



Trade Days

2026

A two-day, export-focused event
for Nova Scotia businesses.



March 25–26, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Halifax Convention Centre

Export Diversification:
Practical Tools, Skills
and Knowledge



NOVA SCOTIA

PRESENTED BY



Atlantic Canada
Opportunities
Agency

Agence de
promotion économique
du Canada atlantique



Sobey School
of Business

Saint Mary's University



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Aliments
et Boissons
Atlantique



Food &
Beverage
Atlantic



March 25

8:30 AM	Doors Open – Registration and Networking
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks. Setting the Stage Shifting Global Trade and Geopolitical Environment</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honourable Colton LeBlanc, Minister of Growth and Development, Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie • Suzanne Drisdelle, Regional Director (Atlantic), Global Affairs Canada
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM Workshop	<p>ASEAN Market Briefing</p> <p>Facilitator: Karen Hung, Director, Canadian Engagement & Strategy, Indo-Pacific, Export Development Canada</p>
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Networking Break
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Panel Discussion	<p>Market Briefings: Mercosur and the United Kingdom</p> <p>Moderator: Suzanne Drisdelle, Regional Director (Atlantic), Global Affairs Canada</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anaclara Acuña Puñales, Trade Commissioner, Uruguay (Virtual) • Sanjay Purohit, Trade Commissioner, United Kingdom (Virtual) • Igor Maia Gonçalves, Partner, APSV Advogados, Brazil (Virtual)
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM World Café	<p>Working Lunch - Small Group Discussion</p> <p>Introduced by Michel Raymond, Vice President, Nova Scotia, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters</p>
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM Workshop	<p>Using AI for Export Intelligence</p> <p>Facilitator: Derek Leung, Development Lead, Digital Nova Scotia</p>
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Panel Discussion	<p>Growing at Home: Unlocking Interprovincial Opportunities</p> <p>Moderator: Jesse Hiltz, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Nova Scotia Intergovernmental Affairs</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Paulin, Senior Executive Director, Trade and Economic Policy, Nova Scotia IGA • Jay Barber, Director, Internal Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, PCO • Chuck Maillet, Vice-President, Policy, Programs and Communications, ACOA • Sheena Russell, Founder & CEO, Made with Local
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Wrap Up and Next Steps, Networking

March 26

8:30 AM	Doors Open – Registration and Networking
9:00 AM - 9:05 AM	Welcome
9:05 AM - 10:05 AM Panel Discussion	Navigating Change: Staying Ahead in Shifting Markets Moderator: Kris Vascotto, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Seafood Alliance Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andy Schnare, President, Deep Cove Aqua Farms• Mo AlGermozi, Co-Founder and CEO, GIT Coatings• Tapanjyothi (Tukan) Das, CEO & Co-Founder, Gia AI
10:05 AM - 10:30 AM	Networking Break
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Panel Discussion	Mentoring and Sharing Success (and Challenges) Stories Moderator: Emily Lutz, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dennis MacPherson, Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Scotian Gold• Jim Fitt, President & CEO, Velsoft• Ken Cartmill, Co-CEO & EVP of Product Development, LED Roadway Lighting
11:30 AM - 12:00 AM Workshop	Export Compliance Facilitator: Maggie Monday, Associate, Cassidy Levy Kent (USA) LLP
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM World Café	Working Lunch - Small Group Discussion Introduced by Michel Raymond , Vice President, Nova Scotia, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Panel Discussion	Getting Goods to Market: Practical Logistics for Exporters Moderator: Geoff Irvine, Executive Director, the Lobster Council of Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sam Zhang, Director of Commercial & Trade Development, Port of Halifax• Shawn Doyle, National Air Logistics Perishables Manager, Kuehne+Nagel• Michael Couch, Senior Manager, Cargo, Halifax International Airport Authority
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM Workshop	Canada's Defence Export Strategy Facilitator: Colin Barker, Executive Director of the Defence Exports Office, Global Affairs Canada (Virtual)
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Wrap Up and Next Steps, Networking



Honourable Colton LeBlanc
Minister of Growth and Development
Minister of Acadian Affairs and
Francophonie

The Honourable Colton LeBlanc was first elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly as the MLA for Argyle-Barrington in 2019 and was re-elected as the MLA for Argyle in 2021 and 2024.

