PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, May 13		
7:00am	Registration & Breakfast – *Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Gateway Ballroom*	
8:30am	Shuttles to Humber Polytechnic – *Sheraton Gateway Hotel*	
9:00am	Welcome & Opening Remarks – *Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation* **Dr. Gina Antonacci**, Senior Vice-President, Academic, Humber Polytechnic **Dr. Ann Marie Vaughan**, President & CEO, Humber Polytechnic **Sarah Watts-Rynard**, CEO, Polytechnics Canada	
9:30am	**Opening Keynote:** A Challenger Mindset for Challenging Times **Speaker: Anne Marie Armstrong**, Managing Director, eatbigfish **Moderator: Dr. Christine Watson**, Vice-President, Academic, RRC Polytech	
10:30am	Networking Break	
11:15am	**Concurrent Sessions A**	
	Seneca: Supporting Students & Faculty in the Age of AI: Seneca's Playbook for Practical, Responsible Adoption	**RRC Polytech:** From Lab to Market: How Colleges & Polytechs are Solving Canada's Innovation Paradox
	Humber: Tour of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences	
12:15pm	**Networking Lunch & Panel:** Accelerating Canada's Clean Energy Transition	
1:30pm	**Concurrent Sessions B**	
	BCIT: From Detection to Containment: Drones in Modern Wildfire Response	**George Brown:** Workforce, Productivity & Innovation: George Brown's AI-Enabled Master's of Construction Management
	Humber: Tour of the Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation	
2:45pm	**Concurrent Sessions C**	
	Algonquin: Democratizing AI: Bringing Enterprise Technology to Main Street	**SAIT:** Unlocking the Potential of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems
	Humber: Tour of the Longo Faculty of Business	
3:45pm	Networking Break	
4:15pm	**Concurrent Sessions D**	
	Saskatchewan Polytechnic: Strengthening Canada's Defence Innovation	**Conestoga:** Redefining Experiential Education for Industry 4.0
	Humber: Tour of the Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation	
5:15pm	Evening Reception – *Learning Resource Commons Concourse*	
7:15pm - 7:45pm	Shuttles to Sheraton Gateway Hotel	

Thursday, May 14

7:00am	Breakfast – *Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Gateway Ballroom*	
8:30am	Shuttles to Humber Polytechnic – *Sheraton Gateway Hotel*	
9:00am	Opening Remarks – *Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation* **Peter Devlin**, President, Fanshawe **Dr. Ann Marie Vaughan**, President & CEO, Humber Polytechnic	
9:30am	**Concurrent Sessions E**	
	Fanshawe: Innovation in Education in Action: Canada's First Post-Secondary Military Co-op	**KPU:** Parity of Esteem Between Trades & Business: Building Pathways for Students
	Humber: Tour of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences	
10:45am	**Concurrent Sessions F**	
	NAIT: Building Canada's Future	**Sheridan:** Bridging the Productivity Gap: Scalable AI-Robotics Integration through Collaboration
	Humber: Tour of the Longo Faculty of Business	
11:45am	**Networking Lunch & Closing Keynote:** Meeting the Moment: Pivoting to Opportunity **Speaker:** **Alex Usher**, President, Higher Education Strategy Associates **Moderator:** **David Agnew**, President, Seneca Polytechnic	
1:45pm	Closing Remarks **Sarah Watts-Rynard**, CEO, Polytechnics Canada **Dr. Jeff Zabudsky**, President, BCIT	
2:00pm	Shuttles to Sheraton Gateway Hotel	

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concurrent Sessions A – 11:15am | Wednesday, May 13

Seneca Polytechnic CTI514

Supporting Students & Faculty in the Age of AI: Seneca's Playbook for Practical, Responsible Adoption

AI is reshaping learning, teaching and campus services. In this session, Seneca's AI thought leaders share how they support students and faculty through practical, responsible adoption. The session will showcase outcomes from their collaborative AI Lab, highlighting faculty and student-led projects that enhance the classroom and reimagine assessment strategies. This presentation will include a discussion about what's next, including agentic AI, governance and change management.

