

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS CONFERENCE

November 28th - November 30th, 2023



NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL
ENTERPRISE NETWORKS



From Our CEO

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we close the curtains on the remarkable Partners for Progress Conference held from November 28th to 30th, I am honored to step into the role of Interim CEO of the Pictou County Partnership and present to you our Community Impact Report for this event.

This year's conference has truly set a new benchmark. The economic impact on our community is palpable, and the vibrant discussions, innovative sessions, and the unmatched enthusiasm of all attendees have contributed to this success. Inside the report, you'll find detailed highlights from the various sessions, engaging word clouds capturing the essence of our discussions, and links to recorded panel discussions for those moments worth revisiting.

The feedback from our attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, reflecting a renewed vigor among economic developers, municipal leaders, business innovators, and community champions.

Our conversations have ignited a new energy, a collective determination to face our challenges head-on and seize the myriad opportunities awaiting us. At the heart of these discussions is a resounding consensus: Regional Enterprise Networks are pivotal in leading our communities towards prosperity. They stand as beacons of collaboration, guiding us in our unified journey towards a thriving Nova Scotia.

As we look ahead, I am filled with confidence in the future of our region and rural Nova Scotia at large. Yes, the challenges are significant, but they are not insurmountable. By breaking them down into smaller, manageable tasks, we can overcome them. Opportunities abound, but they demand action, not just dialogue.

A key goal of this event was to inspire attendees to 'Think Big' and foster a growth mindset within rural Nova Scotia, encouraging us to move beyond the constraints of 'why something cannot be' and instead, focus on taking actionable steps towards innovative solutions.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and for being an integral part of this journey. Let's continue to work together, forging a path towards a prosperous and vibrant future for all of Nova Scotia.



Yours cooperatively,

Handwritten signature of Wade Tibbo.

Wade Tibbo

Chief Executive Officer, Interim
Pictou County Partnership



Conference by The Numbers

3

Insightful days of learning, networking, and collaborating.

17

Engaging presentations and conversations.

200+

Attendees over the three days.

20+

Local businesses involved.

92%

Said the Conference met or exceeded their expectations.

86%

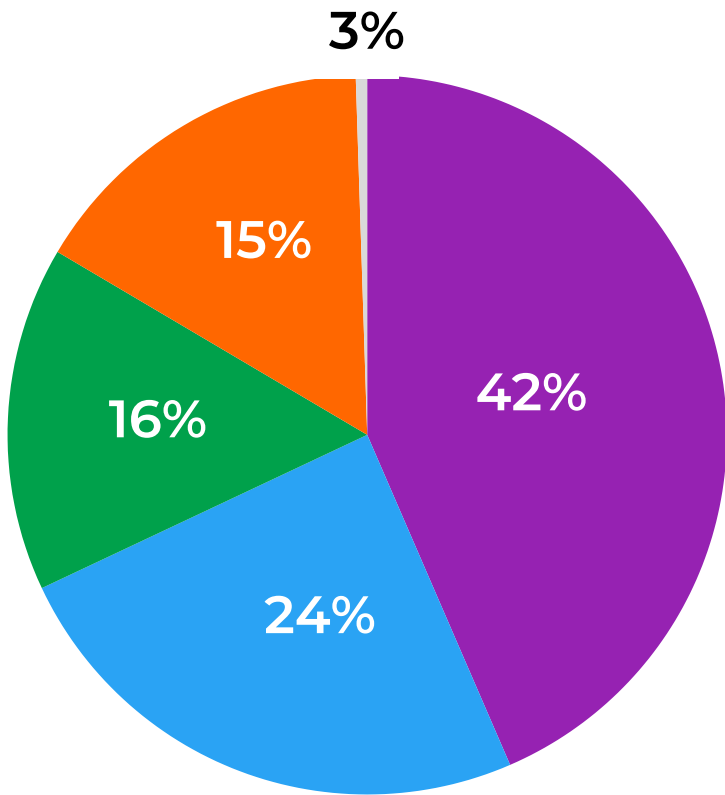
Felt the presentation topics were timely and relevant to their work.

81%





Gained a better understanding of the role RENO play in communities across the province.