Colton worked as a paramedic with Emergency Health Services in Western Nova Scotia.

Colton was Nova Scotia's first Minister of Cyber Security and Digital Solutions, and he also served as the Minister of Service Nova Scotia, Minister of the Public Service Commission and Minister responsible for health infrastructure redevelopment.

He is currently the Minister of Growth and Development and the Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie.



Emcee:

Don Bureaux

President & CEO

Halifax Chamber of Commerce

Don Bureaux joined the Halifax Chamber of Commerce as President and CEO in 2026. A former Board member, he brings a strong understanding of the Chamber's role in the Halifax business community and is focused on building its influence to support Nova Scotia's economic growth.

Don has extensive experience in business and entrepreneurship. He began his career at KPMG before leading business advisory services at the Acadia Centre for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, where he supported organizations of all sizes in strategy, culture, and sustainable growth. He is a Fellow Chartered Professional Accountant (FCPA) and holds an MBA from Heriot-Watt University, Scotland.

From 2011 to 2026, Don served as President of Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC). During his tenure, he advanced the college's vision of transforming Nova Scotia through education, while working with partners across North America, Europe, and Asia to strengthen connections between learning, communities, and industry.

Don has been widely recognized for his leadership. He was named one of Atlantic Business Magazine's Top 50 CEOs for five consecutive years (2015–2019) and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2019. He also received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (2022) and the King Charles III Coronation Medal (2024). He currently serves on several not-for-profit boards across Nova Scotia.



Suzanne Drisdelle
Atlantic Regional Director
Global Affairs Canada

Suzanne Drisdelle is a career diplomat with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) since 2001, promoting Canada's commercial, political and security interests at Canadian missions abroad, and through the Trade Commissioner Service domestic network in Canada.

Suzanne's background includes political diplomacy, advocacy and stakeholder engagement, trade policy, communications, international trade and business development, crisis management and embassy operations. Her diplomatic postings include Ankara, Prague, Toronto and most recently Dublin, where she was Chargé d'affaires over an extended period.

In 2024, Suzanne returned to her native Halifax after 23 years and currently serves as Director of GAC's Atlantic team, supporting Canadian exporters in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador.

She has a BA in social anthropology and linguistics from the University of King's College and an MBA in International Business from Dalhousie University. She also studied at Université Laval and speaks French and English.



Karen Hung

**Director, Canadian Engagement & Strategy, Indo-Pacific
Export Development Canada**

Karen Hung joined Export Development Canada (EDC) in 2021 and headed the ESG Policy & Research team until moving into the role of Director, Asia-Pacific in January 2026.

In her current position, she leads Canadian engagement for EDC's Asia-Pacific strategy. As Canada's export credit agency and a Crown corporation, EDC aims to strengthen Canada's economy through global trade.

Before joining EDC, she spent more than 13 years in the Canadian foreign service, working on issues ranging from international trade to multilateral affairs, and was posted to Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

She is also a Chartered Accountant (CPA-CA) and previously worked at KPMG in their offices in Canada, the UK, and the US.



Anaclara Acuña
Trade Commissioner
Embassy of Canada to Uruguay

Anaclara Acuña is a Trade Commissioner at the Embassy of Canada in Uruguay. She has over 10 years of professional experience working across international trade, development, and public policy, both in private and international cooperation contexts.

In her current role, she supports Canadian companies and promotes Canadian services and technologies in Uruguay, with a focus on sectors such as energy, cleantech, information and communication technologies, infrastructure, and innovation.

She holds a Master's degree in International Development Studies from Université Grenoble Alpes and a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from ORT University Uruguay.



Sanjay Purohit

**Lead Technology and Digital
Industries Trade Commissioner.
High Commission of Canada, United
Kingdom.**

Sanjay works with senior leadership teams at Canadian technology companies, supporting their expansion into the UK market. He is focused on delivering value to clients and helping organizations of all sizes grow through export excellence.

He leads the Government of Canada's technology portfolio in the UK, working with companies in high-growth sectors such as AI, SaaS, and cybersecurity.

Sanjay is an award-winning leader with a background in senior director roles overseeing global commercial operations. His approach combines deep market expertise with a strong technical and academic foundation from the London School of Economics, Imperial College London, and the Chartered Institute of Marketing.



