

CANADIAN Pipeliners

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PIPE LINE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



JUNE 2025



Verne Stevenson Memorial Scholarship donation of \$100,000 – see page 7

2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

The PLCAC's 71st Annual General Meeting & Convention was held in Banff, AB from May 25 to 28, 2025. The event brought together more than 350 delegates for a memorable and engaging gathering, hosted at the historic Fairmont Banff Springs.

The PLCAC staff and Board of Directors welcomed members of the PLCAC Regular and Associate companies, the four craft pipeline unions, and sister associations. The delegates shared insights, explored new innovations, and created valuable connections throughout the events and sessions.

The PLCAC organized a full agenda of networking activities for delegates and their families. The business sessions were held in the morning and featured a dynamic lineup of speakers including Mike Fernandez, Enbridge SVP-Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability and Chief Communications Office; Mark Maki, Trans Mountain Chief Executive Officer; Chief Crystal Smith, Chief Councillor of the Haisla Nation; and Ryan Straschnitzki, Resilience & Fortitude Speaker and founder of Straz Strong Charity.

The annual golf tournament was held at the legendary Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course, where golfers competed with Kevin O'Donnell, in a friendly competition that raised \$2,700 which was rounded up to \$10,000 donation to the YWCA Banff. Other activities included Cowboy Cookout by Wagon, Wildlife Sightseeing Tour, Lake Louise and Bow Valley Sightseeing Tour and Lake Minnewanka Cruise. The Outdoor Enthusiasts costume party celebrated Banff's natural beauty and love of the outdoors.

In recognition of guest speaker, Ryan Straschnitzki, the PLCAC made a charitable donation to the Straz Strong Charity.

A heartfelt thank you to all the delegates who attended and to all the sponsors for helping make the 71st Annual General Meeting and Convention remarkable and successful!



PLCAC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2025-2026



*Back row (left to right): Paul Schultz, Scott Ryan, Paul Mease, Michael Prior, James Nixon, Colin Schmidt, and Blake Shultis
Front row (left to right): Mark Scherer, Wesley Waschuk, Neil Waugh, David Johnstone, Lyall Nash, and Kevin O'Donnell*

OFFICERS

Paul Schultz, President

Senior Vice President, Premay Pipeline Hauling L.P.
Edmonton, AB

Neil Waugh, 1st Vice President

President, NPL Canada Ltd.
Vaughan, ON

James Nixon, 2nd Vice President

President, O.J. Pipelines Canada
Nisku, AB

Paul Mease, Treasurer

Executive Chairman, Robert B. Somerville Co. Ltd.
King City, ON

Kevin O'Donnell, Executive Director

Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada
Oakville, ON

DIRECTORS

Wesley Waschuk

President, Waschuk Pipe Line Construction Ltd.
Red Deer, AB

David Johnstone

President, T.W. Johnstone Company Limited
London, ON

Lyall Nash

President, TESTCO Western Ltd.
Calgary, AB

Michael Prior

Senior Strategic Advisor, Michels Canada
King City, ON

Scott Ryan

Vice President, Aecon Utilities
Toronto, ON

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Blake Shultis

Branch Manager – PipeLine Machinery International, Acheson, AB

Colin Schmidt

Chief Executive Officer and President – TerraPro Inc. Sherwood Park, AB

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



President Mark Scherer welcomed the delegates at the 71st Annual General Meeting and Convention on Monday, May 26, 2025 at the John Deere Kick-Off Party. He assured everyone that the upcoming week would feature numerous occasions designed to encourage meaningful networking, share valuable and insightful information, and create an engaging, enjoyable atmosphere for all participants. Whether through formal sessions, casual gatherings, or special events, there would be something for everyone to look forward to throughout the week.

President Scherer encouraged the delegates to venture out and discover the breathtaking beauty of Banff, from its stunning mountain views and serene lakes to its vibrant local culture.

