



Expression of Interest – 2017 Biennial Conference on Marine Mammals



Where it all comes together.

A warm invitation to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Quick Facts:

- *Atlantic Canada: known for its natural beauty, hospitality and friendly people*
- *Halifax: one of the leading centers of marine research in Canada*
- *Venue: a brand new, state of the art conference facility located in heart of the city*
- *Sleep, eats and treats: an abundance of accommodations, restaurants and entertainment options within easy walking distance*
- *Timing: October 23-27th, 2017*
- *The organizers: an experienced and enthusiastic group of people dedicated to making this conference a success!*

It is with great pleasure that we take this opportunity on behalf of our research community and marine mammal enthusiasts to invite the Society for Marine Mammalogy to host the 22nd Biennial Conference on Marine Mammals in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in 2017.

Our local community is excited about the opportunity to work with the Society to bring the world's leading marine mammal researchers to our city to share knowledge, experience and new ideas with one another. Home to several universities and marine institutes such as Dalhousie University (known for its strong marine educational and research programs and headquarters of world-leading projects such as the Ocean Tracking Network and the Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response Network), and the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Canada's largest center for ocean research), Halifax has a vibrant marine research community that will provide an abundance of participants and volunteers to help with this endeavor. We have a dedicated committee of individuals who will help us develop a solid scientific program and organize a successful and fun event!



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Just steps from the ocean, our new Halifax Convention Centre, currently under construction to be completed in 2016, is located in the heart of the city and has been secured as a venue to host this event during late October 2017. Conveniently connected to great restaurants, shops and entertainment, the new convention centre offers a prime location for this conference, and our safe, walkable downtown will make it easy for visitors to get around and experience our local scene. The convention centre has experienced staff who have already committed to making this conference a success and their involvement hosting major events speaks for itself – they will be hosting over fifteen conferences in 2017 including a convention of over 1500 people in April.

Halifax has excellent connectivity and with its international airport servicing major cities from around the world, has been known to attract conference participants from across Canada and around the globe. Vice President of the Halifax Airport Corporate Communications & Airport Experience has confirmed that while fog is a potential issue for flights in June, July and August, such weather is not a concern October thru December.

Our city and people are known for our warm hospitality and enthusiasm for all things connected to the marine environment. Hosting the Biennial Conference on Marine Mammals in Halifax would both further leverage Halifax, Nova Scotia's expertise, and provide conference attendees with a unique, authentic conference experience.

Thank you for this opportunity and your consideration, and we look forward to welcoming you to Halifax in 2017!

Sincerely, your 2017 conference co-chairs,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tonya Wimmer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tonya Wimmer, MSc.
Marine Animal Response Society

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H. Moors-Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

(tentative co-chair)
Dr. Hilary Moors-Murphy
Cetacean Research Scientist
Ocean and Ecosystem Sciences Division
Bedford Institute of Oceanography



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Where it all comes together.

About Halifax

We're on the edge of North America, and in the center of it all!

- Halifax is a safe, fun city with too many attractions to name! Just 100 steps from the ocean, take a break to stroll our waterfront boardwalk and breathe in our fresh sea-salt air. Tour Canada's most visited national park, the Citadel Fortress, just two blocks from the Centre. Have a feast of fresh Nova Scotian lobster or sample our many ethnic cuisines at more than 450 restaurants. Book a harbour tour on an amphibious bus or relax in one of many outside patios and old-style pubs. Take a look at what your delegates will experience
- Discover Nova Scotia's many natural wonders with a journey to Peggy's Cove or see the world's highest tides at the Bay of Fundy. Witnessing the beauty of our coastline firsthand is an experience you'll treasure for a lifetime.

To take a closer look at all Nova Scotia has to offer: <http://www.novascotia.com/>

To see a full list of Halifax's top attractions: <http://www.destinationhalifax.com>



Where it all comes together.

Air Access Map



**With 45 non-stop destinations
Halifax Stanfield is your
gateway to the world**



Where it all comes together.

Meeting Venue – Halifax Convention Centre

120,000 square feet of rentable space, including:

- 30,000+ square foot ballroom with 24' ceiling height
- Over 40,000 square feet of exhibit space on one level. Main Exhibit hall has 30' ceiling height and is over 26,000 square feet
- 40 breakout rooms of different dimensions, some with natural light
- Multiple registration areas offering great flexibility
- Sunny atrium pre-function or exhibit area overlooking historic Halifax streetscape
- Onsite retail / dining locations on site
- Underground parking garage
- Onsite hotel –details TBA
- LEED Gold certified development

Located within the heart of downtown Halifax with quick access to:

- 3000+ hotel rooms. 2300 in easy walking distance (under 6 minutes)
- Waterfront boardwalk shipping district
- Hundreds of restaurants and bars
- Museums, art gallery, tourist attractions and much more



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Accommodations

The Halifax Convention Centre is at the doorstep of our vibrant downtown business and entertainment district, complete with up to 3,000 hotel rooms. From premium 4.5 star global brands to bed and breakfasts and university residences, guest accommodations are all within a brief walk or accessible through our enclosed pedway system that connects the convention centre to hundreds of amenities downtown. Those that are not connected are within 5 to 10 minutes walk to the venue.

Hotels within walking distance to the venue include:

Property Name	Star Rating	Rooms
Cambridge Suites Hotel Halifax	4	200
Courtyard by Marriott, Halifax Downtown	4	125
The Delta Hotels (Delta Halifax/Delta Barrington)	4.5	497
Four Points by Sheraton	4	177
The Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel	4.5	352
The Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites	4	262
The Prince George Hotel	4.5	200
Radisson Suite Hotel Halifax	4	104
Residence Inn by Marriott	3.5	92
Westin Nova Scotian Hotel	4.5	310
Homewood Suites	4	135
Hilton Garden Inn	3.5	181

Hotel Rates

The average hotel room rates in the downtown core range based on season from \$129 to \$219 dollars (Canadian/US).

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The following maps highlight the location of the Halifax Convention Centre, the Downtown Halifax Link Pedway system and the proximity of many of the main hotels, shops and services in the downtown core.

DOWNTOWN HALIFAX LINK



Halifax Welcomes You!



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