Dr. Panos Panagiotakopoulos, AI Thought Leader
Kent Peel, AI Thought Leader

Red River College Polytechnic CTI512

From Lab to Market: How Colleges & Polytechs are Solving Canada's Innovation Paradox

Canada leads in world-class research, but many businesses are slow to adopt and commercialize new technologies, leaving much potential untapped. Labs4 addresses this gap through a national network of 40 polytechnics, colleges and universities that support researcher entrepreneurs in turning academic breakthroughs into real-world ventures, products and solutions. This session highlights how the Labs4 Network is advancing innovation across Canada and shares stories from the Technology Readiness Level Up program at the Manitoba Labs4 Hub, including perspectives from an Indigenous incubator leader working to accelerate Indigenous businesses across three incubators nationwide.

Amy Jackson, Director, Mittohnee Pogo'ohtah
Dr. Kristen Kindrachuk, Interim Director, Labs4

Humber Polytechnic Meeting point: Showcase information table

Tour of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Explore the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences labs and specialized learning spaces at Humber's North Campus, where you will experience innovative, hands-on education in action. This guided tour showcases Humber's state-of-the-art facilities, where students and faculty collaborate through applied, experiential learning. Featuring spaces that support programs in healthcare, wellness and community services, the tour reflects Humber's strong commitment to workforce-ready education.

Prior sign-up is required. Tours are limited to 15 delegates.

Lunch Panel – 12:30pm | Wednesday, May 13

Humber Polytechnic Polytainers Atrium

Accelerating Canada's Clean Energy Transition

The transition to clean energy is accelerating worldwide and the world urgently needs a skilled workforce to deliver it. As electricity demand rises, countries are looking at ways to rapidly transform and modernize their energy systems. At the forefront of this shift, Humber Polytechnic is building the talent and capacity to power a clean energy future through hands-on, industry-aligned education and applied research. This panel will showcase Humber's leadership in clean energy workforce development, bringing together industry partners to explore how collaboration can accelerate Canada's energy transition. The discussion will highlight how polytechnics are uniquely positioned to meet evolving workforce needs, drive innovation and support a more resilient, competitive and sustainable energy future.

