



2026 PROJECT MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM & SILVER GALA

September 16-17, 2026

St. John's



Project
Management
Institute
Newfoundland &
Labrador



Welcome to your local PMI chapter



Who We Serve: Current and aspiring project professionals, and those who see it as a skill

At PMINL, we are dedicated to supporting and advancing the project management profession.

Our events and programs provide valuable learning, networking, and professional development opportunities for project managers and industry leaders.

Members from +17 industries



AkerSolutions



Not a member yet?
**Explore the benefits of a
membership here**



AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 am | Doors Open

9:30 am | Welcome and Opening Remarks

📍 Main Hall

9:45 - 10:45 am | Opening Keynote

📍 Main Hall

From SCARE to CARES: Leading Digital Transformation Without Chaos

10:45 - 11:15 am | General session

📍 Main Hall

Strategy as Risk Management: Leading Through Uncertainty in Complex Organizations

11:15 - 11:45 am | Networking Break

📍 Main Hall

11:45 am - 12:45 pm | Lunch

📍 Main Hall

12:45 - 1:00 pm | Visit Tradeshow Exhibitors

📍 Foyer

1:00 - 1:30 pm | Breakout sessions

Cracking the PM Interview

📍 Salon A

From Project Delivery to Organizational Transformation

📍 Salon B

Application of Alternative Construction Methodologies and Sustainable Frameworks for Building Infrastructure

📍 Salon C

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

1:30 - 2:00 pm | Breakout sessions

Women Leading the Way: Voices in Project Management *(Panel)*

 **Salon A**

Building Digital Health Facilities: Navigating Deployments as a new PM

 **Salon B**

Built to Lead: How Construction Project Leaders Navigate the Job Site *(Panel)*

 **Salon C**

2:00 - 2:30 pm | Breakout sessions

Leadership by Design: The Hidden Tools Behind Stronger Projects

 **Salon A**

Beyond the Gantt Chart: How project managers can evolve into strategic leaders?

 **Salon B**

“Beyond the PMBOK: What Government Projects Actually Taught Me”

 **Salon C**

2:30 - 3:00 pm | Breakout sessions

Open Forum

 **Salon A**

The Alchemy of Belonging: Finding Our Place in Today's Intergenerational - Multicultural Workplace

 **Salon B**

10 Lessons from 10 Years: Learning from a Decade of Building a Project-Based Business

 **Salon C**

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

3:00 - 3:15 pm | Visit Tradeshow Exhibitors

 **Foyer**

3:15 - 3:45 pm | General Session

 **Main Hall**

One Discipline, Every Industry: How Project Leaders Adapt Across Sectors

3:45 - 4:30 pm | Networking Bingo

 **Main Hall**

Powered by **cna**
College of the North Atlantic

4:30 pm | Final Remarks and Closing

 **Main Hall**

END OF DAY 1

A WORD FROM A PMINL FRIEND



Delegate Discount Program

Destination St. John's offers a complimentary delegate discount program for conferences and events hosted in St. John's. The program features discounts and special offers from participating partners both within St. John's and throughout the region.

Participating businesses display a decal indicating their involvement, and delegates simply need to show their event badge to receive the discount.

From SCARE to CARES: Leading Digital Transformation Without Chaos

Saby Waraich

CIO & bestselling author

Digital transformation projects rarely fail because of technology. They struggle when stress rises, communication breaks down, resistance grows, and teams lose confidence in the path forward.

Drawing from more than 25 years of leadership experience and real-world lessons learned while leading organizations through complex transformations and a major ransomware incident, Saby Waraich introduces the SCARE to CARES framework – a practical leadership approach for guiding teams through uncertainty and change.

Ranked as a Top 10 Global Thought Leader in IT Leadership, Saby has led multimillion-dollar initiatives across government, higher education, and global organizations and has spoken in more than 20 countries on five continents. His insights have been featured through Forbes Technology Council, Thinkers360, and national media outlets.



Strategy as Risk Management Leading Through Uncertainty in Complex Organizations

Dr. Tom Cooper

MUN Faculty

Dr. Cooper's presentation will explore how strategic leaders can treat risk not as an obstacle to be managed around, but as the core discipline through which lasting organizational impact is built.

Dr. Tom Cooper lectures in the areas of strategy, risk management, management consulting, and ethics/values at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. His research is primarily focused on the interplay between strategy and risk management. Dr. Cooper's research has been published widely in industry and academic publications.

Prior to taking his position at Memorial University, Dr. Cooper was a senior manager in PwC's Performance Improvement Consulting practice in London, UK.