Igor Maia Gonçalves

Partner

APSV Advogados, Brazil

Igor is a Brazilian lawyer specializing in foreign direct investment, international trade, and cross-border business structuring, with over 16 years of experience supporting companies operating in global markets.

He has been actively involved in transactions and investment projects spanning more than 30 countries, with a particular focus on infrastructure and energy.

In addition to his legal practice, he leads the Ceará Chapter of the Brazil–Canada Chamber of Commerce and serves as President of the Chamber of International Trade and Foreign Investment at the Development Agency of the State of Ceará.

He is also a professor at the Federal University of Ceará and the University of Fortaleza (Brazil), and collaborates with academic and research institutions in Brazil and internationally.



Michel Raymond

**Vice President, Nova Scotia
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters**

Michel “Mitch” Raymond is Nova Scotia’s Vice President for Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters. With over 33 years of manufacturing and private sector experience, he draws upon extensive business knowledge and experience and integrates a people-centric approach to drive improvement and growth.

Mitch is passionate about supporting individuals and organizations in their pursuit of excellence. He is a licensed corporate coach facilitator with Corporate Coach U, a qualified administrator of the DiSC™, The Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team™, MBTI™ & Strong Interest Inventory (SII™) and other assessments.

He received his Bachelor of Commerce from Athabasca University and has extensive experience as a facilitator in Safety, Lean, Green Sustainability and ISO/Quality Management Systems & Auditing.



Derek Leung
Development Lead
Digital Nova Scotia

Derek is the Development Lead at Digital Nova Scotia and has a passion for helping businesses thrive in an ever-changing technology landscape.

With over 10 years of experience in tech and marketing, Derek led projects at some of Canada's top universities, including Western University, University of Waterloo, and York University.

He has also worked on various national and international marketing and brand campaigns for brands such as Adidas, American Express, Melitta, Sony, Sun Life Financial, The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, Universal Music, World Gym, and more.



Jesse Hiltz

Senior Trade Policy Analyst

Nova Scotia Intergovernmental Affairs

Jesse Patrick Hiltz is a senior trade policy analyst at Nova Scotia's Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. He's also served as a policy analyst in federal-provincial-territorial relations. He's worked in a wide variety of areas from internal and international trade, federal-provincial agreement development, oceans management, energy, health care, and supported Premiers forums, such as the Council of the Federation, Council of Atlantic Premiers, and First Ministers Meetings.

Before working in government, Jesse was Program Coordinator for the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs and a professor in humanities, history of science, and Foundation Year Programme at the University of King's College, where he was also an undergraduate.

He has a graduate degree from Trent University in Theory, Culture, and Politics, where he studied the history of attention. He has been a freelance academic researcher, working on Canadian annexation movements, public science, and the Sir George Williams Computer Centre Incident. He also writes on film and culture.



Angela Paulin

Senior Executive Director

Trade and Economic Policy

Nova Scotia Intergovernmental Affairs

Angela Paulin is Senior Executive Director of Trade and Economic Policy at Nova Scotia Intergovernmental Affairs. She has more than 23 years of experience at the provincial and federal levels of government, with expertise in trade policy, intergovernmental relations, and economic strategy.

Angela leads Nova Scotia's international and interprovincial trade policy agenda, including negotiation strategy, and federal-provincial-territorial engagement. She has represented the Province in major trade negotiations and disputes, including the renegotiation of NAFTA and Canadian Free Trade Agreement negotiations. She also leads the implementation of Nova Scotia's Free Trade and Mobility Within Canada Act and represents Nova Scotia in national initiatives to strengthen interprovincial trade.

Angela holds a Master of Public Administration from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Mount Saint Vincent University. She has also completed executive training in negotiation and conflict resolution at Dalhousie University and complex systems leadership at Royal Roads University.



Jay Barber

**Director for Internal Trade
Privy Council Office
Government of Canada**

In this role, Jay Barber is responsible for advancing Canada's commitments under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, defining and leading federal efforts to strengthen the domestic trade policy agenda and is the designated Internal Trade Representative for the Government of Canada. Most recently, Mr. Barber has led efforts to pass the 2025 Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the implementation of the Federal Action Plan to Strengthen Internal Trade, an ambitious whole-of-government effort to eliminate barriers to trade and labour mobility across Canada.

