

# CDL ATLANTIC

## 2024-25

**Creative Destruction Lab-Atlantic (CDL-Atlantic)** is housed within the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University. The CDL program is a nine-month, objectives-based mentorship program for science and technology-based ventures looking to accelerate their path to commercialization. With guidance from experienced entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and accomplished scientists, founders learn to sharpen their focus on the priorities that will help them gain traction and positively impact their company's trajectory.

[www.creativedestructionlab.com/locations/halifax/](http://www.creativedestructionlab.com/locations/halifax/)

Founded at the Rotman School of  
Management, University of Toronto

Global Founding Partners:

John Harris Family  
Foundation

Threshold Impact  
Ray Muzyka & Leona  
De Boer



ALUMAPOWER CORPORATION | DISPENSION INDUSTRIES INC. | HAYGUARD AS | KIDEMIS | LAB4 INC. |  
MARBLE AEROSPACE LIMITED | OPTIMAL | PAIN COACH INC. | PASCAL TECHNOLOGIES | PERSIGHT SPACE |  
RETELLO | ROBOBUOY INC. | SEAMORETECH | SUBTIDAL | TRACKTILE | ZERO ENERGY WATER



**BUILD  
SOMETHING  
MASSIVE.**

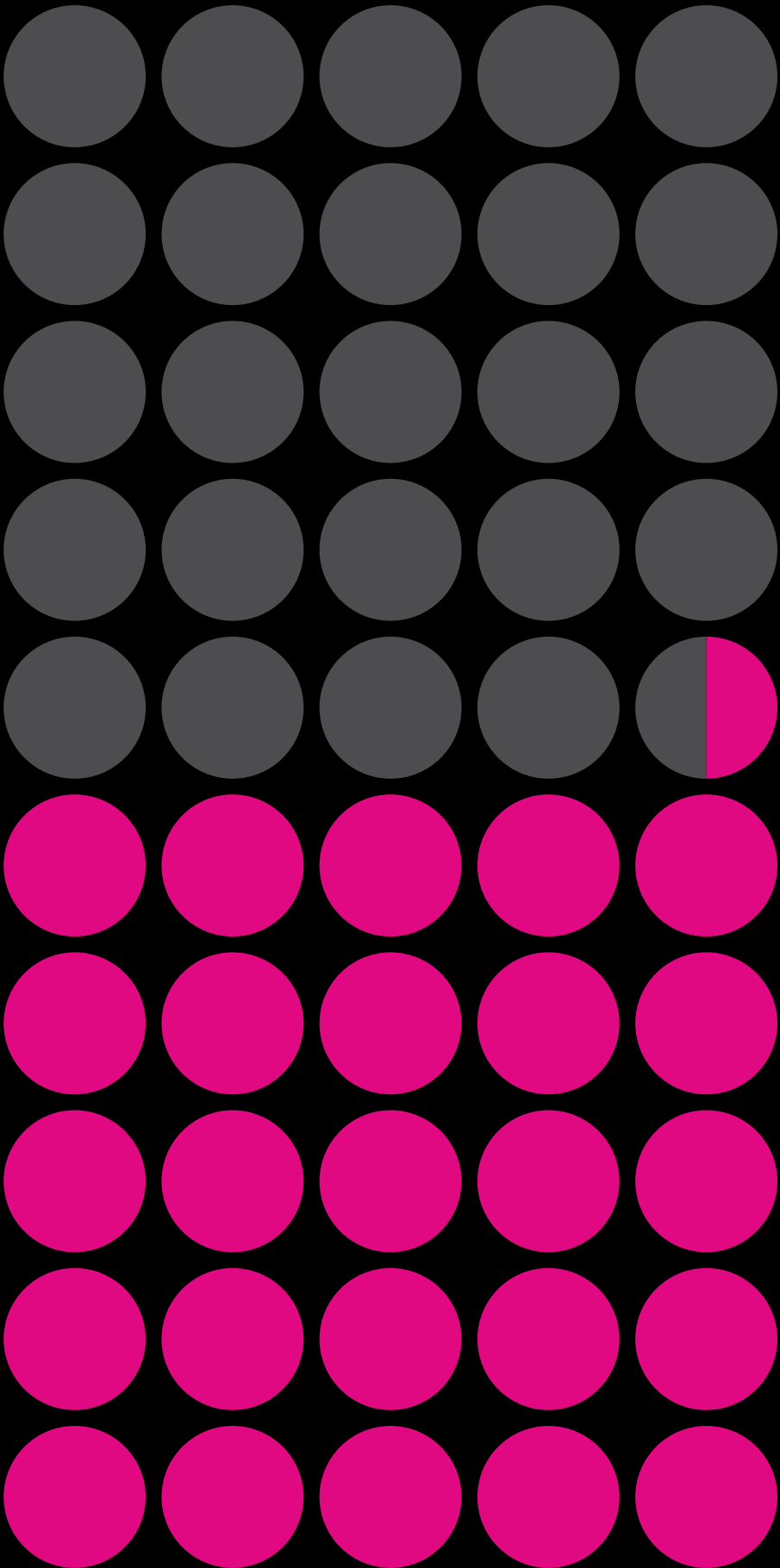


CDL’s mission is to enhance the commercialization of science for the betterment of humankind.

