

CREATIVE DESTRUCTION LAB - ATLANTIC 2025-26



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.

createdestructionlab.com

Global Founding Partners:

John Harris Family
Foundation

Threshold Impact
Ray Muzyka &
Leona De Boer

Founded at the Rotman School of Management



**BUILD
SOMETHING
MASSIVE.**





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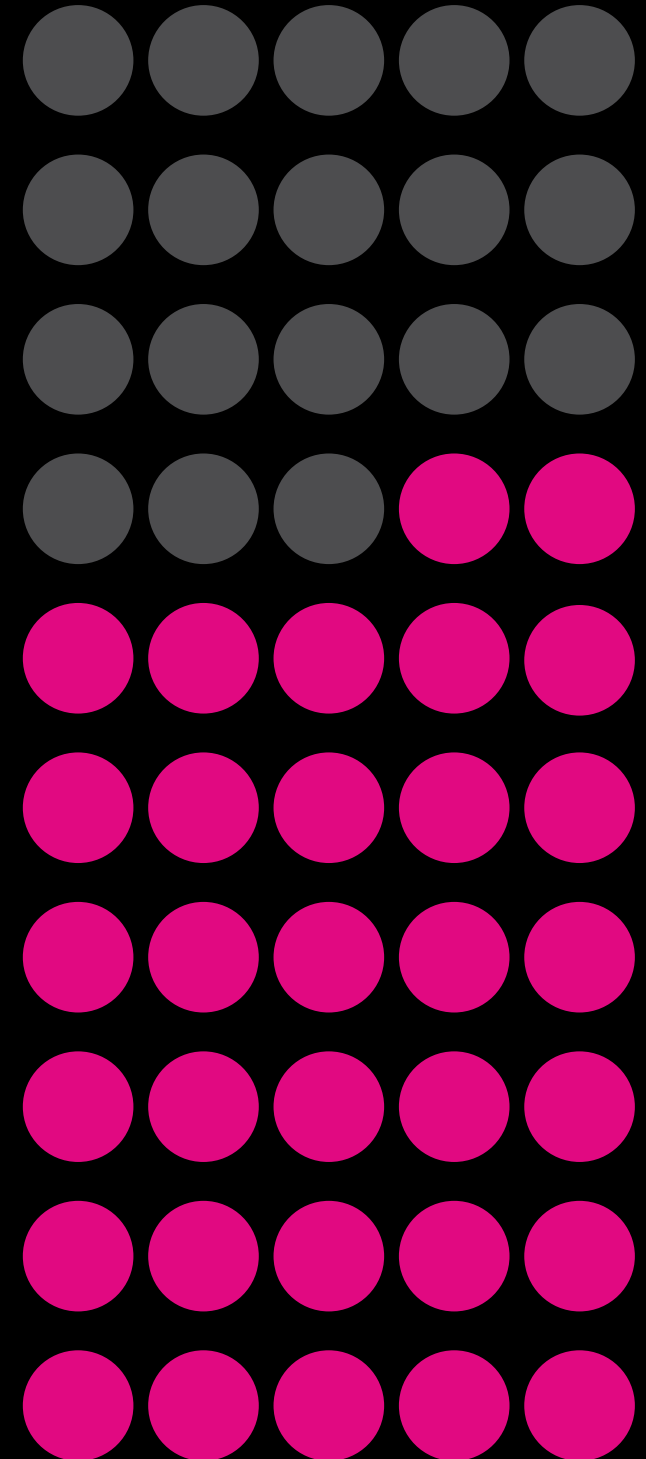
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CDL's mission is to enhance the commercialization of science for the betterment of humankind.

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 goal is to generate \$100 billion in equity value through graduate CDL companies by 2027.**

CDL Global EVC
has reached

\$62 B



CDL Operates five cities in Canada, four in the United States, six in Europe; one in Australia; one in Asia

VANCOUVER

- Biomedical Engineering
- Cancer
- Climate
- Compute
- Minerals

ROCKIES

- Prime
- AgriFood
- Cancer
- Energy
- Defence

SEATTLE

- Computational Health
- Manufacturing

WISCONSIN

- Advanced Therapies
- Risk
- Health & Wellness

TEXAS

- Energy
- Space

TORONTO

- AI
- Cancer
- Defence
- Neuro
- Quantum
- Space

MONTREAL

- AI
- Web3
- Quantum
- Supply Chain

CLEVELAND

- Healthcare Delivery

ATLANTIC

- Prime
- Defence
- Oceans

LONDON

- Minerals

ESTONIA

- Defence
- Digital Society

BERLIN

- Defence
- Health
- Next Gen Computing

PARIS

- AI
- Climate
- Next Gen Computing
- Space

MILAN

- Manufacturing
- Space

SAN SEBASTIAN

- AI
- Quantum

DOHA

- AgriFood
- AI
- Health

MELBOURNE

- Prime



As we reflect on the 2025-26 program year, one theme stands above all others: **Momentum**

Across our network, we saw founders transform breakthrough science into commercial traction, alumni secure significant capital and strategic partnerships, and CDL-Atlantic extend its reach through new collaborations, programs, and international connections. Together, these achievements underscore the growing strength of Atlantic Canada's innovation ecosystem and the power of the CDL model, where founders, mentors, investors, students, and partners work together to build something massive.