Previously, as the Director of Strategic Issues at PCO-Intergovernmental Affairs, Jay was responsible for coordinating strategic policy advice for the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Deputy Prime Minister, as well as leading key federal-provincial-territorial engagements, including several First Ministers' Meetings. Jay also worked as a Senior Advisor to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs on a wide range of strategic priorities, including the trade and environmental portfolios.

Before joining PCO, Jay was a long-serving Policy Manager at the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada. In these roles, he was responsible for community-based programming, health surveillance and led a multi-year Canada-US partnership project with the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Jay Barber holds a Master's degree from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Western Ontario.



Chuck Maillet
Vice-President
Atlantic Canada Opportunities
Agency

Having joined the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) in 2002, Chuck Maillet has held Vice-President roles since 2017. In his current capacity, he oversees the management and operations of ACOA's economic development initiatives, including the Agency's grants and contributions programs that support business growth and community vitality across Atlantic Canada. He also leads ACOA's policy and communications functions.

Before joining the Agency, Chuck worked in both the private and non-profit sectors, gaining firsthand insight into the challenges entrepreneurs face in starting and growing businesses—a perspective that continues to shape his approach today. He remains deeply committed to fostering entrepreneurship, strengthening innovation, and building healthy, sustainable communities across the region.



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Canada



Sheena Russell

Founder & CEO

Made with Local

Sheena Russell is the founder and CEO of Made with Local, a snack foods company based in Windsor, Nova Scotia. Raised in a farming family in rural Prince Edward Island, she built Made with Local from a five-foot farmers' market table into a nationally loved & distributed brand.

Today, Made with Local's Organic Energy Bars and Protein Cookies are sold in over 3,000 retailers across Canada, including Loblaws, Sobeys, Costco, and Walmart. A Certified B Corporation, the women-led, family-owned company is a trailblazer in sustainable snacking.





Kris Vascotto
Executive Director
Nova Scotia Seafood Alliance

Working as the Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Seafood Alliance, Kris Vascotto brings together experience from the academic, public and private sectors working on fishery, management and environmental challenges across the country.

Kris is dedicated to the wild fish and seafood industry and seeks to help support the fish and seafood sector to thrive in a time of changing oceans, changing consumer habits and shifting fisheries.

In his off-hours, he can be found plying the wharves and beaches of the province, engaging with stakeholders and learning by listening.



Andy Schnare
President
Deep Cove Aqua Farms

Andy Schnare began his career in commercial fishing in 1977, working on offshore vessels and operating his own lobster boat and licenses. After more than two decades, he transitioned into aquaculture, co-founding a shellfish business in 1984 with a Dutch partner, with operations in Nova Scotia and PEI, including mussel and oyster farms and a hatchery. He exited the venture in 1994 to pursue new opportunities.

In 1995, he founded Deep Cove Aqua Farms Limited, building a processing facility focused on sea urchin roe (uni) for export to Japan. Following a collapse in the urchin population, he pivoted to live lobster, shellfish, and groundfish, with lobster now accounting for over 90% of approximately \$46 million in annual sales.

In 2009, he expanded into Newfoundland and Labrador, establishing operations that include fish processing, live lobster procurement and sales, and vessel offloading.

Today, Deep Cove sources lobster across Atlantic Canada and exports to the U.S., Europe, Korea, China, and Canada. Revenues have grown from approximately \$18 million in 2018 to over \$47 million, supported by more than \$5 million in infrastructure and equipment investments. China was previously the largest market, though sales declined in 2025 due to increased tariffs.

Deep Cove is also investing in R&D to develop value-added, ready-to-eat products.





Mo AlGermozi
Co-Founder & CEO
GIT Coatings

Mo AlGermozi is the CEO and Co-Founder of GIT Coatings, a leading Canadian maritime technology company redefining global vessel performance with graphene-based, biocide-free marine coatings. Under his leadership, the company's innovations are reducing fuel consumption, cutting emissions, and eliminating toxic pollutants across the international shipping sector.

Since founding GIT Coatings, Mo has transformed it into a global scale-up, exporting 95 percent of its products and coating more than 500 vessels operating in over 20 countries. He has secured more than \$15 million in capital, built advanced manufacturing operations in Canada, and positioned the company as a frontrunner in sustainable ocean technologies.

