



CANADIAN GLOBAL AFFAIRS INSTITUTE
INSTITUT CANADIEN DES AFFAIRES MONDIALES

TRADE CONFERENCE 2026

5 MAY 2026

Conference Program

09:30

Keynote

Yasir Naqvi

10:05-10:35

Trading with Our Allies

- H.E. Shazelina Binti Zainul Abidin
- Chimnoy Naik
- Jeff Nankivell
- Moderator: Claire Citeau

11:25 – 12:15

AI, a Potential Trade Asset

- Nicole Foster
- Danielle Goldfarb
- Marc-Étienne Ouimette
- Moderator: Dr. Meredith Lilly

13:15 – 14:05

Renegotiating CUSMA

- Catherine Cobden
- Brad Wood
- Penny Naas
- Brian Kingston
- Moderator: Anna Barrera

Conference Program

14:10-15:00

Exporting our Defence Products

- Bobby Kwon
- Sara Wilshaw
- Doug Wilson-Hodge
- Guillermo Freire
- Moderator: Dr. Alexander Salt

15:30-16:20

Harnessing our Energy Power

- Johanne Sénécal
- Alex Puddifant
- Na'im Merchant
- Corey Hogan
- Moderator: Gaphel Kongtsa

16:20 – 17:00

Agri-Food, Key to Prosperity

- Randy Hoback
- Wamkele Keabetswe Mene
- Greg Northey
- Moderator: Barbara Curran

Moderator

CHARLOTTE DUVAL-LANTOINE



Charlotte is the Vice President, Ottawa Operations and a Fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, as well as Triple Helix's Executive Director and Gender Advisor. She is also a PhD Candidate at Deakin University, researching Canadian army culture during the 1990s and its influence on operations.

She published her MA research on toxic leadership and gender integration in the Canadian military in 2022. The resulting book, *The Ones We Let Down*, was named among *The Hill Times'* Best Books of 2022. Her research interests include questions of military leadership, culture change, and personnel policy, topics on which she regularly comments in the media and writes about on her Substack, *DND/CAF 101*. She regularly participates in consultation organized by the Department of National Defence and has given talks to West Point and RMC cadets, to the National Strategic Program at the Canadian Forces College, and to the Australian War College.

Charlotte has had the honour of being awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal and the CDA Institute's 2024 Captain Nichola Goddard Award for her work as a researcher. She was also listed as one of the 2022 Women in Defence and Security Emerging Leader and amongst the 20 in their 20s by Women in Defence and Security in 2025. Charlotte was born in France and grew up in Marseille.

She has called Canada her home since 2014.

Keynote

YASIR NAQVI



Yasir Naqvi is the Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre, a diverse and urban community in the heart of Nation's Capital.

Yasir and his family arrived in Canada in 1988 after the Pakistani government imprisoned his father for leading a pro-democracy march. With an upbringing deeply rooted in the values of democracy, social justice and compassion, Yasir knows how important it is to be involved in the community and give back.

Yasir's passion for his community resulted in him being elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa Centre in October 2007. He was re-elected in 2011 and 2014.

While in provincial government, Yasir served in many roles including as the Attorney General of Ontario, Government House Leader, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and Minister of Labour. Through this work he raised the minimum wage, brought forward new protections for vulnerable workers, banned race-based carding in Ontario, and modernized our court system.

Yasir is a tireless advocate for public services and sustainable community growth. He is recognized by his peers as a strong community leader and involved resident of Ottawa. He has been cited as a "Community Builder" by United Way Ottawa and listed as one of the "Top 25 People in the Capital" by Ottawa Life magazine. Yasir has received the Lincoln Alexander Award by the Law Society of Ontario.

Yasir is a lawyer, and was the CEO of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, Canada's leading voice on citizenship and inclusion.

He has also served on the boards of many community organizations such as OrKidstra, United Way East Ontario and the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership.

Yasir is the proud father of Rafi and Elliana.

Moderator

CLAIRE CITEAU



Claire Citeau is the Executive Director of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA).

