



## AGENDA: 2026 AGM & CONVENTION

*(Subject to Change)*

Theme: Ontario Connected: Business Without Borders

Event Dates: April 23-25, 2026

Venue: Fairmont Château Laurier, 1 Rideau St, Ottawa, ON K1N 8S7

Accommodation: Fairmont Château Laurier, 1 Rideau St, Ottawa, ON K1N 8S7

### THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	<b>OCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING <i>(BY INVITATION ONLY)</i></b> Meeting Room: MacDonald
6:15 – 7:00 p.m.	<b>OPTIONAL: WALKING THROUGH HISTORY WITH HERITAGE OTTAWA</b> Meet in the lobby Fairmont Château Laurier  Join guides from Heritage Ottawa as they escort you from the historic Fairmont Château Laurier to the Rideau Club, the venue for the host reception.  Your walking tour begins as you are escorted through the Governor General's entrance of the hotel; guides will take you past the War Monument, the Parliament Buildings, and along Sparks Street to The Rideau Club, one of Ottawa's oldest and most historic private institutions.
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>HOST RECEPTION</b> Hosted by the Ottawa Board of Trade  Rideau Club 99 Bank St 15th Floor, Ottawa, ON K1P 6B9

### FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
7:30 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>REGISTRATION DESK OPEN</b> The Drawing Room Foyer
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	<b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b> The Drawing Room
8:30 – 8:45 a.m.	<b>2026 AGM OPENING CEREMONIES</b> The Drawing Room

---

**BEYOND WORDS: MAKING LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS  
MEANINGFUL**

This short, practical session explores when a land acknowledgement is appropriate, who should deliver it, and how to approach it with respect, intention, and understanding.

**Marc Forgette**

*Founder*

Makatew Workshops

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**Julianna Labelle**

*St Patrick's Catholic School*

---

**8:45 – 8:50 a.m.**

**WELCOME REMARKS**

**His Worship Mark Sutcliffe**

*Mayor*

City of Ottawa

---

**8:50 – 8:55 a.m.**

**WELCOME FROM HOST CHAMBER**

**Sueling Ching**

*President & CEO*

Ottawa Board of Trade

---

**8:55 – 9:10 a.m.**

**SETTING THE STAGE: REMARKS FROM THE OCC**

**Daniel Tisch**

*President & CEO*

Ontario Chamber of Commerce

---

**9:10 – 9:30 a.m.**

**FIRESIDE CHAT**

**Mike Kelloway, MP**

*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Internal Trade*

Government of Canada

Moderator:

**Vincent Caron**

*Vice President, Policy*

Ontario Chamber of Commerce

---

---

**9:30 – 9:45 a.m. ECONOMIC UPDATE**

**Jimmy Jean**

*Vice President, Chief Economist and Strategist*

Desjardins

---

**9:45 – 10:25 a.m. CONNECTING ONTARIO IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

Digital connectivity is a precondition for economic opportunity in every Ontario community. Despite significant public and private investment, connectivity gaps remain a reality for many Ontario communities, where reliable broadband and cellular coverage still fall below levels needed for all businesses to seize on technologies of the future.

This session will examine barriers communities face and discuss practical solutions, from “dig once” strategies to last-mile deployment models, that can help close connectivity gaps and get Ontario connected.

**Brent Arnold**

*Partner, INQ Law*

*Board Chair, The Canadian Internet Society*

**John Cameron**

*Director, Post Acquisition Integration*

Telus

Moderator:

**Charla Robinson**

*President*

Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce

---

**10:25 – 10:40 a.m. NETWORKING BREAK**

The Drawing Room Foyer

---

**10:40 – 10:50 a.m. CHAMBERS PLAN – PARTNER BENEFITS**

**Keitha Robson**

*Chamber Relations Regional Manager, Ontario and Atlantic Canada*

Chambers Plan / Johnston Group Inc.

---

**10:50 – 11:00 a.m. FROM PATCHWORK TO PROVINCE-WIDE: CONNECTING ONTARIO THROUGH RIDESHARE**

**Laura Miller**

*Head of Public Policy and Communications*

Uber Canada

---

**11:00 – 11:45 a.m. GATEWAYS TO PROSPERITY: CONNECTING ONTARIO WITH THE WORLD**

---

---

Ontario's prosperity depends on modern, resilient transportation infrastructure that enables goods, people, and services to move efficiently within the province and across borders.

As governments earmark billions to strengthen our rail, ports, airports, roads and multimodal hubs, this session will examine the critical role these assets play in strengthening local supply chains, where critical gaps remain, and the actions that are needed to help Ontario communities remain competitive over the long-term.

**Melissa Cotton**

*Director of Government Affairs*  
CN Rail

**RJ Steenstra**

*President & CEO*  
Toronto Port Authority

**Joel Tkach**

*Vice President of Business Development and Marketing*  
Ottawa International Airport Authority

Moderator:

**Mishka Balsom**

*CEO*  
Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce

---

**11:45 – 12:00 p.m.    WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN A SHIFTING TRADE LANDSCAPE**

In light of the current tariff situation, the Commissioner for Employers will discuss supports for employers and employer organizations like Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade to assist with workforce development. The Commissioner will provide details on available funding, including the Worker-Retention Grant for Work-Sharing Employers, training monies provided by the Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement, and opportunities available through the newly announced Workforce Alliances. The discussion will also touch on the need for a reimagined immigration system that supports and compliments our Canadian workforce.