Mo's contributions have earned him the King Charles III Coronation Medal and recognition as one of Atlantic Canada's Top 50 CEOs. He champions the idea that Canadian deep-tech ventures can scale internationally while creating high-quality domestic jobs. His work has prevented hundreds of thousands of tons of CO₂ and copper pollution from entering the world's oceans, illustrating how innovation can drive both economic and environmental returns.

A frequent speaker on entrepreneurship, scaling climate technologies, and high-performance leadership, Mo brings the grounded perspective of a founder who has grown a mission-driven venture from inception to global impact.





Tapanjyothi (Tukan) Das
CEO & Co-Founder, Gia AI

Tukan Das is the CEO and Co-founder of Gia, an AI growth team for consultants and agency owners. He is the former CEO of LeadSift, which was acquired by IDG/Foundry in 2021.

With a background in information retrieval and NLP and a passion for storytelling, Tukan is a doer, dreamer and diplomat. He is working with his team in Halifax to empower 1 million entrepreneurs to start, run and grow their professional services businesses.





Emily Lutz

**Executive Director
Nova Scotia Fruit Growers'
Association**

Emily Lutz grew up on an apple farm outside Berwick. In 2022, she took the helm as Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association and works to advance the collective voice of the tree fruit industry in Nova Scotia. She also helps to organize events, facilitates government relations, and advances the strategic priorities of the membership.

Emily was recently appointed to a national Trade and Marketing Working Group of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada, and as industry priorities increasingly shift to market diversification and export, Emily has been learning all she can about how to navigate the current choppy trade waters on behalf of her sector.

Emily also has a Master of Arts in Social and Political Thought and is a three-term municipal Councillor.





Mark Raymond, PhD
Professor of Economics
Sobey School of Business

Mark obtained his doctoral degree in resource and environmental economics from the University of Guelph and has completed multiple resource and environmental-based research projects and related studies for organizations in government, the private sector and NGOs.

In partnership with ACOA, Mark has helped lead multiple International Trade Missions and continues to actively research and publish in this area. Over his 25 years at Saint Mary's University, he has served in many administrative roles; Department Chair, Associate Dean and Interim Dean being among them.

Mark believes strongly in the values of applied research and is currently working with companies and organizations in multiple fisheries, as well as the aquaculture and forestry sectors.



**Sobey School
of Business**

Saint Mary's University



Dennis MacPherson

**Vice President of Sales & Marketing
Scotian Gold**

Dennis has spent the past 10 years as VP of Sales & Marketing at Scotian Gold, selling fresh apples to six different countries. He and his team continue to expand the global reach of the Scotian Gold brand.

Prior to this role, Dennis spent 14 years in national management positions with Mondelez, the world's largest snack company, and global grocery giant Kraft Foods. His experience spans extensive Shopper and Consumer Insight research as well as Sales, Brand, Category, Product and Market Development.





Jim Fitt
President & CEO
Velsoft

Jim Fitt is President and founder of Velsoft and is responsible for all aspects of the business. Under Fitt's leadership, Velsoft has grown from a small ebook publisher to a global leader in courseware development, enabling HR managers, corporate trainers, private training firms, consultants and educational institutions of all sizes to institute a new level of training by offering customized course curriculum in a software format.

Fitt and his team have grown the company by building new solutions internally, making strategic acquisitions and establishing relationships with key technology partners. With the product being used in over 160 countries worldwide, Velsoft helps customers easily expand their corporate training options in a fast and easy way that is tailored to their individual needs.

As a former IT instructor with the Nova Scotia School of Fisheries and Nova Scotia Community College system, Fitt has combined his educational background with his natural entrepreneurial abilities to create a corporation that is on the leading edge of the \$200 billion annual workplace learning and performance (WLP) industry.

velsoft



Ken Cartmill, BA

**Co CEO and Executive Vice President
of Product Development
LED Roadway Lighting**

Ken is responsible for all product development initiatives, technology partnerships, and the evolution and execution of the company's technology vision.

Ken joined the organization shortly after its founding as an electronics manufacturer in 2002 and was instrumental in launching LED Roadway Lighting in 2007. Ken holds a bachelor's degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, where he studied Psychology and Business Administration.