CDL will inspire possibility, increase labour productivity, and enhance job opportunities, thereby contributing to the overall welfare of humankind through the commercial application of scientific breakthroughs via entrepreneurship. We measure our success through equity value creation. **Our CDL-Global network goal is to generate \$100 billion in equity value through CDL alumni companies by 2027.**

\$51B

more than half way to our \$100B goal.



CDL operates five sites in Canada, three in the United States, six in Europe and one in Australia

#### VANCOUVER

- Advanced Therapies
- Biomedical Engineering
- Cancer
- Climate
- Compute
- Minerals

#### ROCKIES

- Prime
- AgriFood
- Cancer
- Energy

#### SEATTLE

- Computational Health
- Manufacturing

#### WISCONSIN

- Advanced Therapies
- Risk
- Health & Wellness

#### TEXAS (NEW)

- Energy
- Space

#### TORONTO

- AI
- Advanced Therapies
- Cancer
- Carbon Removal
- Neuro
- Quantum
- Space

#### MONTREAL

- AI
- Web3
- Quantum
- Supply Chain

#### ATLANTIC

- Prime
- Oceans

#### LONDON (NEW)

- Minerals

#### ESTONIA

- Digital Society

#### BERLIN

- Health
- Next Gen Computing

#### PARIS

- AI
- Climate
- Next Gen Computing
- Space

#### MILAN (NEW)

- Manufacturing
- Space

#### SAN SEBASTIAN (NEW)

- AI
- Quantum

#### MELBOURNE

- Prime





Jeff Larsen,  
Site Lead



Leslie McNabb-Kyritsis,  
Director

## FROM THE LEADERSHIP

As we reflect on another incredible year at CDL-Atlantic, we're proud of the growing impact our program is having, not only on the ventures we support, but on the broader innovation ecosystem across Atlantic Canada and internationally.

This year, CDL-Atlantic supported **39 science- and technology-driven** ventures through our Prime and Oceans streams. These ventures are tackling a variety of global challenges, and they're doing it with the guidance of our exceptional mentor community and the backing of a world-class research network.

We've seen real momentum: ventures securing transformative pilots and partnerships, deep tech teams achieving critical R&D milestones,

and founders choosing to build and scale from Atlantic Canada. These are not just business successes - they are signs of a thriving, globally connected innovation hub taking shape in our region.

We've also worked to strengthen the local and international reach of our programming. This past program year, our **Prime Stream sessions were delivered in partnership with Volta Investment Days**, connecting founders with the investors and innovation leaders from Atlantic Canada and beyond.

And in a first for CDL-Atlantic, **our final Oceans Stream session of the program year was hosted in Bergen, Norway**, to align with **One Ocean Week**, a global gathering

of ocean innovators. These touchpoints are powerful examples of how CDL is both rooted in the Atlantic region and plugged into global conversations.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary commitment of our mentors, the curiosity and grit of our founders, and the support of our university, corporate and community partners. Thank you for continuing to believe in our mission and the transformational power of science and entrepreneurship.

We look forward to what's ahead as we continue to grow CDL-Atlantic's impact: deepening partnerships, supporting more globally ambitious ventures, and helping build a stronger, more resilient innovation economy for Atlantic Canada.



Louis Beaubien,  
Academic Lead

OCEANS

For founders focused on disrupting the ocean economy with digital technologies and sustainable solutions.

**Havguard AS**  
Leknes, Norway  
[havguard.com](http://havguard.com)

**Kidemis**  
Zollikofen, Switzerland  
[kidemis.com](http://kidemis.com)

**Marble Aerospace Limited**  
Chippenham, Wiltshire, UK  
[marble.aero](http://marble.aero)

**Pascal Technologies**  
Oslo, Norway  
[pascaltech.com](http://pascaltech.com)

**PierSight Space**  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India  
[piersight.space](http://piersight.space)

**Robobuoy Inc.**  
Detroit, Michigan, USA  
[aquaticbot.com](http://aquaticbot.com)

**SEAMORETECH**  
Porto, Portugal  
[seamoretech.com](http://seamoretech.com)

**Subtidal**  
Berkeley, California, USA  
[subtidal.com](http://subtidal.com)

**Zero Energy Water**  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
[zeroenergywater.com](http://zeroenergywater.com)

PRIME

For founders pursuing state-of-the-art technological innovations across diverse industries.

