marine renewables canada

2026 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2026 | OTTAWA, ONTARIO

MOVING CANADA'S MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS FORWARD

More than 500 delegates gathered at The Westin Ottawa on November 17-19 for the Marine Renewables Canada 2026 Conference & Exhibition. Under the theme ***Powering Canada's Clean Energy Future***, the conference brought together industry experts, Indigenous leaders, governments, utilities, investors and researchers to discuss what it will take to bring offshore wind, tidal, wave, and river current projects to market.









KEY TAKEAWAYS OF MRC 2026

Offshore wind projects need a clear route to market. Northland Power President and CEO Christine Healy's message that "Potential is not progress" carried into discussions about what makes a project investable. Developers need clarity on who could buy the electricity, how it would reach them, and how project risks would be shared.

Transmission planning needs an early start. Speakers emphasized how difficult it can be to align transmission investment, Indigenous governance processes, environmental reviews, and equipment delivery. Early coordination across provinces, utilities and Indigenous Nations, along with shared technical standards where practical, can help keep those timelines aligned.

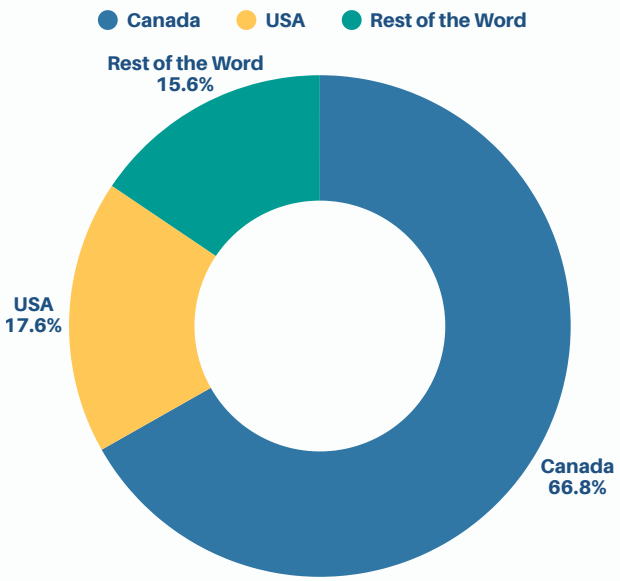
Indigenous leadership shapes projects from the outset. Indigenous energy sovereignty was a theme throughout the conference, with discussions focusing on how Indigenous communities set their own priorities, exercise their decision-making authority, and determine whether and how to participate in marine renewable energy projects.

Atlantic Canada has a supply chain to build on. The exhibition and conference sessions showed how regional experience in offshore construction, port operations, environmental and other marine services can support marine renewable energy projects. The next step is to help suppliers understand where they fit, prepare for procurement, and build relationships with developers and experienced international partners.

Sharing experience can shorten the learning curve. Delegates exchanged practical lessons on permitting, environmental monitoring, and fisheries coexistence. The Research & Technical Track also showed the value of sharing findings across technologies, from tidal monitoring in the Bay of Fundy to wave energy prototypes and the challenges of operating river turbines in ice-affected waters.



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN



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CONFERENCE OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS



Federal support and investment: In his opening keynote, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), highlighted the role marine renewables can play in creating jobs, supporting Canadian businesses, and supplying clean electricity. Minister Fraser also announced nearly $10 million for 24 clean electricity and innovation projects across Atlantic Canada, including $500,000 to support Indigenous and coastal community engagement on offshore wind development. MP Shannon Miedema also addressed MRC members and parliamentarians at MRC's Reception on the Hill.



A milestone for tidal energy in the Bay of Fundy: Stemming from the successful work of the Tidal Task Force, Fisheries and Oceans Canada expanded its authorization for the 15 MW Eauclaire FORCE Tidal Array to six turbines. Transport Canada also approved all six under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act. The approvals bring project partners Eauclaire Tidal and Orbital Marine Power a step closer to a final investment decision.



International collaboration: Delegations from 12 countries took part in MRC2026. The International Business Development Session featured presentations on global market insights and supply chain & partnership opportunities covering offshore wind and tidal. Business-to-business meetings gave Canadian and international delegates time to explore those potential partnerships.



Working with Indigenous partners: Indigenous presence and participation were critical to the success of MRC2026. Melissa Nevin (Director of Fisheries and Integrated Resources at the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat) and Dr. Shelley Denny (Founder of Indigenous Minds Consulting) kicked off the member sessions with "Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Practice." Elder Verna McGregor of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation welcomed delegates on the first full day. Chief Sidney Peters of Glooscap First Nation and Crystal Nicholas of Wskijnu'k Mtmo'taqnuow Agency joined MRC Board Director Ken Paul for a fireside chat on Indigenous energy sovereignty, ownership, and long-term benefits. And the Indigenous Business Pavilion sold out for the second consecutive year, giving Indigenous businesses dedicated space to showcase their capabilities and meet developers and potential supply chain partners.



Sold-out exhibition and strong sponsor support: The Exhibit Hall brought together 36 exhibitors with expertise ranging from subsea cables and environmental monitoring to marine construction and port infrastructure. Twenty-six sponsors, led by Presenting Sponsor Northland Power, supported the conference. A reception at the National Gallery of Canada was a networking highlight and gave delegates a beautiful space to reconnect with colleagues and meet potential partners.



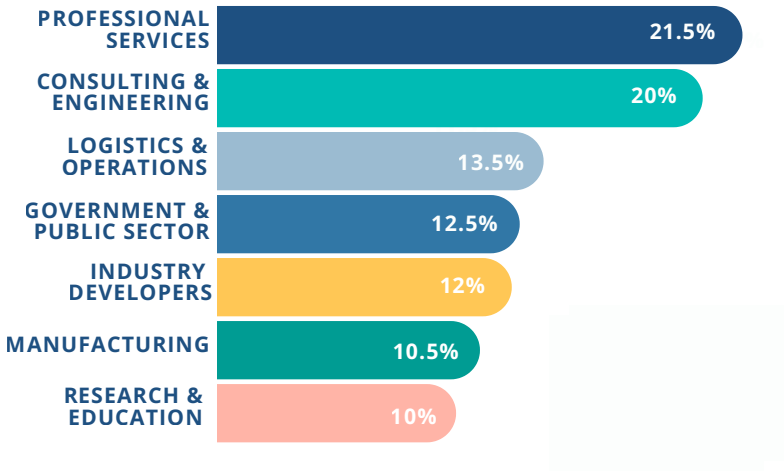
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INDUSTRY SEGMENTS





BY THE NUMBERS

500+ Attendees

2 keynotes, 1 fireside chat, 5 member sessions, and 21 concurrent Industry and Research & Technical Track sessions

175 international delegates from 12 countries

36 exhibitors, including 4 Indigenous businesses

72 speakers, with 17 International speakers

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

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