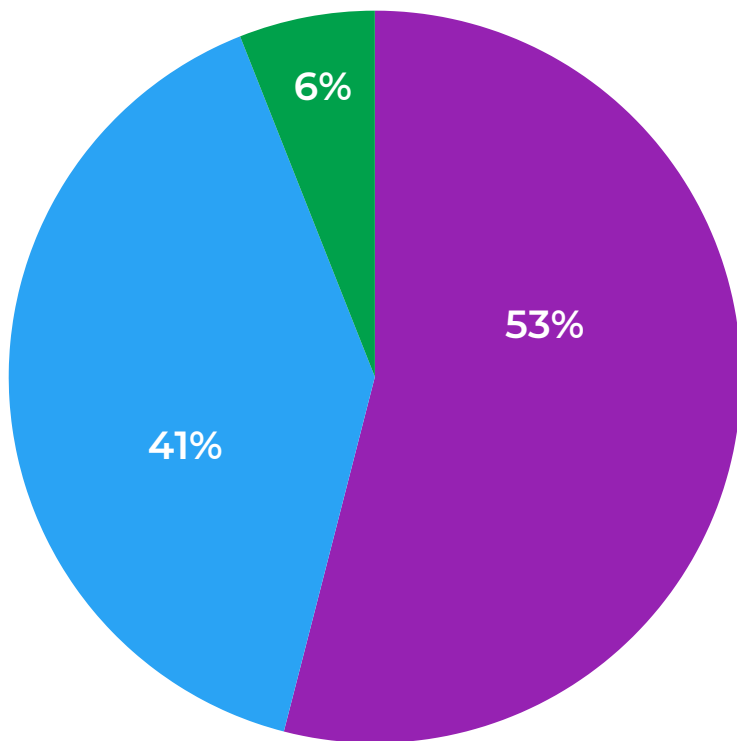


Conference Attendees






By Affiliation

-  Economic Development Professionals and Industry/Sector Representatives
-  Community Organizations and Post Secondary Institutions
-  Government Representatives (Elected and Civil Servants)
-  Entrepreneurs and Business Representatives
-  Other



By Location

-  Out of Town Participants
-  Local Participants
-  Virtual Participants



Thank You, Pictou County

84%

of conference attendees were satisfied to very satisfied with the food and beverage at the conference!

Thank you to the local businesses that helped make the 2023 Partners for Progress Conference a success.

Blue Lobster Public House
Chefs from Away Catering
East Avenue Dining
Final Touch Party Rentals
Glasgow Square Theatre
J. Conway Catering
Little Gull Bistro
Mamatsu Fresh Asian Kitchen
McKean's Flowers
Mings Restaurant
Museum of Industry

One Stop Entertainment
Pantry Kitchen Catering
Pictou County Pizza
The Dock Ales and Spirits
The Little Pastry House
The Shoebox Cantina
The Spot Bar and Grill
The UPS Store
Tilly's Kitchen
The Thistle Gastropub
Wasawek Beading



Glasgow Square Theatre

The beautiful Glasgow Square Theatre was the perfect host venue for our 3 day Conference. The staff were diligent in ensuring all our requests were met.



Wasawek Beading

Wasawek Beading hand made stunning pins as a token of appreciation for each presenter. Each pin is unique and feature proud references to Piktuk.



Museum of Industry

The Museum of Industry graciously hosted the Conference's Kitchen Party Reception. The live Celtic music, food, and atmosphere all contributed to a memorable evening.



Money Spent in The Community

\$87,487

Estimated dollar value spent within Pictou County as a result of the Partners for Progress Conference.



Participant Feedback



“ Great way to kickoff the conference - very engaging speaker and relevant data. ”

Presentation by Brock Dickinson :
It's The End of The World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine)



“ Really incredible panel - very inspirational and what a radically different approach to have all amazing women presenting for traditional industries - they should have had a standing ovation. ”

Panel - Fishing, Farming and Forestry featuring Amy Ferguson, Emily Lutz, Julia MacMillan, and moderated by Maxine Mann



“ Sean Kirby's presentation was bang on. Courageous! ”

Panelist Sean Kirby, Executive Director Mining Association of Nova Scotia
Panel Session: Exploring Nova Scotia's Sector Potential: Insights from Diverse Industries

Click to see the full [Conference Program](#)



From left to right: Rob Normandeau, Cindy James & Wendy Brookhouse
You Gotta Let Me Know: Should I Sell or Should I Grow Panel



Participant Feedback



Michael Maracle-Polak

Indigenous pathways to solving global problems.

