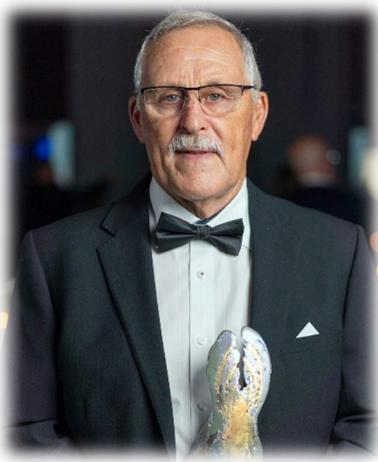


EDANL Conference 2025 - Speaker Bios

Wayne Noel



Wayne Noel of St. Anthony has spent a lifetime making life better for others. Born and raised in Goose Cove East on the Great Northern Peninsula, he began his career with the Grenfell Mission and went on to serve more than 40 years in health care, rising to a leadership role in materials management. A strong believer in healthy communities, Wayne helped re-establish an ice rink and create the community's first indoor swimming pool in the 1970s.

In the 1980s and 90s, he played a major role in local economic development, including the creation of St. Anthony Basin Resources Inc., a social enterprise supporting regional initiatives. Over the decades, Wayne has served on Town Council, the Grenfell Historical Society, and numerous community organizations and events—most notably the world's longest snowmobile ride, recognized by Guinness in 2003. He remains active in community and economic development today through Rising Sun Developers Inc., the Town of St. Anthony's economic development corporation.

Christopher Mitchelmore

Hon. Christopher Mitchelmore, E.C.N.L., is CEO of St. Anthony Basin Resources Inc. (SABRI). He holds a Masters of Technology Management and a Bachelors in Commerce Hons. (Coop) degree from Memorial. He brings more than 20 years of leadership and management experience and is a social innovation changemaker. He has managed hundreds of employees and billion-dollar budgets. A former Cabinet Ministers and MHA in the NL House of Assembly. Christopher is a former entrepreneur and business advisor. In his spare time, he travels the world, visiting 184 countries to date.



Felicia Hillier



Felicia Hillier, B. Sc., Manager of Research and SABRI Farms - Felicia is the manager of SABRI Farms and heads the research division of St. Anthony Basin Resources Inc. (SABRI). She is recognized for her meticulous attention to detail and exceptional writing skills, with experience in developing natural products and implementing social initiatives. Projects range from nutraceuticals, food security, and agricultural product development, marketing, and public transit. Her ability to understand and translate projects into well-organized plans and reports sets her apart.

Terri Byrne

Terri manages SABRI Innovation, bringing a wealth of experience in human resources, project development, community engagement, grounded in over a decade of leadership in both private business and public service. Her hands-on work across diverse sectors—from business to coordinating health and education initiatives – has given her deep understanding of rural community needs. Terri is passionate about contributing to meaningful social enterprise, and brings strong interpersonal, organizational, and research skills, alongside a commitment to continued learning and collaboration.



Andrew Mercer



Andrew Mercer is an award-winning educator and digital learning innovator with over 30 years of experience in Newfoundland and Labrador’s education sector. Since 2004, he has taught exclusively online, helping thousands of learners and organizations embrace new technologies. Andrew is recognized for his practical approach to making technology accessible in the workplace—his YouTube educational content has reached over six million viewers worldwide. He has advised government, industry, and education leaders across Canada on digital learning, and his work has been featured by CNN, The Wall Street Journal, Popular Science, and national conferences. Andrew’s focus is on helping adults apply AI and technology in ways that are relevant, practical, and directly beneficial to their work.

Patti Ricketts

Patti Ricketts is a dedicated tourism and marine professional with a Bachelor of Business Administration from Memorial University of Newfoundland. She began her career in the tourism sector with Marble Mountain Resort before joining the Corner Brook Port Corporation in 2023 as Cruise Marketing Coordinator.

In her current role at the Port of Corner Brook, Patti leads initiatives that support the planning, execution, and growth of the city’s cruise industry through stakeholder engagement, relationship management, and strategic marketing. Beyond her work at the Port, she plays an active role in advancing the industry regionally, serving as Vice Chair of Cruise Newfoundland and Labrador (CNL) and Chair of the Atlantic Canada Cruise Association (ACCA).



Passionate about community involvement, Patti strives to educate and engage local partners to build a strong, sustainable cruise ecosystem for years to come.