**AlumaPower Corporation**  
Sarnia, Ontario, Canada  
[alumapower.com](http://alumapower.com)

**Dispension Industries Inc.**  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada  
[dispension.com](http://dispension.com)

**Lab4 Inc.**  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada  
[lab4inc.com](http://lab4inc.com)

**Optiml**  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
[optiml.ca](http://optiml.ca)

**Pain Coach Inc.**  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
[paincoachapp.com](http://paincoachapp.com)

**Retellio**  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada  
[retellio.com](http://retellio.com)

**Tracktile**  
Cornwall, Prince Edward Island, Canada  
[tracktile.io](http://tracktile.io)



# CDL-ATLANTIC 2024-25 COHORT

### Admitted Ventures

**19**  
Oceans

**20**  
Prime

### Graduating Ventures

**9**  
Oceans

**7**  
Prime

### CDL-Atlantic EVC

**\$2.84B**  
(an increase of over  
\$1B from 2023-24)

### Active Mentors

**96**  
Total Active Mentors

**41**  
Oceans

**45**  
Prime

**10**  
Both

### Countries represented by Ventures



Canada



Chile



India



Netherlands



Norway



Portugal



Switzerland



UK



USA

## 21 Atlantic Canadian ventures admitted in 2024-25

representing an increase of 75%  
from the previous year.





# THE CDL IMPACT

## QuickFacts' Growth

CDL's mentorship had a transformative impact on QuickFacts' fundraising strategy. Although the company launched with a strong product idea, co-founder Christy Barsalou admitted "we had absolutely no idea what we were doing" when it came to raising capital. CDL provided practical guidance on structuring their pre-seed round and sharpening their investor pitch, which not only helped them secure early funding from program connections but also gave them lasting strategic support.

CDL also pushed QuickFacts to think beyond funding and focus on scalable, long-term growth. This shift in mindset led to major operational improvements, including clear sales KPIs, a smoother client onboarding process, and a stronger emphasis on Net Promoter Score (NPS) and customer feedback. These changes were embedded company-wide, supported by defined OKRs and improved internal systems. Two CDL mentors now serve on the company's Board of Directors.

The results speak for themselves! Since graduating from CDL Prime in May 2023, QuickFacts has grown its customer base by 570% and achieved a 102% customer retention rate. Their platform has saved brokerages an estimated 500,000 hours, allowing advisors to spend more time focused

on clients. The company expanded across Canada, launched U.S. pilots, and secured a U.K. partnership.



**"CDL raised our expectations, standards, and vision to get QuickFacts where we are today - I'm forever grateful."**

Christy Barsalou,  
QuickFacts Co-founder  
& President/CEO

## Zero Energy Water's Path to Market and \$1M Milestone

Zero Energy Water (ZEW) is revolutionizing seawater desalination with its patented graphene nano-plate membrane, offering up to 90% energy savings over traditional reverse osmosis. Designed as a drop-in replacement for existing desalination systems, ZEW's technology enables scalable adoption without major infrastructure changes. Over the past year at CDL-Atlantic, ZEW secured key Letters of Intent, hit its \$1M fundraising

target, advanced IP filings, completed manufacturing milestones, and strengthened its team to position the company for rapid, global growth.

Culminating a year of exceptional progress, Zero Energy Water was selected as CDL-Atlantic's featured venture at Super Session in Toronto, where it showcased its transformative potential on the program's global stage.



# THE CDL IMPACT

## Mentorship That Moves the Needle: CDL’s Cross-Functional Advantage

“I am a huge advocate of participation in CDL! The CDL process provides unparalleled feedback for entrepreneurs and their enterprises from a unique cross-sectional and cross-functional ecosystem. On each discrete sprint of the program, the company objectives are challenged and supported by industry, subject matter experts in their field, investors, and entrepreneurs who have trod their path. It is unique to have such broad-based feedback in one place, from unbiased participants, who all have, as their primary motivation, the furthering of the company trajectory.”

Caitriona Kelleher,  
Managing Director, Hatch Blue  
(Investigator, CDL Oceans)



## Partnering for Impact: How CDL Elevates the Startup Ecosystem

“The Ocean Startup Project’s collaboration with Creative Destruction Lab-Atlantic has been instrumental in strengthening Canada’s ocean-focused startup pipeline. By working directly with CDL’s team, we have identified opportunities to refine our programs, such as targeted training sessions, to better prepare founders for CDL’s selection process. Going forward, we are committed to deepening this partnership to help even more high-potential ventures succeed at CDL and beyond.”

Paula Mendonça,  
Executive Director,  
Ocean Startup Project  
(Partner, CDL Oceans)





# UNLOCKING GLOBAL IMPACT

## CDL Alumni Driving Healthcare Innovation

One of the highlights of 2025 was seeing CDL-Atlantic alumni return to Dalhousie University to share how the program shaped their entrepreneurial journeys. On May 22, the Neville Gilfoy Entrepreneurship Panel brought together three visionary founders. Their ventures are tackling urgent global healthcare challenges, demonstrating that innovation born in Atlantic Canada can make an impact far beyond the region.

