



# Micro- credential

SUMMIT 2026

**Tomorrow's Skills**

**February 11 – 12, 2026 | The Quay Toronto**

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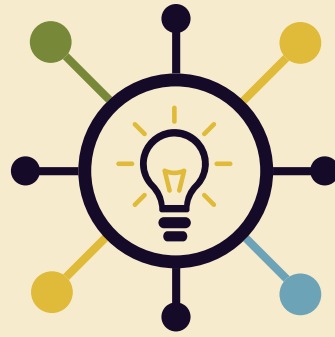


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## Tomorrow's Skills

Since 2017, eCampusOntario has led the development and growth of alternative recognition models for learning using micro-credentials. Micro-credentials are rapid training programs that allow learners to develop the skills that employers need.

This year, the ninth annual Micro-credential Summit organized by eCampusOntario will take place February 11-12, 2026, at The Quay in Toronto. Micro-credential Summit 2026: Tomorrow's Skills will explore the future of micro-credentials and their role in transforming skills pathways and workforce development. The Summit will highlight how postsecondary institutions and industry partners are equipping Ontario's workers and businesses with the tools and talent they need to thrive in the age of artificial intelligence.

### About eCampusOntario

eCampusOntario is a not-for-profit organization that accelerates the transformation of postsecondary digital learning in Ontario to increase participation in higher education. eCampusOntario leads a consortium of the province's publicly-assisted colleges, universities and Indigenous institutes to advance the development and adoption of online and digital learning technologies, programs and environments.

#### Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on across Ontario. The eCampusOntario offices are located on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that land is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

# Conference Tracks



## **AI, Skills, and Workforce Transformation**

Exploring the role of AI in reshaping job profiles, credentialing pathways, and preparing talent for the future economy.



## **Employer Co-Design, Impact, and ROI**

Advancing co-designed micro-credentials with employers, focusing on measurable impact, ROI for learners and employers, and scaling success stories.



## **Credentialing Innovations**

Designing programs that address affordability, accessibility, and learner diversity through innovative approaches in postsecondary education.

# Session Types

**Panel Discussion** – Panelists and one moderator speak to a specific topic impacting the sector today

**Presentations** – A presentation and Q&A

# Featured Presenters



## KEYNOTE:

### **Daniel Tisch Echevarria, APR, FCPRS, ICD.D**

**President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce**

Daniel Tisch is a business, public policy, and community leader, having held executive roles in government and the corporate sector, and senior governance roles at public institutions and non-profit associations. He is known globally as an expert in corporate communications, public policy, community engagement, crisis and reputation management.

From 2003 to 2023, Daniel was the driving force in building Argyle Communications (now Changemakers) into Canada's largest management-owned engagement, communication and reputation advisory firm growing to \$40M in revenue, 175 employees and ten North American offices by 2023. Earlier in his career, Daniel held senior communications roles in the Canadian government, including serving as Senior Policy Advisor and Acting Chief of Staff to Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs. In the latter role, he was a member of the Canadian delegation to the G7 Economic Summit. Daniel has spoken to business audiences on every continent, lectured at Queen's University's Smith School of Business since 1996, and contributed to leading public relations and marketing textbooks. He appears regularly in print and broadcast media, including weekly commentary on CBC Radio and Global News during the 2019 and 2021 Canadian federal elections. In 2021, Daniel was named one of the world's "top 100" social media influencers on public relations.

Born in Spain to a Latin American family and raised in Toronto, Daniel speaks English, French and Spanish. He holds two degrees from Queen's University – a Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies and a Master of Business Administration. He is also a certified corporate director, with an ICD.D designation in corporate governance from the University of Toronto. Daniel has served as vice chair of the Queen's University Board of Trustees, a leader in the international Scouting movement and a board member of Social Venture Partners International.

In 2025, Daniel was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for his contributions to his community, the province and the country.

# Featured Presenters



## KEYNOTE:

### **Jackie Pichette**

**Director of Skills Policy at RBC Thought Leadership**

As Director of Skills Policy at RBC Thought Leadership, Jackie leads engagement and insights relating education, workforce development and the relationship with Canadian prosperity. Working with policy makers, educators and employers, she drives research and dialogue to advance meaningful systems change. Prior to joining RBC Thought Leadership, Jackie was the Director of Policy, Research & Partnerships at the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, where she led research projects with community, government and educational partners advancing lifelong learning and educational data collection. Jackie has a BAH from Queen's University and a Master's in Public Policy from Simon Fraser University.