PAUL SCHULTZ APPOINTED 2025-2026 PLCAC PRESIDENT AT ANNUAL CONVENTION

On Wednesday, May 28, 2025, Paul Schultz, Senior Vice President of Premay Pipeline Hauling L.P., was appointed President of the Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada for the 2025-2026 term.

Paul has over 40 years of experience in the industry. Throughout his career, Paul has succeeded in overseeing all aspects of business development, from major stockpiling to stringing projects across Canada. Paul has been a PLCAC Board member since 2012. He is an active member in the Mainline Negotiating Committee, Education and Training Committee and the Membership and Promotion Committee.



PLCAC HOSTS THE WORLD FEDERATION OF PIPELINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS MEETING



(Left to Right): Jeff Knapp – PLCA President, Rob Darden – DCA Executive Vice President, Kevin O'Donnell – PLCAC Executive Director, Mark Scherer – PLCAC President 2024-2025, Elizabeth Worrell – PLCA Managing Director & Chief Legal Counsel, Georges Hage – IPLOCA Executive Director

On Sunday, May 25, 2025, the PLCAC President, Mark Scherer and PLCAC Executive Director, Kevin O'Donnell, hosted the members of the World Federation of Pipeline Industry Associations (WFPIA) meeting at the Fairmont Banff Springs in Banff, Alberta.

The PLCAC welcomed delegates from sister organization including: Distribution Contractors Association – US (DCA), International Pipe Line & Offshore Contractors Association (IPLOCA), and Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA).

Topics addressed in the meeting included: Industry inclusive leadership development programs, challenges to the global markets, exerting our collective influence over policy and government processes, and benefits of networking.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 2025 in Izmir, Turkey at the IPLOCA convention.

.....

PLCAC NEW DIRECTOR



Scott Ryan – Vice President – Aecon Utilities

Scott Ryan comes to the PLCAC Board of Directors with 18 years' experience with Aecon. Currently, he is the Vice President of Aecon Utilities in Toronto, ON.

Scott graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Civil Engineering degree. He has worked in Aecon's Civil Division, Mining and Industrial across Canada. He has been the Vice President of Aecon Utilities since 2018.

The PLCAC would like to welcome Scott to our Board of Directors team.

CONVENTION 2025 SPEAKERS RECAP:



Mike Fernandez, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability at Enbridge, Kevin O'Donnell, PLCAC Executive Director, and Mark Maki, CEO of Trans Mountain



INDUSTRY PANEL

The 71st Annual General Meeting and Convention in May brought together over 350 delegates and leaders from the energy sector. Kevin O'Donnell, PLCAC Executive Director, hosted an Industry Panel with Mike Fernandez, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability at Enbridge and Chief Communications Office; and Mark Maki, CEO of Trans Mountain. The panel led an insightful discussion on Canada's path toward reclaiming its position as an energy superpower.

.....

CHIEF COUNCILLOR OF THE HAISLA NATION



Chief Crystal Smith, Chief Councillor of the Haisla Nation

Chief Crystal Smith, Chief Councillor of the Haisla Nation, gave a powerful keynote speech. Her steadfast commitment to promoting responsible and inclusive resource development hit a meaningful chord with the audience. She added valuable depth to the conversation on sustainability and the future of the energy industry. Chief Smith reminded the audience that responsible resource development can lead to generational wealth for First Nations but long term consultation and true partnership are the most important elements.



RYAN STRASCHNITZKI: RESILIENCE & FORTITUDE

Ryan Straschnitzki, Former Humboldt Broncos hockey player and founder of Starz Strong Foundation, was an inspiration of strength and perseverance. His keynote speech left a lasting impact on the attendees. The message that there is always 'a door open' demonstrated the foundation of a healthy mindset.

STEVENSON FAMILY GENEROUS DONATION



At the 2025 Banff convention, Tom Stevenson and his family generously donate \$ 100,000 to the PLCAC Student Award program. The PLCAC Top Achiever award will now be named the Verne Stevenson Memorial Scholarship Award, which will be granted annually to the top student.





