colonel Joe Oldford, Commander 22 Wing & NORAD Canadian Air Defence Sector
- Senior Director Fleet Trevor Hodgson of CCG(A)
- Moderated by: Admiral (Retired) Art MacDonald, CMM, MSM, CD

10:15am **Coffee Break**
Networking in Exhibit Hall

Sponsored by:  **BOEING**

10:45am **Panel #3- Icebreaker Collaboration Effort or “ICE PACT”- Innovating Icebreakers - What does this mean for Shipbuilding in Canada?**

- John Schmidt (President, Federal Fleet Services)
- James Bond (Director Business Development, Governments Director, Polar Research & Ice Class Ships, ABS Canada Inc)
- Tyler Andrews (Senior Analyst Defence Procurement Review & Icebreaker Collaboration Effort (ICE Pact) Public Services and Procurement Canada)
- Moderated by: Victoria Belbin (CEO, ACADA)

11:45am **Panel #4 - Under the Surface: Enhancing Operational Readiness and Mission Effectiveness in Canada’s Submarine Fleet**

- Joachim Schonfeld (Key Account Manager, Canadian Patrol Submarine Project, TKMS Canada)
- Pablo Menendez (Director, Business Development, Americas, NAVANTIA)
- Sheldon Gillis (Canadian Patrol Submarine Project (CPSP) Campaign Lead, Babcock Canada, Maritime & Technology Babcock International Group)
- Moderated by: Cara Salci, (VP Growth, Industry & Corporate Affairs, Thales Canada)

12:45pm

Lunch

Boxed Lunch served in Salon D

1:00pm

Final Perspectives on Maritime Arctic Security

- Victoria Belbin (CEO, ACADA)

1:45pm

Conference & Exhibit Hall Close

Please Note:

This agenda is current to 16 July 2025 and is subject to change. For more information, please contact info@ac-ada.ca.

Presented in alphabetical order by last name.

TYLER ANDREWS

Senior Analyst and Strategic Advisor | Public Services and Procurement Canada

Tyler Andrews is a senior analyst and strategic advisor at Public Services and Procurement Canada with expertise in public procurement, major infrastructure projects and emergency management. He currently supports the Icebreaker Collaboration Effort (ICE Pact) between Canada, the U.S. and Finland, advancing shared approaches to polar-capable vessels. Tyler previously advised the Deputy Ministers of Public Services and Procurement Canada and contributed to the successful delivery of the Samuel-De Champlain Bridge, one of the largest infrastructure projects in Canadian history. He brings a practical, collaborative perspective to modernizing procurement and delivering complex government initiatives.

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

CEO | ACADA

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.

DR. RANDY BILLARD

President & CEO | Virtual Marine

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 modelling, 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.

JAMES BOND

Director for Polar Research and Ice Class Ship | American Bureau of Shipping

Based in Ottawa, Canada, James is Director for Polar Research and Ice Class Ships and for Business Development to Governments with the American Bureau of Shipping. Involvement in Polar shipping has been a theme throughout his 30+ year career. James represented the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) at the IMO on Polar Code, was a member of the IACS project team that created the Polar Class structures rules, chaired the IACS Expert Group for Polar Code and works with the Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) group. James guides work at ABS' Harsh Environment Technology Center co-located at Memorial University in St John's. He is a University of Waterloo grad, a register Professional Engineer and a Fellow of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

GARRY BEST

PRESIDENT & CEO | Nunatsiavut Group of Companies

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).

Garry completed a recent assignment as Senior Advisor with Memorial University's Labrador Campus, where he contributed to the development of a first-year Indigenous Engineering program and collaborated with Indigenous business partners across the region and country.

LESLIE CANAVERA

CEO | PolArctic

Leslie Canavera is the CEO of PolArctic, a data science company that develops new innovative Artificial Intelligence tools to solve Arctic maritime challenges such as seasonal sea ice forecasting, rapidly calculating nearshore depths and change, precision fishing analytics, and locating habitat conditions for aquaculture. Leslie holds an MBA with a concentration in International Business and is a veteran of the US Air Force, where she served as a commissioned officer. From the USAF, she transitioned to NGA for five years, conceptualizing programs with complex geospatial components and analytics. She left NGA to found the technology start-up PolArctic LLC to bridge the gap between science and business requirements. Leslie is Yup'ik, Alaska Native, born and raised in Alaska. She was awarded the Women in Artificial Intelligence (WAI) North America Award for AI for Good: Environmental Social Governance (ESG) for 2022, and was listed as a 2021 Forbes Next 1000 entrepreneur.

