

# Nova Scotia Capital Markets 2026

Compass Room, Casino Nova Scotia

Thursday, April 23, 2026



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On behalf of the Nova Scotia Securities Commission, welcome to Nova Scotia Capital Markets 2026.

The Commission has organized this forum to bring together people from varying sectors in the investment world to encourage discussion and understanding of current issues facing Nova Scotian capital market participants.

The Commission's mandate focusing on investor protection is well known. Enforcement of investor protection laws is difficult in these days of cyber crime and our speakers today will discuss techniques being used to disrupt investor fraud before it occurs.

But our mandate also includes supporting efficient capital markets that foster capital formation. We are delighted to have speakers today with a wide range of experience in creating start-ups, raising capital and investing capital and we hope you will find their comments on these topics informative and instructive.



Valerie Seager

Chair, Nova Scotia Securities Commission





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**NOVA SCOTIA**  
 Securities Commission

<b>Doors Open</b>		<b>8:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>	Valerie Seager	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Keynote Address:</b>	Honorable John Lohr	<b>9:05 a.m.</b>
<b>Panel 1:</b> Public Capital, Private Returns: Aligning Government Programs with Market Outcomes  Moderator: Doris Grant	Nadine Bernard  Bob Pelley  Roxanne Turcotte	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Panel 2:</b> Disruption: Preventing Investor Harms  Moderator: Doug Harris	Cpl. Andy Bezanson  Will Chase  Jennifer Quaid	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>
<b>Panel 3:</b> Venture Capital as a Catalyst for Regional Growth  Moderator: Melanie Nadeau	Bill Adams  Tom Hayes  Peter Hickey  Kevin Sullivan	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Closing and Networking</b>	Heidi Walsh-Sampson	<b>11:55 a.m.</b>



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## Keynote address:



Honorable John Lohr

Minister of Finance and Treasury Board  
Minister of Labour Relations

The Honourable John Lohr was first elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly as MLA for Kings North in 2013 and was re-elected in 2017, 2021 and 2024 when the PC party formed its second majority government.

In his current portfolio, Minister Lohr is responsible for the Credit Union Act, Insurance Act and the Insurance Premiums Tax Act, Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation, Liquor Control Act, Securities Act, Utility and Review Board, and Chartered Professionals Act. He is also a member of the Executive Council as well as Treasury and Policy Board.

Minister Lohr is a lifetime Kings County, NS resident, farmer and successful agri-business entrepreneur. His parents immigrated from Holland to Canada through Pier 21 in 1958 to farm in Nova Scotia.

Minister Lohr graduated with honours from Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1982 where he was awarded Basketball All-Canadian. In 1985 he graduated from the University of Guelph, with a BSc (Honours) in Plant Protection from the department of Environmental Biology. In 1997 he was awarded the Nuffield International Agricultural Scholarship to study in England.

In 1999, Minister Lohr purchased and rebranded the family farm into a regionally known spice company, Farmer John's Herbs. The farm and spice company continues to be owned by family members. He also partnered in a joint venture with the Republic of Cuba to market crops grown in both Cuba and Canada and volunteered with Farmers Helping Farmers in Kenya to help them improve crop quality. Minister Lohr shares his entrepreneurial spirit with his wife Heather, and together, they have owned and operated multiple businesses.

Minister Lohr has served on many boards and committees in the agricultural, sport, Christian and volunteer communities throughout Nova Scotia and beyond and coached teams in hockey, soccer and basketball.

He served on the board of Kings Mutual Insurance company from 2004 to 2013, is currently an active member of the Kentville Rotary Club and is on the national board of the Lymphoma and Leukaemia Society of Canada. He was awarded the 2002 RBC Innovator of the Year by Horticulture NS.

Minister Lohr has faced many personal challenges with perseverance and a positive attitude. He believes in hard work, listening to advice and meeting his commitments. In his spare time, he enjoys carpentry, beekeeping, sailing and repairing motorcycles.

