



National Security Dialogue

CDAI National Marine Workforce Development Strategy Conference

October 16th 2025 | Toronto

8:30 | DOORS OPEN

October 16th

9:00 | WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS - VAdm Angus Topshee

9:30 | SESSION 1: Framing the Workforce Challenge: Current State and Future Needs

Moderator: RAdm (ret'd) Luc Cassivi, Conference of Defence Associations

VAdm Angus Topshee, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy

David Musseau, Director General, Operational Personnel, Canadian Coast Guard

Chris Given, President of Seafarers' International Union

10:30 | HEALTH BREAK

10:45 | SESSION 2: Training and Education: Building the Pipeline

Moderator: Dr. Catherine Chandler-Crichlow, University of Toronto

Dr. David Gerbasi, Director Canadian coast Guard College

RAdm (ret'd) Jennifer Bennett, Navy League of Canada

Michael Sangster, National Association of Career Colleges

12:00 | LUNCH



13:00 | SESSION 3: Recruitment and Retention: Modernizing Approaches

Moderator: Julia Fields, Canadian Marine Careers Foundation

Paul Hilder, President, Council of Marine Carriers

CPO1 Robert (Bob) Campbell, Formation Chief Petty Officer, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve

Bob Beadell, President & Principal Consultant, Invicta Marine Ltd.

Garrick Ngai, Vice President, NATO Association of Canada

14:00 | HEALTH BREAK

14:15 | Session 4: Policy and Partnerships: Toward a National Strategy

Moderator: VAdm (ret'd) Darren Hawco, Deloitte

HCapt Mark McQueen, Wellington Growth Partners Inc.

Julia Fields, Canadian Marine Careers Foundation

Hannah Bowlby, Government Relations & Public Affairs, Algoma Central Corporation

15:15 | Interactive Breakout Discussion

Ideas to Implementation

16:00 | Report back from breakouts & Summary Discussion

16:30 | CLOSING REMARKS

17:00–19:30 | RECEPTION On HMCS MAGARET BROOKE

Hors d'oeuvres and alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages will be served.