HON. STEVE CROCKER

Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, Minister Responsible for Trade Opportunities | Government of NL

Steve Crocker was elected to the House of Assembly in 2014. Since that time, Minister Crocker has been a tireless advocate for the people of Carbonear - Trinity - Bay de Verde. He continues to devote his time working with the constituents and bringing attention to the issues of the district. Prior to being elected, he worked as an entrepreneur at his family's business in Heart's Delight-Islington where he currently resides with his family.

Minister Crocker's past appointments to cabinet included: Minister responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture (later renamed Fisheries, Forestry and Agrifoods, and Fisheries and Land Resources) in December 2015; Minister of Transportation and Works in July 2017; and in Minister of Justice and Public Safety, President of Treasury Board, and Government House Leader in August 2020; and Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts, and Recreation and Government House Leader in April 2021.

PATRICK DUXBURY

Executive Director | Inuit Development Corporation Association

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.

COMMODORE JACOB F. FRENCH, MSM, CD

Commander | Canadian Fleet Atlantic

Commodore Jacob French joined the Canadian Forces in 1994 in Saint John, NB as a Maritime Surface/SubSurface Officer, and attended Dalhousie University (BSc Earth Sciences Honours) under the Regular Officer Training Plan. He commenced in the fleet as a Bridge Watchkeeper onboard HMCS Algonquin and Calgary, including OP AUGMENTATION in the Arabian Gulf. He completed a Navigation Officer tour onboard HMCS Vancouver and was an instructor at the Naval Officer Training Centre. As an Ops Room Officer, he deployed twice to the Middle East under Operation ALTAIR and Operation SAIPH. He was appointed as Executive Officer HMCS Calgary and subsequently Executive Officer Sea Training Pacific. His most recent sea posting was as Commanding Officer HMCS Regina in 2018 – 2019, which included an Indo-Asia Pacific and Northern Arabian Sea deployment under Operation ARTEMIS and PROJECTION.

His shore appointments include Executive Assistant to Comd MARLANT and Director Navy Strategy – Concepts and Project Director Interim AOR. As a Captain(N), he was appointed to Deputy Commander Joint Task Force North in Yellowknife, NT from 2020 – 2023.

He holds a Masters of Defence Studies from Australia National University as a graduate of the Australia Command and Staff Course. He is also a graduate of the Naval Command College at the United States Naval War College.

He was promoted to his current rank of Commodore in 2024 and is currently appointed as the Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic.

Commodore French has a wife and two daughters, who love being on the water and getting a camping adventure in whenever they can find the time.

SHELDON GILLIS, MSC, CD

Babcock Canada Campaign Lead – Canadian Patrol Submarine Project

Sheldon served a 25-year tenure in the Royal Canadian Navy as a Naval Warfare Officer, retiring in April of 2024 as a Naval Captain. His considerable experience and operational knowledge include deployments to the Persian Gulf as part of the 9/11 response and the Black, Mediterranean and North Seas as Captain of the warship HMCS ST. JOHN'S for Operation Reassurance. Most recently, as Deputy Commander of the Canadian Atlantic Fleet, he led an international task group to the Canadian Arctic in 2022, demonstrating Canada's commitment to national security in the high north and to the NORAD maritime mission.

In addition to extensive experience in naval operations, engineering and training, he was the Requirements Authority for the Royal Canadian Navy. Based at National Defence Headquarters, here he led the Directorate of Naval Requirements in the management of all naval projects related to existing ships, submarines and operational enablers. He finished his naval career as a student on the National Security Program, studying issues of strategic importance to the Government of Canada.

He entered the defence industry in 2024 and is the Campaign leader for the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project in Babcock Canada. Sheldon holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Acadia University and a Masters in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada.

CAROLANN HARDING

CEO | SmartICE Sea Ice Monitoring & Information Inc.

Carolann Harding ICD.D, CEO of SmartICE, is leading an award-winning team that works collaboratively with indigenous communities to co-design projects that focus on climate change monitoring integrating local and Indigenous knowledge, workforce development and social impacts. In May 2023, Canadian Geographic named SmartICE #1 of 20 Canadian Innovations to watch. Carolann's board work spans food security, governance education, women's film and aerospace & defense. In 2024 and 2025 Carolann was chosen as a Top 50 CEO and 2021 as one of Atlantic Canada's 25 most Powerful Women.

