

2026 Atlantic Emergency Management Conference



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

October 20th & 21st | Membertou, Unama'ki



About the Conference

The Atlantic Emergency Management Conference 2026 (AEMC2026) is a two-day event focused on emergency capacity, professional development, networking, and knowledge sharing. The theme of AEMC 2026 is Strengthening Roots, which recognizes the evolving field of emergency management in Atlantic Canada while revisiting the importance of collaboration, interoperability, and unity in working towards the same goals.

Hosted by Atlantic First Nations, AEMC2025 will provide a platform for speakers, exhibitors, and vendors from across Atlantic Canada and beyond.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Unama'ki is situated on the unceded and un-surrendered territory of the Mi'kmaq Peoples.

The Treaties of Peace and Friendship signed between the British Crown and the Wabanaki in 1725 and 1726 did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources, but rather they recognized Mi'kmaq & Wolastoqiyik title and established rules for an ongoing relationship between nations.

- All my relations.

A Message from the Conference Committee

Kwe' | Hello

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2026 Atlantic Emergency Management Conference. As a team, we are excited to bring together First Nation communities, Tribal Councils, Provincial, Federal and Municipal Government partners, and Emergency Management stakeholders from across Atlantic Canada. Our committee has worked tirelessly to ensure a diverse range of topics and perspectives, with the goal of promoting meaningful discussions and making connections. We hope that you take this time to discuss Strengthening roots, and share with all your peers what is important to you, your team, and how you adapt to make it happen.

We want to express our gratitude to our amazing lineup of speakers, their employers who supported them to attend, and sponsors. Your support and participation are key to making this event a success and has allowed us to provide attendees with what we hope to be an exceptional experience.

A special shout out to Ryan from the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, Nova AV, and Jeff Ward from Membertou Heritage Center for all of their work and effort in making our vision for our conference space come to life.

We understand that your time is valuable, and we are honored that you have chosen to spend it with us. We encourage you to actively participate in the discussions, share your experiences, and engage in meaningful dialogue with fellow attendees. We hope that you will leave this conference feeling inspired and more informed about the incredible adaptability we have here in Atlantic Canada.

Wela'lieg | Woliwon | Thank You

Opening Prayer & Smudge :
Elder Yvonne meunier
Opening remarks:

Kluskap Room

Drone applications in EM -
Kirk Hannah WTCI
& Sam Weston AES
(9:00 am - 11:00 am)

Jenu Room

Building Trust Before Emergencies:
Indigenous Engagement and
Emergency Management in Atlantic
Canada - Canada Energy Regulator
(9:00 am - 10:00am)

Muin Room

Workshop - Crisis
Response Planning
Kasey Mcdermot

10:00 am Nutritional Break in the Plenary Room

First Nations Emergency
Services Society BC-
Dan Stevens FNESS
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Resiliency in the North
Mitch Vail fire services coordinator
10:00am - 11:00am
Wildfire Resiliency Consortium of Canada
Working Together for a More Wildfire-
Resilient Atlantic Region
11:00am - 12:00 pm

Workshop -
Allyship - with
Jeff Ward

12:00 pm Lunch Served in Plenary Room Exhibits - Malpeque Room

Workshop: Whos who in
Atlantic EM
Hosted by CMM & NS
DEM
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Building Prince Edward Island's Heat
Alert and Response System: A
Collaborative Public Health Approach to
Extreme Heat
Clint Maramag
1:00pm - 2:00pm

Pannel TBD

2:00pm Nutritional Break in the Plenary Room

OPPortunities for Coastal
Partnerships and Preparedness-
Candian Coast Gaurd
3:00pm - 4:00pm

Fire guardians Software
- Barry Stevens
2:00pm - 3:00pm

Jeff Ward -
Decolization

ECCC- Meteorolgist
El nina and hurricane
season

Reclaiming the Lost: Cross-
Agency Unity in K9
Recovery
K9 team Atlantic
3:00pm - 4:00pm

Day 1 Close 5:00pm

Closing Smudge: Yvonne Meunier
Drum group: Sons of Membertou

Opening Prayer : Elder Yvonne Meunier

Kluskap Room

Community Healing in
Action- Supporting L'nu
Response Planning
Tajikeimik Mi'kmaw Health
and Wellness
9:00am -10:00 am

Resilient HERoes:
Strengthening Roots
Through Women's
Connection and
Leaderships- Laura James
10:15 am - 11:45am

Jenu Room

LariCommand - software solution for
multi-coordination during critical
incidents

-Angela McGonnel
9:00 am - 10:00am

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans:
Beyond the Data, Analyzing Risk to
Improve Community All-Hazard
Capabilities - Mark Gillan
10:15 am to 11:15am

Beyond the HRVA: Rethinking Risk,
Resilience and Climate Readiness -
Colliers
11:15am - 12:00 pm

Muin room

Kasey Mcdermot -
Crisis Response
Planning Work shop

Jef Ward - allyship

12:00 pm Lunch Served in Plenary Room
Exhibits - Malpeque Room

Equipping Communities for
Crisis: Innovations in
Emergency Response -
Global Medic

Canadian Prescribed Fire
Training Program
anne - claude

Jeff Ward -
Decolonization

2:00pm Nutritional Break in the Plenary Room

NEEC Services in Response:
The MSC Baltic III Incident-
Margo Macgregor

Engagement Is Emergency
Management

Bret Hershey

Protecting marine birds in the
event of an oil spill: Planning
and response
Sarah Wong
Environmental Recovery from
Ship-source Marine oil Spills -
Magen Macdonald

Stop Planning for People. Start
Planning With Them.

bret Hershel

K9 team atlantic -
Reclaiming the Lost: Cross-
Agency Unity in K9
Recovery

Beyond the Plan:
Building Community
Resilience Through
Adaptive Execution
Bio burns

Day 2 Close 5:00pm

Closing Smudge: Elder Yvonne Meunier
Drum Group: Sons of Membertou