

Crossing the Barriers, Building Bridges

maximizing Canada's capacity to profitably and sustainably use contemporary agriculture to meet consumer and societal demands for food, fuel, fibre and pharmaceuticals

Agricultural Institute of Canada
2008 Conference

November 17-18, 2008
Toronto, Ontario

Uncontrolled intensification of agriculture in some parts of the globe; the simultaneous growth of obesity and hunger; the health care deficit in Canada; the food versus fuel dilemma. These are but a few of the pressing domestic and global challenges that key players engaged in contemporary agriculture enthusiastically address daily within their own areas of specialty.

Canada is blessed with rich contemporary agricultural platforms: environmental, scientific, institutional and commercial. These platforms position Canadians to provide solutions to global challenges. However, to meet and foresee profitable breakthroughs in science and business that can satisfy consumer and societal demands of contemporary agriculture calls for stronger collaboration among and between key players in government, business and academe.

Crossing the Barriers, Building Bridges is focused on how businesses, governments, universities and research centres have and can break down barriers that isolate them all along the science and innovation chain - from basic research, through to commercialization of new products, services and intellectual property. It concludes with the development of next steps toward a national strategy to energize the requisite bridge building.

See over for the preliminary program.

Founded in 1920, AIC has grown to be the member-based national association - the bridge builder - for the ever-expanding community of scientists, business men and women, and other professionals who seek to be informed about, influence and invest in contemporary agriculture's contribution to a wide array of sectors of the economy, including agriculture, pharmaceutical, food manufacturing, energy, health and bio-materials. Its members advance and promote the science, and the science-based business and governance, required to profitably and sustainably maximize commercial and societal value from the sustainable agri-resource base over the long term. Whether focussed on supplying services and products to that resource base, the management of those inputs on the farm, or the ultimate products and services at the end of the supply chain, AIC members are the intellectual capital without which contemporary agriculture could not provide the solutions to many of the most pressing challenges of our time.

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Crossing the Barriers, Building Bridges Preliminary Program

Sunday, November 16

Registration and Reception

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Monday, November 17

Conference Opens

9:00 am – 9:45 am

Opening Remarks: Federal or Provincial Minister/Deputy Minister of Health

Keynote Speaker: President/CEO of Global Pharmaceutical and/or Life Sciences Company

Interdisciplinary Science

9:45 am – 12:30 pm

Plenary: 3 presenters (one from each of agriculture and food science, medical/biological sciences and physical sciences)

Concurrent Sessions :

Session A Resource Base

Session B What's in the Pipeline

Interactive Panel Discussion

Lunch

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Inter- and Intra-Government Collaboration

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Plenary: 3 presenters (drawn from Graduate Faculties of Public Administration, Federal/Provincial central agency, and/or Federal / Provincial department / agency in agriculture and food, industry, environment or health)

Concurrent Sessions:

Session A Regulatory Matters

Session B R&D Support

Interactive Panel Discussion

Reception and Dinner

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Keynote Speaker (leading academic)

Awards Presentations

Tuesday, November 18

From the Business Perspective

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Opening Remarks and Day 1 Recap

Plenary: 3 presenters (drawn from the food, bio-products, environmental engineering, crop science, financial sectors)

Concurrent Sessions

Session A Finance and Markets

Session B Intellectual Property

Interactive Panel Discussion

Lunch

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Keynote Speaker

Elements of a National Strategy for Science and Business in Contemporary Agriculture

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Plenary: 3 presenters (eminent Canadians with knowledge and experience in crossing barriers and building bridges to solve the challenges faced by government, business and science in contemporary agriculture)

Final Panel Discussion and Next Steps