TREVOR HODGSON

Regional Director Operations Atlantic Region | Canadian Coast Guard

Trevor Hodgson has been in the role of Senior Director, Fleet for the Canadian Coast Guard's Atlantic Region since January 2024. Graduating from the Canadian Coast Guard College in 2006, Trevor brings over 15 years' service and experience with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) in various capacities both at sea and ashore.

Trevor began his career as a Navigation Officer and after working in various capacities, earned his Master Mariner Certificate and was appointed to Commanding Officer in 2018. His seagoing experience has included the front-line delivery of programs from Atlantic Canada to the St. Lawrence River and the Canadian Arctic, including two noteworthy missions to the North Pole. Trevor came ashore to act in the

role of Superintendent of Icebreaking Operations and in 2020 he took on the position of National Manager for the Icebreaking Program. Trevor returned to the Atlantic Region in a leadership position as the Regional Director of Operations in 2023 where he oversaw the Regional Operations Centre and Marine Security Operations Centre.

In his current position as the Senior Director of the Fleet, Trevor oversees the Safe and Effective Operation of Atlantic Region's fleet of vessels through medium and long-term planning, the provision of a competent, trained, and diverse seagoing workforce, financial and logistical support. He is also responsible to help identify future vessel needs and to transition new vessels into the Atlantic Coast Guard fleet as they are built and put into service. Trevor understands that people are the key to success and focuses his efforts in providing a safe work environment and celebrating the outstanding work of employees whenever he can.

CHIEF MISE'L JOE

Strategic Advisor | Horizon Naval Engineering Services

Chief Mise'l Joe was born in Miawpukek on June 4, 1947, into a strong Mi'kmaq family, and has been educated in all the Mi'kmaq ways and traditions. Since 1974, he has been involved in First Nation Politics, and in 1983, he inherited the lifelong roles of Traditional Saqamaw (Chief) and the Newfoundland District Chief for the Mi'kmaq Grand Council.

In 1988, he was elected as Administrative Chief for Miawpukek First Nation, a position he held for 35 years.

Chief Mise'l Joe has gained recognition provincially, nationally, and internationally. In 2012, he was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in recognition of making Canada better for communities. In May 2004, Chief Mise'l Joe was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, by Memorial University of Newfoundland & Labrador, in 2018, he was awarded the Order of Canada in recognition of his outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation, and in October 2024, Chief Mise'l Joe was invested into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador in recognition of his impactful leadership and helping to foster a better understanding of Mi'kmaq people and their culture in Newfoundland and Labrador. In February 2025, he was awarded the King Charles Coronation Medal, in recognition of his valuable contribution to the country.

Chief Joe currently holds the role of Strategic Advisor with Horizon Naval Engineering Services.

Chief Mise'l Joe resides in Miawpukek First Nation with his wife, Colletta. He has a daughter Leona; granddaughter Ansale'wit (Angel); and two great grandchildren, Ethan, and Amaya.

HON. PETER MACKAY

Executive Advisor | Deloitte Canada

Peter served in the Parliament of Canada for over 19 years, 10 as a cabinet minister in high-profile portfolios, including Justice and Attorney General, Department of National Defence, Foreign Affairs, and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency ACOA. He chaired the Canadian National security committee and served on numerous cabinet committees for 10 years. He was called to the bar in 1990 and served as a public defender and Crown Attorney in Nova Scotia before being elected.

He works with the Atlantic Canadian law firm McInnes Cooper. At Deloitte Canada, Mr. MacKay provides strategic advice on projects related to the firm's leading Government & Public Services Industry practice. He focuses on defence modernization, justice reform, illicit finance, infrastructure, and economic development and recently took on the lead role for Arctic strategy.

KENDRA MACDONALD

CEO | Canada's Ocean Supercluster

Kendra MacDonald is the CEO of Canada's Ocean Supercluster, responsible for the accelerated development and commercialization of innovation that will solve some of the world's biggest challenges in ocean. Kendra is leading the change in the culture of doing business in ocean from coast-to-coast-to-coast, increasing collaboration across ocean sectors and growing Canada's ocean economy in a digital, sustainable, and inclusive way. In recognition of her leadership in building the Ocean Supercluster from the ground up, Kendra has named one of Atlantic Canada's Top 50 CEOs by Atlantic Business Magazine for the last five years and one of Canada's Top Sustainability Leaders by Clean50 in 2022.