**Nancy Healy**

*Commissioner for Employers*  
Canada Employment Insurance Commission

---

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.    NETWORKING LUNCH**

The Drawing Room

---

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.    OCC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING\***

Organization members will receive a report on the affairs of the organization and will be asked to accept the annual audited financial statements. They will also be asked to approve the proposed 2026-2027 Slate of Directors and Executive Committee and transact other business of the organization.

---

---

*\* This is a closed meeting for member chambers of commerce and boards of trade in good standing.*

**Aliya Ramji**

*Chair, Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
Partner, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, Toronto*

**Luigi Ciciretto**

*Honorary Treasurer, Partner, Assurance & Accounting  
BDO Canada LLP*

**Vasudha Seth**

*Past-Chair, Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
Vice-President, Strategy, ArcelorMittal Dofasco*

**Marilyn Horrick**

*Chair-Elect, Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
Senior Vice President, Market Growth, Brand Expansion and Partner Relations Outside Quebec,  
Desjardins*

---

**2:00 – 2:20 p.m.**

**FIRESIDE CHAT**

**Tim Louis, MP**

*Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister  
responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy  
Government of Canada*

Moderator:

**Julie Martini**

*Vice President, Public Affairs  
Ontario Chamber of Commerce*

---

**2:20 – 3:20 p.m.**

**CONNECTING CHAMBERS: STRATEGIC UPDATE**

**Daniel Tisch**

*President & CEO  
Ontario Chamber of Commerce*

Moderator:

**Sueling Ching**

*President & CEO  
Ottawa Board of Trade*

---

**3:20 – 3:30 p.m.**

**NETWORKING BREAK**

The Drawing Room Foyer

---

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

**PLENARY SESSION**

---

---

## **FUTURE-PROOF YOUR MARKETING: THE FOUR CRITICAL PILLARS TO GROWING WITH AI**

The future belongs to those who use AI to augment their capabilities, not to create AI marketing slop. Is AI just another dystopian sci-fi plot, or are you secretly worried your marketing is starting to feel fake and insincere? It's time to stop thinking about Artificial Intelligence and start focusing on *Augmented* Intelligence; using this disruptive technology not to replace your team, but to exponentially increase your marketing power.

Join award-winning CEO Darrell Keezer as he tears down the fear and shows you how to rebuild your marketing strategy for the new AI reality. Discover the four critical pillars that are already transforming the landscape of marketing and how to join the elite 7% of companies prepared to leverage AI for true hyper-personalization.

This isn't about pontificating a distant future; it's a practical, actionable blueprint to ensure your company uses AI to augment its capabilities; not to create marketing slop. The future of your business hinges on what you do now.

**Darrell Keezer**  
*Founder & CEO*  
Candybox Marketing

---

**4:30 p.m.**

### **END OF SESSIONS**

---

**6:30 – 6:50 p.m.**

### **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

Adam Room Foyer  
*Presented by Hydro One*

---

**6:50 – 9:00 p.m.**

### **CHAIR'S DINNER AND AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Adam Room  
*Presented by Hydro One*

Join us for an elegant evening to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of your peers from across the Chamber Network.

Welcome Remarks by  
**The Honourable Adam van Koeverden, MP**  
*Secretary of State, Sport*  
Government of Canada

---

**9:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

### **2027 HOST EVENT**

Adam Room

---

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**

**TIME**

**AGENDA ITEM**

---

**8:00 – 12:00 p.m.      REGISTRATION DESK OPEN**

The Drawing Room Foyer

---

**8:00 – 8:45 a.m.      NETWORKING BREAKFAST**

The Drawing Room

---

**8:45 – 9:00 a.m.      15TH WORLD CHAMBERS CONGRESS**

The Drawing Room

**Louie Di Palma**

*Vice President, SME Programs*

Ontario Chamber of Commerce

---

**9:00 – 9:15 a.m.      UPDATE FROM CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**Candace Laing**

*President & CEO*

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

---

**9:15 – 9:30 a.m.      POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

The Drawing Room

**Vincent Caron**

*Vice President, Policy*

Ontario Chamber of Commerce

---

**9:30 – 10:15 a.m.      POLICY RESOLUTIONS DEBATE I**

---

**10:15 – 10:30 a.m.      NETWORKING BREAK**

The Drawing Room Foyer

---

**10:30 – 12:00 p.m.      POLICY RESOLUTIONS DEBATE II**

---

**12:00 – 12:30 p.m.      WORKING LUNCH**

The Drawing Room

---

**12:30 – 1:50 p.m.      POLICY RESOLUTIONS DEBATE III**

---

**1:50 – 2:00 p.m.      CLOSING REMARKS**

**Daniel Tisch**

*President & CEO*

Ontario Chamber of Commerce

---

---

**2:00 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

---