Moderator: **Dr. Ann Marie Vaughan**, President & CEO, Humber Polytechnic

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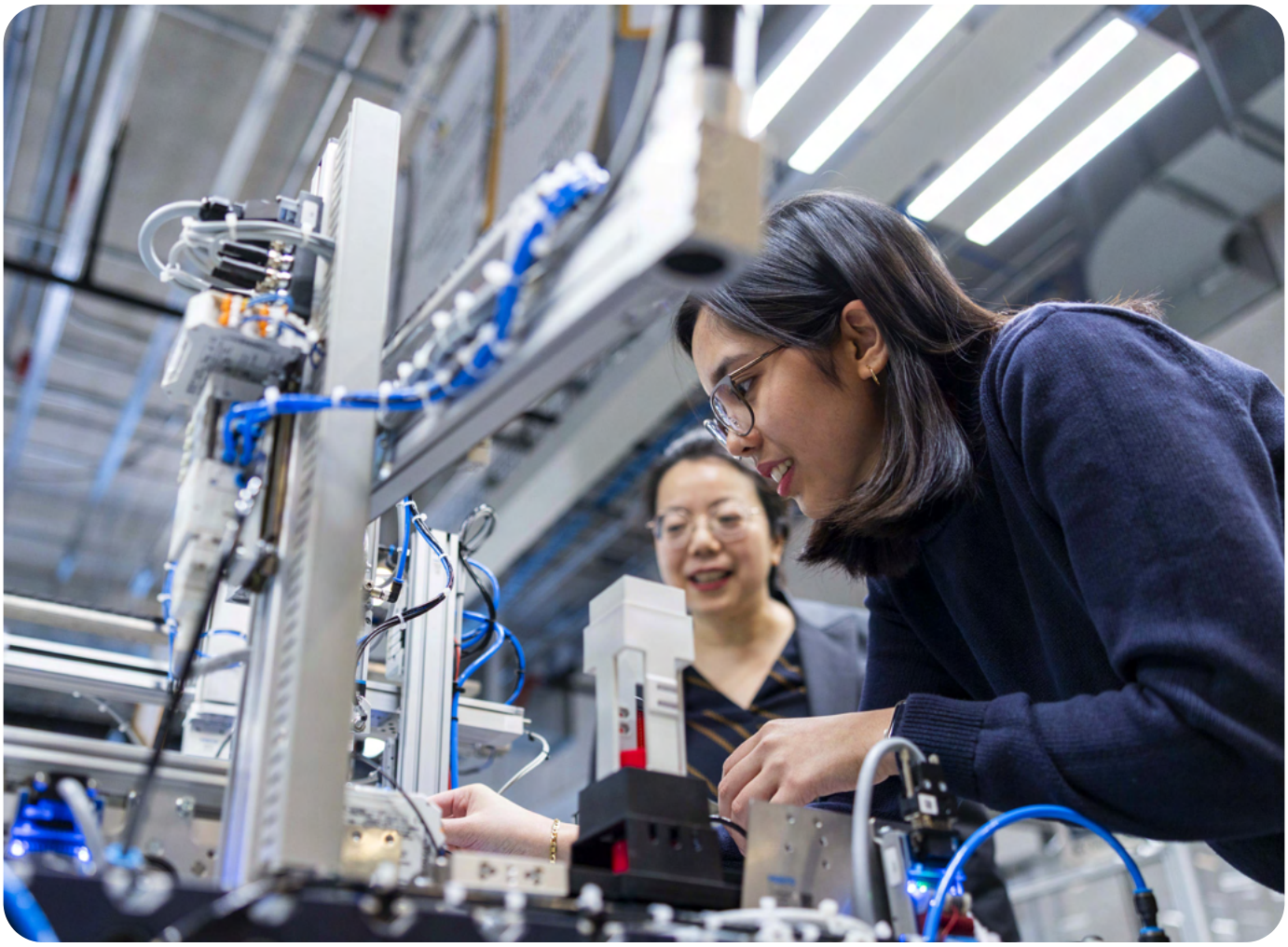

Concurrent Sessions B – 1:30pm | Wednesday, May 13

British Columbia Institute of Technology CTI514

From Detection to Containment: Drones in Modern Wildfire Response

This session explores the expanding role of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in environmental stewardship, emergency response and community-driven research. Speakers will highlight a range of innovative RPAS applications, with a focus on interdisciplinary collaborations developed alongside First Nations. BCIT will share frontline experience using RPAS and infrared imaging to map active wildfires, offering an accessible introduction to wildfire behaviour and holistic strategies for proactive wildfire management. This session illustrates how RPAS technology is reshaping our ability to understand, monitor and respond to complex environmental challenges.

Justin Perry, Instructor, Forest & Natural Areas Management, School of Construction & the Environment
Dr. Eric Saczuk, Faculty & Director, BCIT RPAS Hub, School of Transportation

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George Brown Polytechnic CTI512

Workforce, Productivity & Innovation: George Brown's AI-Enabled Master's of Construction Management

Canada's construction sector faces urgent workforce pressures and a growing need for productivity gains, digital capability and job-ready talent. As AI and data-enabled tools reshape project planning, cost control, scheduling, safety and quality, George Brown Polytechnic is strengthening Canada's construction workforce by embedding AI into training, accelerating applied research with industry and creating clearer pathways from learning to employment.

This session will highlight how George Brown is integrating AI into its new Master's of Construction Management program and broader polytechnic ecosystem — equipping current and emerging construction leaders with practical, in-demand skills and an innovation mindset. Speakers will discuss how industry partnerships inform curriculum and experiential learning, how applied research translates new technologies into workplace adoption and how these efforts can support federal priorities such as workforce development, productivity and innovation in the built environment.