In this leadership role, Claire advocates for trade liberalization and competitive market access for Canadian agri-food exporters through free trade agreements. Claire has actively represented Canadian agri-food exporters in the negotiation and implementation of many of Canada's largest trade agreements including the CETA, the CKFTA, the TPP/CPTPP and the new NAFTA as well as agriculture negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Prior to joining CAFTA, Claire held senior positions with Alberta's Ministries of Agriculture and International Affairs on trade development and investment attraction initiatives in Europe and the Americas. Ms. Citeau has built a reputation for forging strong partnerships with governments and business leaders in Canada and abroad and managing complex, priority trade initiatives.

Claire holds a double MBA in international business as a graduate of the University of Alberta and the Montpellier Graduate School of Business in France. She has lived in Senegal, France and Canada.

Trading With Our Allies

H.E. SHAZELINA BINTI ZAINUL ABIDIN



Dr Shazalina Z. Abidin is a career diplomat with experiences in both the multilateral and bilateral departments of Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prior to her appointment as the High Commission of Malaysia to Canada, Dr Shazalina held the portfolio of the South Asia and Central Asia Division at the Ministry (September 2023 – November 2024), handling six Prime Ministerial visits abroad before relinquishing the post. Dr Shazalina also served as Director-General of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, from August 2021 to September 2023, where she spearheaded new initiatives such as a Youtube channel, podcast and a biannual foreign affairs magazine, to name a few.

Dr Shazalina started her career as Desk Officer for the Europe Division at the Ministry and went on to hold diverse portfolios in the multilateral department: multilateral economy, human rights and humanitarian affairs (which she headed twice), as well as heading the Division of Communication and Public Diplomacy (2016 – 2018).

Dr Shazalina holds a B. A. (Hons) in Law and Politics from Queen Mary College, University of London, and an M.Sc in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh, UK. Her PhD on the Politics of the Responsibility to Protect was accepted without amendments at the University of Sheffield, where she also holds a post as Honorary Researcher.

Her postings abroad include Washington D.C (2001 – 2002) and the UN in New York (2007 – 2011), where she handled the General Assembly and the Sixth Committee (Legal Affairs). Dr Shazalina was Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal (2018 – 2021), and is the only Malaysian thus far to be awarded the Ordre du Lion, at the rank of Commander, by the President of Senegal.

Dr Shazalina enjoys traveling and reading, and is a monthly columnist to Malaysia's English-language daily newspaper.

Trading With Our Allies

MR. CHINMOY NAIK



A career diplomat, Mr. Chinmoy Naik, joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2004. During his career, he has served abroad in the Embassy of India in Beijing and Paris. He has also handled matters pertaining to Eurasia, disarmament, new technologies and Cultural diplomacy, while at headquarters in New Delhi.

He assumed his current position as Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India, Ottawa from February 2023 onwards.

Trading With Our Allies

JEFF NANKIVELL



Jeff Nankivell is the President and CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. He joined APF Canada as President and CEO on September 7, 2021.

Prior to this, he had a 33-year career in Canada's Foreign Service. He held various positions at the Canadian International Development Agency between 1988 and 2008, working on programs related to China, Russia, strategic policy, and international financial institutions. A fluent Mandarin speaker, he was posted three times to Canada's embassy in Beijing – in the development assistance section 1991-95 and 2000-04, and as Deputy Head of Mission 2008-11.

From 2011 to 2016, Jeff served in Ottawa/Gatineau as Director General responsible for Canada's official development assistance programs across Asia, first with the Canadian International Development Agency and then with Global Affairs Canada. In 2016 he was appointed Consul General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao, serving in Hong Kong until May 2021.

Jeff holds a Master's degree in political sociology from the London School of Economics, BA in international relations from the University of Toronto and Université Laval, and certificate (one-year program) in Chinese language and culture from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Moderator

MEREDITH LILLY



Meredith Lilly is an Associate Professor at Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs where she holds the Simon Reisman Chair in International Economic Policy.

Dr. Lilly is a national award-winning researcher with extensive experience in public policy development and executive branch decision making. She previously served as Foreign Affairs and International Trade Advisor to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and oversaw within the Prime Minister's Office Canada's free-trade negotiations with the European Union, South Korea, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership among other files.

In 2022, she completed her term as Associate Director of the MA program at NPSIA. Dr. Lilly's current research is focused on North American trade relations, Canada's trade diversification strategy, and economic sanctions. She is a member of the Deputy Minister's Advisory Committee on International Trade, an Advisory Board member of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, and a Canadian delegate to the North American Forum.