- Dr. Hamed Hanafi (NovaResp Technologies, CDL'22) is revolutionizing sleep apnea care with AI-powered solutions.
- Rashmi Prakash (Aruna Revolution, CDL'24) is reshaping sustainable hygiene with products designed to support both people and the planet.
- Ryan Marshall (Myomar Molecular, CDL'22) is pioneering new diagnostics for muscle degeneration, helping enable earlier and more effective treatment.



These founders spoke candidly about how CDL helped them refine their business models, connect with world-class mentors, and access the capital needed to grow. Their stories underscore what we see again and again: CDL-Atlantic equips entrepreneurs with the tools and networks to take bold ideas from the lab to the global stage.

As Rashmi put it, the program gave her “the confidence to think globally from day one.” That mindset, combined with science, grit, and mentorship, continues to fuel breakthroughs locally, nationally, and globally.



L-R: Ryan Marshall,  
Dr. Paola Marignani,  
Rashmi Prakash,  
Dr. Hamed Hanafi,  
Leslie McNabb-Kyritsis

# CELEBRATING CDL IMPACT

## News, Raises, and Recognition in the CDL-Atlantic Network

We're proud to share that five outstanding members of the CDL-Atlantic community were awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of their exceptional service and leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship:

**Mo AlGermozi**  
CEO, GIT Coatings (CDL'18)  
Alumni Associate

**Alfred Burgesson**  
Founder & CEO, Tribe Network  
Guest Mentor and Ecosystem Partner

**Bob Pelley**  
Senior Corporate Advisor, Invest Nova Scotia  
Government Funding Partner

**Marc d'Entremont**  
Founder & CEO, Katchi (CDL'24)  
Venture Alumnus

**Melanie Nadeau**  
CEO, Centre for Oceans Ventures & Entrepreneurship (COVE)  
Associate

## CDL-Atlantic Associate Cathy Bennett Receives 2025 IWF Luminary Award

**Cathy Bennett**, Founding & Co-Managing Partner at Sandpiper Ventures and CDL-Atlantic Associate, was named a **2025 International Women's Forum (IWF) Luminary Award** recipient. This prestigious award recognizes trailblazing women leaders who have made a lasting impact in their fields and communities. Cathy's leadership in advancing women-led innovation and venture capital continues to inspire across Canada and beyond.

## 3DBioFibR Celebrates Breakthrough Year with \$3M Raise and Innovation Award

In June 2025, Halifax-based 3DBioFibR (CDL'21) raised \$3M CAD in equity funding to scale its innovative biopolymer fiber platform. The round was backed by leading investors, including Build Ventures and Invest Nova Scotia.

3DBioFibR also received the Innovation Award at the 2024 Discovery Awards, recognizing its dry-spinning technology that enables commercial-scale production of collagen fibers mimicking the body's natural extracellular matrix.

**Kevin Sullivan**,  
3DBioFibR Founder & CEO





L-R: Dr. Jennifer Johnston, receiving the award from Jeff White, President & CEO, NBIF and CDL-Atlantic Associate

### Elle, MD Biotechnologies Wins NBIF Fueling Female Pitch Competition \$100K Prize.

Jennifer Johnston, MD, founder of **Elle, MD Biotechnologies** (CDL'24), won the **\$100K CAD** prize in the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation's Fueling Female Founder Pitch Competition at the 2025 Atlantic Venture Forum. A family physician and assistant professor at Dalhousie University, Dr. Johnston launched Elle, MD in 2022 to develop a user-controlled, pain-free, hormone-free contraceptive. The prize package included entry into due diligence with NBIF, a potential match with Invest Nova Scotia, Firehood sponsorship, and coaching from Rivet.

### Aruna Revolution Secures \$250K Deal on Dragons' Den for Sustainable Hygiene Innovation

**Aruna Revolution** (CDL'24) landed a **\$250K CAD** deal for 25% equity with Dragons Michele Romanow and Manjit Minhas on the season finale of Dragons' Den Canada!

Headquartered in Nova Scotia and led by a powerhouse team of women engineers and experts, Aruna is transforming the hygiene industry with sustainable, compostable menstrual products. Their Dragons' Den feature gave national recognition to their mission to build a more circular, inclusive, and eco-conscious future.

Aruna Revolution's Rashmi Prakash & Gurleen Bajwa on Dragons' Den - the episode aired on CBC on January 9, 2025 (photo courtesy: CBC)



L-R: Mike Smit, Dean, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University and CDL-Atlantic Moderator with Dr. Hamed Hanafi, Founder & CEO NovaResp

### NovaResp - 2025 Innovative Business of the Year

**NovaResp** (CDL'22) was named Innovative Business of the Year at the 2025 Halifax Business Awards! Founder & CEO, Dr. Hamed Hanafi accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Headquartered in Halifax, Nova Scotia, NovaResp is redefining sleep apnea treatment through advanced AI. Their patented software, cMAP™, integrates with any Positive Airway Pressure (PAP) device, including CPAPs, to optimize therapy in real-time.

