THOMPSON'S
WORLD INSURANCE NEWS

September 14 2026 • Back page

www.thompsonsnews.com

LOOKING AHEAD

SEPT. 23 — **Ins. Brokers Assn. of B.C.**, *Vickerstaff Dinner*, Vancouver, Hyatt Regency.

SEPT. 24 — **Ins. Institute of P.E.I.**, *Golf tournament*, Stanley Bridge, Anderson's Creek.

OCT. 7 - 8 — **Atlantic Insurance Brokers Convention**, St. John's, N.L., Jag Hotel.

Lussier welcomes new minority shareholders

LUSSIER, one of Quebec's oldest and largest p&c brokers, has opened its capital to external partners for the first time in its 110-year history. Lussier said last week that new funding from Sagard Private Equity Canada and Desjardins Group will help accelerate the company's organic growth in Quebec and support its expansion elsewhere in Canada. The Lussier family will retain a majority interest in the company, while Luc-André Lussier and Caroline Lussier will remain at the helm of the organization and continue to lead the firm independently. Lussier has more than 800 employees at 22 branches across Quebec operating in insurance and employee benefits consulting.

Co-operators names new chief information officer

CO-OPERATORS has named Craig Bran as its new executive VP and chief information officer. He has been with the Guelph, Ont.-based insurer for more than 20 years and most recently served as VP of claims. The company said in that role Mr. Bran led a major transformation that combined people-centric claims service with expanded digital capabilities and advanced use of AI to enhance both client experience and operational performance. As chief information officer he will lead the organization's technology function, driving the strategy, development and delivery of technology solutions. Mr. Bran will report directly to CEO Rob Wesseling and join the company's executive leadership team.

Institute moves to new location in Toronto

AFTER MORE than three decades headquartered at King and Yonge streets in downtown Toronto, the Insurance Institute of Canada and the Insurance Institute of Ontario moved this summer to a new location at York and Adelaide. Their new address is 150 York St., suite 600, Toronto, Ont., M5H 3S5. The institute said the new location has improved classrooms and exam facilities that will provide students with an enhanced in-person experience. The new office space also has several meeting room configurations with capacity for staff, board members and collaborators to gather.

Axis marks anniversary with brand campaign

SPECIALTY insurer and reinsurer Axis has launched a new global brand campaign to celebrate its 25-year history. The company — which operates in Bermuda, the U.S., Europe, Singapore and Canada — was formed in the aftermath of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 to address a void in the market for specialist capacity. It has grown into a global specialty leader with US$35bn in total assets and US$7.7bn in total capital as of year-end 2025. The new brand campaign incorporates 'silver anniversary' iconography and highlights Axis' focus on specialty products. It includes multi-media advertising, multi-channel and digital marketing and an updated tagline: '25 Years of Specialty Solutions, Elevated.'

HDI Global opens new office in Vancouver

SPECIALTY lines insurer HDI Global Canada has opened a new office in Vancouver. The company has operated out of a corporate base in Toronto for the past decade. The new Vancouver location is underwriting property and middle-market property and casualty business with authority held locally to enable decisions to be made closer to clients and their risks. HDI said the expansion builds on the appointment last fall of Ian Rutherford as head of Pacific region and executive property underwriter. The insurer said the move also marks another step in its strategy to establish a stronger regional structure and broaden its distribution reach beyond its base in Ontario.

BrokerLink announces three more acquisitions

BROKERLINK acquired three brokerages earlier this summer. The Intact Financial Corp. subsidiary closed deals Aug. 1 to acquire CRS Merrill Insurance in Calgary, Ames Insurance and Real Estate in Pincher Creek, Alta. and Schofield Insurance in Halifax and Windsor, N.S. CRS Merrill traces its roots to 1957, while Ames Insurance has served the area in the southwest corner of Alberta for more than 65 years. Schofield Insurance was founded in 1977 and offers home, auto, business and specialty insurance. Employees from all three brokerages will continue serving their communities as part of the BrokerLink team.

Application deadlines for student support nearing

DEADLINES are approaching for three student financial support programs offered through the Insurance Institute of Canada. The Lloyd King Scholarship provides up to two $2,500 awards for eligible students in Atlantic Canada and applications will be accepted until Sept. 18. The deadline is Sept. 25 for applications for the John E. Lowes Insurance Education Fund, which offers up to two $2,500 university scholarships and up to two $1,500 college scholarships for eligible Ontario residents studying insurance. Applications will also be accepted until Sept. 25 for the Alberta Insurance Council Grant, which provides $3,500 for CIP students and $5,000 for ACIP or FCIP students in Alberta who do not receive employer support.

Scott rejoins ClaimsPro as company president

WENDY SCOTT has returned to ClaimsPro as company president in Toronto. She previously spent 21 years with the claims processing specialist in several senior leadership roles before departing for a short stint with Marsh Canada. At ClaimsPro, Ms. Scott has succeeded Lorri Frederick, who was named interim president in June. ClaimsPro became part of the U.K.-based Davies Group last fall when it was acquired along with parent SCM Insurance Services. "Canada remains a strategically important market for Davies and Wendy's appointment represents an exciting next chapter for ClaimsPro," said Dhara Patel, CEO for Davies in North America.

Mutual offering funding for community projects

THE COMMONWELL Mutual Insurance Group has opened applications for its 2026 Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund. The fund provides $400,000 for community-led projects across Ontario. Applications close Oct. 30 and recipients are expected to be announced in December. Community organizations, municipalities, educational groups and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Since the fund was launched in 2021, the Lindsay, Ont.-based mutual insurer has invested more than $2.6m in 88 community projects across the province.