Malcolm Campbell

Malcolm Campbell is the Harbour Master/Certified Port Executive for the Port of St. Anthony, Newfoundland, with 26 years experience in the role. Throughout his career, Malcolm has consistently demonstrated a positive attitude and a strong commitment to ensuring that vessels using the port's infrastructure receive everything they need. A lifelong maritime enthusiast, he has worked in a variety of roles, including as a fisherman with his own enterprise, a lightkeeper with Canadian Coast Guard for 11 years, and as a crew member on an offshore factory freezer trawler for 5 years. Malcolm's education includes courses at the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He furthered his professional development by completing a Certified Port Executive Course with the MacDonnell Group of Canada in Halifax in 2002, a Security Risk Management Course (MTSR), and a course in Marine Security Officer for Company and Port Facility. His deep knowledge of the maritime industry and extensive on-the-water experience make him a valued team player in ensuring the safe and efficient operation of the Port of St. Anthony.

Brent Pomroy

Brent Pomroy brings more than 15 years of experience managing large-scale industrial projects in the energy, mining, and oil and gas sectors. As General Manager of the Port of Argentia, he is responsible for overseeing daily operations, advancing business development initiatives, and working with partners and stakeholders to position the Port as a strategic hub for industrial growth. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) with the Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador. He has also earned a Master's Certificate in Project Management.

In addition to his professional work, Brent contributes to the community through his role on the Placentia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as a longtime volunteer youth coach with the Placentia Minor Hockey and Softball Associations.



Jeremy Schwartz

Jeremy is currently the Manager of Economic Development, Marketing, Communications & Housing with the City of Mount Pearl. He holds a bachelor's degree (Commerce) from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador and completed the two-year Economic Development program through the University of Waterloo. Jeremy's passion for economic development and placemaking began when he started working with the City of Mount Pearl in 2018. Since then, he has been successful in attracting industry investment, population growth, and generating economic activity throughout the region. Jeremy believes Newfoundland and Labrador is one of the best places on earth to live and work, demonstrating his commitment to economic development through his roles as Vice President with the Economic Developers Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Provincial Director with the Economic Developers Association of Canada.



Gillianne Beaulieu

Gillianne Beaulieu began her federal public service career in 2010, and has held a variety of roles across government. Her experience includes serving in the Privy Council Office, where she supported the Prime Minister in his role as Minister of Youth, served in the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General under David Johnston, and most recently in international business development and investment promotion at Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

As Deputy Director within GAC's Investment Promotion Division, Gillianne leads the Partnerships portfolio, working closely with provincial, territorial, and municipal partners across Canada to attract and facilitate foreign direct investment.

Gillianne holds a Master of Arts in Political Science from Memorial University of Newfoundland



Pat Curran



Pat Curran works with individuals, organizations, communities, and businesses on organizational development, strategic planning, economic development, and regional collaboration. Since 2011, Pat has led Pat Curran + Associates Inc., serving corporate, public, and nonprofit clients. From 1998–2011 he was executive director of the Irish Loop Development Board, guiding regional economic growth.

Pat brings deep experience in economic development, municipal governance, and public policy. A former councillor and mayor of Witless Bay, he has worked extensively with municipalities and community development groups. In 2013 he led the update of the Municipal Council Handbook for local government in NL. He knows the public-policy process at local, provincial, and federal levels through municipal work and past service as an assistant to federal and provincial cabinet ministers.

An experienced project manager, Pat was named EDANL Economic Developer of the Year (2023) for excellence in economic development in NL. Pat is a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) with a Master of Arts in Political Science from MUN, focused on public policy, regionalization, and municipal government, and he is a certified Business Continuity Management professional (AMBCI).

Nicole Dawe

Nicole is a proud Newfoundlander and Labradorian who is raising her daughter and building a life with her partner in the province. Nicole was raised in a multi-generational family and has been working to create communities of care in her personal and professional life ever since. Nicole enjoys listening to what's on people's hearts and finding opportunities to make connections and pollinate between people, ideas, and resources in the communities she works in. Nicole is fortunate to have played a role in the journeys of charities and nonprofits, most often bringing together groups of people to support and resource ambitious community work. She is currently stewarding the Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador and is very grateful to be a part of the Community Foundation movement. Nicole holds a Master's of Business Administration, Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University.