This year was defined by three interconnected themes: **global impact, ecosystem growth, and commercialization at scale.**

Throughout the year, CDL-Atlantic alumni demonstrated what commercialization at scale looks like in practice. Ventures secured major financings, strategic partnerships, government contracts, international expansions, and industry recognition across sectors including artificial intelligence, health and life sciences, oceans, climate, and defence technologies. Companies such as CoLab, Spellbook, EConcrete, Seasats, Picketa Systems, Myomar Molecular, Hullbot, and Hydromea achieved significant milestones that not only accelerated their own

growth, but also showcased the global competitiveness of ventures emerging from the CDL ecosystem. These successes continue to reinforce CDL-Atlantic's reputation as a launchpad for science-based companies tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges.

We also strengthened partnerships and created new opportunities for collaboration across Atlantic Canada and beyond. As one of six participating sites in the new global **CDL Defence Stream**, CDL-Atlantic was proud to host the stream's inaugural session in Halifax, positioning Atlantic Canada within a global network focused on advancing next-generation defence and security technologies. The launch reflects both the growing capabilities of our region and the increasing relevance of dual-use technologies emerging from our ecosystem. In addition, we were thrilled to welcome **Michael Huskisson as CDL-Atlantic's newest Founding Partner**, whose commitment reflects the continued confidence that leaders across our region place in our founders, our mission, and the long-term impact of the CDL program.

Our commitment to building international relationships also continued to grow. As part of Dalhousie University's broader mission to foster global engagement and

collaboration, CDL-Atlantic was honoured to host a delegation from the **Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati (IIT Tirupati)** and the **Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Tirupati (IISER Tirupati)**. The group was on campus to meet with university leaders, researchers, deans, students, and innovation partners, and joined us for the final CDL-Atlantic session of the year. This provided a unique opportunity to demonstrate the calibre of founders, ventures, and innovations emerging from the CDL program, while opening the door to new international relationships, collaborative initiatives, and future opportunities for innovation-driven partnerships.

We also expanded our national reach by partnering with **CDL-Vancouver's Climate Stream** to host a joint session in Vancouver, bringing together founders and mentors from both the Oceans and Climate streams. This cross-stream collaboration provided founders with broader mentor expertise, expanded industry connections, and valuable access to adjacent markets and technologies. It also created meaningful opportunities for mentors to exchange knowledge, identify areas of overlap, and strengthen the collective support available to ventures across the CDL ecosystem.

Jeff Larsen
Co-Site Lead, CDL-Atlantic

AVP Innovation and
Entrepreneurship
Dalhousie University

Leslie McNabb-Kyritsis
Co-Site Lead & Director,
CDL-Atlantic

These initiatives underscore the increasingly interconnected nature of the CDL community and the growing role Atlantic Canada plays within it. Whether through commercialization milestones, global partnerships, cross-stream collaboration, or ecosystem expansion, the common thread throughout the year has been progress fuelled by the collective efforts of an extraordinary community.

None of this would be possible without our founders, mentors, investors, partners, students, alumni, and supporters. Your commitment, generosity, and belief in the entrepreneurial potential of this region continue to fuel our success.

As we look toward welcoming our 10th Prime cohort this fall and approach CDL-Atlantic's 10-year anniversary in 2027, we are energized by the momentum we see across our community. The achievements of this past year demonstrate not only the strength of our founders and partners, but also the growing role Atlantic Canada plays in solving global challenges through innovation. We remain committed to helping ambitious entrepreneurs build, scale, and commercialize technologies that will shape the future.



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

atlantiq AI

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

Atlantiq AI Automation Solutions Ltd. develops AI-driven decision-support software for marine vessel architecture and design teams.

atlantiq.ai

Celerity Craft Inc.

Squamish, British Columbia, Canada

Celerity Craft has developed the Dynamic Air Cushion Vehicle (DACV), an amphibious, three-hulled vessel that reduces drag and fuel costs through the use of a novel air-cushion lift and thrust system.

celeritycraft.com

bluesonde technologies inc.

Portland, Maine, United States

bluesonde technologies inc. is a water monitoring technology provider that delivers a compact, low-cost, real-time, anti-biofouling data collection system for scalable, climate-impact applications.

bluesonde.com

Cultimar Technologies Inc.

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Cultimar Technologies (Cultimar) has developed the first commercially viable process for cultivating the American red snapper, enabling the scalable commercial production of this highly valued tropical finfish.

cultimartechnologies.com

This year, CDL-Atlantic proudly launched the new donor-sponsored Oceans Graduate Award, recognizing a graduating venture that is making a meaningful impact in the ocean sector.

We are pleased to congratulate Konree Innovation, recipient of the inaugural award and a \$50,000 USD prize in recognition of their work advancing marine conservation and sustainable ocean stewardship.

Konree Innovation

Galway, Ireland

Konree Innovation has developed a drop-in hardware solution for open net-pen salmon farms that effectively isolates and selectively terminates sea lice parasites.

konreeinnovation.com

Lillianah Technologies Inc.

