

Co. Innovation Centre Nears Incorporation Status, Announces Inaugural Board Chair

(September 12, 2025 – St. John’s, NL) — Today, Co. Innovation Centre (COIC), celebrates a pivotal step towards incorporation as an independent, non-profit entity dedicated to advancing cross-sector innovation across Newfoundland and Labrador.

“COIC is a key asset for Newfoundland and Labrador, focused on driving economic development, modernization, and global competitiveness across the province’s key industries — including energy, mining, defence, and oceans,” explains Meagan Kay-Fowlow, President of COIC. “Our province has economic and geographic advantages that position us well for economic growth and COIC is a key ingredient for realizing that potential.”

COIC is proud to announce the appointment of the Honourable **Seamus O’Regan Jr.** as the inaugural Chair of its new Board of Directors.

Mr. O’Regan is a Senior Business Advisor at Stewart McKelvey, Atlantic Canada’s largest law firm, where he advises on hydroelectricity, hydrogen, wind power, tech, mining, oil and gas, Indigenous economic development, defence, labour and Canada-US relations. In his previous role as federal Minister, he played a foundational role in the establishment of COIC, championing the vision of a world-class innovation hub that supports remote operations and fosters collaboration across the province’s critical sectors. His leadership was instrumental in securing the initial \$9.6 million in funding that helped launch the Centre. Being born in St. John’s, raised in Labrador, and meeting with thousands of organizations and individuals in his years in journalism and politics, Mr. O’Regan brings a deep understanding of the experiences and opportunities in sectors across Newfoundland and Labrador and beyond.

“Seamus O’Regan’s deep commitment to Newfoundland and Labrador’s innovation ecosystem and his role in COIC’s creation make him uniquely positioned to lead us into this next chapter. We are honoured to welcome Mr. O’Regan as our inaugural Chair, and we are eager to continue to build quickly and strategically.”

As Chair, Mr. O’Regan will guide the formation of COIC’s inaugural Board. Once the full Board is in place, COIC will proceed with formal incorporation, targeted for completion later this fall.

COIC will operate as a non-partisan platform and will continue to work in close strategic partnership with techNL as it expands its mandate. COIC will also continue to work in collaboration with those who have been valued partners since its inception; Energy NL, econext, Energy Research and Innovation NL, Canada’s Ocean Supercluster, as well as the many organizations, companies and governments who share COIC’s vision for cross-sector innovation, economic growth, and global competitiveness.

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ABOUT COIC

The Co. Innovation Centre (COIC) is an innovation hub that catalyzes cross-sector collaboration and accelerates the commercialization of advanced technologies in Newfoundland and Labrador. In partnership with businesses, industry, government, and post-secondary institutions, COIC provides the space, programming, and supports that empower established and growing companies to innovate, modernize, and expand into global markets. With a vision to establish Newfoundland and Labrador as a globally recognized hub for remote operations and cutting-edge technologies, COIC is focused on driving growth and resilience in critical sectors such as energy, mining, oceans, aerospace and defence, and advanced manufacturing. A key focus on business growth includes programs and services that accelerate commercialization, support digital transformation, foster challenge-driven innovation, and connect local companies to cross-sector and international opportunities. More information can be found at www.coic.co.