



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCEANS & OFFSHORE SUPPLIER READINESS CONFERENCE TO BRING INDUSTRY EXPERTS TO THE STRAIT

(Port Hawkesbury, NS) – The Cape Breton Partnership’s [Oceans & Offshore Supplier Readiness Conference](#) is set to bring the *We Choose Now Playbook* Oceans Advantage to the forefront of discussion on February 17 & 18, 2016 at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. The conference will bring together developers, suppliers, utilities, engineers, government, and researchers for a series of panel discussions and workshops that will highlight safety, business readiness and the strengths of Atlantic Canada’s oceans & offshore energy sector.

"Nova Scotia has significant resource potential," says Michel Samson, Energy Minister for Nova Scotia. "The marine energy sector has the capacity to create even more economic opportunities within our province, specifically in the tidal and oil and gas energy fields."

Topics of discussion include: challenges and opportunities of working in a harsh oceans environment; preparing your business for major energy projects; building capacity through joint ventures; and programs and certificates needed to prepare for major energy projects. Safety culture and developing Nova Scotia’s oceans sector presentations will be provided by Dylan Pugh, Operations Superintendent for the Sable Offshore Energy Project with [ExxonMobil Canada Ltd.](#), Jonathan Keigan, Operations Manager for the [Port of Sydney](#) and Stephen Duff, President and CEO of [Innovacorp](#) and acting representative for the Centre for Ocean Ventures & Entrepreneurship (COVE).

Local representatives include Steve Parsons, General Manager of [Eskasoni Development Corporation](#); Captain Vivek Saxena, Academic Chair of the [Nova Scotia Community College Nautical Institute](#); Helen Graham, Owner of Graham Global Management Services; Keith Castonguay, Director of Health, Safety and Environment for [Marine Atlantic](#); Les MacIntyre, President of [Superport Marine Services](#); Marc Dubé, Development manager for [Port Hawkesbury Paper](#); among other industry experts from Atlantic Canada.

Keynotes will be provided by Deputy Minister of [Energy for Nova Scotia](#), Murray Coolican, and Paul Barnes, Manager of Atlantic Canada and Arctic for the [Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers](#).

"The Maritimes Energy Association is pleased to be a Supporting Partner of the Oceans & Offshore Supplier Readiness event taking place this month," says [Maritimes Energy](#) CEO Ray Ritcey. "As an association we strongly support this initiative by the Cape Breton Partnership as it brings together many key stakeholders in the offshore and oceans energy sector to promote development of our region’s natural resources."

The conference will begin the evening of February 17, 2016 and continue on February 18, 2016. To find out more about the conference or to register, visit <http://capebretonpartnership.com/site/Oceans/home.php> or download the Cape Breton Partnership app. Search "Cape Breton Partnership" in the app store and join the Oceans & Offshore Supplier Readiness event.

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