

Regulating in a Political World

The 2026 Halifax Regional Symposium will explore how regulators across 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.

Program Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration & Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions <i>Beverley Zwicker CEO & Registrar, Nova Scotia Pharmacy Regulator</i>
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Understanding the Forces Shaping Regulation: Governance, Risk, and Political Context in Atlantic Canada <i>Victoria Rees K.C. Counsel, Professional Regulation, Pink Larkin</i>
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 – 12:00	Collaboration, Mobility, and Public Protection: Lessons from Atlantic Canada’s Nursing Regulators <i>Moderator: Marlon Brown Director, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs</i> <i>Brad Walsh Director of Regulatory Services, Newfoundland & Labrador College of Nurses</i> <i>Jillian Mosher, RN MN Director of Registration & Deputy Registrar, PEI College of Nursing and Midwifery</i> <i>Jennifer Best Senior Director Legislated Services & Deputy Registrar, Nova Scotia College of Nursing</i> <i>Janet Fogerty Director Registration & Deputy Registrar, College of Nursing of New Brunswick</i>
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch (provided) & Networking
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Navigating Change in Regulation: Challenges, Expectations, and Opportunities (Facilitated Roundtable) <i>Sam Lanctin Consultant, Sam Lanctin</i>
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Fireside Chat: Proactive Regulation in a Politicized Environment <i>Moderator: Daniel Roukema CEO, MDR Strategy Group</i> <i>Clare Bilek Legal Counsel, Chartered Professional Accountants of Nova Scotia</i> <i>Ryan Baxter Board Member, Partner, McInnes Cooper</i>
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Program Reflection & Closing Remarks <i>Beverley Zwicker CEO & Registrar, Nova Scotia Pharmacy Regulator</i>