Prior to leading Canada's Ocean Supercluster, Kendra was a Partner in Deloitte's Risk Advisory practice and the Chief Audit Executive of Deloitte Global.

ADMIRAL (RETIRED) ART MCDONALD, CMM, MSM, CD

Founder | Four Star Consulting

Admiral (Retired) Art McDonald, founder of Four-Star Consulting, continues to lend a wealth of strategic insight, executive leadership, and operational experience to endeavours of value to Canada and Canadians.

Art is a 37-year naval veteran who is a former Canadian Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) and Canada's first four-star Admiral since the early Nineties. After accruing more than two decades' experience as a sea-going officer that culminated in command of the frigate HMCS HALIFAX, he then commanded at every level (Operations Group, Formation, and Service (Commander of Royal Canadian Navy (CRCN) 2019-2021)) before ultimately taking command of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Art's advisory efforts are also shaped by his significant training system, fleet design, and digital transformation experiences on the naval staff. During the largest peacetime rejuvenation of the Navy in its history, he led efforts to synchronize modernization of the RCN's training enterprise with the Future Fleet plans that he had helped define in earlier appointments.

Art has a Bachelor's Degree in Military and Strategic Studies and a Masters of Defence Studies from the Royal Military College. He is also a graduate of the 2003 Canadian Forces College (CFC) Command and Staff Course, the 2012 CFC National Security Programme, and the 2014 US GOFO Capstone Program. A 2016 alumnus of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies, he is also a graduate of the Senior Executives in National and International Security program at Harvard University (2017).

Art is a "Come-From-Away" who now proudly call St. John's, Newfoundland his home.

PABLO MENENDEZ

Director of Business Development, Americas

Pablo Menéndez has 20 years of experience in shipbuilding-related industrial activities, primarily focused on shipbuilding management and business development.

In February 2024, Navantia entrusted Pablo with the task of managing Navantia's operations on the American continent. From Ottawa he leads the team in charge of the company's growth in the Americas, with North America being Pablo's main market of interest.

Before North America, he had three successful years in Sydney, Australia, as Chief Strategy Implementation Officer of Navantia Australia. During that time, Navantia Australia tripled in size and greatly increased its revenue by helping the Australian Navy maintain its ships.

Between 2017 and 2021, Pablo was based in Istanbul as General Manager of Navantia Turkey. Pablo's Turkish venture started in 2016 as the head of Navantia's engineering team at the Turkish shipyard that built the largest ship of the Turkish Navy, the TCG Anadolu. A 30,000-tons amphibious assault ship with aircraft carrier and drone capabilities.

Pablo's experience in business development began in 2013 in Madrid. As OEM Manager he was responsible for establishing commercial relations between Navantia's supply chain and local companies from countries where Navantia's ships are serving.

The expertise and knowledge in sustainment was acquired by Pablo early in his career. From 2010 to 2013, Pablo was the Warranty Manager of the Fridtjof Nansen-Class Frigates for Norway and a key member in the successful closing of the contract. In parallel he participated in the negotiations of the In-Service Support contract which is still in force. Before that, Pablo served as Warranty Manager, sailing for two years around Northern Europe with the F312 Otto Sverdrup and the F313 Helge Ingstad AEGIS frigates.

Pablo holds a Master of Engineering Science (Mechanical Eng.) and qualifications as an Asset Management Level 3 Certified Practitioner.

Pablo Menendez and his wife Patricia have three children, Max, Ivo, and Matilda, who excel at not wanting to go to bed and bringing joy to their parents. Pablo enjoys spending time outdoors with the family dogs and listening to old loud music.

HON. SEAMUS O'REGAN

Senior Business Advisor | Stewart McKelvey

Seamus O'Regan Jr. joined Stewart McKelvey in March 2025 as a Senior Business Advisor. He served as Member of Parliament for St. John's South-Mount Pearl and held several federal cabinet positions, including Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Indigenous Services, Minister of Veterans Affairs, and Associate Minister of National Defence. Seamus played key roles on government committees such as the Prime Minister's Agenda, Results and Communications Committee, and Cabinet Committees on Canada-US relations, COVID, Reconciliation, and Defence Procurement.

