

## LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL 7-9 — **Ins. Brokers Assn. of Manitoba**, *Brokercon*, Winnipeg, Convention Ctr.

APR. 16 — **Women in Ins. Cancer Crusade**, *Ontario chapter gala*, Toronto, Royal York.

APR. 22 — **Ins. Institute of New Brunswick**, *Bathurst Bowling Bash*, Bathurst Bowlamara.

# THOMPSON'S WORLD INSURANCE NEWS

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## ICLR offering new data on natural hazards

THE INSTITUTE for Catastrophic Loss Reduction has launched a new geographic information platform called CatView that provides mapped natural hazard data across Canada. The Google Maps-based tool, which is available at <https://catview.ca>, is intended to provide insurers, brokers, reinsurers, governments, lenders, researchers and other users with access to centralized natural hazard information. Access to the tool is free but requires one-time registration. The portal currently includes data for earthquake and liquefaction, extreme wind, hail, wildfire, landslide and other natural hazards and will be updated as new data becomes available.

## Institute seeking interest in spring Ignite program

THE INSURANCE Institute of Canada's career connections division is accepting applications for its spring 2026 'Ignite' program that is aimed at job seekers interested in entering the p&c sector. Applicants must attend a virtual information session and complete a final assessment, which will be held online until April 2. The spring 2026 program will run from April 15 to May 13 and will combine online modules with in-person classes at the Insurance Institute's Toronto office. The program is geared towards internationally trained professionals and newcomers to Canada and covers insurance fundamentals, soft skills and preparation techniques for job seekers.

## Catlin steps down as chairman of Convex

STEPHEN CATLIN is stepping down as chairman of Convex Group, the Bermuda-based international specialty insurer he co-founded in 2019. He will remain a director of the company and has been given the title of founder and life president. Mr. Catlin began his insurance career in London, U.K. in 1973 with a syndicate at Lloyd's. In 1984, he founded Catlin Underwriting Agencies, which later became part of Catlin Group and was acquired by XL Group in 2015. Majority ownership of Convex was acquired earlier this year by asset manager Onex Corp. and insurer AIG. Onex CEO Bobby Le Blanc has been appointed as the new chairman of Convex.

## Brit forms consortium to cover cargo risks

BRIT GROUP Holdings has launched a new cargo consortium called Bridge which is offering line capacity of up to US\$80m (C\$110m). The London, U.K.-based specialty insurer said the new consortium will be one of the largest in the market and will address a wide range of broker and client needs providing comprehensive cover and protection for cargo risks around the globe. "As the value of insurables in the cargo market grows, and supply chains become ever more complex, Bridge will allow us to continue to provide high levels of sophisticated and comprehensive coverage for clients, ensuring that they receive the support they need amid evolving market conditions," said Louise Crockford, class underwriter for cargo at Brit.

## Chaucer works with Ceto to launch marine MGA

CHAUCER, the U.K.-based global specialty reinsurance group, has partnered with maritime technology firm Ceto AI to launch a new marine MGA that is operating as a Lloyd's coverholder. Under the arrangement, Ceto is authorized to bind marine hull risks on behalf of Chaucer's Lloyd's syndicate, with additional capacity provided by Tokio Marine Kiln. Ceto uses machinery and performance data to inform underwriting decisions. The companies said the launch of the MGA marks a significant development in the application of real-time operational data within the Lloyd's marine market, introducing a data-led underwriting model.

## O'Neill joins Sedgwick as senior marine surveyor

CLAIMS management firm Sedgwick has welcomed Will O'Neill to its Canadian operations as senior marine surveyor with its global specialty marine technical services team. He has more than 30 years of experience in marine transportation, port and drydock operations, marine facilities and equipment and international marine operations. Most recently, Mr. O'Neill served as director of operations for Seaspan Vancouver Drydock. Sedgwick's marine practice in Canada supports a wide range of claims, risk assessments and technical services across ports, terminals, vessels, cargo operations and international marine exposures.

## WICC welcomes Beazley as national sponsor

SPECIALIST insurer Beazley has partnered with the Women in Insurance Cancer Crusade as a national sponsor. The WICC is a volunteer-based organization that unites the p&c industry to support cancer research. It has raised more than \$23m for the Canadian Cancer Society since 1996. U.K.-based Beazley operates in Bermuda, Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia. It manages six syndicates at Lloyd's and reported gross premiums of more than US\$6bn (C\$8.4bn) in 2025. "The work WICC does to advance cancer research and support those affected is truly vital and we are proud to stand behind their mission to save and improve lives," said Zachary Cruickshank, Beazley's country manager for Canada.

## Aviva set to launch app on ChatGPT in the U.K.

INSURER Aviva said it will be launching an AI app on ChatGPT in the next few weeks to help homeowners in the U.K. obtain an insurance quote in minutes. Aviva recently announced a new partnership with OpenAI and the launch of the app will be the first collaboration between the two organizations. Aviva said the new app will be aimed at people who want to use large language models for everyday tasks such as shopping for insurance. If a customer wants to purchase cover after receiving a quote, they will be able to click on a link which takes them to Aviva's website where they can choose additional coverages, add specified items and select a payment option.

## Zensurance awards new small business grants

ZENSURANCE, the Toronto-based online commercial broker, has announced the recipients of \$15,000 in grants for small businesses following a Canada-wide public vote. Nova Scotia-based Next Level Property Management & Services was announced as the winner of a \$10,000 grant and five other small businesses named as finalists will each receive \$1,000 grants in recognition of their contributions to innovation, entrepreneurship and community impact. Zensurance established its Small Business Grant competition in 2023 to support Canadian entrepreneurs. Since then, it has awarded \$105,000 in grants.