Dr. Adel Esayed, Dean, Faculty of Applied Science, Construction & Engineering Technology
Miyoko Oikawa, Director, Training & Strategic Initiatives, Ontario Home Builders' Association
Shehroze Saharan, Senior Manager, Institutional AI Strategy, Development & Support
Dr. Margrit Talpalaru, Director, Polytechnic Transformation

Humber Polytechnic Meeting point: Showcase information table

Tour of the Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation

Discover a building purpose-built for innovation at the Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation. This guided tour will showcase advanced labs, collaborative learning spaces and industry-driven research environments where students turn ideas into real-world solutions. While navigating the 93,000 square-foot facility, discover how Barrett CTI has become a living lab for mechatronics, automation and advanced manufacturing. Home to the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Consortium – a group of nine leading industry partners – Barrett CTI is a hub where technology, industry and innovation intersect.

Prior sign-up is required. Tours are limited to 15 delegates.

Concurrent Sessions C – 2:45pm | Wednesday, May 13

Algonquin College CTI514

Democratizing AI: Bringing Enterprise Technology to Main Street

Small businesses and community organizations stand to gain enormously from AI adoption, yet lack the resources and expertise to navigate this complex and rapidly evolving landscape. Algonquin's AI Accelerator Hub, with support from AWS Canada, bridges this critical gap by providing accessible, expert AI adoption guidance to businesses and social sector organizations. This session will provide an overview of the Virtual Intelligence Business Enabler, a student-developed AI platform designed to serve this need. Discover how polytechnics can help democratize AI adoption, ensuring technological advancement strengthens entire communities.

Kevin Holmes, Senior Program Manager, Applied Research
Candi Jeronimo, Executive Engagement, Amazon Web Services Canada

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Southern Alberta Institute of Technology CTI512

Unlocking the Potential of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems

Canada's vast geography and sparsely populated regions are increasingly viewed as safety and security weak spots. Remote communities experience food insecurity and poorer health outcomes than their urban neighbours. Resource management — in sectors like forestry, mining and agriculture — must increasingly consider efficiency and precision. Remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), or drones, have answers for each of these challenges.

RPAS are rapidly reshaping how governments, industry and communities address complex challenges in remote and high-risk environments. At SAIT's Centre for Innovation and Research in Unmanned Systems, cutting-edge technology is meeting real-world needs.

This session will explore the growing role of remotely piloted systems in national defence, natural resource management, search and rescue, healthcare and beyond.

Wade Hawkins, Research Chair, Centre for Innovation & Research in Unmanned Systems

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Humber Polytechnic Meeting point: Showcase information table

Tour of the Longo Faculty of Business

Discover the Longo Faculty of Business labs and specialized learning spaces at Humber's North Campus and experience firsthand the innovative, hands-on learning that defines Humber. This tour showcases state-of-the-art facilities designed to reflect real-world industry environments, supporting programs in culinary arts and hospitality. Discover how immersive learning spaces help students build practical skills and gain experience aligned with today's workforce needs.

Prior sign-up is required. Tours are limited to 15 delegates.

Concurrent Sessions D – 4:15pm | Wednesday, May 13

Saskatchewan Polytechnic CTI514

Strengthening Canada's Defence Innovation

As Canada navigates an increasingly complex security and innovation landscape, strengthening collaboration between research, industry and defence has become a national priority. As a NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic test centre, Saskatchewan Polytechnic is advancing Canada's contribution to allied defence innovation. Its Digital Integration Centre of Excellence activates specialized expertise in digital innovation, applied AI and machine learning supported by world-class research labs and advanced technical talent. This session explores how Saskatchewan Polytechnic is strengthening Canada's role in defence innovation by contributing to the NATO alliance.

Dr. Terry Peckham, Director & Research Chair, Digital Integration Centre of Excellence

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Conestoga College CTI512

Redefining Experiential Education for Industry 4.0

In 2025, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada committed $2M over two years to establish the Toyota Smart Factory Learning Hub at Conestoga's Cambridge campus. The state-of-the-art facility is a live, technology-rich learning environment that provides students with hands-on experience with Industry 4.0 systems in a setting that mirrors modern manufacturing operations.