Spring, Texas, United States

Lillianah Technologies (Lillianah) is a marine carbon dioxide removal (CDR) company that utilizes advanced bioremediation techniques to clean nearshore waters while capturing and sequestering atmospheric CO₂.

lillianah.com

ReynKo

Brooklyn, New York, United States

ReynKo has developed a mathematical framework that allows for the precise modelling of complex fluid flow, enabling a new class of advanced engineering simulations across diverse industries.

reynko.com

NeuralX

Kona, Hawaii, United States

NeuralX is an AI-powered aquaculture platform that uses underwater cameras and proprietary AI algorithms to accurately estimate fish biomass, analyze behaviour, and count populations in real time.

neuralx.ai

Zeal Industries

Auckland, New Zealand

Zeal Industries is developing Uptime, a wearable device paired with a vessel-mounted unit that automatically detects when a fisher falls overboard and immediately sends a mayday to rescue services and nearby vessels.

zealind.com

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

Binta Financial

Surrey, British Columbia, Canada
Binta Financial is building a global infrastructure that powers credit migration across borders.
bintafinancial.com

LymeAlert

Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States
LymeAlert has developed the world's first home testing kit for Lyme and tick-borne diseases.
lymealert.com

Gia AI

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Gia AI is an all-in-one sales and marketing platform that automates tasks that drive growth for consulting firms and agencies.
getgia.ai

NovaSonix Healthcare Inc.

London, Ontario, Canada
NovaSonix Healthcare is transforming musculoskeletal (MSK) imaging with NovaVue, a device that turns any standard ultrasound into a real-time 3D scanner with MRI-like insight.
novasonixhealthcare.com

TerraTraax

Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada
TerraTraax is a reliability-focused SaaS platform helping mining operations reduce mobile equipment downtime and optimize fleet performance.
terraatraax.com

Transify

Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Transify is a data visualization platform that integrates transit agency data systems into actionable charts and maps designed to help planners, schedulers, and operations staff improve service.
transify.com

Oncolinc Therapeutics Inc.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Oncolinc Therapeutics is a pharmaceutical company pioneering a first-in-class approach to overcome immune resistance in cancer and improve patient survival through therapeutics and a proprietary discovery platform.
oncolinc.com

Training Works

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
Training Works has developed The Internet of Safety (iOSa), a scalable decision engine that converts live biometric, environmental, and behavioural data into immediate, actionable safety intelligence.
training-works.ca

XO Technology Inc.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
XO Technology Inc. has developed an AI-powered senior health assessment platform packaged in a discreet ring that continuously monitors functional performance, capturing both biometric and manual motion data.
xotechnology.ca

Award-Winning Innovation for a More Sustainable Ocean

Konree Innovation is developing breakthrough technology to improve fish health and advance more sustainable salmon farming, helping address one of aquaculture's most significant environmental challenges. In recognition of this impact, Konree Innovation was named the inaugural recipient of CDL-Atlantic's donor-sponsored Oceans Graduate Award. The company received a **\$50,000 USD prize** for its outstanding contribution to marine conservation, sustainable ocean stewardship, and innovation in the global aquaculture sector.

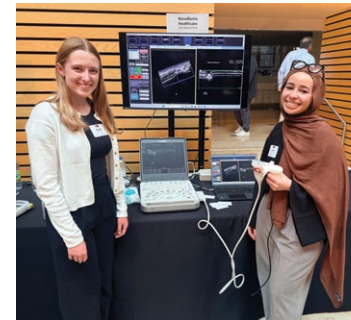
L-R: Isioma Oye-Onwuka, Margaret Rae, and Leslie McNabb-Kyritsis



L-R: Isaac Arnold, Leslie McNabb-Kyritsis, John Wang, and Kevin Rimmer

Transforming Senior Care Through Smart Monitoring

A graduate of CDL-Atlantic's 2025-26 Prime Stream, XO Technology represented CDL-Atlantic on the main stage at CDL Super Session 2026. Their innovative platform combines a discreet wearable ring with intelligent analytics to continuously monitor seniors' movement, biometrics, and daily activity. By turning real-time health data into actionable insights, XO Technology empowers caregivers, nurses, and families to support safer, more proactive, and independent aging.



CDL Super Session Startup Zone

At CDL Super Session 2025-26, two CDL-Atlantic ventures were selected for the exclusive Super Session Startup Zone, where only 20 ventures from across the CDL network were invited to showcase their technologies. Ventures from 15 CDL sites competed for these limited showcase opportunities.

Representing the 2025-26 graduating cohorts, **Celerity Craft Inc.** from the Oceans stream and **NovaSonix Healthcare Inc.** from the Prime stream were chosen to demonstrate their innovations to investors, mentors, industry leaders, and attendees from across the global CDL network.



Top: Megan Hutter & Randa Mudathir, NovaSonixHealthcare Inc.
Bottom: Richard MacKellar, Celerity Craft Inc.

"CDL-Atlantic challenged me to think more critically about the road ahead and pushed me to answer difficult questions about growth, commercialization, and how we translate years of development and field experience into broader industry impact. Through the program, mentors challenged my assumptions, pushed my thinking, and helped sharpen our focus. While some of the toughest questions were also the most valuable, those conversations will continue to influence our path long after CDL. Today, Training Works is moving these technologies toward commercialization and broader adoption and is approaching several important milestones, including our first full operational deployment."

Tamara Vatcher, Co-Founder & CEO
Training Works



Tamara Vatcher, Co-Founder
& CEO of Training Works

"CDL has been instrumental in driving our progress this year across every front. As an academic spinout, we anticipated support with commercialization, but CDL's impact extended far beyond that, meaningfully accelerating our scientific development as well."

Marie-Claire Wasson, PhD,
Co-founder & Scientific Leader
Oncolinc Therapeutics Inc.



L-R: Paola Marcato, PhD and
Marie-Claire Wasson, PhD

"This program is simply so worthwhile to do. The community is generous, and the mentors really understand where you are at, where you need to get to, and the push that's needed. From the start, there is positive encouragement, followed by making everything clearer and setting objectives to be met during each sprint. Hand on heart, I can say that CDL focused on the right things and significantly moved us forward as a business. The warm introductions mattered and enabled us to reach people we never would have had the opportunity to speak with so soon. Konree is all the stronger. The tagline says it all Build Something Massive."

