

ATLANTIC PROVINCES TRANSPORTATION FORUM

Hosted by the Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development

The Impact of an Atlantic Gateway on
Transportation Systems in
Newfoundland and Labrador

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

Holiday Inn, St. John's



 **HarrisCentre**
THE LESLIE HARRIS CENTRE OF REGIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

 **MEMORIAL**
UNIVERSITY

Background to Forum

The Atlantic Provinces Transportation Forum (APTF) is an annual event held with the objective of discussing regional transportation issues. Residual funds from the Atlantic Provinces Transportation Commission (APTC) are held in trust to support this event. The conference rotates among the University of New Brunswick, Dalhousie University and Memorial University.

The concept of an Atlantic Gateway as a distribution port linking markets and suppliers in the Far East and Europe with those in eastern North America has been the subject of a number of studies including those carried out by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC), by the Asia Pacific Foundation, by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) and by Intervistas (for ACOA). Most of the attention has been upon Halifax as the principal Atlantic Gateway. The time has now come to examine how such a Gateway will affect individual Provinces and the planning of their transportation systems.

Purpose of Forum

The Atlantic Provinces Transportation Forum (APTF) has as its objective to examine the impact of the proposed Atlantic Gateway on the future planning of transportation systems in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, particularly the marine connections between the Province and the mainland of North America. The Forum will address the transshipment of goods for further shipping to North America and for backhaul to the East, as well as the Province's own requirements, in the light of economic and demographic changes which are reducing overall population and concentrating it on the Avalon Peninsula. The Forum is intended to launch a serious examination of major transportation issues facing the Province and to identify an agenda for future action to develop constructive solutions.

The key questions to be addressed by the Forum will be as follows:

- What are the opportunities for this Province from an Atlantic gateway?
- What transportation solutions will improve the Province's competitive position?
- What action needs to be taken as a result of this Forum?
- What public policy research is needed to identify transportation options and solutions?
- What role can Memorial University and the Harris Centre play in finding constructive solutions?



7:30 – 8:30 **Registration**

8:30 **Introduction**
Dr. Rob Greenwood
Harris Centre

8:45 **Welcome**
David Vardy
Research Associate, Harris Centre

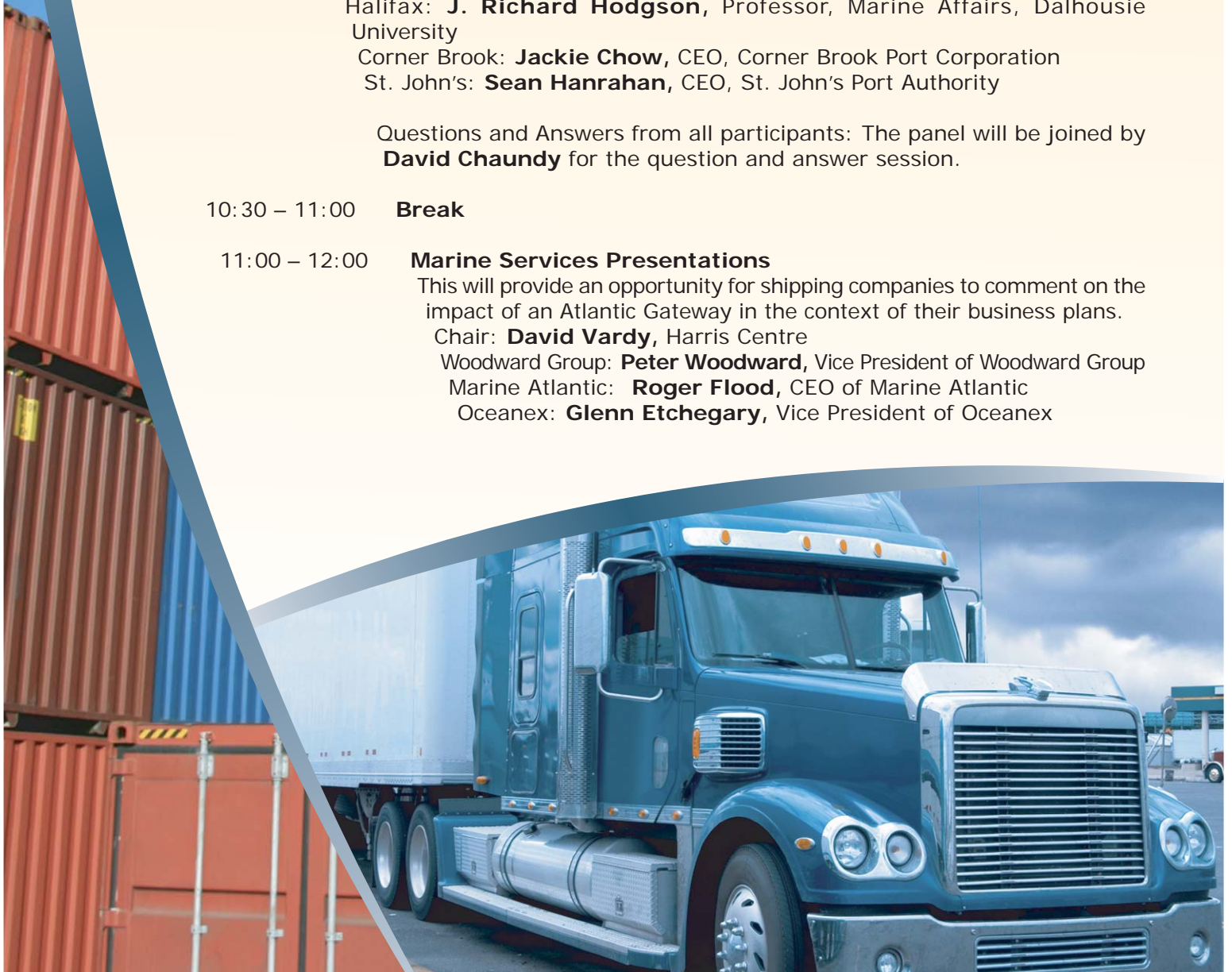
9:00 – 9:30 **Atlantic Gateway Presentation**
David Chaundy of APEC will present the APEC study which deals with the effect on the Atlantic Region of the changing global economy on trade and transportation flows within the region.