My first time moderating a panel. I enjoyed asking the questions and listening almost as much as being a panelist! On stage at **Pictou County Partnership** in **Town of New Glasgow** on the **#territory** of **Pictou Landing First Nation** **#insightful** and thought provoking dialogue from **Jason Parisé** from **SWEB Development**, **Shivani Chotalia, P.Eng, NRStor Inc.**, and **Michael Peters, MBA, SETP Glooscap Ventures** who shared their experiences and perspectives on partnering with our **#Indigenous** Communities on **#energy** projects. **The Regional Enterprise Network** did an incredible job curating this event. 🙌

Valerie Caswell, MTEI

Connector, Creator, Collaborator

This week, I attended the Nova Scotia RENs Partners for Progress Conference in New Glasgow and it was fantastic! The event brought together partners from all over the province to listen and engage in discussions about the growth and prosperity of our rural communities. The speakers and topics were excellent! I can't wait to be back next year!



From left to right: Michael Polak, Shivani Chotalia, Michael Peters, Jason Parisé
Building Bridges Panel: Partnering with Indigenous Communities



Participant Feedback



Matthew Berrigan

Connector, Creator, Collaborator

Had an incredible time at the [#NSRENConference](#) hosted by the [Pictou County Partnership](#) last week! It was inspiring to connect with [#EconomicDevelopers](#) from across the Province and exchange ideas on fostering growth and innovation. Grateful to have the opportunity to attend with some of my amazing colleagues here at [Invest Nova Scotia](#) and to hear from our very own [Chandra Pottle](#), who shared insights on the impactful work we are doing at [#Invest](#). Special thanks to [Wade Tibbo](#) and his team for such a memorable experience. Exciting times ahead for economic development in our communities! [#WeInvest](#) [#InvestigatingInTheFuture](#) [#Collaboration](#) [#EconomicDevelopmentJourney](#)

Bob Pelley

Innovator, Collaborator and Community Builder

I've listened to just about every episode of the Insights Podcast by [Don Mills](#) and [David Campbell](#). Yes, I'm a fan! This morning, I had an opportunity to see a live version while they interviewed Federal Housing & Infrastructure Minister [Sean Fraser](#) at the Regional Enterprise Network "Partners in Progress Conference" in New Glasgow. I think it was one of their best interviews yet. Have a listen when it becomes available on all the traditional platforms like [#spotifypodcasts](#) and [#applepodcasts](#). Thanks [Pictou County Partnership](#) for hosting a great event. [#HousingCrisis](#) [#Housing](#) [#Infrastructure](#) [#InfrastructureDevelopment](#) [#NovaScotia](#) [Invest Nova Scotia](#) [#EconomicDevelopment](#) [#Podcast](#) [#AcadiaBroadcasting](#)

Conference Video Link

[Click on the below images to watch conference highlights on our YouTube Channel](#)

