

## AIC Conference 2026

*Agri-Food Innovation 2026 - Canada's Unique Advantage for Nation Building*  
May 26 & 27, 2026 | Sheraton Hotel – Ottawa, ON

Please note that due to changes in the schedules of certain Ministers and Parliamentarians, we are unable to fully confirm a few agenda items at this time. Once final confirmation is received from their offices, the program will be updated accordingly. Should you have any questions regarding the agenda, please do not hesitate to contact us at [sbuy@aic.ca](mailto:sbuy@aic.ca).

Day 1 – May 26, 2026	
All sessions to take place in the Rideau Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)	
8:00 am	<b>Networking Breakfast</b>
9:00 am	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>
	Serge Buy, CEO, Agri-Food Innovation Council
9:10 am	<b>Setting the stage – A vision of where agri-food research and innovation should be by 2030 in a world in transition</b>
	<a href="#">Darren Anderson</a> , Co-Founder and CEO, Vive Crop Protection
9:45 am	<b>Agriculture and Food Research in a changing landscape</b>
	<a href="#">Marianne Dandurand</a> , Member of Parliament, Compton-Stanstead; Chair, Liberal Rural Caucus and Member, Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food
10:15 am	<b>Networking Break</b>
10:30 am	<b>Trade – Canada’s opportunities for the agri-food sector</b>
	<a href="#">The Honourable Kody Blois</a> , PC, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister
11:15 am	<b>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Science and Technology Branch – An update</b> Mr. Andrew Goldstein, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
12:15 pm	<b>Networking Lunch</b>
1:30 pm	<b>Panel One – Harvesting Innovation - Solving Workforce Challenges in Agri-Food</b>
	<a href="#">Patience Palmer</a> , Program Manager, Canadian Agri-Food Automation & Intelligence Network
	<a href="#">Issam El Missaoui</a> , Co-Founder & CEO, Yadag
	<a href="#">Phyllis MacCallum</a> , Director - Research & Knowledge Mobilization, Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC)
2:15 pm	<b>From Lab to Market to Global Impact: Connecting Innovation to Power Canada's Agri-Food Trade</b>
	Dr. Al Mussell, Research Lead and Founder, Agri-Food Economic Systems
3:00 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>
3:15 pm	<b>A changing trade environment and expanding markets: impact on Canadian agri-food</b>
	<a href="#">Michael Harvey</a> , Executive Director, Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance
4:00 pm	End of presentations
5:30 – 8:00 pm	<b>Reception (Penthouse Level)</b>

Day 2 – May 27, 2026	
All sessions to take place in the Rideau Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)	
8:00 am	<b>Networking Breakfast</b>
9:00 am	Recap of Day 1
9:15 am	<b>Keynote speech – Agri-Food as a Catalyst for our economy</b>
	TBC
9:45 am	<b>What Global Markets Want: Trade Diversification, Innovation and Canada’s Agri-Food Advantage</b>
	Moderator: Nikita-Eriksen-Hamel, Global Affairs Canada Panelists from Global Affairs Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Industry, Science and Economic Development
10:45 am	<b>Networking Break</b>
11:00 am	<b>Success Story</b>
11:30 am	<b>Success Story</b>
12:00 pm	<b>Networking Lunch</b>
1:15 pm	<b>Panel Three – Re-imagining the Agri-Food Science, Technology and Innovation Ecosystem: Connections, Investments and Solutions</b>
	<a href="#">Tim Warland</a> , Senior Advisor, IoT Products, FABrIC by CMC Microsystems
2:00 pm	<b>Canada's agriculture and food innovation deficit</b>
	Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, Scientific Director, Canadian Agriculture Foresight Institute
2:45 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>
3:00 pm	<b>Market diversification - A Case Study: Expectations from the Middle East and North Africa</b>
	Mazen Chouaib, President, CLIC Consulting
3:45 pm	<b>Next Policy Framework - Strengthening and Growing Canada's Agri-Food Network</b>
	<a href="#">Steven Jurgutis</a> , Director General, Policy, Planning and Integration Directorate, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
4:30 pm	<b>Conference Wrap Up</b>