

PROGRAM
(as of March 26, 2026)
 Caesars Windsor
 Windsor, Ontario

Tuesday, September 15, 2026	
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Port Tour on the Water Join us on the Detroit River for a unique view of the Windsor and Detroit skylines and the Gordie Howe International Bridge.
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Welcome Reception <i>Augustus 27, Caesars Windsor</i> 27 th Floor
Wednesday, September 16, 2026	
7:30 am - 8:15 am	River Fitness Walk <i>Meet in Caesars Auto Lobby</i>
7:30 am – 8:45 am	Breakfast
8:45 am – 9:30 am	Conference Opening (Plenary) Daniel-Robert Gooch , President and CEO, Association of Canadian Port Authorities First Nations Blessing Welcome Remarks: Steve Salmons , President and CEO, Windsor Port Authority Ian Marr , President and CEO, Nanaimo Port Authority and Chair, Association of Canadian Port Authorities Drew Dilkens , Mayor of Windsor
9:30 am – 10:15 am	Keynote Address (Plenary)
10:15 am – 10:45 am	Break

10:45 am – 11:30 am	Global Marine Shipping Outlook (Plenary)	
11:30 am – 11:50 am	Medal of Merit Ceremony (Plenary)	
11:50 am – 1:15 pm	Lunch	
1:15 pm – 2:00 pm	<p>Windsor-Detroit: A Cross-Border Partnership (Plenary) Given its location straddling the Canada-U.S. border in the middle of the Detroit River, the Port of Windsor works closely with law enforcement and border officials on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border. This panel will showcase how cooperative efforts are keeping this dynamic shared border safe and secure.</p> <p>Introduction: Steve Salmons, President and CEO, Windsor Port Authority</p> <p>Moderator: Peter Berry, Vice President of Operations and Harbour Master, Port of Windsor</p> <p><i>Other panelists to be announced.</i></p>	
2:00 pm – 2:10 pm	Break	
2:10 pm – 2:55 pm	<p>Concurrent Session 1: Group A (Tech and Operations)</p> <p>Environmental Response Partners Canada’s marine transportation system relies on effective marine response. Hear the latest on what Eastern Canada Response Corporation and Ship and Rail Compensation Canada are doing to protect the environment and maintaining continuous marine operations.</p> <p>Tanya Alvero, Executive Director, Eastern Canada Response Corporation</p> <p>Caroline Healey, Chief Executive Officer, Ship and Rail Compensation Canada</p>	<p>Concurrent Session 1: Group B (Environment and Sustainability)</p> <p>Port Remediation and Land Use A major challenge for port authorities is remediation of water and land within port jurisdiction. Hear from two CPAs on how they approached this issue.</p> <p>Sara Yonson, Manager, Environment and Energy, Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority, will present on the effort to remediate Randle’s Reef, largest and most contaminated site within the Canadian side of the Great Lakes. (confirmed)</p> <p>Belledune Port Authority, will discuss the challenges of remediation after years of industrial use, including the polluter pays principle and multi-jurisdictional resolution.</p>
2:55 pm – 3:05 pm	Break	

3:05 pm – 3:50 pm	<p>Concurrent Session 2: Group A (Tech and Operations)</p> <p>Growing Port infrastructure and to Compete This session will offer examples of port projects that aim to expand operational capacity and competitiveness.</p>	<p>Concurrent Session 2: Group B (Environment and Sustainability)</p> <p>Marine Sustainability on the Frontier This session focuses on marine sustainability for communities and the environment, with presentations that detail how this can be achieved.</p>
3:50 pm -5:30 pm	<p>Exhibit Hall Happy Hour Explore the exhibit hall, and enjoy a drink before boarding the Port Tour on the Water at 5:45</p>	
5:45 pm – 7:15 pm	<p>Port Tour on the Water Join us on the Detroit River for a unique view of the Windsor and Detroit skylines and the new Gordie Howe International Bridge.</p>	
Evening	<p>Free Evening</p>	
<p>Thursday, September 17, 2026</p>		
7:30 am - 8:15 am	<p>River Fitness Walk <i>Meet in Caesars Auto Lobby</i></p>	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	<p>Breakfast</p>	
9:00 am – 9:45 am	<p>Keynote Speech from a Global Port CEO Insights from the Baltic (Plenary)</p> <p>Ansis Zeltiņš, CEO, Freeport of Riga, Latvia, and President, European Sea Ports Organization (ESPO)</p> <p>With a perspective that is Latvian, Baltic and European, Ansis Zeltiņš leads a port that is at the centre of many challenges similar to Canadian ports, including geopolitical and trade sensitivities, climate and environmental challenges. Mr. Zeltiņš will touch on operating his port within this context, the unique solutions that are in place, including regional partnerships and dual-use infrastructure, and incorporate views from his role as President of the European Sea Ports Organization.</p>	