The Lohrs reside in Port Williams where they enjoy spending time with their three grown sons and are proud grandparents to four grandchildren.



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## Public Capital, Private Returns: Aligning Government Programs with Market Outcomes

The panelists will discuss “what are some of the key funding programs available to facilitate the growth of Nova Scotia enterprises?”

They will also delve into “how engagement with indigenous communities can facilitate capital-raising.”



**Nadine Bernard**  
**President & CEO, Indigevisor**

Nadine Bernard is a visionary Mi'kmaq entrepreneur from the We'koqma'q First Nation, where she lives with her husband. As the Founder and CEO of Indigevisor Ltd., she leads a nationally recognized consulting firm specializing in Indigenous engagement, communications, procurement, and Indigenous Benefit Plans for major infrastructure projects.

Nadine has held leadership roles across Indigenous NGOs and municipal and provincial governments, with a strong focus on Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism. Her work is grounded in community, reconciliation, and advancing understanding of the diverse peoples of Turtle Island.

A dedicated volunteer, she serves on the Nova Scotia Heart and Stroke Foundation and its Health Reconciliation Sub-Committee. Her past governance roles include Co-Chair of the Tribe Network Board, and positions with the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Feed Nova Scotia, and the NS Police Review Board.

Nadine studied Mi'kmaq Studies and Business at Cape Breton University and completed diplomas in Aboriginal Leadership and Indigenous Women in Community Leadership at the Coady Institute (St. FX). She is a recipient of Atlantic Business Magazine's 2023 Most Powerful Women in Business and the 2024 RBC Women of Influence Micro-Business Award.

A proud mother of three and grandmother of two, Nadine's leadership, advocacy, and passion for community continue to inspire and create meaningful impact across Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike.



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## Public Capital, Private Returns: Aligning Government Programs with Market Outcomes



**Bob Pelley**

**Senior Corporate Advisor, Invest Nova Scotia**

Bob Pelley is a Senior Corporate Advisor at Invest Nova Scotia, where he manages portfolio investments and develops partnerships for co-investing in innovation-based companies.

With over 25 years of experience spanning the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, Bob is a results-driven leader with expertise in business development, market research, strategic planning, project management, operations, and sales. A veteran of the market research and consulting industry, his ability to bring people together and facilitate meaningful collaborations is one of his greatest strengths.

Bob holds a Commerce degree from Dalhousie University, a certificate in Strategy and Innovation from MIT, and is a Certified Analytics and Insights Professional (CAIP). A dedicated advocate for economic growth and innovation, he has worked with start-ups at every stage—from initial concept to market entry and expansion.

A proud resident of Sydney, Cape Breton, Bob works across Nova Scotia to support investment initiatives and help businesses thrive. As a father of three university-aged children, he is passionate about making Nova Scotia a destination where people can build, grow, and stay.



**Roxanne Turcotte**

**Senior Vice President, Inclusive Investments, BDC**

Roxanne Turcotte is Senior Vice President, Inclusive Investments at BDC Capital, where she leads the Thrive Platform for Women, the Black Entrepreneurs Fund and the fund that will be launched shortly for Indigenous entrepreneurs.

With more than 25 years of experience in investment, Roxanne brings deep expertise in venture capital, private equity, entrepreneurship, and impact finance. She is widely recognized for her inclusive leadership and her ability to mobilize diverse partners around shared economic and social outcomes.

Prior to joining BDC, Roxanne was a Partner at InvestEco Capital and held senior investment leadership roles as Portfolio Director at Fondation and at Hydro-Québec Capitech.

Roxanne holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from McGill University and an MBA from HEC Montréal. She is a member of the Mi'gmaq Nation of Gespeg.



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## Disruption: Preventing Investor Harms

At Nova Scotia Capital Markets 2024, we focused on the challenges in holding wrongdoers accountable and recovering investors' funds.

This year the panelists will discuss “what are some of the approaches and tools that securities regulators and others are using to focus on preventing investor harm before it occurs?”



