



2026

PATHS TO PROSPERITY PROVINCIAL SUMMIT

connecting the dots.

October 26-28, 2026

Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon

Opening Plenary: Connecting the Dots: How to find Ideas that Matter

Emmy award innovator **Bill Stainton** will launch the summit by showing us how to uncover game-changing ideas...simply by making unexpected connections—between challenges, trends, observations, and overlooked opportunities. You and your team will leave knowing how to tap into your creative problem-solving skills - and spot the patterns, possibilities and ideas that others miss.



From Silos To Systems: Connecting The Dots to Local & Provincial Prosperity

Community Builder **Brenda Herchmer** invites delegates to move beyond siloed efforts and strengthen their work within a living economic ecosystem. Municipal administrators and elected officials, Indigenous governments, economic developers, parks and recreation providers, community builders, innovation networks, funders, and private-sector partners each play a critical role in the strategies required to grow local and provincial economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being and prosperity



Building the Missing Middle: Unlocking Small & Medium Food Processing in Saskatchewan

Canada's food system is missing a critical middle: small and medium processors that connect farms to markets, reduce supply-chain risk, and drive local economic growth. **Dr. Sylvain Charlebois** (Canada's 'Food Professor') examines why this gap exists in Saskatchewan, where opportunities are emerging, and how communities can play a strategic role in closing it. The session will highlight investment trends, and practical community-level actions that support processing innovation and long-term resilience.



North Star, Not Silver Bullet

Empowering people with purpose underlines the work of **David Hughes, President and CEO of Generate Canada**. He leads a national organization that brings together problem-solvers to collaboratively generate, test, and scale wicked solutions to the most complex challenges of our time. Learn about Generate Canada's 'Solution Spaces' that move ideas through small experiments and nudges that build momentum over time.



Closing Plenary: The Power of Together- Building What We Can't Do Alone

Centred on unity and interdependence, this Saskatchewan's **Jada Yee** explores how stronger connections between communities, sectors, and people unlock greater impact. The session highlights how trust, relationships, and shared purpose drive long-term prosperity—and how every participant plays a role in strengthening those ties.



Super Early Bird Planning Rate \$100 off Registration Prior to June 15

For those who know they're attending, this is the best rate of the year. Secure your spot early and lock in preferred pricing before registration increases on June 16.

Register at www.saskleaders.com



In Collaboration With:



Sponsored by:



Prairies Economic
Development Canada

Développement économique
Canada pour les Prairies





Oct 26

Pre-Summit Options

Connecting the Dots: The Role of Community Safety & Well-being

10:30 am to 5:00 pm

**Sponsored by the
Ministry of Justice**

10:30 AM - Community Safety & Well-Being(CSWB): Setting the Stage

11:00 AM - The Saskatchewan Experience: Stories from the Ground

12:00 PM Lunch Break

1:00 PM - Panel: Making Sense of CSWB Across Ministries

2:00 PM What Works: Proven Practices in Action

3:00 PM - Community Policing in Practice

3:45 PM - Panel: Municipal Leadership in CSWB

4:45 PM - Forum Wrap-Up & Closing

Economic Development Fundamentals for Elected Officials & Administrative Staff

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

This full day session will equip participants with foundational economic development concepts and strategies and equip them with steps necessary to identify opportunities and establish action plans to turn possibilities into reality.



Oct 27-28

Social Procurement in Action

The City of Saskatoon is turning procurement into a practical tool for inclusion, local economic growth, and stronger communities. Presenter James Dixon will share lessons learned that other municipalities and organizations can apply.

Readiness Roadmap: Steps to Building a High Performing Regional Ecosystem

SEDA will share its new Investment Readiness Guidebook and Asset Mapping Roadmap. Discover how to connect ALL the dots' between industry and community and provide a foundation for opportunity identification and strategy development.

Short-line Rail: What is Coming Down the Track

Short line railways are a critical link in Saskatchewan's supply chain. This session explores the evolving role of short line rail in Saskatchewan, highlights where growth and innovation are taking shape, and looks ahead at what these developments could mean for economic development, and regional competitiveness

Across the Spectrum: Defense Industry Opportunities

Canada's defense and security sector is expanding, creating new opportunities for Saskatchewan businesses to enter and grow within national and global supply chains. This session explores where current and emerging defense opportunities exist.