### Aquaai Wins Silicon Valley Club's Deep Tech Unicorn Battle

**Aquaai** (CDL'20) took top honours at the Silicon Valley Club's Deep Tech Unicorn Battle, standing out among more than 1,000 applicants and six finalists, most of them focused on space technology. The winner was selected by a panel of nearly 20 global investors and experts, who recognized Aquaai's strong potential for climate impact.

Aquaai is a water intelligence company that makes environmental data more accessible, affordable, and actionable. Its technology significantly reduces the cost and complexity of water data collection, helping industries and governments better manage water risk, sustainability, and climate resilience.



### Infusd Nutrition Raises \$2M and Partners with Symrise to Take Nutrient Delivery Global

**Infusd Nutrition** (CDL'24) is scaling fast having raised a **\$2M USD** seed round and partnering with the global flavor leader, Symrise.

Led by Next Gen Nutrition Investment Partners, with participation from Nourish Ventures, Agthia Group, Cerity Partners Ventures, and others, the funding will be used to accelerate the commercialization of Infusd's breakthrough solubility technology, which turns fat-soluble and insoluble nutrients into **water-soluble, bioavailable forms**.

As part of its partnership with Infusd, Symrise will launch a new product line within its Active Living Portfolio, featuring premium, Infusd-enabled ingredients like water-soluble Omega-3. This collaboration combines Symrise's market reach with Infusd's solubility technology to deliver innovative, clean-label solutions.



**Pain Coach Inc. Wins Top Prize at Innovation Den**

Emily Johnston, PhD, founder of **Pain Coach Inc.** (CDL'25), won the **\$100K CAD** New Path Award for Health Innovation at the 2025 QEll Foundation Innovation Den. Pain Coach is a digital health platform that provides personalized, evidence-based pain management guidance for patients recovering from surgery.

The win highlights Dr. Johnston's leadership in advancing patient-centered care and developing solutions that ease the burden on both individuals and the healthcare system.



**Dr. Emily Johnston,**  
**Pain Coach Inc. Founder**

**Permalution's Tatiana Estevez Named Changemaker for Tackling Global Water Scarcity**

Tatiana Estevez, Founder & CEO of **Permalution** (CDL'23), was recognized as a Changemaker by The Globe and Mail and named a CEO Water Champion by the World Bank, a testament to her bold vision in addressing the global water crisis.

Permalution's innovative system uses a combination of a predictive atlas, radar sensors, and fog collectors to harvest 150 to 2,000 liters of safe drinking water per unit, per day, directly from fog. Currently being piloted in Abu Dhabi, the technology is attracting global interest as a scalable climate-resilient solution to water scarcity in some of the world's most vulnerable regions.

**Planetary Winner of \$1M XPRIZE for Ocean Carbon Removal**

**Planetary** (CDL'22) was named one of the **\$1M USD XPRIZE Carbon Removal XFACTOR Award** winners, one of the most prestigious climate innovation prizes in the world.

Based in Nova Scotia, Planetary was selected from over 1,300 global teams for its groundbreaking work in ocean alkalinity enhancement, a process that restores seawater chemistry to help remove carbon from the atmosphere. This achievement reinforces that ocean restoration isn't just feasible, it's critical to solving the climate crisis.

**XOCEAN Raised €115M in One of Ocean-Data Sector's Largest Funding Rounds**

**XOCEAN** (CDL'19) raised **€115M**, making it one of the largest funding rounds in the ocean-data sector. Backed by global investors including S2G Ventures, Climate Investment, and Morgan Stanley's 1GT fund, the raise will fuel international expansion and accelerate deployment of XOCEAN's low-emission Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs), which deliver high-resolution marine data with just 0.1% of the emissions of traditional ships.

**uFraction8 Lands £3.4M to Scale Sustainable Biotech Filtration Tech**

**uFraction8** (CDL'19) has secured **£3.4M** to advance its energy-efficient microfiltration technology, designed to revolutionize

bioprocessing in industries such as biopharma, microalgae, and alternative proteins. With facilities in Scotland and Poland, the company plans to focus its efforts on scaling its patented technology and reducing production costs, as it targets the \$30B bio-separation market.

