

4. Supporting Organisations

Local, Governmental, and Financial Support for FIG Working Week 2029

Canada is offering one of the most robust and flexible support packages ever proposed for FIG. The *Destination Canada International Conference Attraction Fund* has **formally approved and committed funding of CAD \$600,000–\$630,000**, which will be **guaranteed upon the assignment of FIG Working Week 2029 to Halifax**.

This confirmed funding translates to:

- USD \$420,000–\$441,000
- EUR €390,000–€409,500
- UGX 1.53–1.61 billion (Ugandan Shillings)

These funds are entirely **at the discretion of the event organizers** and can be directed toward delegate subsidies, scholarships, legacy projects, registration cost reductions, or surplus generation.

In addition to this financial backing, Halifax offers a suite of in-kind and logistical supports, including:

- **CAD \$18,000 discount** on Halifax Convention Centre venue rental (13% reduction)
- **Full VAT/GST rebate eligibility** (detailed at [Business Events Halifax](#))
- **10–12% airfare discounts** for attendees via Air Canada and partner airlines
- **Free access to all Halifax Transit routes and ferries** for delegates
- **Show Your Badge Program:** exclusive discounts at local restaurants, attractions, and retailers

Combined, these supports represent a value of over CAD \$1,163,000, equivalent to:

- USD \$814,100
- EUR €775,950
- UGX 2.97 billion

Nationally Unified Support

This bid is backed by a powerful coalition of partners across federal, provincial, municipal, academic, and professional sectors, uniting coast to coast to coast in support of this opportunity. Key supporting organizations include:

- **Federal Government of Canada**

- **Natural Resources Canada**
- **Destination Canada**
- **Discover Halifax**
- **Halifax Regional Municipality**
- **Geomatics Association of Nova Scotia (GANS)**
- **Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG)**
- **Canadian Council on Geomatics**
- **Professional Surveyors Canada**
- **Association of Canada Lands Surveyors**
- **Canadian Hydrographic Association**
- **Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors**
- **Dalhousie University**
- **Saint Mary's University**
- **Nova Scotia Community College**
- **Queen's University**
- **University of Calgary**
- **University of Waterloo**

This depth and diversity of support reflects Canada's unmatched commitment to the success of FIG 2029.

5. Host City: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Nestled on Canada's Atlantic coast, **Halifax is a dynamic mid-sized city of 450,000** that offers the charm of a close-knit community with the impact of a global innovation hub. With a rich maritime heritage and deep roots in mapping and exploration, Halifax's identity is naturally aligned with the mission of FIG and the disciplines of geomatics and surveying.

A Future-Ready, Accessible City

Halifax is one of the most sustainable and accessible urban centres in North America. Since 2023, **all new public transit buses placed into service are electric**, and the city's entire fleet is fully low-floor and accessible. On-demand Access-A-Bus services ensure all delegates can navigate the city with ease. These forward-looking investments make Halifax a leader in green and inclusive transportation.

Convenience Without Compromise

Halifax offers **unmatched walkability for delegates**: all official conference hotels are located within a **0–12 minute walk** of the Halifax Convention Centre. Free, city-wide access to Halifax Transit—including buses and ferries—is provided with every delegate badge, ensuring seamless and sustainable mobility.

This level of logistical simplicity stands in contrast to other destinations where shuttle transport between venues and hotels is required. In Halifax, everything is close, connected, and easy to navigate.

A Global Hub for Geospatial Research

Home to **Dalhousie University**, ranked among Canada's top 15 universities, Halifax is a recognized centre of excellence for geospatial science, climate research, and marine innovation. Delegates will be steps away from world-leading institutions including:

- The **Bedford Institute of Oceanography**, Canada's flagship ocean science facility
- The **Ocean Tracking Network**, a global leader in marine geomatics and environmental monitoring
- A thriving ecosystem of tech startups and research labs focused on spatial sciences and climate resilience

No other proposed host city offers this level of academic alignment with FIG's mission.

Exceptional Value for Delegates

Despite its innovation profile, Halifax remains an affordable destination.

- **Casual meals:** under CAD \$20
- **Fine dining:** around CAD \$50, featuring local seafood and international cuisine

Show Your Badge discounts extend the value further, offering **exclusive deals at participating restaurants, attractions, and retailers** citywide.

7. Accessibility: Seamless Travel, Safe Arrival

Halifax offers one of the most delegate-friendly travel experiences in North America—combining global connectivity, walkability, and city-wide accessibility with a commitment to safety, inclusivity, and ease of movement.

Global Air Access

Halifax Stanfield International Airport (YHZ) is just **30 minutes from downtown Halifax**, offering over **70 direct flights** from major hubs across Canada, the U.S., and Europe. Key routes include:

- Direct 3-hour flights from **New York, Boston, and Toronto**
- European connections to **London, Dublin, Frankfurt, and Reykjavik**
- Integration with all three major global airline alliances for seamless international bookings

For international delegates outside of direct flight paths, Halifax provides access to **14,665 two-leg flight combinations per week**, connecting to **284 global destinations**. This ensures reliable access for FIG members traveling from every continent.