He was a long-standing member of the Treasury Board and chaired the Ministerial Working Group on Regulatory Efficiency and Clean Growth. Prior to politics, Seamus was a journalist and host of CTV's Canada AM. He is a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and has served on boards including World Wildlife Fund Canada and Canada World Youth.

COLONEL JOE OLDFORD

Commander 22Wing | Canadian Armed Forces

Colonel Joseph (Joe) Oldford joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1994 as an Infantry Reservist with the 2nd Battalion, Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton). In 2002, he transferred to the Regular Force as an Aerospace Control Officer. Following completion of initial Aerospace Control Officer training, Col Oldford was assigned to front line control positions within 21 Aerospace Control and Warning Squadron as a Weapons Director and Senior Director, and in support of the Canadian Army as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller.

Col Oldford's staff appointments include National Tactical Air Control Party Standards Officer within the Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre, Executive Assistant to the Chief, Fighter Capability Office, Deputy Director of the NORAD Forward Element (Ottawa) and Director of Exercises and Training (A9) at Continental US NORAD Region (CONR) – 1st Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base.

Col Oldford has participated in numerous domestic operations including NORAD Operation NOBLE EAGLE and Operation PODIUM. He has deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan on Operation ATHENA with the 1e Battalion, Royale 22e Regiment Battle Group and to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar on Operation FOUNDATION as the Deputy Director, Combat Operations Division at the 609th Combined Air and Space Operations Center (CAOC).

Col Oldford has had the privilege of command as the Commanding Officer of 5 Operational Support Squadron at 5 Wing Goose Bay, 21 Aerospace Control and Warning Squadron at 22 Wing North Bay and as the Deputy Commander of the 601st CAOC, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

He holds a Bachelor of Computer Science from the University of New Brunswick, as well as a Master of Science (Mathematics) and a Master of Defense Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada.

Col Oldford shares his life with his wife and best friend Anita Oldford, and their two beautiful daughters, Kandace and Jenna.

On 18 July 2024, Col Oldford assumed command of 22 Wing, CFB North Bay, and the Canadian Air Defence Sector.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL S.M. PARSONS, CD

Commander 5th Canadian Division | Canadian Armed Forces

Raised in Newfoundland and Labrador, BGen Mark Parsons joined the Canadian Armed Forces on the 25th of June, 1990 as a member of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals within the Canadian Army. He has commanded from Troop to Formation level, including 21 Electronic Warfare Regiment and the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group.

His key staff experiences include Senior Staff Officer Strategic Vision and Alignment for Defence C4ISR within Director General Cyber, Director Land Command Information and Army G6 within the Canadian Army headquarters, and Director of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

BGen Parsons is a graduate of the Royal Military College, St-Jean (CMR) with a bachelor's degree in Space Sciences and has attained three Master's degrees which include an MBA and an MDS from the Royal Military College, Kingston (RMC) and an MSc from the College of Information and Cyberspace, National Defense University in Washington, DC.

BGen Parsons has deployments with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2007 and with the Office of the United States Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (USSC) in 2022 as Deputy Coordinator Support and Commander, Task Force Jerusalem (Operation PROTEUS).

BGen Parsons assumed the role of Director General Digital Enterprise Modernization within the Digital Transformation Office (DTO) in July 2023. He is married with two children.

MAJOR-GENERAL PAUL PEYTON, MSM, CD

Military Deputy Director, North America | NATO DIANA

Major-General Peyton was born and raised in Goose Bay Labrador, Newfoundland. In 1989, after five years as an Army Cadet, he enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces as an armour officer. In 1991 he joined Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), where he was privileged to command at the troop, squadron and regimental level.

Major-General Peyton's operational experience includes tours with the United Nations Protection Force in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan, Operation PROTEUS with the United States Security Coordinator in Jerusalem, and Operation INHERENT RESOLVE in Iraq. He also participated in several domestic operations, including commanding a Battle Group responsible for evacuation operations in Kananaskis during Operation LENTUS, the Canadian Armed Forces' response to catastrophic flooding in Alberta.

Above the regimental level Major-General Peyton commanded the Canadian Forces Intelligence Group, and the 5th Canadian Division of the Canadian Army. His staff appointments include Future Operations Planner in Canadian Expeditionary Forces Command, Land SOF Integration with Chief Force Development, Executive Assistant to Commander Canadian Army, Chief of Staff Support Canadian Forces Intelligence Command, Vice Director, Plans and Policy - United States Cyber Command, and most recently Chief of Force Development.