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### **Valerie Walker**

**CEO, Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BHER)**

Val Walker leads the Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BHER), a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that brings together some of Canada's largest companies and leading post-secondary institutions. As CEO, Val drives BHER's strategic direction, steers member and stakeholder relations, and leads a high-performing team committed to creating opportunity through collaboration in Canada's skills, talent, and innovation ecosystems.

Val was inaugural co-chair of the Future Skills Council, a group established by the Government of Canada to advise on national and regional skills development and training priorities. She has also served as a member of the Guiding Coalition to the Government of Alberta's Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs initiative and of Employment and Social Development Canada's Advisory Committee on Learning.

Prior to leading BHER, Val was Vice President, Innovation and Skills, at the Business Council of Canada where BHER was founded, and was Director of Policy at Mitacs. She holds a PhD from McGill University and is an alumna of the Government of Canada's Recruitment of Policy Leaders Program.



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## **Program**

## Conference Tracks

<b>AI</b>	<b>AI, Skills, and Workforce Transformation</b>	<b>EC</b>	<b>Employer Co-Design, Impact, and ROI</b>	<b>CI</b>	<b>Credentialing Innovations</b>
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Time	Session		
8:45 am – 9:30 am	Registration and Breakfast		
9:30 am – 10:10 am	Mainstage		
	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robert Luke, CEO, eCampusOntario</li> <li>Dr. Lynn Wells, President and Vice-Chancellor, Laurentian University (via zoom)</li> </ul>		
10:10 am – 10:55 am	<b>Keynote:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daniel Tisch Echevarria, APR, FCPRS, ICD.D, President &amp; CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>		
10:55 am – 11:15 am	Break		
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Mainstage <b>AI</b>		
	<b>Artificial Intelligence Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saad Usmani, Director of Economic Research and Workforce Development at the Toronto Region Board of Trade (TRBOT)</li> <li>Diane Gutiw, Vice-President, Global AI Research Lead, CGI Canada and Co-Chair of the Advisory Council on AI</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Takara Small, Technology Columnist, CBC</li> </ul>		
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch		
1:00 pm – 1:40 pm	<b>Mainstage</b> <b>AI</b>	<b>Markham/Vaughan</b> <b>EC</b>	<b>Kitchener/Oakville</b> <b>EC</b>
	<b>AI Skills, Real Work: What Canada's Labour Data Says About the Next Wave</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anne Patterson, Chief Research Officer, ICTC</li> </ul>	<b>Nuclear Career Accelerator: Building an Employer-Driven Pathway for Canada's Clean Energy Workforce</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christopher Hall, Director of Continuing Education, Ontario Tech University</li> <li>Kirubha Elangovan, Instructional Support Coordinator, Ontario Tech University</li> </ul>	<b>Shared Value Through Co-Design: Advancing Micro-credentials with Industry and Organizations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marisel Mading, Manager, Professional and Workforce Learning and Innovation, University of Guelph</li> </ul>
1:40 pm – 2:00 pm	Break		



Time	Session		
2:00 pm – 2:40 pm	Mainstage <span>CI</span>	Markham/Vaughan <span>EC</span>	Kitchener/Oakville <span>EC</span>
	<b>A Community Approach to Creating Indigenous Early Learning Childcare Micro-credentials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Megan Robinson, Senior Associate Dean, Six Nations Polytechnic</li><li>Gaya'do:węhs Lu Ann Hill-MacDonald, Project Coordinator, IELCC, Six Nations Polytechnic</li></ul>	<b>Seneca &amp; Autism Ontario: Co-designing Micro-credentials that Build Workforce Capacity in Behavioural Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lindsey Carrier, Manager of Corporate Training, Seneca Polytechnic</li><li>Tracie Lindblad, Subject Matter Expert, Autism Ontario</li></ul>	<b>Circular Fashion as Curriculum: Co-Designing Micro-credentials with Industry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rossie Kadiyska, Faculty, Humber Polytechnic</li><li>Vladimira Steffek, Faculty, Humber Polytechnic</li><li>David Neumann, Faculty, Humber Polytechnic</li></ul>
2:40 pm – 3:00 pm	Break		
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Mainstage <span>EC</span>		
	<b>Keynote:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jackie Pichette, Director of Skills Policy at RBC Thought Leadership</li></ul>		
3:45 pm – 3:50 pm	Wrap up Day 1 and Preview of Day 2		
3:50 pm – 5:30 pm	Networking Social		