This session will explore how this industry-education partnership is shaping curriculum to align with evolving workforce needs, strengthen job readiness and build a future talent pipeline, demonstrating how applied learning and innovation can support the long-term competitiveness of Canadian manufacturing.

Christine Burns, Professor, Mechanical Engineering Technology
Chris Maltby, Senior Manager, Manufacturing Systems, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada
Dr. Marilyn Powers, Dean, Engineering & Technology and Computer Science & IT

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Prior sign-up is required. Tours are limited to 15 delegates.

Concurrent Sessions E – 9:30am | Thursday, May 14

Fanshawe College CTI514

Innovation in Education in Action: Canada's First Post-Secondary Military Co-op

In 2025, Fanshawe, in partnership with 31 Canadian Brigade Group, created Canada's first post-secondary military co-op program. This initiative integrates academic learning with practical Army Reserve experience, offering students paid employment, leadership development and hands-on training while gaining academic credit and supporting national defence priorities. The program is designed to strengthen Canadian Forces recruitment, enhance graduate career pathways and foster innovation by combining military skills with post-secondary education. Together, Fanshawe and 31 Brigade have established a groundbreaking model that enriches student success, supports community resilience and sets a national precedent for successful academic-military collaboration.

Darlene O'Neill, Lead Administrator, Military Connected Campus
Lieutenant-Colonel Carlo Tittarelli, Assistant Chief of Staff, 31 Canadian Brigade Group

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Kwantlen Polytechnic University CTI512

Parity of Esteem Between Trades & Business: Building Pathways for Students

Discover how KPU is creating intra-institutional parity of esteem initiatives to build pathways for students between trades and undergraduate programs. This session highlights a credit recognition framework that enables trades students to leverage their training and experience toward undergraduate credentials, including in the Melville School of Business. This collaboration serves as a practical exploration of how vocational learning can be mapped to undergraduate outcomes, reduce barriers to post-secondary advancement, embrace KPU's polytechnic programming and support lifelong learning through meeting institutional standards alongside labour market demands.

Dr. David Burns, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, *pro tem*
Laura McDonald, Dean, Trades & Technology

Humber Polytechnic Meeting point: Showcase information table

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Concurrent Sessions F – 10:45am | Thursday, May 14

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology CTI514

Building Canada's Future

Renewed investment in nation-building infrastructure is reshaping Canada's economy, strengthening resilience, securing domestic supply chains and supporting long-term growth. The central challenge is execution: delivering projects at the speed and scale required to generate lasting economic value. An aging workforce and declining interest in the skilled trades have made access to skilled labour a critical constraint on competitiveness. As one of Canada's largest skilled trades training providers, NAIT is expanding capacity and modernizing facilities, equipment and learning models through its Advanced Skills Centre to ensure Alberta has the skilled talent needed to build, maintain and operate the Canada of the future.

Patti Hergott, Associate Vice-President, Academic Quality & Operational Excellence
Peter Leclaire, Vice-President, Academic

Sheridan CTI512

Bridging the Productivity Gap: Scalable AI-Robotics Integration through Collaboration

To maintain global competitiveness, Canada's manufacturing sector must prioritize advanced automation. This session highlights a collaboration between dry-type transformer manufacturer Rex Power Magnetics and Sheridan to automate transformer sheet stacking — a high-precision, labour-intensive process.

Speakers will analyze the development of an AI-driven, vision-guided robotic cell that optimizes sheet localization and operational consistency. This initiative demonstrates how polytechnic partnerships resolve industrial bottlenecks while immersing students in high-stakes engineering. By merging R&D with workforce development, this model delivers tailored technological solutions to industry while equipping the next generation of engineers with essential, job-ready expertise.

Dr. El Sayed Mahmoud, Professor of Applied Computing, Faculty of Applied Science & Technology
Madushen Paramanathan, Student Research Assistant, School of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
Dr. Ethan Shen, Manager, Centre for Intelligent Manufacturing

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Humber Polytechnic Meeting point: Showcase information table

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