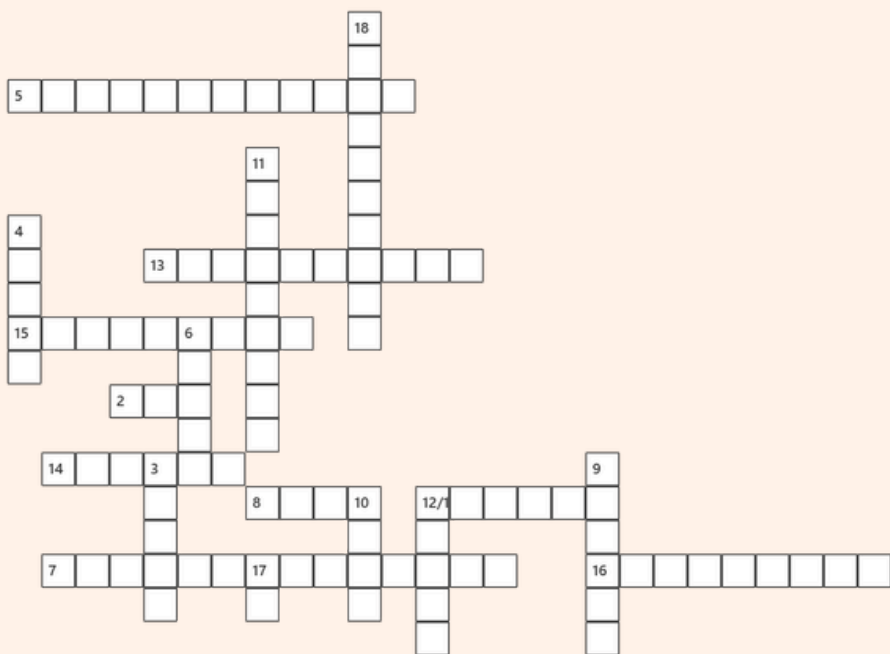




1. What line of work are you in, and what do you enjoy most about it?
2. What was your very first paying job, and what did you learn from it?
3. How did you initially find your way into your current career path?
4. What is one professional skill you are currently trying to master?
5. What soft skill do you find most valuable in a great coworker?
6. What originally drew you to attend this event?
7. Where do you consider home, and what is the best part about living there?
8. What is your absolute favorite thing to do on a completely free Saturday?
9. What was the last destination you visited that completely exceeded your expectations?
10. Are you currently bingeing any specific TV shows, podcasts, or book series?



Need a break?



Across

2. Office dedicated to supporting project management teams.
5. People affected by or invested in a project's outcome.
7. Meeting current needs without compromising future generations.
8. An uncertain event you worry about before it happens.
12. List established before a meeting, rarely followed strictly.
13. Framework providing oversight and decision-making authority.
14. Number everyone wants higher but nobody wants to exceed.
15. When vague responsibility shifts to specific individual accountability.
16. Available capacity to take on additional work tasks.

Down

1. Methodology where everything changes except the deadline.
3. Colorful chart that turns chaos into a visual plan.
4. Massive book containing numerous frameworks and processes.
6. The agreed-upon work defined before the project began.
9. System using sticky notes to make productivity tangible.
10. Metrics used specifically to track performance levels.
11. Project schedule stretching from start date to finish.
17. A project manager's most underrated yet vital skill.
18. Corporate phrase meaning we will perhaps discuss this later.

Cracking the PM Interview

📍 Salon A

In this panel session, attendees will hear from three local hiring and career professionals on optimizing their resumes, standing out in job interviews



Ema Shiroma-Chao,
CDPP



Nicole Bailey,
Chief People Strategist



Tessa Whelan,
Talent Manager



From Project Delivery to Organizational Transformation

📍 Salon B

How the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO, Government of NL) changed the way government technology is planned, built and sustained



Andrew Roberts,
Assistant Deputy Minister
OCIO



Application of Alternative Construction Methodologies and Sustainable Frameworks for Building Infrastructure

📍 Salon C

The City of St. John's will be speaking about two capital construction projects and how they are applying different construction methodologies and sustainability frameworks to improve their project delivery as they look towards their goal of becoming net zero by 2050.



Tonya Knopp,
Sr. Project Manager
ST. JOHN'S

Women Leading the Way: Voices in Project Management

📍 Salon A

You will sit down with four women in project management to chat leadership evolution and how they've handled having their competence questioned.



Lola Opanuga,
Founder



Chenel Waight,
Civil Engineer & PM



Jessica Andress,
Business Process
Manager



Vicki Case,
Jr. Project
Manager



Building Digital Health Facilities: Navigating Deployments as a new PM

📍 Salon B

Drawing on his experience managing large-scale facilities as a new project manager—Western Memorial Regional Hospital and Unity Health Centre—James will outline how he transitioned into project management from a technical background, building cross-functional credibility, and ensuring technology delivers real operational value.



