

Regulating in a Political World

The 2026 Halifax Regional Symposium will explore how regulators across Nova Scotia and the Atlantic provinces are navigating an increasingly complex political, social, and economic environment. Demographic pressures, workforce shortages, rising affordability concerns, and heightened public expectations are converging with evolving government priorities, interprovincial mobility commitments, and broader national and international policy pressures. Through a mix of presentations, panels, and facilitated discussions, attendees will examine issues such as labour mobility and credential recognition, workforce retention in rural and coastal communities, public safety and accessibility, regulatory streamlining and oversight, and the shifting dynamics between governments and independent regulatory bodies. The program will also consider how external pressures such as trade tensions, political ideology, and fiscal constraints shape regulatory decision-making and public trust. This one-day symposium offers a candid, pragmatic, and regionally grounded exploration of how regulators in Atlantic Canada can remain resilient, responsive, and effective while upholding regulatory integrity in a political world.

Preliminary Agenda

8:00 – 9:00	Registration & Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15	Program Welcome and Introductions
9:15 – 10:15	From Global Pressures to Local Practice: Politics and Regulation in Context
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 12:00	Mobility, Protectionism, and Public Safety: Finding Regulatory Balance in Atlantic Canada (Panel Discussion)
12:00 – 1:00	Networking Lunch
1:00 – 2:15	Facilitated Roundtables: Managing Public Expectations, Affordability, and Trust in Regulation
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 3:45	Fireside Chat: Proactive Regulation in a Politicized Environment
3:45 – 4:00	Program Reflection & Closing Remarks