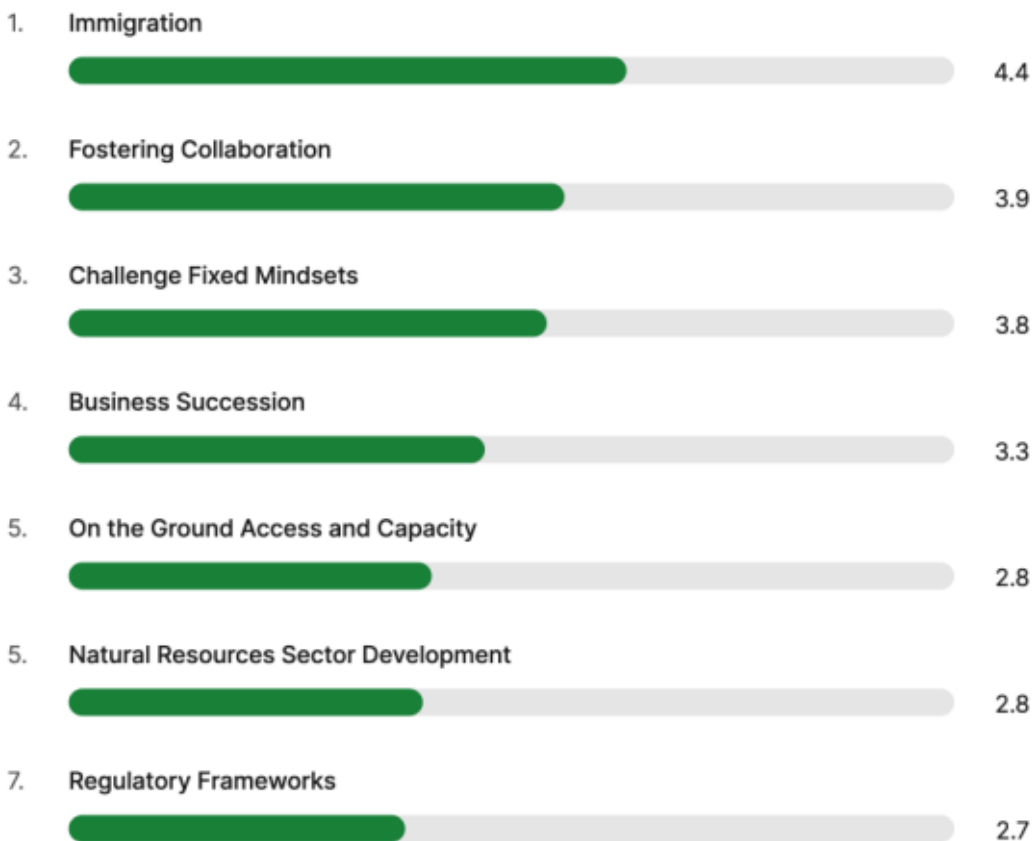


REN Collaboration



Please rank in order of priority:

Ranking Poll 26 votes 26 participants



At the close of the conference, REN representatives from across the province were polled about top priorities for future action. The top two topics were discussed in detail, and concrete actions were identified.

Conference Connections

As a result of connections made at the conference, the Pictou County Partnership is pleased to share that:

- Conversations are underway that could result in more housing units being built right here in Pictou County.
- Nova Scotia Works - Career Connections School Liaison, Joey Desmond, has invited industry sector representatives to make presentations for our youth about careers in mining and trades.



Video Links

Click the links below to watch recordings of selected presentations, panels and discussions.

Building for Tomorrow: Addressing Housing & Infrastructure Needs in Nova Scotia

Featuring Dianne Kelderman, Duncan Williams, Lisa MacDonald & David Campbell

<https://youtu.be/9kAxqJqjB7E>

Galactic Rural Gateway: A Fireside Chat with Harvey Doane on Maritime Launch's Odyssey in Rural N.S.

Featuring Harvey Doane & Alex McCann

<https://youtu.be/yPIUSF3s9LU>

Think Big! Cultivating a Growth Mindset in Nova Scotia

Featuring Sarah Young, Jim Fitt, Don Mills & Dr. Dhirendra Shukla |

https://youtu.be/4XmX0_Wol2g

Exploring Nova Scotia's Sector Potential: Insights from Diverse Industries

Featuring Trent Soholt, Bill Culp, Sean Kirby & Claire Quirion

<https://youtu.be/YWHfOMMZvOk>

The 3 F's: Fishing, Farming & Forestry

Featuring Amy Ferguson, Emily Lutz, Julia MacMillan & Maxine Mann

<https://youtu.be/qi6V-Hi1QGE>

Path to 2 Million: Nova Scotia's Population Growth Strategy

Featuring Ava Czapalay

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WS5_OULYO3I

INSIGHTS Podcast: (Live) Interview with the Honourable Sean Fraser

Featuring David Campbell, Don Mills & Minister Fraser

<https://youtu.be/rpfR3bxMpxc>

Interview: Learnings from Insights Podcast

Featuring Wade Tibbo, David Campbell & Don Mills

<https://youtu.be/CIQcoY7fBkc>

The Economic Development Revolution

Featuring: Danny MacGillivray, Sarah MacIntosh Wiseman & Nicole LeBlanc & David Campbell

<https://youtu.be/3ow7HPDUe2U>



Photo Gallery



Supporting Meghan's Place

During the Partners for Progress Conference, The Pictou County Partnership donated to Meghan's Place, a recreation space in Acadia Park that will continue to support the dedicated councillor's vision for increased accessibility and active living.



Sponsors

We are grateful for the generous contributions from our sponsors, who made this conference possible.



SWEB Development
a W.E.B company
web.energy



New Glasgow
flourish

