

Canadian
Network of
Community
Land Trusts

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST SUMMIT

GAINING GROUND

SEPTEMBER 11-14, 2025

HALIFAX | KJIPUKTUK | VIRTUAL

PROGRAM
PREVIEW




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**THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE UPDATED AS
DETAILS ARE CONFIRMED.**

LAST UPDATED: JUNE 19, 2025

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14	
Field Trip* African Nova Scotians: Past, Present, and Future 3-6 PM	Conference Halifax Convention Centre 9 AM - 4:30 PM	Conference Halifax Convention Centre 9 AM - 4:40 PM	Field Trip* Rematriate the Land 9 AM - 5 PM	Training Acquisition Crash Course 10 AM - 3 PM
Meet and Greet Downtown Halifax 6-9 PM	Community BBQ* Upper Hammonds Plains 6-8 PM Bus provided	Queer Happy Hour Downtown Halifax 5-7 PM Allies welcome	<div>* Transportation is provided to all destinations outside of Downtown Halifax</div> 	
		Black Practitioners Social Hosted by Tribe Network 7-9 PM		

CONFERENCE THEMES

- **Land is Liberation** Centring Indigenous and Black land stewardship; building grassroots power
- **Practitioner Lab** Technical skill-building and peer exchange
- **Housing Solutions** Innovating and scaling affordable housing
- **Environment & Climate** Sustainable stewardship, regenerative land use, and climate resilience
- **Systems Shift** Systems change through research, policy, and advocacy

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The following sessions occur on Friday and Saturday at the Halifax Convention Centre. Timing to be determined. **This document will be updated as speakers are confirmed.**

Last updated: June 19, 2025



KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Lynn Jones

Dr. Lynn Jones is an accomplished community historian, human rights and labour activist, and founder of Truro’s DownTheMarsh Community Land Trust.

Throughout her life, Dr. Jones has been active in the pursuit of justice, working tirelessly to eradicate racism, obtain reparations, secure human rights, and achieve fair labour practices. Dr. Jones was the first African Canadian elected to the executive ranks of the Canadian Labour Congress and serves as chair of the Nova Scotian chapter of the Global Afrikan Congress. The [Lynn Jones African Canadian & Diaspora Heritage Collection](#), which she donated to St Mary’s University, holds over 15,000 items documenting over 50 years of African Canadian history. She is the recipient of the Order of Canada and honorary doctorates from Acadia University in Wolfville as well as Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax.

Founded by Dr. Jones, DowntheMarsh CLT is a rural organization aiming to create affordable housing in Truro, Nova Scotia for Black residents affected by gentrification. In her keynote address, Lynn will share motivations and aspirations for DowntheMarsh CLT.