Cpl. Andy Bezanson  
RCMP Commercial Crime Section

Corporal Andy Bezanson is an investigator / supervisor within the Nova Scotia RCMP Commercial Crime Section. Cpl. Bezanson began his RCMP career in 2007 and was first posted to Port Alberni, BC, where he worked uniform general duties, and as an investigator in serious crimes and municipal drug section.

In 2014, Cpl. Bezanson and his young family transferred to the Northwest Territories. His substantive role was an investigator in a Financial Crime Section, but he also enjoyed doing uniform relief work in remote communities and providing protective policing to Prime Ministers and Governor Generals that visited the North. In 2017, Cpl. Bezanson was promoted to being in charge of the NWT RCMP Financial Crime Unit. In 2019, Cpl. Bezanson was delighted to transfer he and his family to his home province of Nova Scotia. Since returning home, Cpl. Bezanson has worked uniform general duty policing and community policing around Halifax, and in 2019, he was pleased to return to investigating financial crime. Cpl. Bezanson has been the acting NCO in charge of the Nova Scotia RCMP Commercial Crime Section for the past few months.



Will Chase  
Deputy Director, Investigations, Nova Scotia Securities Commission

Will Chase has over 15 years investigative experience with the Nova Scotia government. He joined the Nova Scotia Securities Commission in 2024 and is currently employed as the Deputy Director (Investigations) at the Commission. He participates on a number of national and international committees that focus on investigation improvements and online fraud disruptions.



Jennifer Quaid  
Executive Director, Canadian Cyber Threat Exchange

Jennifer Quaid is the Executive Director of the Canadian Cyber Threat Exchange (CCTX), Canada's preeminent private sector organization for cross-sector collaboration, enabling cyber resilience and preparedness in its members. She is responsible for advancing the mission and purpose of the CCTX and delivering value to the membership. With extensive experience in the tech sector and with membership-based organizations, Jennifer excels at creating an environment that fosters customer focus and service delivery.



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## Venture Capital as a Catalyst for Regional Growth

The panelists will discuss, “what is the critical role that venture capital plays by investing in start-up and early-stage companies to create employment and growth in the local economy?”

They will also look at “How can enterprises best attract venture capital investment?”



**Bill Adams**  
Mentor & Angel Investor

Bill Adams is an entrepreneur, investor, and board director with firsthand experience building and scaling a Nova Scotia company. He co-founded Halifax-based STI Technologies Limited, a healthcare technology company that developed patient support programs, reimbursement solutions, and data-driven services that helped improve access to medications for patients across Canada.

After STI was acquired by QuintilesIMS, now IQVIA, in 2017, Bill retired from the business in 2018 following a range of leadership roles. He is an active angel investor, and an Associate with Creative Destruction Lab in Atlantic Canada and Montreal, where he supports early-stage companies in the AI and Prime streams.

Bill holds a B.Sc. and MBA from Dalhousie University, the ICD.D designation, and serves on several boards. He brings a practical, grounded perspective on entrepreneurship, governance, and the realities of growing and funding companies in Nova Scotia.



**Tom Hayes**

Tom Hayes is well known as a successful entrepreneur bringing over 50 years of a unique blend of managerial and senior executive experience to the private, public, and volunteer sectors.

As a venture capitalist he served as President of Atlantic Ventures Trust (1982 – 1987), President of GrowthWorks Atlantic (2005 -2015) and Managing Director of Pelorus Venture Capital Ltd., a venture capital fund focused on Newfoundland and Labrador (2015 – 2020).

An active community volunteer, Tom is a member of several Board Committees of the Lunenburg Academy Foundation. In 2025 He joined the Planning Committee of the Africville Heritage Trust.

He has served as Chair of the Halifax Port Authority, Chair of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC), a Director of the Canadian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association, a Governor of St. Francis Xavier University, Chair of the Halifax-Dartmouth Port Development Commission, a Director and Secretary of the Marine Hotel Association, and Vice-Chair for Tall Ships 2000.