**Phoenix Waste Solutions Wins \$100K Ocean Exchange Grant**

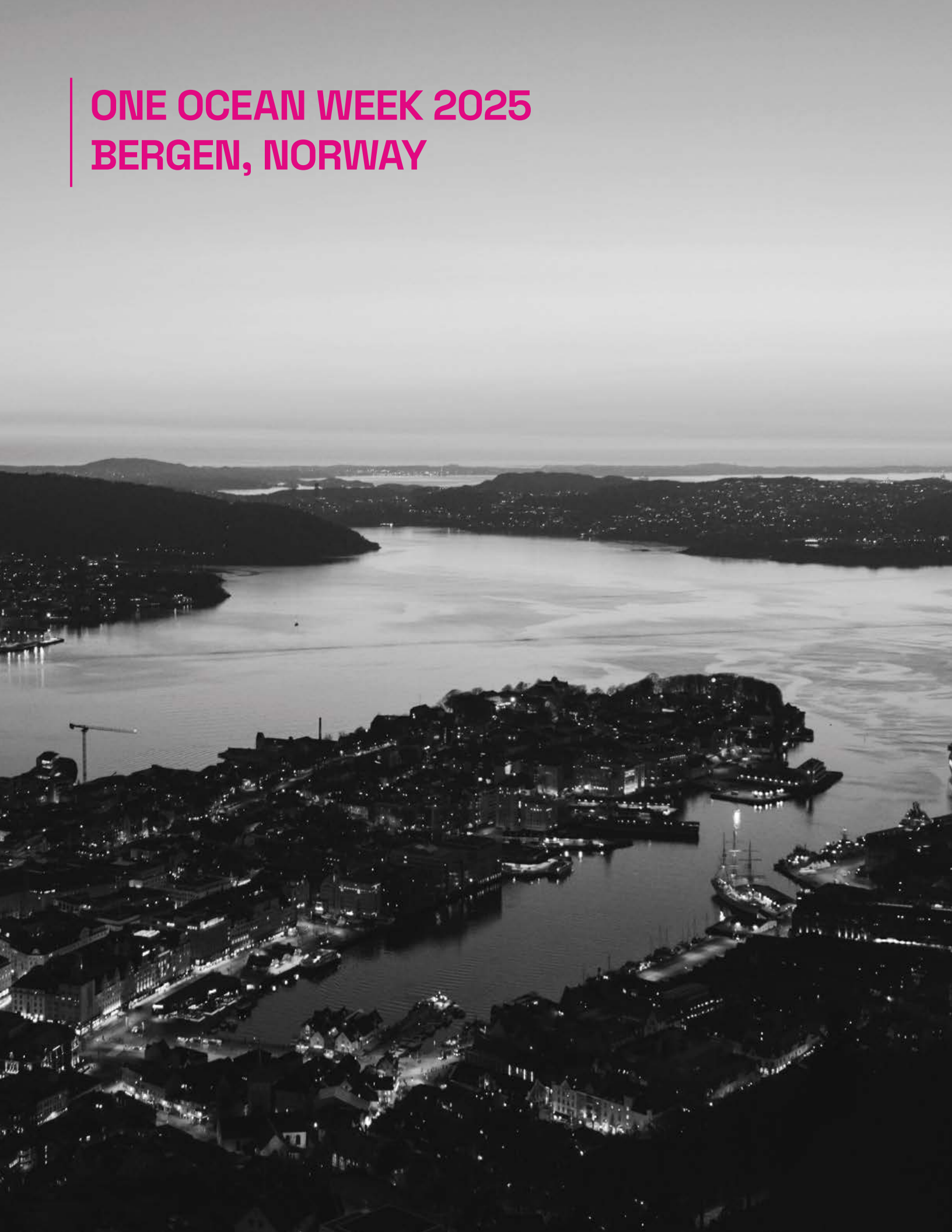
**Phoenix Waste Solutions** (CDL'24) was selected as the 2024 Neptune® Award winner, granting them a **\$100K USD** prize from Ocean Exchange. Their groundbreaking low-carbon waste management technology reduces municipal waste into a 1% non-toxic ash without using fossil fuels and reduces the need for long-haul transportation of waste, reducing CO2 emissions.



**Yuen Li Chan,**  
**Phoenix Waste Solutions**  
**Co-founder & COO**



# ONE OCEAN WEEK 2025 BERGEN, NORWAY



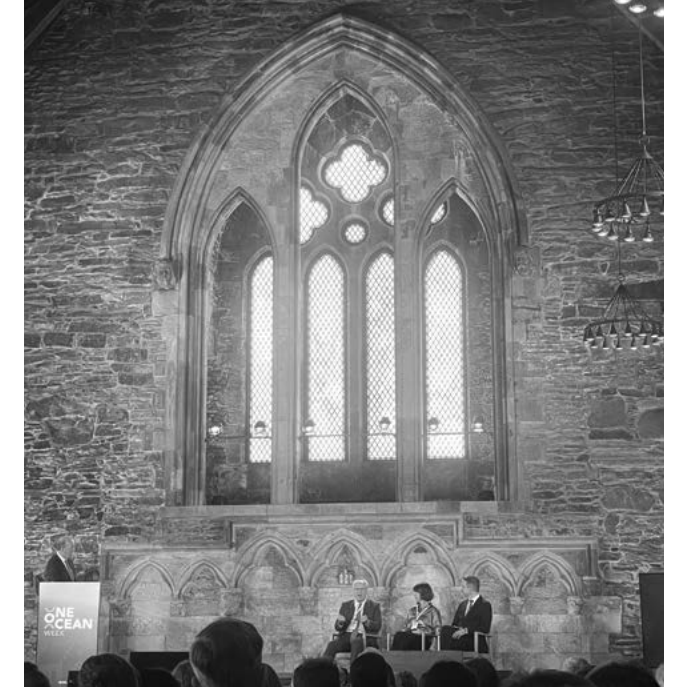
Following the successful launch of the 2023–24 Oceans Stream at MIT, CDL-Atlantic leveraged new relationships forged in Boston to bring the final Oceans Session of the 2024–25 cohort to Bergen, Norway, in partnership with One Ocean Week.