Margaret Rae, Founder & CEO
Konree Innovation



Dr. Margaret Rae, Founder &
CEO of Konree Innovation

CDL-ATLANTIC STATISTICS

Admitted Ventures

17 **20**
Oceans Prime

Graduating Ventures

9 **9**
Oceans Prime

CDL Global EVC

\$62B CAD
CDL-Atlantic EVC is at
\$3.13B CAD

Total Admitted Ventures since 2017

314

Total Venture Graduates since 2017

147

Active Mentors

90 **35** **40** **15**
Total Active Mentors Oceans Prime Both

Countries represented by Ventures



Canada



France



Germany



Ireland



New Zealand



Norway



Sweden



USA

17 Atlantic Canadian ventures admitted in 2025-26



CDL-Atlantic was selected as the launch site for the CDL Global Defence Stream Session 1

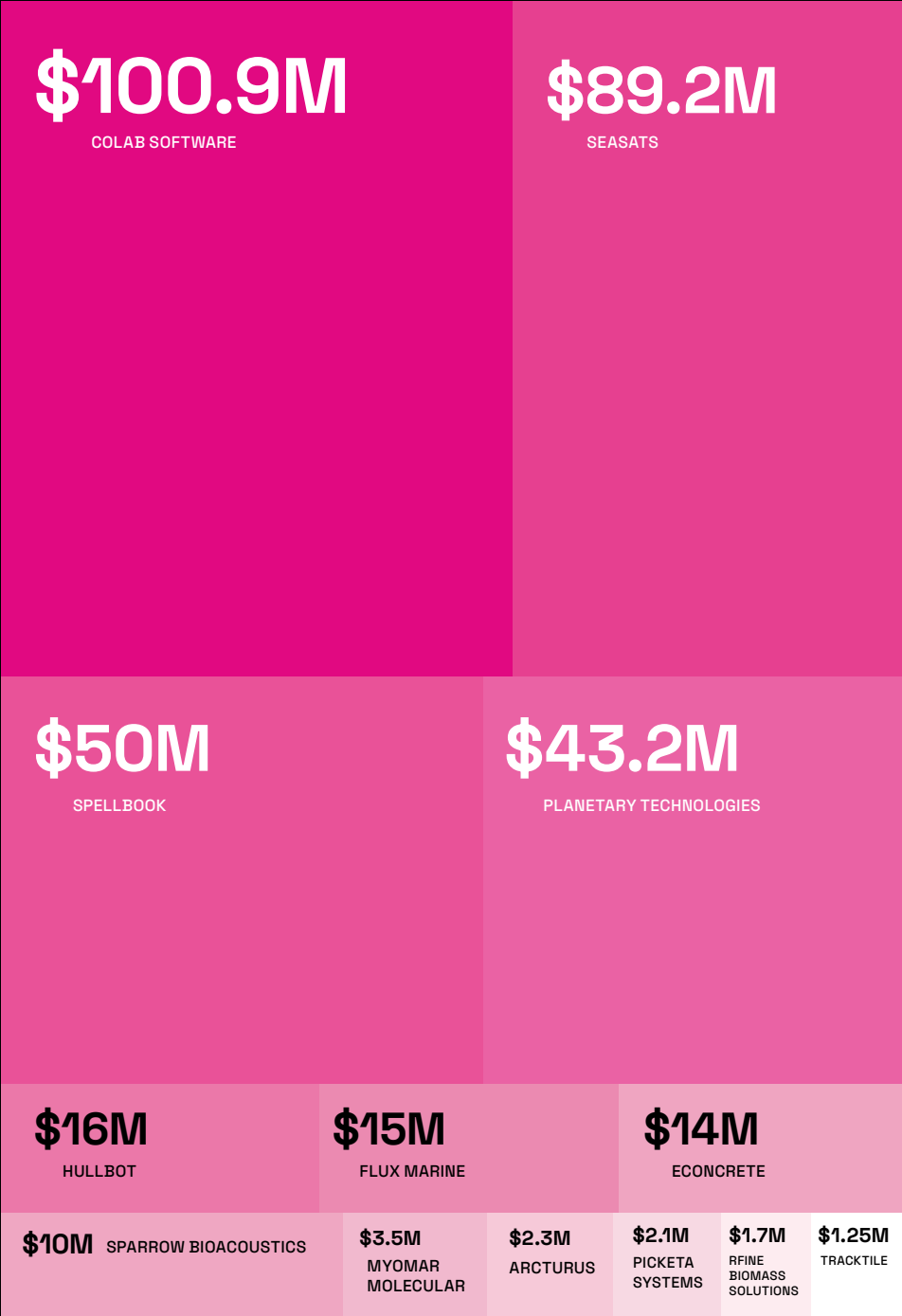
Admitted Ventures

19 for Session 1; 22 over the course of the program

Graduating Ventures

11

Alumni Investment Highlights



IN THE NEWS

CoLab Software Raised C\$100.9M CAD Series C to Accelerate AI-Driven Product Development

CDL-Atlantic alumni CoLab Software (CDL'19) raised **US\$72 million (C\$100.9 million) in a Series C financing round**. The funding will accelerate the company's global growth and expand its AI-powered engineering platform.