She meets regularly with foreign governments and diplomats, and is a frequent media commentator on Canadian trade strategy.

AI as a Potential Trade Asset

NICOLE FOSTER



Nicole Foster is a globally recognized thought leader and sought-after speaker on artificial intelligence policy and governance. As Director of AWS Global AI and Canada Public Policy at Amazon Web Services, she shapes the company's worldwide AI public policy strategy — engaging governments, multilateral organizations, and industry coalitions to advance responsible AI adoption frameworks. Her expertise spans AI governance, regulatory interoperability, AI sovereignty, frontier model safety, and the balance between innovation and public interest protection. Nicole is also Co-Founder of the AI Adoption Initiative, a global effort to develop public policies to promote the diffusion of AI as a driver of economic growth.

Before joining Amazon in 2018, Nicole built a career at the intersection of policy and public interest — from political roles in Ottawa, including Legislative Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, to leading senior strategic counsel at Global Public Affairs in Toronto. A champion of women's political participation, she served as National Chair of Equal Voice and President of the National Liberal Women's Commission. She currently serves on the boards of the Frontier Model Forum, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce AI Council, TechNation, and the Empire Club of Canada.

AI as a Potential Trade Asset

MARC-ETIENNE OUIMETT



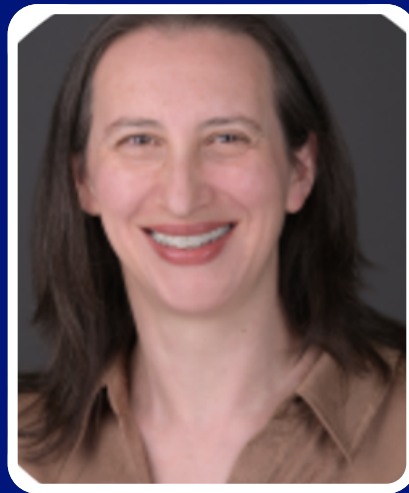
Marc Etienne Ouimette has over 15 years of experience in policy and deep tech. He is the founder of Cardinal Policy, where he advises firms and governments on the intersection of AI, public policy, and industrial strategy.

He is also an affiliate researcher at the University of Cambridge's Bennett School of Public Policy where he does research on AI sovereignty and industrial policy. As the head of global AI policy at AWS, Marc worked closely with senior leadership to develop strategic policy positioning for the company and led engagements with numerous governments and multilateral bodies. He notably sat on the B7's advisory committee, was a member of the OECD network of experts, and was board chair of the Global Partnership on AI's Centre of Expertise.

Prior to AWS, Marc led the global policy team at Element AI from its founding until its acquisition by Service Now, and was a corporate lawyer at one of Canada's major firms. In October 2025 he was named by the Canadian Minister of Artificial Intelligence to the Canadian AI taskforce responsible for developing the country's new AI strategy, and was given the specific responsibility of analyzing possible sovereign AI infrastructure build-outs. Marc also supports youth education in AI through his role as board chair of Digital Moment, a national organization dedicated to training the next generation in AI & the digital space.

AI as a Potential Trade Asset

DANIELLE GOLDFARB



Danielle Goldfarb is an expert on trade, real-time data, economics, and public policy.

She is a McArthur Research Fellow and a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, a Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation and the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, and a Fellow at the CSA Public Policy Centre.

She has developed leading-edge research programs and written almost 100 policy papers for Canadian and U.S. think-tanks.

Moderator

ANNA BARRERA



Born and raised in Mexico City, Anna has developed an in-depth understanding of the importance of trade, supply chains and economic issues through her previous experiences. Anna has held several consulting, research and policy positions with organizations, including IQOM Commercial Intelligence in Mexico City, Environment Canada, and Dawson Strategic.

Between 2017 and 2021, she was the Senior Manager of Economics, Transportation, and Trade Policy at the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC), where she conducted research and provided analysis on antidumping and countervailing duties, rail modernization, free trade agreements, and tax reform.

She later spent four years as Director of Public Affairs at UPS Canada, leading advocacy efforts on federal and provincial issues related to trade, transportation, infrastructure, sustainability, and the supply chain impacts of COVID-19.

