



Project
Management
Institute®
Newfoundland &
Labrador

2025 SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

15 October 2025

PMI
NEWFOUNDLAND
& LABRADOR

2025 PM Symposium
15 OCT 25



WELCOME TO YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

PMI Newfoundland and Labrador provides its members with professional development and networking opportunities to help increase project management knowledge and make connections in the professional community.

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.



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

GET INVOLVED WITH PMINL:

For general inquiries: info@pminl.ca

Need to learn more about memberships?
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AGENDA

2025 PM Symposium 15 OCT 25



12:30 PM - Doors Open

1:00PM - 1:15PM

PMINL Opening Remarks

Trailblazer Award Presentation

1:15PM - 1:45PM

Keynote - Charlene Johnson

1:45PM - 2:05PM

Rafael Vitorelli - Possibilities AI brings to Risk Management

2:05PM - 2:25PM

Networking Break

Community Impact Award Presentation

2:25PM - 2:45PM

Yigin Liu - DEI in Project Management

2:45PM - 3:05PM

Denise King - Project like a puzzle

3:05PM - 3:25PM

Networking Break

Volunteer of the Year Award Presentation

3:25PM - 3:45PM

Eileen O'Brien - Technical Procurement Management

3:45PM - 4:05PM

Ogaga Johnson - Strategic Leadership and AI

4:05PM - 4:20PM

Networking Break

Emerging Project Leader Award Presentation

4:20PM - 4:45PM

Rob Druburgh - building a personal brand that impacts others

4:45PM - 5:00PM

Closing Remarks, End of Day

PM of the Year Presentation

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OPENING KEYNOTE

CHARLENE JOHNSON

CEO of Energy NL

Charlene Johnson is the CEO of Energy NL and a former senior cabinet minister with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, where she led key departments including Finance, Innovation, and Environment. She brings extensive experience in public policy, business development, and energy sector leadership.

Charlene holds an MBA (with Distinction) from Heriot-Watt University, a Master of Applied Science in Environmental Engineering from Memorial University, and a Bachelor of Science in Forest Engineering from the University of New Brunswick. She also holds the ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors.



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RAFAEL VITORELLI

**Assistant Deputy Minister, Innovation and
New Technology at Government of Manitoba
President, PMI Manitoba**

Rafael Vitorelli is an award-winning IT leader, project management expert, AI enthusiast, and keynote speaker who believes that at the heart of every breakthrough lies the power of people. His mission is simple yet profound: to make people feel valued, heard, and empowered to be their best selves, fueling innovation, collaboration, and growth.

Currently serving as the Assistant Deputy Minister for Innovation and New Technology at Government of Manitoba and leading the PMI Manitoba Chapter as its President, Rafael is a trusted voice at the intersection of AI innovation, strategic leadership, and transformative project management. His leadership style is grounded in active listening, empathy, and creating spaces where creativity and performance thrive.



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YIYIN LIU

PhD candidate at Memorial University of Newfoundland

Yiyin Liu is an experienced project manager in the construction industry and a PhD candidate at Memorial University of Newfoundland, where her research explores women's experiences in male-dominated sectors. She is a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) in the UK, as well as the China Building Renovation and Urban Renewal Professional Committee.

Yiyin also contributes to the local professional community as a steering committee member of the International Professionals Network (IPN) and as a mentor in project management through the Empowerment Bridge Program of Expertise Hub Co-operation and IENL–Study and Stay NL.



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DENISE KING

Program Manager at
PAL Aerospace

Denise King is a Program Manager with PAL Aerospace and a passionate project management professional. Since joining PAL's PMO in 2018, she has led major international programs with the Governments of Canada and the Netherlands, supporting missions in search and rescue, fisheries monitoring, pollution prevention, and counter-narcotics operations.

Currently, Denise is part of the team delivering Canada's Future Aircrew Training program, helping to build a comprehensive training system for pilots and crew to protect Canada's airspace. She holds a Master's Certificate in Project Management and is pursuing an MBA with a specialization in Strategy from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, all while balancing her career and life as a mom of two.



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EILEEN O'BRIEN

Green Infrastructure Partners

Eileen O'Brien, P.Eng., PMP has spent over 30 years in construction and project management, primarily in the energy and infrastructure sectors.

Recent projects of note in Newfoundland include the Hibernia Southern Extension, the Hebron Topsides and the West White Rose Concrete Gravity Structure.

Eileen has taken on various roles including construction manager, project and PMO manager, engineering manager, quality manager and IMS director. Currently working with Green Infrastructure Partners, formerly Pennecon Heavy Civil, she continues to contribute to the industry and sits on the board of PEGNL.



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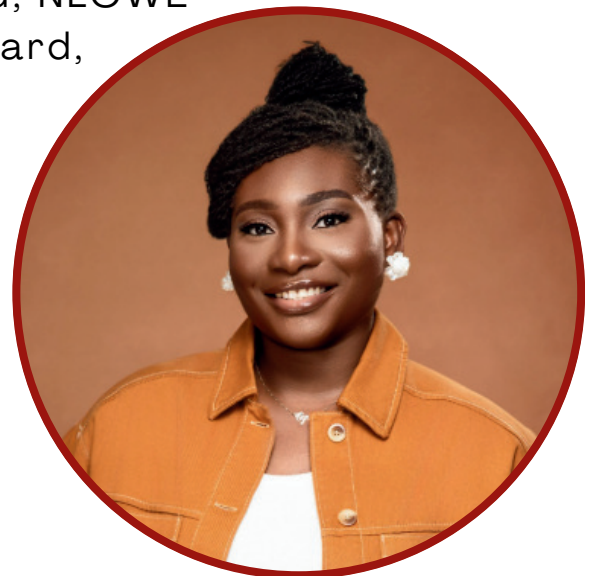
OGAGA JOHNSON

CEO of Verisult

Ogaga Johnson is the go-to voice for leaders and organizations ready to turn ideas into action. Known as “the queen of getting things done,” she brings energy, clarity, and practical strategies to every stage and workshop she leads.

As Founder and CEO of Verisult, an ed-tech and career company tackling the global labor shortage, Ogaga has trained over 10,000 professionals worldwide and supported more than 120 in building thriving careers. Her expertise has led to collaborations with PMI and features in Forbes, CBC, and The Guardian.

Ogaga has been recognized with multiple award nominations, including the RBC Women Entrepreneurs Award, NLOWE Entrepreneurship Award, and BBI Youth Entrepreneur Award.



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ROB DRYBURGH

Brand Strategist and Creative Entrepreneur

Rob Dryburgh is a brand strategist and creative entrepreneur based in Conception Bay South, Newfoundland.

Rob is passionate about helping businesses owners and entrepreneurs build their personal brand and online business by using systems, strategies and authority driven content.

When he is not running his business I like to spend my time raising his three beautiful young girls, exploring the beautiful island of Newfoundland and running



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