<p>9:45 am – 10:45 am</p>	<p>Canada’s Trading Relationships: A Check-In (Plenary) More than a year after the Carney government set ambitious global goals for diversifying Canada’s trade amidst a recalibrated trading relationship with the United States, this session takes stock of where things stand. How are Canada’s diversification efforts progressing? What shifts are defining the Canada–U.S. dynamic, and how are Canadian industries adapting to evolving global trade and supply chain conditions?</p> <p>Moderator: Daniel-Robert Gooch, President & CEO, Association of Canadian Port Authorities</p> <p>Panelists: Grantly Franklin, Consul and Program Manager, Canadian Consulate (Detroit) Meredith Lilly, full Professor and Simon Reisman Chair in International Economic Policy, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University <i>Other panelists to be announced.</i></p>
<p>10:45 am – 11:15 pm</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>11:15 am – 12:15 pm</p>	<p>Maximizing Canada’s Third Trading Corridor (Plenary) This panel will examine how to strengthen the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway as Canada’s third trade corridor, while advancing short sea shipping as a complementary logistics option. It will explore how better integration of marine, rail, and truck networks can improve reliability, efficiency, and environmental performance, as well as opportunities to modernize lock and port operations, extend the navigation season, and enhance icebreaking capacity. Panelists will also address regulatory, infrastructure, and market barriers to expanded short sea shipping, drawing on U.S. initiatives and Canadian pilot projects to illustrate how targeted investments, coordinated policies, and public-private collaboration can unlock the Seaway’s potential for sustainable growth, trade diversification, and climate resilience.</p> <p>Stage Setter: Jim Athanasiou, President and CEO, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation</p> <p>Moderator: Hannah Bowlby, Manager, Government Relations and Public Affairs, Algoma Central Corporation, Chair of the Ontario Marine Council</p> <p>Panelists: Larissa Fenn, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority Julie Gascon, President and CEO, Port of Montreal</p>

	<p>Jim Athanasiou, President and CEO, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation David Gutheil, Chief Operating Officer, Port of Cleveland</p>	
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch	
1:15 pm – 2:00 pm	<p>Survey Says What?! An Industry Game Show (Plenary Session) Get ready for Survey Says What?!, an industry game show where two teams of marine sector leaders will compete head-to-head in an exciting, interactive game show inspired by the classic Family Feud format. Prior to the event, attendees of past maritime conferences will be surveyed on the top challenges, issues, and trends shaping the industry today. Each team will test their knowledge to see who can identify the most popular answers. This engaging session offers a unique opportunity for marine leaders to share insights, spark lively discussion, and explore the future of Canada’s marine sector.</p> <p>Host: Dr. Vincent Georgie, Director of the School of Creative Arts at the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario</p> <p>Confirmed Contestants: Adam Tindall-Schlicht, Americas Sector Leader - Ports, Transportation & Infrastructure, Ramboll Mike Cochrane, President and CEO, Charlottetown Port Authority</p>	
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	<p>Concurrent Session 3: Group A (Tech and Operations) Applying Artificial Intelligence in Port Operations As AI becomes a more commonplace tool for ports to innovate the safety, competitiveness and sustainability of their operations, hear examples of how this was done from the port and provider perspective.</p> <p>Mike Cochrane, President and CEO, Charlottetown Port To manage the growth at the Port of Charlottetown as a cruise tourism destination, the port has developed vessel berthing and scheduling software which allows it to manage growth within existing berthing infrastructure.</p>	<p>Concurrent Session 3: Group B (Environment and Sustainability)</p> <p>Marine and Canada’s North</p> <p>Chris Avery, CEO, Arctic Gateway Group, will discuss efforts to modernize the Port of Churchill into a year-round Arctic shipping hub.</p>

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Closing Session (Plenary) Daniel-Robert Gooch , President and CEO, Association of Canadian Port Authorities Steve Salmons , President and CEO, Port of Windsor Host of Ports Canada 2027
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Closing Night Celebration