Anna currently serves as Director, Policy and Government Relations at Clear Strategy, a boutique Canadian public affairs agency. In this role, she develops and leads proactive public affairs and advocacy strategies that help clients navigate complex policy and regulatory environments. Her work focuses on developing multidimensional approaches that integrate government relations, regulatory analysis, sustainability, and stakeholder engagement.

Anna holds a bachelor's degree in International Business from Tecnológico de Monterrey and a master's degree in International Trade from the University of Saskatchewan. In 2022, she earned her Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation, and in 2025 successfully passed the Canada Customs Brokers Professional Examination. She is also a strong advocate for mental health, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace.

Renegotiating CUSMA

BRAD WOOD



Brad Wood is Senior Director for Trade and Innovation Policy at the National Foreign Trade Council, the leading business association dedicated solely to advancing the interests of U.S. companies in international commerce.

Brad previously served in consecutive roles at the Embassy of Canada where he was most recently the Trade Program Manager for Innovation and Industrial Policy and the U.S. representative for Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. In this capacity Brad advanced Canada-U.S. cooperation bilaterally and with third countries, and worked with the Administration, Congress and business sector to ensure policies support open trade and the integrated North American market.

Prior to the Embassy, Brad worked in several capacities for the Government of Canada in Ottawa where he shaped international policy priorities, coordinated appropriations, mitigated technical barriers to trade, and represented Canada internationally, including at the World Trade Organization.

Brad holds a Master's in International Trade from the University of Saskatchewan and a Bachelor of Business Administration with an economics double major from Brandon University.

Renegotiating CUSMA

CATHERINE COBDEN



Catherine Cobden is the President & CEO of the Canadian Steel Producers Association representing Canada's steel and pipe and tube industry. CSPA member companies produce 13 million tonnes of steel, pipe and tube products and support over 123,000 jobs in Canada.

Since joining the CSPA in January of 2019, Catherine has helped the industry navigate two rounds of the United States' highly disruptive Section 232 tariffs, spearheaded the development of a comprehensive climate strategy for the association, and secured critical changes to Canada's trade laws. Her organization is focused on building common purpose amongst 17 members including 100% of Canada's steel production as well as some of the largest users of Canadian steel.

Catherine has over 30 years of experience in Canada's national capital of Ottawa. She has experience with several sectors, including having spent 13 years at the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC).

For the last five years, Catherine has been named one of Canada's Top 100 Lobbyists by Ottawa-based The Hill Times. She served on the Ontario Premier's Council on US Trade and Industry Competitiveness & the Advanced Manufacturing Council. She is the inaugural Co Chair of the Canada-US Trade Council comprised of 56 Industry Associations and Labour Unions concerned with Canada's most important trading relationship.

She is a Chemical Engineer from the University of Toronto.

Renegotiating CUSMA

PENNY NAAS



Penelope (Penny) Naas is a global public policy leader who designs strategies on international economic issues that sit at the nexus of geopolitics, trade, and climate. She is an adviser for TradeExperettes, a global organization of women trade experts.

Naas has created innovative strategies and solutions for Citigroup and, more recently, for UPS as its president for international public affairs and global sustainability. She opened and was managing director of Citigroup's first government affairs office in Brussels between 2007 and 2012 before leading UPS's international team from 2012 to 2019. She started her career at the US Department of Commerce, where she worked for 13 years on international economic issues and advancing the commercial interests of US companies in Europe.

Naas holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is on several boards and has co-chaired the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Trade and Investment.

Renegotiating CUSMA

BRIAN KINGSTON



Brian Kingston is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association (CVMA). The CVMA represents Canada's leading manufacturers of light and heavy duty motor vehicles. Its membership includes Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited, General Motors of Canada Company, and Stellantis (FCA Canada).

Prior to joining the CVMA, Brian was Vice President of Policy, Fiscal and International, at the Business Council of Canada where he led the Council's economic policy priorities and global engagement. From 2009 to 2012 he served in the federal government with positions at the Department of Finance, Global Affairs Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, the Treasury Board Secretariat, and the Privy Council Office.

Brian holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Carleton University, a master's degree in international affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs and an MBA from Ivey Business School.

Moderator

DR. ALEXANDER SALT



Dr. Alexander Salt has a PhD from the University of Calgary's Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies and an MA in Political Studies from the University of Manitoba.