Major-General Peyton has attended the Mubarak Al Abdullah Command and Staff College in Kuwait and the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Military Arts and Science, a Master's degree in Military Science, and a Master's degree in Strategic Studies.

He was appointed as the NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) Military Deputy Director for North America in 2024.

He is married and the proud father of two exceptionally talented sons.

MADELEINE REDFERN

COO | CanArctic Inuit Networks Inc.

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.

As a businesswoman and a strong social advocate for transformative initiatives, Ms. Redfern's advocacy, professional, and governance work shown her dedication and passion towards the development and delivery of programs assisting Indigenous, Inuit, northerners and Canadians that reflect their values, needs, and priorities.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL J.M.Y.D. DANIEL RIVIÈRE, CD

Commander | Joint Task Force North

Brigadier-General Dan Rivière is native from Saint-Michel des Saints, Québec. Prior to assuming duties as Commander Joint Task Force North, his key command appointments include Commanding Officer of

5e Bataillon des services in Valcartier Québec, Commanding Officer of the Joint Task Force Support Element in Haiti (Op HESTIA), and Commander of Canadian Forces Base Borden and Military Personnel Generation Training Group.

His key staff assignments include Deputy Commanding Officer of the National Support Element in Kandahar Afghanistan (Op ATHENA), Directing Staff at the Canadian Army Command and Staff College, Director Ammunition Program Restructure Project, Director of Service Delivery Conflict and Complaint Management Program, Deputy Task Force Commander/Director of Operations Support in Jerusalem (Op PROTEUS), and Director of Training Modernization.

Other contributions include expeditionary deployments to Haiti (Op CONSTABLE) and Bosnia-Herzegovina (Operation PALLADIUM), and domestically, the Red River Flood (Op ASSISTANCE), the Montreal's Ice Storm (Op RECUPERATION), and more recently the Northwest territories wildfires response and evacuation of Yellowknife (Op LENTUS 23-07).

Brigadier-General Rivière completed a degree in administration from Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean, a post graduate program in project management, a Master in Defence Studies, and a Master in Strategic Studies (with high distinction). He also holds the 'Project Management Professional' (PMP) designation.

Brigadier-General Rivière is married and has two children. He also has a passion for music and performing live, particularly on bass, guitar, or drums.

JOHN RISLEY

Co-Founder and Director | Arctic Economic Development Corporation

John Risley is Chairman and CEO of CFFI Ventures Inc., a diversified holding company operating internationally. The company has majority or significant stakes in a portfolio of young companies ranging from financial services, renewable energy and the tech sector. He is also the Chair of Northern Private Capital, a Toronto based fund which invests in high growth opportunities, former Board Chair of MDA Corporation, Canada's iconic space company and Chair of World Energy, one of North America's largest biofuel producers and only producer of sustainable aviation fuel.

Mr. Risley is very active in community affairs, sitting on the Board of a number of charitable organizations. He is a Director of Futurpreneur Canada, Chair of the Ocean Supercluster, and Chair of the Creative Construction Lab Board. He regularly engages in public policy debate and is a member of the World President's Organization, The Chief Executives Organization, the Business Council of Canada and the Trilateral Commission. He is also a graduate of Harvard University's President's Program in Leadership.

He was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1997 and is a member of the New York Yacht Club and the Royal Ocean Racing Club.

CARA SALCI

Vice President, Growth, Industry & Corporate Affairs | Thales Canada

Cara plays a key leadership role in driving the organization's growth and expanding its market presence in Canada's defence, cyber and digital security sectors with a commitment to building key industrial partnerships. In this role, Cara leads Thales Canada's Defence & Security Business Development, Capture, Industrial Participation and Government Relations teams and is responsible for Thales Canada's sustainability initiatives.

Motivated by Thales Canada's growth, Cara steers opportunities to engage with industry partners, Canadian SMBs and government stakeholders to identify new opportunities. This, after having joined Thales in 2016 as its National Director of Communications and Public Affairs.

Before Thales, Cara worked in healthcare administration and has more than a decade of experience working in government. Cara served in the Minister's office at the Treasury Board Secretariat and as the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Minister at Environment Canada and Transport & Infrastructure Canada.