Building Destination Brands that Compete

Presenter Ryan Townend, CEO of William Joseph will present a clear call to action for leaders across tourism, economic development, and community organizations- to define your authentic truth, align your story, and build a brand that inspires people not only to visit, but to belong, invest, and believe.

Reimagining Community Recreation and Parks

This session will outline how recreation and parks can function as relational infrastructure that foster connection and belonging, strengthen intersectional collaboration, and support long-term sustainability. Through interactive dialogue, participants will explore distinctions between relational and transactional practices and identify opportunities for reimagining recreation and parks as essential drivers of well-being and prosperity.

Shared Purpose for Long Term Growth

Discover how seven rural communities have assessed their joint viability in the context of ratepayer services and operations. Discover the next steps in their journey to ensure resources are available for future investments in this region.

From Talent to Innovation: Unlocking Community Potential with Mitacs

This session will showcase how municipalities, economic development organizations, and local industries can leverage Mitacs programs to access skilled interns, advance innovation projects, and address real-world challenges. Learn how strategic partnerships with post-secondary institutions can strengthen workforce development, support business growth, and drive long-term economic resilience in your community.

Funding Pathways for Parks, Recreation & Community Spaces

Join SPRA for a practical overview of funding programs that support parks, recreation, and community infrastructure across Saskatchewan. Learn how communities can align recreation investments with broader economic and social development goals, while leveraging funding to create vibrant, inclusive spaces that enhance quality of life. Ideal for municipal leaders, practitioners, and community partners looking to maximize impact and access new resources.

Unlocking Federal Funding: Opportunities for Community and Economic Development

Explore the range of funding programs offered by the Government of Canada to support community infrastructure, economic development, and innovation. This session will provide an overview of key federal streams, eligibility requirements, and practical tips for navigating the application process. .



Workshop: How-to's For Moving From Silos to Systems

As a follow-up to her keynote presentation, Brenda Herchmer will explore frameworks and resources for applying essential strategies to motivate, mobilize, and maximize communities as ecosystems.

Shared Value: Creating Rural & Urban Tourism Opportunities

'Discover Saskatoon' is working to extend the visitor experience beyond city limits by collaborating with rural communities to create compelling itineraries and experiences for urban visitors. This session explores how regional collaboration and curated itineraries can strengthen both urban and rural tourism, creating shared value across the visitor economy.

Rural Innovation: Building Start-up Ecosystems

Suncrest College and Southeast College are helping reshape rural entrepreneurship by launching startup ecosystems designed for small communities and regional businesses. Learn how to activate a start-up ecosystem and strengthen your rural economy through education driven entrepreneurship.

Building Community-Driven Housing: The Northeast Inter-municipal Co-op Project

Community-driven housing projects are gaining momentum — but many stall when grassroots vision meets institutional funding criteria. This session explores how communities can move from local need and engagement to fundable, scalable housing projects. The session will also unpack why many housing programs require a critical mass of builds, and what strategies communities can use — such as phased development, regional collaboration, or bundled projects — to meet eligibility requirements.

"We Want to Partner – Now What?" Practical Next Steps for Communities & Indigenous Businesses

Terry Bird from George Gordon Developments will discuss how to turn goodwill into bankable partnerships for municipalities and Indigenous businesses.

From Conversations to Community Growth: The Power of Business Walks & BR+E

What happens when communities step out of the office and walk alongside their local businesses? This session explores how annual business walks and Business Retention & Expansion (BR+E) programs are transforming local economies—one conversation at a time. Discover how structured, face-to-face engagement uncovers real-time insights, strengthens relationships, and leads to actionable strategies that support business growth and resilience.

Leveraging Communities in Bloom for Socio-Economic Impact

Discover how Communities in Bloom initiatives can be leveraged as powerful catalysts for socio-economic resilience. Through practical examples and collaborative strategies, participants will learn how to align community engagement efforts with economic development goals to create lasting impact.



Connect the Dots
Gourmet Burger Bar
& Trivia Night

Oct 27

5 to 8:00 pm

Capitol Music Club

Enjoy a build-your-own burger bar
and stop by the full-service bar to
purchase your favourite beverage.
Put your trivia skills to the test for a
chance to win prizes!

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Hotel Accommodations

Saskatoon has a several large events scheduled during the week of October 26.
We encourage delegates to reserve hotel accommodations prior to September 15.

Visit the Summit webpage at www.saskleaders.com to connect to our partner hotels and room block information.