His dissertation explores to what extent has the battlefield experience of the U.S. military influenced post-war organizational innovation. His research has been awarded the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral Award, as well as a General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. Memorial Dissertation Fellowship.

He has published research relating to international security and defence policy with *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies*, *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, and *The Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security, and Society*. Previously, he was a Visiting Political Science Instructor with Macalester College and has also held positions with the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, as well as the Consulate General of Canada in Dallas, Texas, and the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Exporting Our Defence Products

BOBBY KWON



Robert (Bobby) Kwon is the President and CEO of the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC). Appointed as President and CEO of CCC in March 2021, Mr. Kwon brings extensive leadership experience to the role, having served on CCC's Board of Directors since June 2018. Prior to his current position, he was Chief Financial Officer at MediPharm Labs, a global corporation specializing in pharmaceutical and healthcare solutions.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Kwon held senior leadership positions at George Weston Ltd., one of Canada's largest multinational corporations, where he served as Senior Vice President and Strategic Advisor to the Executive Chairman. He also held various executive roles at Unilever PLC & NV across multiple geographies, including Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Notably, he served as Chief Financial Officer for Unilever Canada and as Chief of Staff to the Group CEO in London. Mr. Kwon began his career in finance as Director of Finance at Janssen Inc., a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson.

In addition to his corporate leadership, Mr. Kwon is deeply engaged in governance and advisory roles. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Canadian Blood Services, where he chairs the Talent Management Committee, and is a member of the Asia Business Leaders Advisory Council for the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. His previous board roles include service with the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario, GS1 Canada, Unilever Canada Inc., and the Advisory Board for the CFO Leadership Program, jointly developed by Odgers and the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

A dedicated community leader, Mr. Kwon is an alumnus of the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference, actively volunteers with the Regent Park Community Centre, and supports several Korean-Canadian community organizations.

Exporting Our Defence Products

SARA WILSHAW



A senior government executive with over 30 years of public service experience, Ms. Wilshaw is currently Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, International Trade and Chief Trade Commissioner at Global Affairs Canada. In this role she leads a global team that helps Canadian businesses to secure and explore international markets, find new customers and partners, problem solve and grow through exports. Sara also leads work across global trade support services including export finance, inbound foreign investment, inclusive trade and the promotion of responsible business conduct.

Prior to this, Sara served as Director of Operations, Foreign and Defence Policy Secretariat at the Privy Council Office. In this role she provided strategic analysis on matters concerning Canada-U.S. relations, Latin America, trade, climate change, human rights and the United Nations.

Sara's experience also includes serving as Director General for North America at Global Affairs Canada during the renegotiation of NAFTA, and as Canada's Consul General in Dallas. She has served abroad as Minister Commercial at the High Commission of Canada in India, at Canada's Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, and at the Embassy of Canada in Japan.

Ms. Wilshaw is a graduate of York University's International Relations and Economics program. She is married and has two children.

Exporting Our Defence Products

GUILLERMO FREIRE



Guillermo Freire was appointed Senior Vice-President, Mid-Market Group in April 2022. In this role, he works to accelerate the international growth of medium segment companies to boost their international competitiveness. Guillermo is responsible for EDC's relationship management with medium size Canadian exporters, EDC's Growth Capital Solutions (Debt and Private Equity), and Cleantech.

First joining EDC in 2005, Guillermo worked in the area of project finance for six years (until 2011). Since rejoining EDC, from 2013 to 2021, he took on senior roles on the Structured and Project Finance group, and expanded his responsibilities to include leading EDC's Cleantech strategy – a sector in which EDC is a leading national financier – as well as leading the team responsible for managing EDC's relationships with its largest institutional investors.

Prior to his current role, Guillermo served as Acting Senior Vice-President, Financing and Investments, where he over oversaw the group responsible for deploying capital (Corporate Lending, Structured and Project Finance, and Private Equity) in support of the international expansion, growth and ongoing financial needs of Canadian exporters and investors.

Guillermo's leadership is characterized by transparency and promoting open and honest communication within his team, and with stakeholders. His integrity is evident in his ethical approach to business, fostering trust and respect. He is highly adaptable and navigates the dynamic landscape of international trade with agility and foresight. Guillermo empowers his team, encouraging innovation and growth, and creating an environment where everyone can thrive.

