LOOKING AHEAD

NOV. 12 — **Ins. Brokers Assn. of N.S.**, *Casino Night*, Halifax, Halifax Tower Hotel.

NOV. 16 — **Insurance Brokers Assn. of N.L.**, *AGM*, St. John's, Sandman Hotel.

NOV. 24-25 — **RCCAQ**, *Annual Convention*, Quebec City, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac.

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Allstate's Bradley takes over as chair of institute

LONDON Bradley has been elected as chair of the board of governors of the Insurance Institute of Canada for 2026-2027. The president and CEO of Allstate Insurance Co. of Canada assumed the role last week at the institute's 73rd annual general meeting. He succeeds Stéphane Lespérance, CEO of Lockton Canada, who becomes immediate past chair. The institute also named Barbara Bellissimo, president and CEO of HSB Canada, as deputy chair, and Catherine Roe, president and chief agent of CNA Canada, as vice-chair, membership-at-large. Regional vice-chairs are Chad Shurnaik of Peace Hills Insurance for Western Canada, Greg Smith of Crawford & Co. (Canada) for Ontario, Vezina Assurance's Mathieu Gagnon for Quebec and Tina Rowntree of Wedgwood Insurance for Atlantic Canada.

Équité launches fraud awareness campaign

ÉQUITÉ Association has launched a fall fraud awareness campaign aimed at helping Canadians protect themselves against auto theft and insurance fraud. Dubbed 'Fortifying Your Fall Fraud Defences,' the campaign provides resources on vehicle theft prevention, predatory towing and auto body shops and vehicle financing fraud. The campaign also includes guidance on preventing vehicle theft at shopping malls, hotels and airports. Équité's first-half auto theft trend report shows passenger vehicle thefts declined 10.1% nationally during the first six months of the year, although more than 20,000 vehicles were stolen.

Statistics Canada cites premium rate rise

CANADIAN home and auto insurance premium rates continued to rise in September, with both categories recording annual increases of roughly 5%, according to Statistics Canada. The Consumer Price Index for passenger vehicle insurance premiums increased 5% year over year in September 2026, while homeowners' home and mortgage insurance rose 4.9%. On a monthly basis, home insurance increased 0.9% from August, while auto insurance premiums edged up 0.1%. The figures measure changes in consumer insurance prices across Canada and are not seasonally adjusted.

Willis aiming to address new defence sector risks

WILLIS has launched a global 'defence and security' initiative offering specialized insurance and risk management services to the defence sector. The broker is bringing together specialists in cyber risk, operational resilience, supply-chain security, crisis management and risk transfer from 140 countries. The initiative is headed by Jennifer Caldarella, Willis global defence lead. Willis said it is aiming to address insurance capacity constraints and risks associated with increasingly complex defence technologies and supply chains. Global military spending reached hit US$2.9 trillion (C$4.1 trillion) in 2025 and it is expected that could rise to between US$4.7 trillion (C$6.6 trillion) and US$6.6 trillion (C$9.2 trillion) by 2035.

Conestoga chapter holding speakers lunch

THE INSURANCE Institute of Ontario's Conestoga chapter is holding its 48th annual speakers luncheon next week in Cambridge, Ont. The event features a panel of executives who will discuss the trends, innovations and challenges that will shape the p&c industry over the next decade. Scheduled speakers include Chris Floyd, president of individual insurance services at Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan; Jennifer Kearsey, president and CEO of South Easthope Mutual Insurance, and Bill Warden, personal lines product management VP at the Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Co. The event will be held Nov. 12 at Tapestry Hall. The registration deadline is Nov. 9.

Institute set to host 'take-your-kids-to-work' day

THE INSURANCE Institute of Canada will host Insurance 'take our kids to work day' on Nov. 4, introducing Grade 9 students to careers in the p&c industry. An online session will be presented from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET that features industry panels, career discussions, risk and claims scenarios and sessions on resume writing and interview preparation. Organized by the institute's Insurance Career Connections division, the event is designed to encourage insurance professionals to bring students to work and explore career opportunities. Live and prerecorded sessions will be available across Canada.

Aviva offering new digital coverage for SMEs

AVIVA Canada has launched a digital insurance package for small and medium-sized businesses, developed in partnership with insurance software provider Acturis Canada. Aviva Ally allows brokers to quote and bind coverage through a new digital portal or directly through the Acturis quoting and broker management platform. Initially available for contractors, business and professional services, and retail businesses, Aviva Ally will expand to additional sectors in the coming months. The platform offers brokers 24-hour access to quotes, automated processing and integration with existing Acturis systems. Aviva Canada's Amy Martin, VP of small business operations, said the platform draws on technology already used in Aviva's small business operations in the U.K.

RIBO issues reminder on rules for referral fees

THE REGISTERED Insurance Brokers of Ontario has reminded members to review their referral fee arrangements to ensure they comply with regulations. Last week, the regulator clarified the rules governing referral fees, also known as finder's fees. Referral payments cannot be tied to insurance policy sales, premium volume or renewals and referral partners cannot perform activities requiring an insurance licence unless appropriately licensed. Brokers must also obtain informed written consent before collecting, using or sharing consumer information and disclose referral fees, financial interests and potential conflicts of interest.

Intact provides funds for Olympian-run projects

INTACT Insurance and the Canadian Olympic Committee have announced the first recipients of the Intact Olympian Impact grants program, which will provide $1m over three years to support community sports initiatives across Canada. The grants will fund projects led by four active and eight retired Olympians that focus on youth participation, athlete development, accessibility and environmental sustainability. Recipients include the Future Champions Scholarship Program, which supports emerging track and field athletes, and the Girls CAN Wrestling program, which promotes participation among girls and women.