

## **Keynote Speaker:** Karen Oldfield

Karen Oldfield is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Halifax Port Authority. Karen joined the HPA in 2002 and with her team leads in the development and marketing internationally of the Port's three lines of business – cargo, cruise and lands under administration. She has been instrumental in developing the Port of Halifax as a strategic national asset. The Port of Halifax annually generates \$1.58 billion in economic impact and over 11,000 port-related jobs.

The Port of Halifax is a diverse cargo port handling containerized, bulk, breakbulk and roll-on/roll-off cargo year-round. The Port connects importers and exporters to 150 countries through a wide range of shipping lines, offering the deepest container berths on the Eastern Seaboard and quick connections to major inland markets.

Over the past couple of years the Port of Halifax has experienced record levels of investment into infrastructure projects. The recent \$35 million pier extension at the South End Container Terminal is a good example of the type of work being done to prepare for 2014 and beyond. The Richmond Multipurpose Terminal project currently underway and on schedule is valued at approximately \$73 million. This project will upgrade and expand this facility to enable it to handle break-bulk and project cargo. Both projects have been cost shared between the Halifax Port Authority and the Federal Government.

Halifax became the first port in Canada to achieve and maintain an investment grade credit rating, starting in 2007. Halifax was also the first port in Canada to achieve the ISO14001 certification – an internationally recognized standard for environmental management systems. Halifax has become the marquee cruise port in Atlantic Canada, generating \$50 million in local economic impact each year.

Nationally, Karen is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters and the Public Policy Forum. She also serves as the Vice President of the International Women's Forum of Canada. Karen has served as a member of the Advisory Council on National Security which provided advice through the National Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada. Locally, Karen serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors for Saint Mary's University and is a member of the Halifax Gateway Council board.

Karen and her husband Darren have one child Laura, current at Saint Mary's University. Karen loves golf and enjoys her weekends with her family at their cottage.