2024 JAMES L. ABRAHAM SAFETY PERFORMANCE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Annually, the PLCAC recognizes member companies who have distinguished themselves with exemplary safety performance and safety records over the past year through the James L. Abraham Safety Performance Awards of Excellence Program. These awards are based on lowest lost time incidents (LTI) frequency rates. The winners for 2024 are:



MAINLINE PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION:

Banister Pipelines Limited Partnership

The following companies also had zero Lost Time Incidents (LTIs) in this category (but worked less hours): Aecon, O.J. Pipelines Canada and Michels Canada Co.



DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION:

NPL Canada Ltd.

The following companies also had zero Lost Time Incidents (LTIs) in this category (but worked less hours): Robert B. Somerville Co. Limited and T.W. Johnstone Company Limited



PIPELINE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE:

Robert B. Somerville Co. Limited

The following companies also had zero Lost Time Incidents (LTIs) in this category (but worked less hours): Aecon, NPL Canada Ltd. and Summit Pipeline Services ULC



SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR TRANSPORTATION

Premay Pipeline Hauling L.P.

The following company also had zero Lost Time Incidents (LTIs) in this category (but worked less hours): 2XL Transport Ltd.



SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR (HDD) PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION (over 20,000 hours)

Robert B. Somerville Co. Limited

The following company also had zero Lost Time Incidents (LTIs) in this category (but worked less hours): McCaw's Drilling & Blasting Ltd.



SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR (HYDROVAC) – PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION (under 20,000 hours)

Michels Canada Co.

The following companies also had zero Lost Time Incidents (LTIs) in this category (but worked less hours): Allstream Waste Solutions Inc., Badger Daylighting Limited Partnership, Landshark Group, Lonestar Vacuum Inc. (A Division of Clean Harbours) and Testco Western Ltd

FRASER MACKINNON, MICHELS CANADA CO., RECEIVES 2025 JACK CRESSEY FUTURE LEADER AWARD

The Jack Cressey Future Leader Award was established in 1995 in memory of Jack Cressey, board member and past president of the PLCAC, who was known as a strong leader with vision, integrity and drive.

At the 2025 Annual General Meeting & Convention in Banff, Alberta, the Jack Cressey Future Leader Award was presented to Fraser MacKinnon, of Michels Canada Co.



Fraser MacKinnon joined Michels Canada Co. in 2015 as a Payroll Assistant in the Pipeline Division. As he learned quickly, he began taking on varied responsibilities. His work ethics enabled him to progress through the field office roles and now he is responsible for the entire Michels Field Office Management.

The PLCAC would like to congratulate Fraser MacKinnon on this great career achievement.

.....

PLCAC WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS

PLCAC Board of Directors have recently approved membership applications from three Associate Members. We welcome these new members to the PLCAC!



Kelbern Supply and Rental Inc., located in Spruce Grove, AB, supplies industrial, welding and general equipment rentals.

For more information, contact Tom Nichol, President, at 780-948-9448 or visit www.kelbern.ca.



R.P.H. Distributors Ltd., located in Calgary, AB, is a Canadian authorized distributor of Tapecoat & Glass Mesh, provider of anti-corrosion, cathodic protection, sealing and waterproofing product solutions for pipeline in the oil & gas industry.

For more information, contact Juert Lako, Regional Manager, at 416-839-6046 or visit www.rphdis.com.

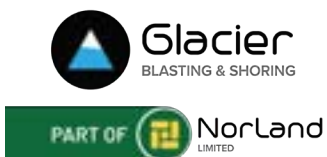


SEI Bentonite, located in Toronto, ON, is a wholesale bulk bentonite and barite supplier and is active in the pipeline industry.

For more information, contact Robert Kirkwood, CEO, at 905-466-0167 or visit www.seibentonite.com.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

LiUNA!



MIDWESTERN



**Pipeline &
Gas Journal**



rb RITCHIE BROS.