CoLab develops software that helps engineering teams collaborate on and review 3D product designs.

colabsoftware.com

SeaSats Secured Record \$89.2M USD Navy Contract

SeaSats (CDL'24) was awarded an **\$89 million USD U.S. Navy contract** to accelerate the deployment of autonomous surface vessels that provide persistent maritime intelligence, surveillance, and security in support of U.S. Marine Corps operations.

Seasats is a San Diego-based startup that builds solar-powered, uncrewed surface vehicles (USVs) for defense, scientific, and commercial applications

seasats.com

Spellbook Raised \$50M CAD Series B to Transform Legal AI

Spellbook (formerly Rally, CDL'20) raised **\$50 million USD in Series B funding**, led by Khosla Ventures, to accelerate the growth of its AI-powered legal platform. The investment will expand Spellbook's AI capabilities, including market-standard contract insights and broader transactional support tools, strengthening its position as a leader in AI for legal professionals.

Spellbook helps lawyers draft, review, and negotiate contracts more efficiently using generative AI and now serves more than 4,000 law firms and in-house legal teams, including Nestlé and eBay.

spellbook.com

Planetary Technologies Secured \$43.2 CAD to Scale Carbon Removal

Planetary Technologies (CDL'22) signed a **C\$43.2 million (US\$31.3 million)** agreement with Frontier to remove more than 115,000 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere between 2026 and 2030, marking one of the largest ocean alkalinity enhancement projects announced to date.

The Dartmouth-based company accelerates the ocean's natural carbon cycle by adding dissolved alkaline minerals to coastal waters, converting CO₂ into stable bicarbonate that can remain stored for thousands of years. The agreement will support the expansion of Planetary's carbon removal operations and help demonstrate the scalability of ocean-based climate solutions.

planetarytech.com

Hullbot Raised \$16M to Clean Oceans and Cut Ship Emissions

Hullbot (CDL'23) raised **\$16 million USD in Series A funding**, led by Regeneration VC and Climate Tech Partners, to accelerate the global expansion of its autonomous hull cleaning technology. The investment will increase production capacity, support the development of larger robotic platforms, and expand the company's international service network, building on more than 1,000 commercial hull cleanings completed to date.

The Sydney-based company develops robotic systems that remove biofouling, marine growth that accumulates on vessel hulls, helping reduce fuel consumption by 10–26% while lowering emissions and operating costs.

hullbot.com

Flux Marine Secured \$15M USD to Power the Future of Electric Boating

Flux Marine (CDL'21) secured **\$15 million USD in funding**, led by Collide Capital, bringing the company's total funding to more than \$30 million USD since 2020. The investment will expand production capacity and accelerate the adoption of electric marine technology, advancing the transition to cleaner, more efficient boating solutions.

Flux Marine develops fully integrated electric propulsion systems for boats, including proprietary battery packs, power electronics, software, cooling systems, and telematics. Its technology is already powering vessels with partners such as Scout, Highfield, Flagship Pontoon, and Zodiac, supporting applications ranging from aquaculture operations to rental fleets and superyacht tenders.

fluxmarine.com

L- R: Mentors Theresa Evanoff and John Lindsay



CDL Super Session 2026 |

ECONcrete Raised \$14M USD to Scale Living Marine Infrastructure

econcretetech.com

Sparrow BioAcoustics Raised C\$10M CAD to Advance AI-Powered Cardiac Diagnostics

stethophone.com/ca

Myomar Molecular Raised \$3.5M CAD to Advance Muscle Health Testing

myomarmolecular.ca

Arcturus Raised \$2.3M USD to Advance Immersive Sports Replays

arcturus.studio

Picketa Systems Raised \$2.1M CAD to Help Farmers Optimize Fertilizer Use

picketa.com

RFINE Biomass Solutions Raised \$1.7M CAD to Transform Coffee Waste into Sustainable Products

rfinebiomass.com

Tracktile Raised \$1.25M CAD Seed Round to Advance AI in Manufacturing

tracktile.io

Where innovation meets the spotlight.

CDL-Atlantic alumni continue to make an impact beyond the startup ecosystem. Axtion Independence Mobility Inc. successfully pitched their RAYMEX Lift on Dragons' Den (the 3rd CDL-Atlantic Alumni to do so), while Ring Rescue saw its technology featured in a critical medical emergency scene on *The Pitt*, demonstrating how innovations developed by our founders are reaching audiences and making a difference in the real world.

Axtion Independence Mobility Inc. on Dragons' Den.
L-R: Chief Occupational Therapist Suling Doung and Co-founder & CEO Tracey McGillvary



Two CDL-Atlantic alumni were recognized in The Globe and Mail's 2025 ranking of Canada's Top Growing Companies, with both ventures earning places among the top 60 of 400 companies recognized nationwide.

- Ring Rescue (CDL'20), ranked #38 - 3-year revenue growth of **915%**
- CapIntel (CDL'19), ranked #57 - 3-year revenue growth of **591%**

L-R: Noah Wyle, lead character on *The Pitt*, holding the Ring Rescue device with Dr. Kevin Spencer, Co-founder & CEO of Ring Rescue.

Two CDL-Atlantic alumni also featured on Deloitte's 2025 Technology Fast 50 list.

- CapIntel (CDL'19) ranked #2 with an incredible **9,255%** growth.
- CoLab (CDL'19) Software ranked #19 with **1,730%** growth.

Both reflect the innovation and measurable impact emerging from the CDL-Atlantic community.