Originally from Peru, he holds a Science degree from Universidad Nacional Agraria in Lima, Peru, an MBA from McGill University, and has completed the Advance Management Program at INSEAD's Executive Education. He is fluent in English, Spanish, and French.

Exporting Our Defence Products

DOUG WILSON-HODGE



Doug Wilson-Hodge was appointed Director for General Dynamics Land Systems–Canada responsible for Strategy and Business Development, in May 2022. Doug leads an experienced team that focuses on developing new business opportunities for the spectrum of General Dynamics Land Systems products.

His team is responsible for strategy, business development, government and community relations, communications, offsets and industrial participation. Prior to his most recent assignments, Doug has been in various leadership roles within Business Development and Program Management. Doug also served as an officer in the Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve, retiring after 14 years. With more than 30 years of experience in the defence industry, Doug has also been recognized for his contributions to General Dynamics Land Systems receiving the President’s Award multiple times.

Doug holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree (History) from Western University, and a Licentiate (Diploma) in Theology from Huron University College. He achieved his Project Management Professional (PMP®) designation in 2003 from the Project Management Institute. Doug received the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) in 2002, and was awarded the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal. He serves on several boards including London Health Sciences Foundation, and is the Chair of the Board of Directors with St. John Ambulance, Southwestern Ontario Branch.

Moderator

GAPHEL KONGTSA



Gaphel Kongtsa is a Senior Advisor at TC Energy, one of North America's leading energy infrastructure companies.

Prior to joining TC Energy, Gaphel was the Director for International Policy at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, where he managed the international policy agenda of Canada's largest business association.

He has also previously held roles in the Parliament of Canada and as an analyst at a global governance thinktank.

Harnessing Our Energy Power

JOHANNE SÉNÉCAL



Johanne joined CAPP in October 2022 as Vice President of Sustainability, External Relations and Indigenous Affairs and is based in Ottawa.

Johanne is a seasoned government and regulatory affairs expert with over 30 years of experience as a senior executive working in the areas of public policy development, government relations, regulatory affairs, indigenous affairs and strategic communications, both in the public and private sectors. She has worked in the natural resources and telecommunications sectors and has an extensive political background having worked for the Prime Minister of Canada, various Ministers and serving as Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Johanne has also held several directorships and was the inaugural Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Canada Digital Technology Supercluster as well as a member of the Mining Industry Human Resources Council Board of Directors. She is currently on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business.

Johanne holds a Bachelor of Law from the University of Ottawa and is a member of the Quebec Bar. She has pursued Executive Leadership Development at the Harvard Business School and has an Institute of Corporate Directors ICD.D certification from the Rotman School of Management (University of Toronto).

Harnessing Our Energy Power

JAMES CARPENTER



James Carpenter was appointed as the Senior Representative to Ottawa and Agent-General for Alberta by Premier Danielle Smith in September 2023.

A career entrepreneur, he has over 25 years of leadership experience spanning national and international industry, government, and economic development. His background includes executive roles in the private sector and extensive business development.

He previously was the Chair of the Central Alberta Economic Partnership and the Olds Regional Exhibition. Mr. Carpenter leads Alberta's on-the-ground intergovernmental engagement at the federal level, playing a key role in advancing Alberta's interests on the national stage.

He divides his time between Ottawa and Olds, Alberta, with his wife, Rhonalyn, and two daughters: Lily and Ellie.

Harnessing Our Energy Power

NA'IM MERCHANT



Na'im Merchant is the Executive Director of Carbon Removal Canada. He is passionate about the potential for carbon removal to meet climate goals while driving economic and social change.

He previously founded Carbon Curve, a consulting practice focused on equitably scaling up carbon removal. Na'im is an advisor to Terraset and the Carbon Removal Standards Initiative, and was previously an Elemental Impact Policy Fellow.

He brings 10+ years of leadership experience in non-profits that expanded access to health innovations around the world.

Moderator

BARBARA CURRAN



AgriFood: A Key for Prosperity

GREG NORTHEY



AgriFood: A Key for Prosperity

WAMKELE KEABETSWE MENE



Wamkele Mene was elected by the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States & Government of the African Union, to the position of Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat.