STRAD



TERRAPRO

TUFF-N-NUFF

**underground
infrastructure**
Construction • Rehabilitation • Asset Management



V O L V O



BUILDING THE FUTURE: TEAMSTERS 362 INVESTING IN TRAINING EXCELLENCE



As industry demands continue to evolve, General Teamsters Local Union No. 362 is actively rebuilding and standardizing our warehouse training program. In collaboration with our counterparts in British Columbia and Ontario—and with the support of academic experts from Illinois—we are developing a new, comprehensive curriculum aimed at achieving trade designation and, ultimately, Red Seal certification.



In addition, we have acquired 6.6 acres of land for the construction of a dedicated training facility. This new warehouse will serve as a hub for not only hands-on warehouse instruction but practical driver training as well.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Starting on June 4, 2025, the Pipe Line Contractors Association released its video series on Mental Health, one video per week for five weeks.

This series provides insights and resources in understanding, managing and mitigating the issue of mental health for all employees in our industry.

These videos were developed in collaboration between the PLCAC Standing Safety Committee, our Contractors, and the Canadian Pipeline Advisory Council (CPAC).

You can check out this video series along with the other Safety Awareness videos on the PLCAC YouTube Channel or visit our website www.pipeline.ca.

If you have any questions, please contact the PLCAC office.

PLCAC - HONORARY MEMBER



On May 28, 2025, Nick De Koning, Robert B. Somerville Co. Limited– Executive Chairman, was officially inducted as a PLCAC Honorary Member recognizing his contribution to the pipeline industry for over 50 years.

Nick started working at Robert B. Somerville Co. Limited in 1972, and moved to his current role as Executive Chairman in 2019. He was PLCAC Director from 1993 to 2024. During his time as a Director, he served on many Committees and was Chair of the Distribution Negotiation Committee for three years. Also, he was the PLCAC President four times.

The Pipe Line Contractors Association would like to thank Nick for his service in our industry and being a crucial part of the PLCAC for many years.

PLCAC - BOARD MEMBER DEPARTURE



Mark Scherer, Aecon – Executive Vice President Chief Safety Officer, and PLCAC 2024-2025 President, has stepped down from the PLCAC's Board of Directors effective May 28, 2025. Mark Scherer was part of the PLCAC Board of Directors since 2011.

Paul Schultz, PLCAC President and Kevin O'Donnell, PLCAC Executive Director, along with the rest of the Board of Director members thank Mark for his leadership and dedication throughout his tenure at the PLCAC.

REMEMBERING – BOB BRATCHER (APRIL 10, 1960 – FEBRUARY 26, 2025)



The Pipeline Contractors Association of Canada (PLCAC) extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Bob Bratcher.

In 1979, Bob Bratcher started working at Banister Pipelines as a Labourer and Swamper. He quickly advanced to driving many types of trucks including highway tractor. In 1994, he was promoted to Transportation Supervisor and held this position until his passing.



See You In Maui!

**The Pipe Line Contractors Association
of Canada (PLCAC) 72nd Annual
Convention
Hyatt Regency Maui
Resort & Spa
Maui, Hawaii
April 20 – 24, 2026**

Action Dates

2024

International Pipe Line & Offshore Contractors Association (IPLOCA)
57th Annual Convention
Swiss Hotel
Izmir, Turkey
September 15 – 19, 2025
www.iploca.com

2025

Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA)
78th Annual Convention
Arizona Biltmore
Phoenix, Arizona
February 11 – 15, 2025
www.plca.org

Distribution Contractors Association (DCA)

65th Annual Convention
Trump National Doral
Miami, Florida
February 23 – February 28, 2026
www.dcaweb.org

Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada (PLCAC)

72nd Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa
Maui, Hawaii
April 20-April 24, 2026
www.pipeline.ca

Canadian Pipeliner

**The newsletter of the
Pipe Line Contractors
Association of Canada**

Reproduction of material is encouraged.
Please acknowledge the *Canadian Pipeliner*.

Contributors are invited to send material to:
Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada
6303 Airport Road, Unit 100, Mississauga,
ON L4V 1R8

Tel: 905 672-2310
Email: plcac@pipeline.ca
Website: www.pipeline.ca