Celebrating the Atlantic Canada Innovation Ecosystem

As part of DAL Innovation Week, *Entrepreneur's Evening* brought together founders, investors, researchers, students, and community leaders for an inspiring celebration of innovation and entrepreneurship in Atlantic Canada. Co-hosted by CDL-Atlantic, DAL Innovates, and Morrison Park Advisors, the event showcased the people, partnerships, and programs helping to transform bold ideas into real-world impact.

The evening featured remarks from Colton LeBlanc, Nova Scotia's Minister of Growth & Development, Andy Fillmore, Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality, Ken Skinner Managing Director, Morrison Park Advisors and Graham Gagnon, VPRI at Dalhousie University, who highlighted the critical role of innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship in driving economic growth and opportunity across the region.

Attendees also heard from a series of featured ventures and ecosystem leaders, including the Collide/Lab2Market Demo Day Winner, Lauren McKay, Founder of HeadFirst Network, and CDL-Alumni turned mentor Yan Simard, CEO of Kognitiv Spark, who shared insights on building and scaling innovative companies in Atlantic Canada. Luke DeCoste offered a glimpse into the future of commercialization highlighting new opportunities for entrepreneurs and researchers through the AI 2 Market initiative.

More than a networking event, *Entrepreneur's Evening* celebrated the strength of Atlantic Canada's innovation ecosystem and the collective commitment to supporting the next generation of founders, technologies, and transformative ideas.

Andy Fillmore, Mayor of
Halifax Regional Municipality



Launching CDL's Global Defence Stream

Canadian Naval Officer
Jeremy Day, CD, MSc &
Rangesh Kasturi, CDL-
Atlantic Mentor

CDL-Atlantic is proud to be one of six CDL sites across Canada and Europe delivering CDL Defence, a new global program designed to accelerate the development and deployment of dual-use technologies. As CDL-Atlantic's first participation in a global CDL stream, the initiative represents a significant milestone for the site and underscores its growing role within the international CDL network. Launched in collaboration with CDL-Berlin, CDL-Estonia, CDL-Rockies, CDL-Toronto, and CDL-Vancouver, the stream addresses a critical gap in how emerging technologies are leveraged for defence, national security, and critical infrastructure applications. The program provides a structured environment in which founders work directly with mentors, scientists, investors, and operators across CDL's global network, while gaining insights into complex procurement and deployment pathways.

As the host site for the inaugural CDL Defence session in Halifax in November 2025, CDL-Atlantic played a leadership role in launching this global initiative. Halifax's position as home to Canada's largest naval base, combined with its growing deep-tech and ocean innovation ecosystem, makes it a strategic location for advancing dual-use technologies and strengthening connections between innovators and defence stakeholders. The successful launch was supported by strong participation from CDL-Atlantic mentors and ecosystem partners, whose expertise and commitment helped establish a strong foundation for the stream's first cohort and long-term success.

The launch comes at a pivotal time, as the evolving global landscape has created renewed urgency around dual-



**Fulvio Fracassi, President & CEO,
Halifax Port Authority**

use innovation and strategic deterrence. NATO-aligned countries are seeking new frameworks to accelerate innovation, and CDL is uniquely positioned to respond through a global network active across sectors including AI, quantum, cybersecurity, energy, health, oceans, and space. Reflecting the strength and reach of the CDL-Atlantic community, the inaugural Defence cohort included several current and alumni ventures connected to the site, demonstrating CDL-Atlantic's important contribution to advancing technologies with both commercial and defence applications and reinforcing its role in Canada's growing dual-use innovation ecosystem.

Strengthening Global Partnerships

CDL-Atlantic was pleased to welcome a delegation from the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati (IIT Tirupati) and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Tirupati (IISER Tirupati) to the final Prime Session of the 2025-26 cohort. As part of their visit to Dalhousie University, delegates received an overview of the CDL program and participated in

the Large Room Discussion, where they connected with founders and mentors and gained firsthand insight into how CDL's objectives-based approach helps science- and technology-driven ventures scale and commercialize.

The visit formed part of the launch of the Dalhousie-Tirupati Global Innovation Campus, a flagship India-Canada initiative focused on advancing graduate education, research, and innovation in areas including clean energy, health technologies, digital agriculture, and applied AI. Their participation underscored the growing collaboration between Dalhousie University and leading Indian institutions, and helped strengthen connections that could lead to future partnerships, knowledge exchange, and innovation-driven opportunities.

**Dr. Kalidindi Satyanarayana, Director of
the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati**



Coast to Coast: A CDL First for Climate and Oceans

CDL-Atlantic and CDL-Vancouver closed their 2025-26 cohorts with a landmark joint Climate and Oceans session, marking the first collaboration of its kind between two sites in the global CDL network. Bringing together ventures, mentors, investors, partners, and staff from opposite coasts of Canada, the event highlighted the growing connection between climate and ocean innovation and a shared commitment to building a more sustainable future.

Combining two complementary streams, the session created valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing and cross-pollination among stakeholders. Ventures gained access to a wider pool of expertise beyond their home site, new investment

opportunities, and expanded professional networks, while mentors benefited from exposure to innovative solutions across both climate and ocean sectors.

More than a milestone event, the session demonstrated the power of collaboration across the CDL ecosystem. By bridging Canada's Atlantic and Pacific coasts, CDL-Atlantic and CDL-Vancouver created a stronger, more connected innovation community, opening new pathways for founders and accelerating the development of technologies addressing some of the world's most pressing climate and ocean challenges.

