



August 19, 2018

Dear Conference Delegates:

On behalf of Dalhousie University, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Conjugate Margins Conference. This biennial conference, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, exemplifies innovation in academia, government and industry as we enter into a new phase of exploration.

We are thrilled to be hosting this event during our 200th anniversary year. After originally starting out as a small college on Halifax's Grand Parade, Dalhousie has become one of Canada's leading research-intensive universities, with approximately 19,000 students, 13 different faculties and a talented, dedicated team of faculty and staff members. We have 200 years of accomplishments, and there are many more to come.

As a way of celebrating this significant milestone, the university has been honouring individuals throughout the year at celebratory events outside its scheduled convocations. On Monday, August 20, we are proud to be presenting Professor John Dewey with an honorary doctoral degree for his outstanding contributions to the geoscience community. His scientific leadership has provided a clearer understanding of the tectonic evolution of basins along the Atlantic Margin.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive and insightful conference. We look forward to continuing to work with you to understand the complex geological evolution of the Atlantic.

Sincerely,

Richard Florizone
President and Vice-Chancellor

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Message from the Minister of Energy and Mines



Welcome to the 2018 Conjugate Margins Conference.

These conferences started a decade ago in Halifax with strong support from the Government of Nova Scotia for the seminal meeting, and I'm pleased to see representatives of industry, government and academia return to our province.

This year's conference comes at a time when innovative research is a cornerstone of our efforts to develop Nova Scotia's offshore. We see the value that applied research can bring in helping to better understand our offshore geology and reduce exploration risk. For example, we are working with researchers from across Canada to pioneer the use of genomics in our geoscience efforts and we are sharing our knowledge openly with industry. In return, we've received billions of dollars in exploration work commitments from major international companies.

Earlier this year, government announced a four-year, \$11.8-million commitment to the second phase of the Offshore Growth Strategy. This new research will create a clearer picture of the oil and gas resource potential that exists off our coast.

Our geoscience work includes collaboration with the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB), and the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and the Offshore Energy Research Association (OERA) in collecting core samples and high-resolution mapping information from the ocean bottom and sub bottom. We're working with Morocco to use geological and geophysical data to reconstruct the continental separation that occurred 200 million years ago. Our Offshore Growth Strategy will also update the 2011 Play Fairway Analysis with new information from offshore drilling results and focus on building new areas of research capacity while strengthening existing ones.

Another exciting development in Nova Scotia is the recent creation of the Department of Energy and Mines. The new department brings all our province's geoscience experts in subsurface resources together in one place. It will provide opportunities for the energy and mining files to explore collaborative opportunities to better promote the Province's energy and mineral endowments.

My department is pleased to sponsor this event as you celebrate 10 years of pushing the boundaries of knowledge and prospectivity of Atlantic margin basins. Thank you for coming and enjoy the conference.

Sincerely,

Honourable Derek Mombourquette
Nova Scotia Minister of Energy and Mines



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Message from the Offshore Energy Research Association of Nova Scotia



On behalf of the Offshore Energy Research Association, I'd like to welcome the local and international delegates, students and sponsors attending the 2018 Conjugate Margin Conference.

Over the past twenty-five years Nova Scotia has undertaken a number of measures to grow its offshore petroleum industry. Much of this work has been facilitated by the OERA working in close collaboration with the Nova Scotia Department of Energy and the CNSOPB. The Province's overarching goal has remained the same since 2008: to employ leading-edge

geoscience research to stimulate exploration activity and grow Nova Scotia's offshore oil and gas industry.

In 2018, work will include seismic reconstruction of the Moroccan and Nova Scotia conjugate margins through comparison of recently collected seismic data from both countries. In addition, geochemical data collected from wells along both margins will be examined to establish a geochemical relationship between known and predicted source rocks from offshore Nova Scotia and Morocco. These projects are facilitated by a memorandum of understanding between the OERA and the Moroccan National Office of Hydrocarbons and Mines (*Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines – ONHYM*). This work is intended to better characterize the early rifting history in the late Triassic/early Jurassic period and provide a better understanding of the areal extent of the postulated Jurassic source rocks in the now deep water.

We expect the 2018 Conjugate Margins Conference will offer subject matter of interest to all attendees – please enjoy the conference, our beautiful city and the unique geology of Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

Stephen Dempsey
Executive Director



AAPG

Advancing the World of Petroleum Geosciences

Charles A. Sternbach
Past President (2017-2018)
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July 6, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Linda and I are delighted to join you this year at Dalhousie University to Celebrate 10 years of Conjugate Margin conferences. This continuing series has profoundly influenced exploration creativity for a decade and inspires game-changing discoveries of future energy along conjugate margins. I wish you a good conference as we celebrate the theme: "Pushing the Boundaries of Knowledge".

Charles A. Sternbach,
AAPG Advisory Council Chair; recent
Past President 2017-2018"