Alex Rumbolt



Alex holds a bachelor's degree in Commerce from Memorial University and a master's degree in Sustainable Management from Uppsala University. With this background, she works as the Business Sustainability Lead at econext where she helps econext members embrace sustainability and green their businesses.

Sepehr Khosravi

Sepehr is the Newfoundland Climate Services Specialist at CLIMAtlantic, a regional climate services hub for Atlantic Canada, and the Manager of Climate Services at econext. He provides climate information and insights to multiple sectors dealing with climate change impacts, helping them understand the risks to their businesses and operations. His work supports minimizing negative impacts on revenues while also identifying potential opportunities that may emerge.



Andre LeBlanc



Andre LeBlanc (MBA) is the Senior Associate, Social Ventures at the Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador (CSCNL). He leads the Social Enterprise Through Acquisition (SETA) project, which supports community organizations in acquiring businesses in rural Newfoundland and Labrador. He is passionate about social entrepreneurship, social finance, and community ownership. Andre specializes in connecting changemakers to capital and draws from his rich experience working in energy, forestry, manufacturing, finance, and the community sector.

Joan Cranston

Joan is a physiotherapist and the owner/operator of Cottage Hospital Physiotherapy and Fitness in Norris Point since 1988. She works at the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital, in its former life as a functioning hospital, and in its current incarnation as a social enterprise incubation centre. She volunteers as the coordinator for the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation since 2001. Our mission is the adaptive reuse of the Old Cottage Hospital for the preservation of culture and heritage, the promotion of health and wellness, and community economic and social development.



She was involved with the Bonne Bay Development Association, the RED Ochre Economic Development Board and the Corner Brook/ Rocky Harbour Rural Secretariat.

She believes that community-based research and social enterprise are critical elements in rural vitality and sustainability. If we want to build a strong country, we need to invest in building and sustaining strong communities, especially rural communities.

Mariana Jiménez Ojeda



Originally from Mexico, Mariana Jiménez Ojeda is the Manager of Social Innovation at the Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador (CSCNL). She leads the Social Innovation Lab, working with community organizations to co-design and pilot programs that strengthen communities and advance systemic solutions. Within the Lab, she also oversees the Social Enterprise through Acquisition (SETA) program, which helps sustain local businesses and grow community capital. Mariana is a co-founder and board member of New Assurance, a newcomer-led co-operative, and volunteers with the Canadian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance as a therapy dog handler.

Lisa Davis-Ryland

My name is Lisa Davis-Ryland and I live in L'Anse Amour, Labrador, the smallest community in Newfoundland and Labrador with a population of only seven. After high school, I moved to Corner Brook to study tourism and later headed west to Banff, Alberta for what I thought would be a brief four-month adventure. I quickly fell in love with the Canadian Rockies and my work there, but I missed the ocean air and my family. Nine years later, in the winter of 2001, I was fortunate to return home for full-time employment and have never looked back.



Today I'm the Executive Director of the Southern Labrador/Strait of Belle Isle Community Youth Network, responsible for four drop-in youth centers in Flower's Cove, L'Anse au Loup, Port Hope Simpson, and Cartwright, serving youth ages 12–18. With tourism still close to my heart, I also operate "Take Me There TOURS," offering guided experiences for cruise ship visitors to Red Bay.

I'm married and a proud mom to Jax and stepmom to Renee. Deeply involved in my region, I serve on numerous community boards and committees. I firmly believe that when people work together toward shared goals, communities grow stronger and more resilient, and I love sharing Labrador's spirit with everyone I meet.

Régis Guyot

Régis Guyot is the Executive Director of Horizon TNL, an organization focused on the economic development of Newfoundland and Labrador's francophone community. He joined Horizon TNL in 2019 as an Immigration Officer, later becoming Director of Economic Immigration and Employability, and stepped into the Executive Director role in March 2024. Under his leadership, Horizon TNL advances employability, immigration, entrepreneurship, tourism, and sustainable development.



Régis also serves on the Board of Directors of the Economic Developers Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (EDANL), sharing his expertise to strengthen economic growth across the province.

His career began in the United States, where he worked in Chicago and Atlanta as Trade Attaché and Deputy Trade Commissioner for the French Embassy. There, he negotiated bilateral agreements, supported joint ventures, and helped French companies establish a presence in the U.S.

Régis has worked and lived in 11 countries across the Caribbean, North America, and Asia. These experiences deepened his specialization in regional and community economic development, international negotiations, and international management.