**Atle Lohrman, CDL-Atlantic
Ocean Mentor**



Developing Capable Leaders

CDL-Atlantic provides MBA students with a unique opportunity to step beyond the classroom and work directly with founders building high-growth, science and technology-based ventures. As a component of Dalhousie University's MBA program, and through partnerships with the University of New Brunswick and Memorial University of Newfoundland, students earn course credit while collaborating with startups to evaluate markets, refine commercialization strategies, develop financial models, and solve real business challenges.

Guided by world-class entrepreneurs, investors, and industry mentors, students gain firsthand experience with the CDL objectives-based process and the realities of scaling innovative companies. The work is fast-paced, demanding, and driven by the evolving needs of each venture, providing an unmatched environment to develop critical thinking, strategic decision-making, and leadership skills while building lasting connections within Canada's innovation ecosystem.

During the 2025-26 cohort year, 28 MBA students from Dalhousie University, the University of New Brunswick, and Memorial University completed consulting projects with CDL-Atlantic ventures, making meaningful contributions to company growth while gaining practical experience that prepares them for careers in entrepreneurship, innovation, and venture leadership.



Memorial University MBAs. L-R: Bronwyn Woolfrey, Samuel Kweku Oppong, Oluwayemisi Ogundipe, Racquel Newman, Angela Avery, Kasiemobi Anumba, Alberta Opare, Sajib Sarker, Carlos Bazan

Inaugural CDL Student Entrepreneur Award

CDL Oceans venture Konree Innovation worked with MBA student Kanyarat Sriwichainchai (Sue), from the University of New Brunswick. Sue was recognized on the global stage at CDL Super Session 2026, as a recipient of the inaugural CDL Student Entrepreneur Award. This new annual award will celebrate students who have created exceptional, verifiable value for ventures within the CDL network. Student award winners received \$2500 and travel expenses to attend Super Session in Toronto.

(Center) Kanyarat Sriwichainchai (Sue), PhD Candidate in Mechanical Engineering at UNB at Super Session 2025-26 receiving her award with the other award recipients.

Selected as one of only five winners from our global CDL network, Sue's achievement highlights the critical role students play in supporting venture growth and innovation through the CDL process.



Inspiring the Next Generation of Innovators

Through the CDL Future Innovators Program, CDL-Atlantic continued to cultivate the next generation of innovators by welcoming high school students to three sessions across the Prime and Oceans streams during the 2025-26 program year. Future Innovators shadowed world-class mentors, observing venture meetings and large room discussions as founders tackled real business challenges and growth opportunities.

This immersive experience provided students with a rare opportunity to witness the CDL objective-based process in action, while inspiring entrepreneurial thinking, innovation, and future leadership.



"I never saw myself owning a business or becoming an entrepreneur, but CDL has changed that for me. I can see the possibilities of what I can do expanding, because I now have a better understanding of how to create something important, but also sustain its impact in the long run."

- Molly Cooper

**Future Innovator, Molly Cooper,
Charles P. Allen High School**



"After the session, I soon realized that everyone who was present had become my role models. Everyone was incredibly talented, whether as a mentor, investigator, scientist, or startup owner. I have now set the goal of building a seed-stage company of my own in the next 4-6 years."

- Claudia Zhao

**Future Innovator, Claudia Zhao,
Charles P. Allen High School**

"My experience at CDL was truly eye-opening. I learned that progress in any entrepreneurial journey is never an individual effort. Instead, it takes a team. Behind every successful company that has made a real impact are creative minds, hardworking individuals, determined hearts, and supportive communities united by purpose."

- Stephanie Zhang

**Future Innovator, Stephanie
Zhang, Sydney Academy**





Michael Huskilso, CDL-Atlantic Founding Partner

“Because he (my father) was so heavily involved in CDL-Atlantic, it allowed me to see the benefits and exciting developments happening.”

NEW FOUNDING PARTNER

Following his father’s lead, Michael Huskilson invests in CDL-Atlantic on its 10th anniversary.

| By Alison Delory

After stints working in the Alberta oil sands and then for TD Securities, Michael Huskilson was eager to find opportunities to help build ambitious ideas in Nova Scotia. His transition back to this province took foot in 2018 when he purchased ABCO Industries in Lunenburg, NS.

However, the idea to nurture innovation in his home province may have been planted in him earlier, when his father, Chris Huskilson, became a founding partner of the Creative Destructive Lab-Atlantic (CDL-Atlantic) in 2017, as well as one of its mentors.

Michael watched his father Chris, a prominent Canadian energy executive who’s a Past President of Emera Inc., help ignite this mentorship program. “Because he (my father) was so heavily involved in CDL-Atlantic, it allowed me to see the benefits and exciting developments happening,” says Michael. As he’s been growing ABCO, Michael simultaneously has become increasingly involved at CDL-Atlantic. “I got invited to sessions; got my feet wet and [that] sparked a deeper interest in the field” he says.

Exposure to CDL keeps you on your toes and drives you to adapt

Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) is a nonprofit organization and mentorship program for seed-stage, science- and technology-based startups focused on massively scalable ventures. In the nine years since its inception, CDL-Atlantic, located at Dalhousie University’s Faculty of Management, has created partnerships with Atlantic Canada’s leading entrepreneurs, investors, and scientists.

For example, through CDL-Atlantic, Chris and Michael became early investors in XOCEAN, an ocean data company that gathers marine data for clients globally. Michael served as Country Manager for Canada at XOCEAN from 2021 to 2024, helping the Ireland-based company establish a strong foothold in North America.