## Conference Tracks

<b>AI</b>	<b>AI, Skills, and Workforce Transformation</b>	<b>EC</b>	<b>Employer Co-Design, Impact, and ROI</b>	<b>CI</b>	<b>Credentialing Innovations</b>
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Time	Session		
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration and Breakfast		
	Mainstage <span>AI</span>		
9:30 am – 9:40 am	Welcoming Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Robert Luke, CEO, eCampusOntario</li></ul>		
9:40 am – 10:25 am	Keynote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mike DeGagné, President &amp; CEO, Indspire</li></ul>		
10:25 am – 10:45 am	Break		
10:45 am – 11:25 am	Mainstage	Markham/Vaughan <span>CI</span>	Kitchener/Oakville <span>CI</span>
	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p> <p><b>Cross Perspectives on the Skills of the Future: (Re) Thinking Francophone Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (FRANCOPHONE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Réjean Roy, Director Training and Knowledge Mobilization, IVADO</li><li>Philippe Toussignant, Founder &amp; CEO, Ecohesia</li><li>Mohamed Sabri, Founder of Rocket Science, Artificial Intelligence Expert</li></ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cyrièle Kiening, Digital Learning Associate, eCampusOntario</li></ul>	<p><b>From Classroom to Co-op: Reimagining Student Job-Readiness through Micro-credentials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mary Chaktsiris, Associate Director, Teaching Innovation &amp; Academic Honesty, York University</li><li>Karlene Case, Director, Student Work-Integrated Learning and Career Education, York University</li></ul>	<p><b>Applying Indigenous Pedagogy in an Asynchronous Environment: Self-Paced Micro-credentials and Learner Supports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Victoria Jackson, Program Manager, Micro-credential Programs, First Nations Technical Institute</li></ul>
11:25 am – 11:45 am	Break		

Time	Session		
	Mainstage	Markham/Vaughan <span>CI</span>	Kitchener/Oakville <span>CI</span>
11:45 am – 12:25 pm	<p><b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> <b>From Classroom to Career: How WIL is Shaping a Connected Skills Ecosystem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Charlene Marion</b>, Executive Director, CEWIL Canada</li> <li>• <b>Dana Stephenson</b>, Co-Founder and CEO, Riipen</li> <li>• <b>Iman Yahyaie</b>, Senior Director, Industry and Ecosystem Engagement, ICTC</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Andrea Krasznai</b>, Digital Learning Associate, eCampusOntario</li> </ul>	<p><b>Our Micro-credential Meta-data Future: Why It Matters and How to Get There</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lena Patterson</b>, Associate Dean, Programs, Toronto Metropolitan University</li> <li>• <b>Diana Soroaga</b>, Project Manager, Emerging Programs, Canadian Standards Association</li> <li>• <b>Michael Urban</b>, Manager, Strategic Development, Canadian Standards Association</li> </ul>	<p><b>Equity-Based Co-Creation in Action: Innovations in Designing Training for Health and Social Service Providers and Users</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amy Pachai</b>, Educational Developer, McMaster University</li> <li>• <b>Sandra Moll</b>, Professor, McMaster University</li> </ul>
12:25 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch		
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	<b>Mainstage</b> <span>AI</span> <p><b>Defence Skills Development Ecosystem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Florence Touré</b>, CiCan</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Gina Antonacci</b>, Senior Vice President, Academic, Humber Polytechnic</li> </ul>		
2:15 pm – 2:35 pm	Break		
2:35 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>Mainstage</b> <p><b>Micro-credentials in BC (CredX)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Tannis Morgan</b>, Associate Vice President, Academic Innovation, Vancouver Community College (VCC)</li> </ul>		
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Mainstage</b> <span>AI</span> <p><b>FIRESIDE CHAT</b> <b>Talent Pipeline and the Needs of Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Valerie Walker</b>, CEO, Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BHER)</li> <li>• <b>John Baker</b>, CEO and Board Chair, D2L</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Robert Luke</b>, CEO, eCampusOntario</li> </ul>		
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Closing Remarks & Farewell		



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