James Wright,
Project Manager



Built to Lead: How Construction Project Leaders Navigate the Job Site

📍 Salon C

This panel discusses what leading a project looks like on a construction site. From how to handle safety concerns and subcontractor coordination to planning for the unexpected and how to identify the early signs of cost overruns.



Yi Yin Liu,
PhD Candidate



Omega Malisa,
Junior Pre-Construction
Coordinator



Diana Chaikovska
Project Manager



Sayem Malik,
CFG Chair



To learn more about the speakers, see page 17



NL women in project management (*WiPM*)
meet every other month for coffee,
career conversations, and career
development sessions.

Members include students, aspiring
and current PMs and senior
professionals representing +10 local
industries.

Join the WIPM Group today.
It's free.



MENTORSHIP | NETWORK | PD





The Construction Focus Group (CFG) is the interface between experienced construction project managers and newer professionals entering the sector.

If you're interested in capital projects, the CFG is for you.

You'll access mentorship, learning and site visits.



**JOIN THE CFG TODAY.
IT'S FREE.**



Leadership by Design: The Hidden Tools Behind Stronger Projects

Salon A

Stephanie Howlett will explore the leadership habits that help project teams stay aligned, responsive, and moving forward. You will leave with:

- Confidence to lead conversations that build clarity, trust, and momentum
- Simple ways to strengthen alignment, ownership, and team connection
- Three practical leadership moves they can use right away



Stephanie Howlett,
CEO



Beyond the Gantt Chart: How project managers can evolve into strategic leaders?

Salon B

Franklin will outline the definitive roadmap for project professionals to elevate their influence and become true strategic leaders. You will discover how to master political acumen, navigate real-world project complexity using systems thinking, and shift their focus from mere operational outputs to high-value business outcomes.



Franklin Onwa,
Director of
Operations
SEAFAR

“Beyond the PMBOK: What Government Projects Actually Taught Me”

Salon C

When frameworks meet the messy reality of public sector delivery, what actually makes projects succeed? Drawing from his experience as a project manager with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Vinay will share how he’s managed the “policy” and “leadership” creep of public sector projects and why soft skills are really the hard skills.



Vinay Sabhnani,
Project Manager



Open Forum

📍 Salon A

This is your session.

Send in the questions or challenges you're facing, and we'll pick a handful to dig into together — live, on the spot.

Expect practical insights, group brainstorming, and maybe a few surprises.

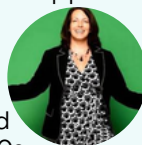
The Alchemy of Belonging: Finding Our Place in Today's Intergenerational - Multicultural Workplace

📍 Salon B

The skills and competencies required to lead are not taught in programs -they are skills from the trenches of lived experience.

So, as leaders, how do we bridge the gap? What qualities can we draw on to support this strange trajectory of the discipline of leadership?

Join Sonia in an exploration of the role of compassion, enthusiasm, and humor in the workplace of the late 2020s.



Sonia Byrne
Leadership Consultant

10 Lessons from 10 Years: Learning from a Decade of Building a Project-Based Business

📍 Salon C

Andrew started trajectorE, a project-based engineering firm at his kitchen table. Today, the company works with clients from all corners of North America. In his own words "This has been a tremendous learning opportunity for me that I would be happy to share with other professionals." This session is for you if you're a founder, operator or entrepreneur in the making.



Andrew Sinclair,
CEO



To learn more about the speakers, see page 17

SPEAKER

BIOS

Curious about the speakers credentials and
experience?

Scan the QR CODE below to learn more
about them!



One Discipline, Every Industry: How Project Leaders Adapt Across Sectors

What do tech, tourism, healthcare and construction have in common?

Projects!

And though project management principles are the same whether you're deploying software or managing the construction of a new airport, how and when you apply them can look very different from one industry to the next.

This panel will engage four project professionals from four distinct industries on what leading a project looks like in their world.

From the lessons they learned the hard way, challenges that shaped how these four PMs lead to how they manage the pressures that come with collaborating with stakeholders with different priorities and who gets a "no" for an answer, this conversation will offer a perspective of what project management can look like in Newfoundland and Labrador.

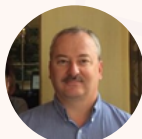
Meet the speakers:



Juanita Ford,
Chief Project Officer



Kim Pike,
Clinical Planner



Gary Kennedy,
Instructor



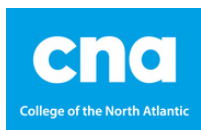
Roxana Popescu,
Project Manager



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