“Getting exposure to the CDL ventures keeps you on your toes and drives you to learn and adapt to new ideas. Hopefully,

your combination of experience and support helps a founder solve a problem or improve their business. That's what makes it fun," says Michael, adding his dad feels the same way.

Father and son share an interest in investing and supporting the local business ecosystem. Their goal is to help others build something big in Nova Scotia.

"We need to create more entrepreneurs and people who think big not only in Canada, but Nova Scotia," says Huskison. Like his father, Michael says he, too, wants to pass on learning, experience, and opportunities. In addition to a generous donation, Michael is now a mentor, like his father.

Dal is "an aggregator of effort and expertise"

To date, CDL-Atlantic has helped foster the development of powerful blue-green technology ventures in collaboration with the Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI), and the NSERC/Tesla Canada Industrial Research Chair.

As it embarks on a yearlong celebration of its 10th anniversary, Michael says CDL-Atlantic is cognizant of

the increasingly rapid pace of technical adoption and has an even more important role to play in fostering people with ambition and ideas. "It's one of the best ways to support the economy and job creation going forward."

Michael also reflects on CDL-Atlantic's relationship with Dalhousie's Faculty of Management as one of the lab's greatest strengths.

"Dal has a lot of unparalleled subject matter experts in areas like wastewater studies, batteries, defense, and marine applications," Michael says. It can respond to what the country and economy need to grow and build; he cites robotics and AI as other examples. "Dal's ability to bring people together — like government and business groups — has also been extremely strong in previous interactions," he says, calling Dal an "aggregator of effort and expertise."

Michael's path reflects a belief that Nova Scotia's future will be built by people willing to take risks, share knowledge, and invest in one another. It's a philosophy he learned at home and now carries forward at ABCO and CDL-Atlantic, helping ensure the province's innovation economy continues to grow in both depth and possibility.



CDL-Atlantic is privileged to work with an amazing community of mentors who generously share their time, expertise, and experience with our ventures.

Each year, a few mentors stand out for their exceptional commitment to helping our venture founders navigate the challenges of building their companies.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions and lasting impact on our community, we are proud to honour our Mentors of the Year. Their leadership, mentorship, and unwavering dedication play a vital role in helping the next generation of entrepreneurs succeed.



Robert Orr Oceans Mentor of the Year

Since joining CDL-Atlantic in 2018, Robert has been an instrumental contributor to the growth and success of the program. He has mentored 27 ventures, served as a valued member of the Advisory Committee, and helped secure strategic financial support through The Walton Family Builders Initiative.

Robert played a key role in the launch of CDL-Atlantic's Oceans stream in 2020, contributing to the development of what has become one of the program's defining strengths. His commitment extends beyond Atlantic Canada, with active participation in CDL sessions in Toronto, Newfoundland, Boston, and Norway, where he has supported the recruitment of both mentors and high-potential ventures.

| Robert Orr, CDL-Atlantic Ocean Mentor

Highly regarded by founders for his expertise, thoughtful guidance, and unwavering commitment, Robert is frequently recognized as one of the mentors who has had the greatest impact on their entrepreneurial journey. His leadership, generosity, and sustained engagement have made a significant contribution to the CDL-Atlantic community.



| Lauren Ledwell CDL-Atlantic Prime Mentor

Lauren Ledwell Prime Mentor of the Year

Lauren Ledwell's relationship with Creative Destruction Lab reflects a longstanding commitment to supporting the growth of science and technology ventures. A graduate of the inaugural CDL-Quantum cohort in 2017-18, she returned to the program as a mentor in 2022 and has since become an active contributor across both CDL-Atlantic and CDL-Vancouver.

During the 2024-25 program year, Lauren mentored nine ventures across three CDL streams, including five female-founded companies in the CDL-Atlantic Prime stream. Her expertise in Cleantech and Medtech, combined with her leadership as Chief Executive Officer of PEI BioAlliance and Investment Principal at Sandpiper Ventures, has provided founders with valuable strategic guidance. She also contributes to Canada's innovation ecosystem through her board service with the PEI IT Alliance and Venture for Canada.

Lauren's dedication to mentorship, alongside her leadership responsibilities and commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, exemplifies the collaborative spirit of CDL. Her thoughtful guidance and sustained engagement have made a meaningful contribution to the success of founders and the broader CDL community.

Thank You to our Mentors

Mo AlGermozi

CEO, Graphite Innovation & Technologies (GIT Coatings)
ALUMNI ASSOCIATE, OCEANS

Jonathan Anderson

Associate Professor of Computer Engineering, Memorial University of Newfoundland
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Cathy Bennett

Founding & Co-Managing Partner, Sandpiper Ventures
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Johanna Brown

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Cape Breton University
GUEST MENTOR, PRIME

Thank you to all of our partners who support us in our Oceans and Prime streams.

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Chris Huskison
Michael Huskison
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Osler

Ecosystem and Individual Supporters

1000 Ocean Startups
Genesis
Tribe
Volta



2026-27 SESSIONS

OCEANS

Session 1	October 22, 2026	HALIFAX, NS	
Session 2	December 9, 2026	VIRTUAL	
Session 3	February 24, 2027	VIRTUAL	
Session 4	April 22, 2027	CORK, IRELAND	> In collaboration with HATCH BLUE

PRIME

Session 1	October 7, 2026	HALIFAX, NS	> Aligned with DAL Innovation Week
Session 2	December 10, 2026	VIRTUAL	
Session 3	February 25, 2027	VIRTUAL	
Session 4	May 11, 2027	ST, JOHN'S, NL	