Taking mentors, partners, and ventures across the ocean for a week of forward-thinking ocean programming further expanded the CDL Oceans network and strengthened its mission to support ventures making a critical impact in the ocean economy.

The week began with a Mentor-Partner Dinner hosted by Farvatn Ventures in the breathtaking Frescohallen, overlooking the historic Bryggen Wharf. As the sun set over one of Bergen’s seven mountains, Torbjørn Torsvik, Kommunaldirektør of the Bergen Kommune, welcomed guests to the city and officially kicked off One Ocean Week.

The following day, CDL-Atlantic hosted Session 4 of CDL Oceans, welcoming attendees of One Ocean Week from around the world to engage with early-stage ocean tech founders whose ideas aim to disrupt and transform the ocean economy. As CDL mentors helped ventures set their final objectives before selecting the 2024–25 Oceans cohort graduates, newcomers to CDL brought fresh perspectives to the discussions.

CDL-Atlantic participants then took part in the broader One Ocean Week programming, beginning with the One



Ocean Science reception at the University of Bergen. There, they connected with innovative researchers contributing significantly to ocean sustainability.

Members of the CDL Oceans network were also invited to the One Ocean Summit, themed Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience for a Sustainable Future. The summit convened global stakeholders to address the critical challenges of sea level rise, coastal vulnerability, and the need for climate-resilient ocean management. Through international collaboration, knowledge exchange, and youth engagement, the summit explored sustainable adaptation strategies to protect coastal communities and ecosystems. Some participants joined the One Ocean Science Tour, which offered insights into various innovation centres, providing opportunities to meet local scientists and early-stage founders developing new ocean sustainability solutions, alongside the facilities and investors supporting their work.



CDL-Atlantic was honoured to attend the Sustainable Ocean Solutions (SOS) Kick-off event, a precursor to the SOS Summit in San Francisco in November 2025. The evening featured sea shanties, stories from seasoned sailors, and a preview of the important conversations expected at the upcoming summit. The week wrapped up at the One Ocean Conference, where participants engaged in critical discussions around the significance of the blue economy and ocean health amid shifting political landscapes.

Concluding the 2024–25 CDL Oceans program in Bergen, Norway, proved to be a fitting finale. The connections established during One Ocean Week sparked new conversations and laid the groundwork for ongoing cross-border collaborations in coastal regions around the world, as CDL-Atlantic continues to support ventures committed to a healthier ocean.

Johan Odfell, Director, Farvatn Ventures, and CDL-Atlantic Associate, welcoming guests to the CDL-Atlantic Mentor-Partner Dinner in Bergen, Norway





# DEVELOPING CAPABLE LEADERS

## MBA Student Engagement

CDL challenges MBA students to move beyond the textbook—cultivating the skills to navigate ambiguity, ask incisive questions, and engage with global innovation through a curious and culturally aware lens. It's a transformative experience that reshapes how future leaders approach strategic thinking and problem-solving. Through strong partnerships with Dalhousie, UNB, and MUN, CDL-Atlantic embeds MBA students directly into the program, providing hands-on experience with high-growth ventures and real-world innovation across Atlantic Canada.



“Throughout the CDL course, I learned how to navigate ambiguity by asking better questions—questions that uncovered what really mattered when the information wasn’t clear—and through a consulting project with an international startup entering the North American market, I gained a deeper appreciation for how differently companies around the world approach growth, which shaped how I now think about innovation as something that’s not tied to one place, but sparked by diverse perspectives coming together.”



Lucy Newman,  
Dalhousie University  
Corporate Residency  
MBA Student

## CDL APPRENTICE PROGRAM

### Inspiring the Next Generation of Innovators

Through the CDL Apprentice Program, CDL-Atlantic welcomed high school students to three in-person sessions this year, giving young female identifying students early exposure to the world of science, entrepreneurship, and innovation. By shadowing mentors during real venture meetings, these students gained first-hand insight into startup culture and strategic thinking. As mentor Jen LaPlante reflected about her Apprentice, *“Watching her take in the energy of the room, the tough questions posed to founders, and the real-world advice shared was a reminder of how powerful early exposure can be. She left inspired, and with a whole new perspective on innovation.”* Programs like this help open doors—and minds—to future pathways in STEM and entrepreneurship.





# MENTOR OF THE YEAR

CDL-Atlantic’s “Mentor of the Year” award is given annually to celebrate the impactful work that our fellows, associates, investigators, and scientists have made in our CDL Community. Mentors are the heart of our program, and their support for our ventures helps these startups build something massive!