9:30 – 10:30 **Regional Panel**
This panel will present perspectives on the Atlantic Gateway from different regions, including Corner Brook and St. John's, followed by questions and answers.
Chair: **Dr. Frank Wilson**, UNB Transportation Group
Halifax: **J. Richard Hodgson**, Professor, Marine Affairs, Dalhousie University
Corner Brook: **Jackie Chow**, CEO, Corner Brook Port Corporation
St. John's: **Sean Hanrahan**, CEO, St. John's Port Authority

Questions and Answers from all participants: The panel will be joined by **David Chaundy** for the question and answer session.

10:30 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Marine Services Presentations**
This will provide an opportunity for shipping companies to comment on the impact of an Atlantic Gateway in the context of their business plans.
Chair: **David Vardy**, Harris Centre
Woodward Group: **Peter Woodward**, Vice President of Woodward Group
Marine Atlantic: **Roger Flood**, CEO of Marine Atlantic
Oceanex: **Glenn Etchegary**, Vice President of Oceanex



- 12:00 – 1:15 **Honourable John Hickey,**
Minister of Transportation and Works
Lunch and keynote address by Transportation and Works Minister John Hickey on the Province's Views with respect to the Atlantic Gateway
- 1:15 – 2:30 **Panel on Marine Transportation Issues**
This panel will discuss issues of concern on a variety of issues relating to the Atlantic Gateway and the Province's marine transportation system.
Chair: **Professor Merv Andrews**, Harris Centre
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME): **Bill Stirling**, Vice President
Truckers: **Gordon Peddle**, President, Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association
Board of Trade: **Cathy Bennett**, President
Tourism: **Bruce Sparkes**, President, Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador
Q&A: All members of the panel will respond to questions from the floor.
- 2:30 – 3:30 **Discussion Groups:**
Dr. Rob Greenwood
Director of Harris Centre — to chair, assisted by rapporteurs
- 3:30 – 3:45 **Break**
- 3:45 – 4:15 **Discussion Groups Report Back:**
Dr. Greenwood — chair
- 4:15 – 5:00 **Reaction from City Hall:**
Mayor of Happy Valley-Goose Bay – **Leo Abbass**
Mayor of St. John's – **Andy Wells**
Sean Cooper, Executive Director, Exploits Region Chamber of Commerce
Shawn Woodford, President, Greater Corner Brook Board of Trade
Chair: **Dr. Rob Greenwood**
- 5:00 – 5:15 **Summary of Conclusions:**
Dr. Ron Sparkes
Labrador Institute
- 5:15 **Closing Remarks**
David Vardy



Who Should Attend?

This Forum will be of interest to everyone who has an interest in the future economic direction of the Province, people who depend on transportation networks, suppliers and those interested in transportation policy. Invitations will be sent to people throughout the Atlantic Provinces. The Harris Centre considers this event to be of great importance to everyone concerned with regional economic development, including development associations, cities and towns and people who rely on strong transportation networks.

Format

The Forum will take the form of a one day event on Wednesday, May 30, 2007, at the Holiday Inn in St. John's, bringing together experts on the Atlantic Gateway along with transportation providers, users, policy advisors and key stakeholders. The Minister of Transportation and Works will be a keynote speaker at lunch. A panel of users will discuss transportation issues from the standpoint of the major sectors of the economy. The regional impact of shifts in transportation will be the subject of a panel, followed by discussion in plenary session. Participants will have an opportunity to provide their input through individual discussion groups.

Report

The Harris Centre will prepare a report of the proceedings and the conclusions reached by the participants.

Sponsors and Partners

The Harris Centre will be hosting the event, with financial assistance and support in kind from the following:

- The Atlantic Provinces Transportation Forum group at UNB;
- Transport Canada;
- The Department of Transportation and Works; Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME)
- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA);
- The Corner Brook Port Authority;
- The Labrador Institute of Memorial University
- Marine Atlantic; and
- Oceanex



Registration

Those interested in attending should contact Renee Fitzgerald, Harris Centre at the following address:

Renee Fitzgerald
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Spencer Hall 4012
St. John's, NL A1C 5S7
Telephone: 709-737-6186
Fax: 709-737-3734
E-Mail: reneef@mun.ca

The registration fee for this event will be \$125, payable by cash or by cheque. Please make cheques payable to the Harris Centre.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone

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Home: ()

Email: _____

Payment: Cash Cheque