Cara has an Honours BSc in Bio-Medical Science from the University of Guelph and an MBA from the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University.

Cara has been recognized by Women in Defence & Security (WiDS) as an Emerging Leader and a Top 40 under 40 Aerospace & Defence professionals. She serves to mentor young women as part of WiDS' mentoring program. Cara is a current Board Member of Canada's Ocean Supercluster, the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada and member of CADSI's Defence Policy Committee. She is also a Founding Member of the Queensway Carleton Hospital's Women in Philanthropy committee.

JOHN M SCHMIDT

President | Federal Fleet Services

John was one of the senior executives who helped re-start the Davie Shipyard in 2013 and as Senior Vice President of Commercial and Government Programs, led Davie's resurgence into Government shipbuilding and ship repair. He was responsible for business development, proposal submissions and the contract negotiation that eventually led to the Provision of Services Agreement with Canada for the conversion of MV Asterix into Canada's premier Naval Supply Ship and formation of Federal Fleet Services. John has over 48 years of marine industry experience in the private and government sectors, including 27 years in leadership roles in the Canadian government, primarily with PSPC where he was Manager of Engineering and Marine Inspection then the first Contracts Director on the highly successful Halifax Class Modernization program.

Upon leaving the Civil Service, John spent several years at Irving Shipbuilding where he led Irving's successful NSPS proposal and was Project Manager on the construction of the CCG Hero Class ships at Halifax Shipyard. John is also the founding member of the Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association and its first Board Chairman from 2018-2022.

JOACHIM SCHONFELD

Key Account Manager | TKMS Canada Ltd.

Joachim Schönfeld is the Key Account Manager for the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project at TKMS Canada Ltd. in Ottawa, a role he has held since January 2025. He brings over 40 years of leadership across defence, naval operations, and finance.

Prior to this, he served as Senior Vice President and Head of Sales Region West at thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (tkMS) in Hamburg (2018–2024), overseeing business development in the Americas and Europe. His earlier roles included international submarine sales and senior finance positions in Germany and Brazil.

Joachim's foundation lies in military service. From 1978 to 1990, he served in the German Navy, primarily on Fast Patrol Boats. He was Commanding Officer of a Class 148 vessel, leading a 30-member crew, and served as Squadron Press Officer.

He holds a diploma in Business Administration from the Helmut-Schmidt-University of the German Armed Forces, with a focus on Industrial Management and Statistics.

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 and leverages its extensive industry experience to mitigate risk and 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 and 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.

CALIAN

Calian® is a Canadian company with over 40 years of experience delivering innovative solutions in communications, healthcare, cybersecurity, training, and advanced technologies. Headquartered in Ottawa, Calian operates globally across North America and Europe, providing mission-critical services to government and private sector clients.

CANADIAN MARITIME ENGINEERING (CME)

Canadian Maritime Engineering (CME) is a trusted provider of specialized services for the marine and industrial sectors. CME offers machining, welding, fabrication, specialty coatings, and mechanical engineering solutions tailored to client specifications.

With a team of highly trained professionals, CME delivers reliable, customized solutions to support shipbuilding, repair, and industrial manufacturing projects throughout Canada's maritime and inland regions.

CO. INNOVATION CENTRE

Co. Innovation Centre supports growth-oriented companies by accelerating their technology development initiatives, with a focus on the defence, energy, and mining sectors. Through access to expert guidance, cutting-edge tools, and collaborative resources, the Centre helps businesses overcome technical barriers and drive long-term innovation.

By fostering partnerships and addressing sector-specific challenges, Co. Innovation Centre contributes to the advancement of industry and economic resilience through tailored, technology-driven support.

DUXION MOTORS

Based in St. John's, Newfoundland, Duxion Motors designs advanced electric and hybrid propulsion systems for aerospace and marine applications in the world's harshest environments. At the core of Duxion's technology is the patented eJet rim-driven electric propulsion platform, offering scalable, quiet, and efficient thrust for full-electric, hybrid, and vertical lift missions - ideal for UAVs, advanced regional aviation, and Arctic operations.

In the marine sector, Duxion's eShift system enables quick retrofitting of diesel vessels to hybrid-electric propulsion, minimizing downtime and reducing environmental impact. Founded in 2017, Duxion combines cutting-edge engineering with strategic partnerships to help OEMs and operators transition to cleaner and more resilient propulsion platforms.

