

Stephen Dempsey

Biography

Stephen is currently working as the Executive Director for the Offshore Energy Research Association of Nova Scotia. Prior to this, Stephen was employed as CEO of the Greater Halifax Partnership, the economic development organization for Halifax - the largest urban centre in Atlantic Canada.

Stephen supports his community in several ways serving or having served on the boards/ committees of the following organizations: the Halifax International Airport Authority, Partners for Care – chair (Capital Health), the United Way of Halifax, the Halifax Gateway Council (past chair), the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce (past chair), the Greater Halifax Partnership, Nova Scotia Life Sciences Association, the Halifax Library Capital Committee, the Medical Initiatives Society (Dalhousie, past chair), the World Energy Cities Partnership (past chair), the Brain Repair Centre (Business Advisory Council), the Halifax Club, and the Halifax Region Immigration Council (co-chair).

Stephen is a 7th generation native of Halifax and received his B.Comm from Saint Mary's University, and his MBA from the University of Ottawa. Stephen and his wife Linda reside in Ketch Harbour, Nova Scotia and have two children, Lauren (Toronto) and Jonathan.

Presentation Abstract: Nova Scotia Energy Research – It Doesn't Cost, It Pays!

Nova Scotia adopted a unique, and some might say risky, approach when stakeholders from the Department of Energy, along with the leading scientific and engineering research focused universities in the province, as well as key energy sector industry players, all came together to create two collaborative research focused associations to address critical issues impacting the continued development of the offshore energy sector and the emerging marine renewable energy sector. While the Nova Scotia Department of Energy provided the funding to launch the Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) and the Offshore Energy Technical Research Association (OETR), it took an arm's length "hands off" approach to the associations' operations and decision making processes. This has enabled OETR/OEER to recruit a well-respected board of senior representations from its key stakeholder groups, and assemble a world-recognized group of scientific advisors to provide guidance and evaluation to support the aggressive research agenda carried out over the past 5 years. From the ground breaking (\$15,000,000) Play Fairway Analysis responding to the requirements of de-risking the NS offshore play, through to the ongoing Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process in providing a framework to guide the safe and responsible development of NS tidal resources – the investments in research are paying off. This presentation will examine, in greater detail, some of these research initiatives and make the argument that investments in energy research don't cost - they pay ongoing dividends to the betterment of all Nova Scotians.