Session Name	Type	Theme	Speaker(s)	Description
Opening Ceremony	—	—	Nat Pace; Cathy Martin	CNCLT Director Nat Pace officially opens the conference with reflections on the theme Gaining Ground, offering an overview of the program and setting the tone for an energizing and inspiring gathering. Cathy Martin, from Women of First Light, offers a song and territorial welcome.
Foncier Solidaire: A Case Study of a New Model of Homeownership	Presentation	Housing Solutions	Jean-Philippe Vermette, Foncier Solidaire Brome Mississquoi	Based in Dunham, Quebec, this CLT’s first project includes four off-market homes built with a nonprofit construction model. Through long-term ground leases, residents gain secure, affordable ownership while avoiding speculation.
How to Break Through: Communications and Advocacy Workshop	Workshop	Systems Shift; Practitioner Lab	Kathryn LeBlanc	Learn how to clarify your message, reach the right audiences, and communicate technical info in compelling ways. A hands-on workshop for CLTs with limited time and capacity.
Building Sustainable and Scalable Communities: Insights from Land Co-ops	Panel	Housing Solutions	CHF Canada + panelists	What’s a community land co-op? Facilitated by CHF Canada, this panel features Island Unity Land Co-op (PEI), New Brunswick Land Co-op, and Tidal Bay Community Land Co-op (NS), exploring the challenges, strengths, and opportunities of each.
Co-operative Housing Development in Nova Scotia	Presentation	Housing Solutions	CHF Canada	CHF Canada is leading new co-operative housing developments across Nova Scotia. Learn about the pipeline of permanently affordable homes in progress.
Indigenous Sharing Circle	Discussion	Land is Liberation	Women of First Light	A Summit tradition, this circle welcomes Indigenous attendees to build lasting relationships. Hosted by Women of First Light, a Wabanaki women-led organization.
Farming for Food Justice: CLTs for Equitable Land Access	Presentation	Environment & Climate	Sundance Commons	Sundance Commons supports new farmers through land access and mentorship on four farms in southwestern Ontario. Learn why CLTs are key to agricultural land justice, and take part in an interactive farm collective design activity.
Sharing Our Failures, Learning from Our Mistakes	Discussion	Practitioner Lab	Kevin Barrett, Kensington Market CLT	A space to share and reflect on challenges—missed acquisitions, failed lobbying, and more. What can we learn from what didn’t work? Come ready to listen, share, and grow.
Rematriation Is Now	Panel	Land is Liberation	Women of First Light & Tatamagouche Centre	This session explores the rematriation of the Tatamagouche Centre in Nova Scotia. Leaders from Women of First Light share Indigenous perspectives, while settler ally Isaac Vallentin reflects on supporting the transition. Site visit included in Sunday field trips.
From Practice to Policy: Research That Moves the CLT Sector	Panel	Systems Shift	Balanced Supply of Housing	Researchers from UBC’s Balanced Supply of Housing share new findings, identify policy gaps, and explore how research can drive systems change in housing justice and land stewardship.
Disaster and Climate Resilience: Global Lessons, Local Action	Presentation & Workshop	Environment & Climate	Amber Khan, PhD	This interactive session shares global research on how CLTs foster climate and disaster resilience, with time for peer exchange, reflection, and strategy sharing.
Regenerative Models for Housing, Land, and Forests	Panel	Environment & Climate	Muskoka CLT, Nova Scotia Working Woodlands Trust, CCCT	Learn how CLTs integrate climate resilience with community care—from sustainable housing to working forest easements and circular economy principles.
Co-Creating Community Spaces: Collaborative and Cooperative Design Strategies	Panel	Practitioner Lab	Creative Blueprint & Coworking Canada; People Design Co-op; Reclaim Community CDO	Explore frameworks and tools for designing inclusive, community-led spaces. Case studies include Killick Ecovillage Co-op and coworking/cohousing projects across Canada.
Rental Rescue: A Scalable Model for Affordable Housing Acquisition	Panel	Housing Solutions	Krystal Valencia, Rental Rescue	Rental Rescue acquires at-risk rental properties and transitions them to nonprofit ownership. Learn about their acquisition model, financing tools, and tenant supports.
Prioritizing Preservation: Why We Are Not Building New (Yet)	Panel	Land is Liberation; Environment & Climate	Shekara Grant (Weymouth Falls CLT) + panellists	Weymouth Falls CLT shares how rural Black-led preservation and heritage reactivation can drive community development without new construction.
Conflict Resolution in Communities	Workshop	Practitioner Lab	Downtown Eastside CLT	Conflict is inevitable—and valuable. This session explores how CLTs can embrace conflict to build stronger, more connected communities.
Pro Forma 101	Workshop	Practitioner Lab	Mia Trana, Tim Welch Consulting	A beginner-friendly walkthrough of pro formas: what they are, how to create one, and how to read consultant-prepared projections.
From Organizer to Owner: Real Talk on Property and Power	Discussion	Practitioner Lab	Circle CLT and Parkdale NLT	What happens when organizers become landlords? This session explores how to manage housing while staying true to community values.
Unlocking Community Capital: CLTs and Community Bonds	Workshop	Practitioner Lab	CNCLT	Learn how CLTs are using community bonds to acquire land and raise capital. Honest reflections on what’s working, what’s hard, and what’s next.

FIELD TRIPS

Please note that **registration is required for all field trips, trainings, and socials**— spots are limited! You can register through the Pheedloop conference program, during or after registration.