Visa Access Made Simple

Canada offers a streamlined and supportive visa process, tailored for international events:

- **Visa-free or eTA access** is available for over 60 countries
- Standard visas are available through a **broad global network of embassies and Visa Application Centres (VACs)**, including new facilities across East Africa and Asia
- Upon Halifax's selection as host city, FIG delegates will receive **official visa support letters within 48 hours**, and a dedicated **visa coordination desk** will assist with questions, documentation, and processing

These systems ensure delegates can attend with confidence, regardless of where they're traveling from.

Effortless City Transit

Once in Halifax, the experience is as smooth as the arrival:

- The **Halifax Convention Centre is centrally located**, with all official hotels within a **0–12 minute walk**
- Delegates receive **free access to all Halifax Transit buses and ferries** with their event lanyard
- Additional transport options include ride-sharing services and taxis, which are widely available and affordably priced
- Airport-to-city transit options include public buses (CAD \$4.25, approx. 54 minutes) and taxis or ride-shares (approx. 25–30 minutes)

Safety and Peace of Mind

Halifax consistently ranks **above the national Canadian average for safety**, thanks to its low crime rate, inclusive culture, and welcoming communities.

- The downtown core is **clean, walkable, and vibrant**, with accessible infrastructure and a strong public presence
- Halifax is a **Rainbow Registered** destination, meaning many venues—including the Convention Centre and local hotels—have been formally accredited as safe and welcoming spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ travelers
- The city’s strong emergency services and visitor infrastructure provide added peace of mind for all attendees

14. Accommodation: Proximity, Variety, and Value

Halifax offers an outstanding accommodation experience for delegates, with a range of high-quality options located steps away from the venue.

Centralized Convenience

Sixteen (16) hotel properties—ranging from international brands to boutique offerings—have expressed interest in hosting delegates. All are located within a **0–12 minute walk** of the **Halifax Convention Centre**, eliminating the need for shuttle services and reinforcing Halifax’s walkability and compact downtown appeal.

Room Rates and Options

Room pricing is highly competitive for a Canadian destination of this caliber:

- **CAD \$219–\$359 per night** (USD \$156–\$256 per night)
- A range of **three-, four-, and five-star hotels**, offering options for every delegate profile
- Possibility for **University dormitory accommodation** for Young Surveyors and students, offering further affordability and inclusivity

Delegate Experience

All hotels are supported by Halifax’s “Show Your Badge” program, which offers **exclusive discounts at restaurants, attractions, and retailers** citywide. Delegates will also enjoy **free access to Halifax Transit**, making movement throughout the city effortless and budget-friendly.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

Hotels and dormitories meet or exceed Canadian accessibility standards. Delegates with mobility or sensory needs will have a range of compliant accommodation options, all within walking distance of the venue.

Budget Notes

Draft budget is based on 1600 paying participants, in total 1,760 pax. May be fewer participants – depending on visa and national participation.

Expenses seem reasonable, and realistic – relatively cheaper than other comparable destinations

Expenses: € 950,000 (excl social events)

Income: € 1,000,000 (excl social events)

Suggested registration fees

Delegates: Early 625.00 Normal 650.00 Late 725.00

Young professionals: 450.00 (incl YS conference)

Students: €350 Incl YS Conference)

Accompanying person: €200

Dinners:

Canadian Evening: €50,

Gala Dinner: 100

16. Sponsorship

Estimate sponsorship and exhibition income Proposed income How realistic is proposed income Local sponsor offerings Sponsor interest to conference

The following support has a total confirmed value of approximately \$1,163,000+ CAD

- This is an equivalent of approximately:
 - \$814,100 USD
 - €775,950EUR
 - 2,975,795,572.19 UGX (Ugandan Shilling)

The Destination Canada International Conference Attraction Fund is approved and committed to funding of between \$600,000 and \$630,000 CAD. Upon Assignment of the conference to Halifax, these funds will be locked in.

- This is an equivalent of:
 - \$420,000 - \$441,000 USD
 - €390,000 – €409,500 EUR
 - 1,535,234,173.10 – 1,611,995,881.75 UGX (Ugandan Shilling)

Halifax will also offer the following support:

- \$18,000 Convention Centre Discount (13%)
- VAT/GST Rebate
 - See: <https://businesseventshalifax.com/plan/customs-taxation>
- 10%-12% Discount on flights for attendees
 - Via Air Canada and all connecting routes
- Free Access to all Halifax Transit Routes/Ferries
- Show Your Badge Program Discounts

Additional Sponsor/Exhibition Income (to be confirmed) of \$50,000:

- This is an equivalent of:
 - \$35,000USD
 - €32,500 EUR
 - 127,936,181.09 UGX (Ugandan Shilling)