These awards were presented at the beginning of the program year by CDL-Atlantic Director, Leslie McNabb-Kyritsis.

## OCEANS

Millicent “Milly” Pitts  
CEO & Executive Director, Ocean Exchange

“Being a mentor at CDL is a highlight each year, feeding my need to learn and be engaged, coupled with my desire to help startups. We know after five ocean cohorts that the CDL process, catalyzed by the mentors, makes a difference to these nascent enterprises.”

## PRIME

Ted Graham  
Head of Open Innovation & Principal,  
GM Ventures

“I mentor at CDL because of the consistent quality of ventures and the wide respect for open feedback. I’ve spent over 10 years working with CDL, and the relationships I’ve developed and the knowledge I’ve gained keep me coming back year after year!”

L-R: Millicent “Milly” Pitts and  
Leslie McNabb-Kyritsis



L-R: Leslie McNabb-Kyritsis and  
Ted Graham



# THANK YOU TO OUR MENTORS

**Bill Adams**  
President, JCove Holdings Limited  
ASSOCIATE, PRIME

**Mo AlGermozi**  
CEO, GIT Coatings  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

**Rob Barbara**  
Managing Partner, Build Ventures  
ASSOCIATE, PRIME

**Cathy Bennett**  
Founding & Co-Managing  
Partner, Sandpiper Ventures  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS & PRIME

**Michael Brown**  
Founding & Managing Partner,  
TLT IMPACT VENTURES  
GUEST MENTOR, PRIME

**Alfred Burgesson**  
Founder & CEO, Tribe Network  
GUEST MENTOR, PRIME

**Tim Burke**  
Serial Founder & Advisor,  
Independent  
GUEST MENTOR, PRIME

**Colin Calvert**  
CFO,  
Nicoya Lifesciences  
ASSOCIATE, PRIME

**Kent Carson**  
Principal, DTP Developments  
ASSOCIATE, PRIME

**Matt Cooper**  
CEO, Volta Labs  
ASSOCIATE, PRIME

**Rhiannon Davies**  
Founding & Managing Partner,  
Sandpiper Ventures  
ASSOCIATE, PRIME

**Adam de Sola Pool**  
Partner, Blue Angels Investment  
Group  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

**Mark Dobbin**  
President, Killick Capital Inc.  
FOUNDING PARTNER & FELLOW,  
PRIME

**Gus Domel**  
Principal, Boost VC  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

**Suzanne Drisdelle**  
Senior Trade Commissioner,  
Global Affairs Canada  
GUEST MENTOR, OCEANS

**Andre Edelbrock**  
President, Maple Investco Inc.  
GUEST MENTOR, PRIME

**Malcolm Fraser**  
Managing Partner,  
Nàdarra Ventures  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

**Dennis Fritsch**  
Ocean Systems Change  
Investment Lead, Katapult Ocean  
GUEST MENTOR, OCEANS

**Oyvind Fylling-Jensen**  
Board Member & Advisor,  
PaaFyll Holding AS  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

**Ted Graham**  
Head of Open Innovation &  
Principal, GM Ventures  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS & PRIME

**Jim Hanlon**  
VP Research & Technology,  
Marine Technology Society  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

**Andy Harris**  
Former Strategic Engagement  
Director, Radicle Balance  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

**Robert Haydock**  
CEO, AML Oceanographic Ltd.  
GUEST MENTOR, OCEANS

**Bobby Hennessey**  
Industry Lead, ECommerce,  
Pinterest Inc  
GUEST MENTOR, PRIME

**Peter Hickey**  
Chief Revenue Officer,  
Charli Capital  
GUEST MENTOR, PRIME

**Betty Hutchings**  
Owner,  
Bonavista Business Solutions  
GUEST MENTOR, PRIME

**Ted Janulis**  
Founder & Principal,  
Investable Oceans  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

**Rangesh Kasturi**  
President (Ret.), Maritime  
International, L3Harris Technologies  
ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

**Caitriona Kelleher**  
Managing Director, Early Stage  
Investments, Hatch Blue  
INVESTIGATOR, OCEANS

**Brian Kobus**  
Partner, OMERS Ventures  
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2025-26 SESSIONS

OCEANS

Session 1	October 23, 2025	HALIFAX, NS	
Session 2	December 10, 2025	VIRTUAL	
Session 3	February 11, 2026	VIRTUAL	
Session 4	April 14, 2026	VANCOUVER, BC	> In collaboration with CDL-Climate

PRIME

Session 1	September 25, 2025	HALIFAX, NS	> As part of Dalhousie University’s Innovation Week
Session 2	December 11, 2025	VIRTUAL	
Session 3	March 12, 2026	VIRTUAL	
Session 4	May 25, 2026	HALIFAX, NS	> Aligned with the Canadian Venture Capital & Private Equity Association’s (CVCA) Annual Conference in Halifax, May 26-28, 2026