African Nova Scotians: Past, Present, and Future

Thursday September 11 | 3-6 PM | Bus provided

Join us on a tour of the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia before we cross the street to visit Akoma—an organization with an incredible history and vision for the future. The organization stewards more than 300 acres of land in a historic African Nova Scotian community. Their projects include a modular supportive housing community, a hydroponics farm, a small business incubator, and more.



Who are the African Nova Scotian People?



You will visit the former *Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children*, whose building now provides multiple services to community.



Akoma is developing affordable housing for Black households, check out the video from CMHC below!



FIELD TRIPS



Rematriate the Land: Tatamagouche Centre

Sunday September 14, 9 AM - 5 PM

Bus from Halifax, return to Airport (stop 1, 4:30 PM) and Halifax (stop 2, 5PM)

Experience breathtaking views of the Nova Scotian countryside with a day trip to the Tatamagouche Centre. Join us to learn about the long journey towards the rematriation of the Tatamagouche Centre and experience reconciliation in action. Participants will share lunch before embarking on a tour of the site led by Women of First Light, an Indigenous, women-led organization aiming to rematriate this site.

Curious to know more? The story will be told during the conference at the Rematriation is Now panel, as conversation between the Tatamagouche Centre and Women of First Light. Join us on the trip to experience the grounds yourself and learn about current activities as well as future visions for the site.

Listen to the Land Walk podcast to learn about the history of the centre, in the words of significant leaders and collaborators.



Walk the land to learn about cultural significance of the site for Mi'kmaq people.



Circle up to discuss the opportunities and challenges of rematriation.



SOCIALS

Meet and Greet

Thursday September 11, 6-8 PM
Venue TBA / Downtown Halifax

A casual mixer for participants to mingle before we enter our two days at the convention centre. Enjoy light bites, refreshments, and live music.



Community BBQ

Friday September 12, 6-8 PM
Upper Hammonds Plains / Bus provided

Come visit this historic African Nova Scotian community and meet the passionate folks behind the incredible, history-in-the-making Upper Hammonds Community Land Trust. This CLT is preparing to develop the largest Black-led co-operative housing development in Canadian history. Expect food, laughter, and celebratory vibes!

Hosted by the **Upper Hammonds Plains Community Land Trust.**

Hop on the bus or meet us there!



TRAINING

Acquisition Crash Course

Sunday, September 14, 10 AM - 3 PM
Downtown Halifax, Venue TBA, Lunch provided

This full-day workshop will take CLT practitioners through an intensive, hands-on training covering the key steps involved in preserving affordable rental housing through acquisitions. This step-by-step crash course addresses every stage in an acquisition, from assessing community needs and selecting a site to post-acquisition stewardship. Bring your computer!

A major focus of the workshop is the acquisition pro forma, which participants will get to work with to understand key drivers of financial feasibility. With a focus on CLTs, the workshop will also include topics like working with operating partners, communicating with new tenants, and including your community board and membership in decision-making.

Please note this session is intended to build capacity for those involved with community land trusts as a member, staff, board member, or another significant capacity. Spots are very limited.

Facilitated by

Parkdale
Neighbourhood
Land Trust



Joshua Barndt
Senior Manager of Development Strategy
Parkdale's Neighbourhood Land Trust (NLT)

Canadian
Network of
Community
Land Trusts



Celia Wandio
Technical Assistance Program Manager
Canadian Network of Community Land Trusts



SOCIALS

Queer Happy Hour

Saturday September 13, 5-7 PM
Venue TBA, Downtown Halifax

A Summit first, by popular demand, the Queer Happy Hour is low-key social space for queer conference goers to gather in joy and show up as their authentic selves.

Whether two-spirit, trans, non-binary, queer, lesbian, ace, bisexual, or gay - we want you there!

Food and drink by purchase.

Co-hosted by **CNCLT** and **Crows Commons**, a local rural land-sharing project fighting for queer and disability justice.

Allies are welcome!



Black Social

Saturday September 13, 7-9 PM
Tribe Network, Downtown Halifax

A Summit tradition, this is a casual mixer for Black conference attendees to meet, mingle, and make relationships that last.

Catch up with old friends, and make some new ones!

Light snacks and refreshments provided.

Co-hosted by **CNCLT** and the **Tribe Network**, a community of racialized people pursuing technology, entrepreneurship and innovation in Canada.



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