Maggie Monday

Associate

Cassidy Levy Kent (USA) LLP

Maggie Monday is an associate in Cassidy Levy Kent's Washington office. Ms. Monday advises on a range of issues, including trade remedy actions before the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. International Trade Commission, the U.S. Court of International Trade, and U.S. Customs compliance.

Ms. Monday completed her studies at the George Washington University Law School, where she was an Associate for the George Washington Law Review. During law school, Ms. Monday worked as an intern in the Office of Chair Jason E. Kearns, U.S. International Trade Commission, and as a student attorney for GW Law's Prisoner and Reentry Clinic.

Prior to attending law school, Ms. Monday worked as an international trade specialist for Cassidy Levy Kent, and, during her undergraduate studies, as an intern in the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

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CASSIDY LEVY KENT



Geoff Irvine
Executive Director
The Lobster Council of Canada

After studying at Acadia and Dalhousie Universities, Geoff has enjoyed 28 years in the international seafood industry with experience with live, raw, fresh, salted and frozen seafood products in retail, foodservice, raw material inspection, sales, marketing, international trading, logistics, communications, event, project, association and business management.

Geoff has developed his knowledge of the seafood industry in small and large company settings, inshore and offshore focused, and has been Executive Director of the Lobster Council of Canada since its inception in 2010.

He was born in Quebec and grew up in Smith's Cove, Nova Scotia, has three adult children and lives in Halifax with his wife Julie.



Sam Zhang

**Director of Commercial & Trade
Development
Port of Halifax**

Sam Zhang is the Director of Commercial & Trade Development at the Port of Halifax, bringing a strategic, globally minded perspective to advancing trade and supply chain solutions.

His work focuses on driving economic growth through cargo development, strengthening Halifax's position in international trade and working closely with industry partners to support safe, efficient and resilient supply chains.

With a strong emphasis on collaboration and long-term market development, Sam helps position the port as a competitive and trusted gateway for global commerce. He is a CPA, MBA graduate of Saint Mary's University, has completed executive education at Ivey Business School and is bilingual in English and Chinese.



Shawn Doyle

**National Air Logistics Perishables
Manager**

Kuehne+Nagel Canada

Shawn Doyle is the National Air Logistics Perishables Manager at Kuehne+Nagel Canada, leading national strategy for temperature-controlled and time-sensitive air freight.

He brings extensive experience in managing complex seafood and perishables supply chains with a focus on reliability, compliance, and customer value.

Based in Nova Scotia, Shawn works closely with partners across Canada to strengthen cold-chain performance and industry collaboration.



Michael Couch, MSc
Senior Manager, Cargo
Halifax International Airport Authority

Michael leads Halifax Stanfield's air cargo strategy, airline partnerships, and international route development.

His work focuses on strengthening Atlantic Canada's global trade connectivity and supporting exporters of high-value, time-sensitive products such as live lobster and other seafood.

With previous roles across the Government of Alberta and the State of Nevada, he brings over a decade of experience in economic development and international trade, specializing in export growth and investment attraction across the Asia-Pacific and other global markets. Prior to relocating to Halifax, Michael served as Alberta's Chief Representative to Japan.





Colin Barker

**Executive Director
Defence Exports Division
Global Affairs Canada**

Colin joined the Trade Strategy Bureau of Global Affairs Canada in August 2025 as Executive Director of the newly formed Defence Exports Division. In this role, he is responsible for the implementation of the Government of Canada's Defence Export Strategy, which seeks to diversify export markets for the defence sector, contribute to the resiliency of Canada's defence industrial base and support the rearmament efforts of Canada's Allies and security partners.

Prior to his current role, Colin was the Senior Trade Commissioner at Canada's High Commission in the United Kingdom, where he led the export promotion, investment and innovation teams in Canada's third-largest trading partner market. Prior to his posting in the UK, Colin was the Director of the Softwood Lumber Division in the Trade Policy and Negotiations Branch of Global Affairs Canada. Between 2011 and 2015, Colin was First Secretary in Canada's Mission to the European Union in Brussels, where he was responsible for advocacy on trade files in the European Parliament and supported the negotiation of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Colin has worked in several areas of trade policy, including investment, government procurement and services. Colin's work experience includes NAFTA, the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services, the UN Commission on International Trade Law and negotiations with various partners, including the United States, the EU, Japan, Ukraine and India. Colin also served in Canada's Naval Reserve for 17 years.