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.

GASTOPS

Gastops is a global leader in intelligent condition monitoring solutions for critical equipment in aerospace, defence, energy, and industrial markets. Since 1979, Gastops has delivered predictive diagnostics through innovative sensors, simulation models, laboratory testing, and engineering services.

Gastops enables proactive decision-making and operational readiness by providing real-time insights into asset performance and maintenance needs - optimizing safety, efficiency, and lifecycle management in mission-critical environments.

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.

HEFRING MARINE

Hefring Marine is an Icelandic technology company providing intelligent, AI-powered solutions for crewed and uncrewed vessel operations. Its flagship platform, IMAS, offers real-time motion monitoring, fuel optimization, maintenance tracking, and impact alerts through an onboard system integrated with sensors and navigational instruments.

All data is transmitted to the cloud for shore-based fleet monitoring, offering operators full transparency and control. With adaptive speed recommendations and customizable dashboards, IMAS enhances safety, performance, and sustainability across commercial and defence maritime fleets.

INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENCE EXCELLENCE AND SECURITY (IDEaS)

The Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security (IDEaS) program is a long-term Government of Canada initiative investing \$1.6 billion over 20 years to advance innovative solutions in defence and security. Designed to mobilize Canadian innovators, IDEaS bridge the gap between concept and deployment by providing structured challenges, real-world testing, and strategic collaboration with defence experts.

IDEaS operate within the Department of National Defence and leverages expertise from Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), connecting innovators with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Department of National Defence (DND) leadership to maximize the impact of emerging technologies. The program aims to enhance national defence capabilities, stimulate economic growth, and strengthen Canada's innovation ecosystem.

MEKAPISK ENVIROBLU

EnviroBlu Inc. is an Indigenous-owned Canadian company based in St. John's, Newfoundland, delivering sustainable, non-toxic industrial cleaning solutions. Their flagship product, Mekapisk EnviroBlu, is water-based, phosphate-free, biodegradable, and safe for both people and the environment.

Trusted by major industry players including Exxon, Maersk, GFL, Grieg Seafood, and Horizon Maritime, EnviroBlu was also sponsored by Irving Shipbuilding and recently received industry recognition from ACADA.

Currently focused on B2B sales, the company is preparing to launch an e-commerce strategy to reach broader markets. Backed by a dedicated team, EnviroBlu is redefining industrial cleaning with eco-conscious innovation.

NORDSPACE

NordSpace is a Canadian aerospace company advancing sovereign space capabilities through three divisions: launch vehicles, satellite systems, and spaceport infrastructure. The company designs and manufactures its own engines and platforms, including the SHARP hypersonic UAV, Tundra orbital launch vehicle, and Hadfield liquid rocket engines.

NordSpace is currently developing the Atlantic Spaceport Complex in Newfoundland, Canada's gateway to space, which includes a launch facility, ground station, and space domain awareness radar. NordSpace plays a vital role in enabling responsive, dual-use space access to support national security, Arctic sovereignty, and technological independence.

SEAMATICA

Seamatica Aerospace is a Canadian technology company specializing in RF signal processing, software engineering, and advanced drone flight operations. With a strong focus on innovation and safety, the team is dedicated to transforming unmanned aviation by enabling more secure, scalable, and efficient drone services.

At the core of their work is the development of comprehensive airspace situational awareness systems designed to detect both cooperative and non-cooperative aerial intruders. Their detect-and-avoid (DAA) technology empowers drone operators to safely conduct beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) missions, supporting the future of unmanned flight in regulated and dynamic airspace environments.

SHIPS STOP HERE

As proud members of the *Ships Stop Here* initiative, the 15 participating organizations are collectively showcasing Newfoundland and Labrador as Canada's premier Gateway to the Arctic. With a rich maritime heritage, strategic geographic positioning, and proven capability and capacity, our province stands ready to support and attract businesses operating in the North.

VALOR OCEAN TECHNOLOGIES

Headquartered in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Valor Ocean Technologies delivers advanced ocean systems for commercial, defence, and scientific missions across North America. The company's portfolio includes ASVs, AUVs, ROVs, sonar systems, subsea cameras, mooring platforms, intelligent power systems, and more - designed for reliability in demanding marine environments.

Beyond distribution, Valor offers integration support, technical consultation, and project expertise to ensure success in underwater surveillance, research, port security, and environmental monitoring operations.