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## Venture Capital as a Catalyst for Regional Growth



Peter Hickey

Co-founder & Chairman, IR Scientific

Peter Hickey is a Canadian entrepreneur, investor, and technology executive with more than two decades of experience building and financing innovation-driven companies across life sciences, artificial intelligence, and capital markets. He has founded and led multiple ventures through clinical trials, regulatory clearance and commercialization.

Currently, Peter is a co-founder and Chairman of IR Scientific, a biomaterials research company developing proprietary technology to treat tooth sensitivity and repair enamel. In addition, Peter is the co-founder and Chairman of Allumiqs, a biotech services platform serving the biopharmaceutical industry through advanced sample preparation, mass spectrometry, and data analytics.

Beyond life sciences, Peter is actively involved in advancing AI infrastructure for capital markets and private investment ecosystems, a result of his exit of SUMS an AI platform focused on Investor Relations, to Charli.AI.

Peter frequently works with founders, investors, and institutions to bridge the gap between emerging technology and real-world commercial adoption. Peter is based in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



Kevin Sullivan

CEO, 3DBioFibR Inc.

Kevin Sullivan is a seasoned executive with over two decades of experience driving innovation and growth in the life sciences sector. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Microbiology & Immunology from Dalhousie University, a Graduate Certificate in Biotechnology from McGill University, and an MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario.

Currently serving as CEO of 3DBioFibR Inc., Sullivan has a distinguished track record of leadership across multiple biotechnology companies. He previously held CEO roles at Appili Therapeutics Inc. and DeNovaMed Inc. and served as Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Business Development at Viron Therapeutics Inc., a company backed by Amgen and Novartis Ventures.

Sullivan specializes in commercializing life-science technologies, with expertise spanning novel biomaterials, protein-based therapeutics, small-molecule therapies, and vaccines. He has a proven track record in in-licensing and out-licensing transactions with global pharmaceutical companies and academia and was instrumental in leading a successful IPO on the TSX.



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## Moderators



**Doris Grant**

**Managing Director, NS Health Innovation Hub  
CEO, Life Sciences Nova Scotia**

Doris Grant is the Managing Director of the Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub and Chief Executive Officer of Life Sciences Nova Scotia, working at the intersection of healthcare delivery, research, and economic development. She leads efforts to test, evaluate, and scale new technologies and models of care while strengthening partnerships across clinicians, researchers, industry, and government. Her work focuses on translating innovation into real-world impact — improving patient care and supporting growth of Nova Scotia's life sciences sector.



**Doug Harris**

**General Counsel, Director of Market Regulation and Policy, and Secretary  
Nova Scotia Securities Commission**

Doug Harris is the General Counsel, Director of Market Regulation and Policy, and Secretary of the Nova Scotia Securities Commission.

At the Commission, Doug provides support on a broad range of operational, legal and policy initiatives to the Chair, Commission members, Executive Director and staff. He is also responsible for the Commission's hearing processes.



**Melanie Nadeau**  
**CEO, COVE**

Ms. Nadeau is the Chief Executive Officer of COVE, a global technology partner specializing in commercialization, where she is responsible for leading the strategic direction and managing overall operations including assets, programs, and services to over 700 clients worldwide. She brings over 20 years of experience in business development initiatives that have driven strategic growth across defence, energy, and maritime industries.

During her career, Ms. Nadeau has been a global expert and thought leader for the International Energy Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the International Electrotechnical Commission. She has earned multiple awards including Canada's Clean16 Award for her outstanding contribution towards clean capitalism, has been named Atlantic Canada's 25 most powerful women, was an invited speaker to TEDGlobal, and is a strong supporter for Canada's tech ecosystem as a mentor for the Creative Destruction Lab.

Ms. Nadeau is a certified Board Candidate with ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors serves on the Business Development Bank of Canada board. She is an accredited professional engineer graduating from the University of Waterloo.



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