Prior to being elected Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, he served as Chief Director: Africa Economic Relations, at the Department of Trade & Industry of South Africa. In this role, he was South Africa's chief trade negotiator in the AfCFTA and Tripartite FTA negotiations. During his tenure as chief negotiator, South Africa ratified both the AfCFTA and Tripartite FTAs agreements, providing new export markets in fast growing and dynamic markets in East and West Africa.

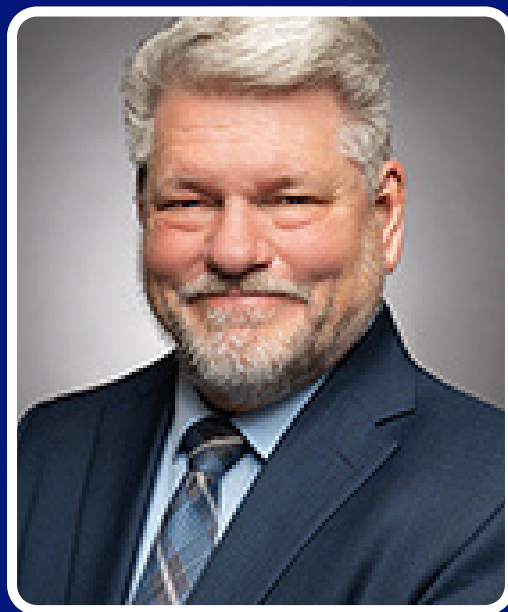
Prior to assuming this position, Wamkele was Director: International Trade Law & Investment Law at the Department of Trade & Industry, a role in which he was principal legal counsel on international trade law and international investment law.

From 2010 until 2015, Wamkele represented South Africa at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland. During his posting to the WTO, Wamkele was elected by over 130 governments to the position of Chairman of the Committee on International Trade in Financial Services, a committee comprising trade negotiators, financial regulators and financial policy makers from over 160 countries. Prior to joining the government, Wamkele worked for the law firms Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in London and Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP in Hong Kong.

Wamkele has written and lectured internationally on international trade law, international investment law and international business law. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Law) degree from Rhodes University in South Africa, a Master of Arts in International Studies & Diplomacy (with specialization in International Economics) from the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London and a LL.M. (Master of Laws) in Banking Law & Financial Regulation from the Law Department of the London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE).

AgriFood: A Key for Prosperity

RANDY HOBACK



“Randy Hoback is the Member of Parliament for the federal riding of Prince Albert. As a Parliamentarian, Randy has served as the Shadow Minister of International Trade and Supply Chain Resilience, Chair of the Saskatchewan Conservative Party Caucus, the Deputy Shadow Minister of International Trade, and Official Opposition Critic for Canada-US Relations.

Randy has served as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade, as a member of the Standing Committee on Finance, the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, the Standing Committee on Agriculture & Agri-Food, and the Special Committee on Canada – US Economic Relations.

In March 2010, Randy was elected Chair of the Canadian Section of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) – an organization committed to promoting parliamentary participation in the inter-American system, developing inter-parliamentary dialogue on issues of importance to the hemisphere, and encouraging the sharing of experiences and best practices amongst its members. In February 2011, MP Hoback was elected President of FIPA at the Association’s 8th Annual FIPA-ParlAmericas in Asuncion, Paraguay. In September 2011, FIPA officially changed its name to ParlAmericas ([Bio Here](#)). MP Hoback is now a past president of the organization.

Randy was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and grew up and attended school in Canwood, Saskatchewan. He holds a business administration certificate from the University of Saskatchewan and a Chartered Director’s designation (C. Dir.), which he completed through McMaster University’s Chartered Directors College. Before running for office, Randy worked for Case New Holland as the District Manager of Eastern and Western Europe for the Flexicoil product line. Born and raised on a farm, he purchased and expanded his family’s farm to 3,000 acres while operating a custom seeding, spraying, and trucking business. He was nominated for the Saskatchewan Outstanding Young Farmer Award in 2004.”

SPONSORS

LOCKHEED MARTIN



GENERAL DYNAMICS



Hanwha

BAE SYSTEMS

amazon

COVE

DAVIE200
1825-2025

 **Microsoft**


CALIAN®

SPONSORS

Thank you to the following sponsors for their support
in today's conference.

