

2026 LABRADOR IMMIGRATION SUMMIT
PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE - SUBJECT TO CHANGE
MARCH 30-31, 2026
HAPPY VALLEY-GOOSE BAY

The Big Shift: Retention Strategies for Communities & Major Projects

DAY 1		
EVENT	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Registration & Continental Breakfast 	8:00am - 9:00am (1h)	Registration & Breakfast
Welcoming Remarks	9:00am - 9:10am (0h 10m)	Welcoming Remarks
Session 1: Panel Session Strategic Directions: Community Strategies for Improving Recruitment & Retention 	9:15am - 10:15am (1h)	This session will explore practical strategies to ensure immigration policies and programs remain responsive to regional labour market needs. Panelists will discuss collaboration, policy alignment, and adaptive approaches that support timely workforce solutions for communities and employers. Hear from a panel of seasoned professionals during this panel session that hones in on community-focused strategies for successful settlement outcomes. <u>Panelists:</u> Flora Jackman , Manager of Retention, Health Professional Recruitment and Retention Office, Department of Health and Community Services
NETWORKING HEALTH BREAK 	10:15am - 10:30am (15m)	Location: Hotel North 2, Conference Room
Session 2: Presentation Session Pathways & Policy: Unpacking the Levels Plan and Leveraging Immigration Pathways	10:30am - 11:30am (1h)	This session will provide an overview of Canada's Immigration Levels Plan and its implications for regional workforce planning. Panelists will discuss what the targets mean for employers, communities, and long-term population growth in the province. - Dylan LaVigne, Outreach Officer - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
Keynote Luncheon Keynote Details to Come	12:00pm - 1:30pm (1h 30m)	For our Day 1 lunch, we head down to the Royal Canadian Legion. Stay tuned for more details.

<p>Session 3: Forum Session Job Creators Forum: Employers' Perspective on Staffing, Settlement, and Retention</p>	<p>2:00pm - 3:00pm (1h)</p>	<p>This forum will highlight the employer perspective on the importance of immigration pathways on the local job market, the importance of settlement-focused retention strategies, and their overall experience in recruiting and retaining newcomers. Our panel of employers will take questions from our forum moderator, as well as Summit delegates.</p> <p>Panelists: - Hannah Janes, CTMP, General Manager, People & Culture - YMCA Newfoundland & Labrador</p>
<p>NETWORKING HEALTH BREAK</p>  <p>Community Business Development Corporation</p>	<p>3:00pm - 3:15pm (15m)</p>	<p>Location: Hotel North 2, Conference Room</p>
<p>Session 4: Panel Session Growing Together: Lived Lessons on Training and Mentorship</p>  <p>NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS</p>	<p>3:15pm - 4:15pm (1h)</p>	<p>This panel will explore how mentorship and community support initiatives contribute to the successful integration and long-term retention of newcomers. Panelists will share practical approaches that help newcomers adapt to the workplace and community life, strengthening retention and supporting a sustainable workforce and community growth.</p> <p><i>Moderator: TBD</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constanza Safatle, Owner - Newbornlander Baby Store Inc. - Ophelia Fernandes, Program Coordinator - Newfoundland & Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (NLOWE) - Stacy Johnson, Community Engagement Specialist - Amal Unite & Empower
<p>END OF DAY 1 SESSIONS 4:20pm</p>		
<p>Meet & Greet Snowshoe Chalet Social</p>	<p>6:30pm - 8:30pm</p>	<p>Join us at Amaruk Golf Club for hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, and entertainment. Socialize by the fire, or enjoy an evening snowshoe in the great outdoors. This year's Snowshoe Chalet Social offers a fantastic opportunity to network with conference participants, newcomers and community members.</p> <p>Entertainment by: Mallory Harrigan</p>

DAY 2		
EVENT	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Registration & Continental Breakfast	8:00am - 9:00am (1h)	Registration & breakfast
Welcoming Remarks, Day 2	9:00am - 9:10am (0h 10m)	Day 2 welcoming remarks
<p><i>(Concurrent Session, Hotel North 2)</i></p> <p>Session 5A: Presentation Session Trades in Focus Part 1: Understanding Immigration Pathways for Tradespeople</p> 	<p>9:15am - 10:15am (1h)</p>	<p>This session will outline key immigration pathways available to skilled tradespeople, with a focus on meeting regional labour needs. Panelists will discuss eligibility, credential recognition, and practical considerations for employers recruiting trades talent.</p>

<p><i>(Concurrent Session, Masonic Lodge)</i></p> <p>Session 5B: Panel Session Supporting Newcomer Entrepreneurs</p>	<p>9:15am - 10:15am (1h)</p>	<p>This session will explore how communities and organizations can support newcomers in starting and growing businesses. Panelists will discuss access to resources, financing, mentorship, and regulatory considerations that help newcomer entrepreneurs succeed and contribute to local economies.</p> <p>Moderator: Jennifer Andersen, Indigenous Coordinator - Newfoundland & Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (NLOWE)</p>
<p>NETWORKING HEALTH BREAK 10:15am - 10:30am (15m)</p>		
<p><i>(Concurrent Session, Hotel North 2)</i></p> <p>Session 6A: Presentation Session Trades in Focus Part 2: An Employer Perspective on Immigration & Trades</p>	<p>10:30am - 11:30pm (1h)</p>	<p>This session will highlight employer experiences in recruiting, onboarding, and retaining skilled tradespeople through immigration. Panelists will share practical insights, challenges, and best practices for building a sustainable trades workforce.</p>
<p><i>(Concurrent Session, Masonic Lodge)</i></p> <p>Session 6B: Panel Session Blank - Tentative Amparrio</p>	<p>10:30am - 11:30pm (1h)</p>	<p>What leads newcomers to open businesses in Newfoundland and Labrador? This session will feature the experiences of newcomer entrepreneurs including their challenges, successes, and practical lessons and advice to assist and inspire future entrepreneurs in the province.</p>
<p>NETWORKING HEALTH BREAK - MOVE TO PLENARY SESSIONS 11:30am - 12:00pm (0h 30m)</p>		
<p>Session 7: Lunch & Learn From Arrival to Belonging: Strengthening Skilled Trades Through Immigration"</p>	<p>12:00pm - 1:25pm (1h 25m)</p>	<p>Facilitated by long-time accessibility and impact consultant Kerri Lynn Dier, this session will focus on how immigration supports the skilled trades with a focus on retention, inclusive workplaces, and the role communities play in helping newcomers feel connected and supported long-term.</p>
<p>Session 8: Forum Session Celebrating the Contributions of Newcomers</p>	<p>1:30pm - 2:30pm (1h)</p>	<p>This session will highlight the social, cultural, and economic contributions of newcomers. Panelists will share stories and insights that recognize impact, promote inclusion, and strengthen community connections.</p>
<p>NETWORKING HEALTH BREAK 2:30pm - 2:45pm (0h 15m)</p>		
<p>Session 9: Workshop Session Tent, Held for housing</p>	<p>3:45pm - 4:45pm (1h)</p>	<p>Session details to come.</p>
<p>Closing Remarks</p>	<p>4:45pm - 5:00PM</p>	<p>End of Summit remarks.</p>
<p>END OF DAY 2 5:00pm</p>		