

2026 OACA CONFERENCE & AGM

CONFERENCE INFORMATION PACKAGE

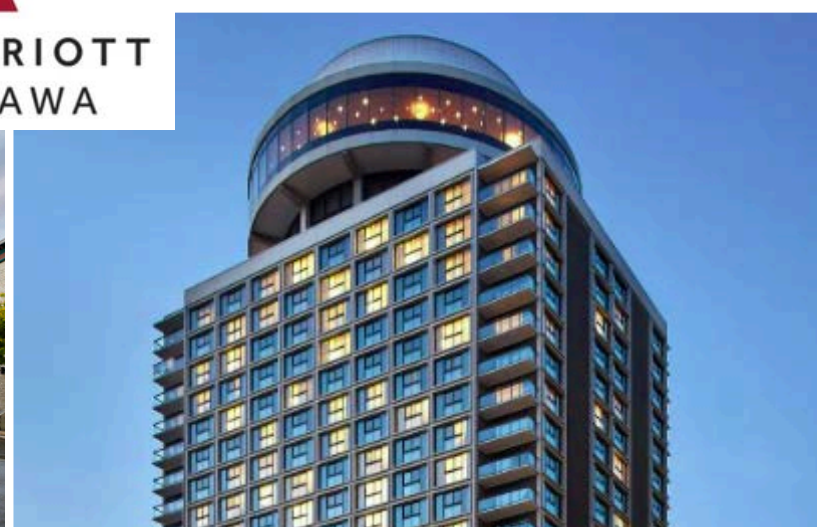
Last Revised: February 24, 2026



*Capital Connections:
Bridging Ideas, Building Futures*



MARRIOTT
OTTAWA



MAY 10 - 13, 2026

Marriott Ottawa

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

I am thrilled to invite you to join us May 10-13, 2026 at the Ottawa Marriott for the 2026 Ontario Association of Committees of Adjustment & Consent Authorities (OACA) Conference and Annual General Meeting. Our theme, "Capital Connections: Bridging Ideas, Building Futures", is all about sharing knowledge, strengthening collaboration, and celebrating the work that keeps our Committees of Adjustment and Consent Authorities moving forward.

Whether it's your first OACA conference or you're a returning delegate, get ready for four days of learning, networking, and a lot of fun. We kick things off Sunday night with our welcome reception in the Summit Room on the 29th floor, which is the perfect place to meet new faces, reconnect with colleagues, and enjoy unbeatable views of our nation's capital.

This year's conference program features 21 workshops on topics such as navigating decision writing, mastering committee training, dealing with difficult situations, and much more! Delegates can look forward to a fabulous keynote speaker to start your Monday with some humour and energy. Don't forget to check out the conference app to help you navigate sessions with ease. And of course, we've got some great evening events planned, including the Monday night Capital City Mixer and our Tuesday Night Banquet.

We want your voice in the mix! If you have questions you would like answered during our "Ask an Expert" workshops, please send them to contactus@oaca.info by April 24.

Looking beyond conference, we're excited to continue offering learning opportunities through the year, including the return of our popular virtual lunch and learn educational workshops this fall.

A special welcome to all first-time attendees, we are so glad you're joining the OACA community!

If you're interested in volunteering with OACA, whether on committees, at events, or behind the scenes, we'd love to have you. Connect with any board member during the conference or email us to get involved.

I look forward to seeing you in Ottawa this May!

Sincerely,

Trista Di Lullo

Trista Di Lullo
2025-2026 OACA President



DON'T FORGET

- Registration ends **April 24**
- Discounted hotel rate (see pages 12-13) ends **April 17**
- We need your questions for the Ask the Expert workshops! Send to contactus@oaca.info by **April 24**

Social Events

★ **Sunday, May 10 (afternoon) - Guided Parliament/Senate Tour**

★ **Sunday, May 10 - Welcome Reception**
7:00-10:00pm, Summit Room, 29th Floor, Ottawa Marriott

★ **Monday, May 11 - Capital City Mixer**
7:30-10:30pm, OCCO Kitchen, 160 Bay Street

★ **Tuesday, May 12 - Banquet**
6:00pm cash bar, 7:00pm dinner in Victoria Ballroom
DJ and grand prize giveaway to follow!

2025-2026 OACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to right: Ian Clendening (Secretary), Sean Kenney, Ann Hamilton, Mark Hacon (Treasurer), Tonia Bennett (Vice President), Trista Di Lullo (President), Alexandra Rawlings, Denise Rundle, and Christine Vigneault

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Thank You

Promotional Partner



Premier Partner



Supporters



WHY ATTEND?

There are a number of reasons to attend this year's OACA conference and AGM! This year's conference highlights include:

- a meet and greet session on the 29th floor of the Ottawa Marriott to kick-off conference and reconnect with others
- join over 200 delegates for four days of learning and professional development, including 21 workshops to choose from
- connect with fellow attendees while exploring one of Canada's most iconic institutions on a free optional guided tour just steps from the conference venue
- a fabulous keynote speaker to start the first day of workshops
- chance to win a variety of fantastic door prizes throughout the conference
- valuable networking opportunities, including the Capital City Mixer on Monday night
- opportunity to have your voice heard at the 2026 OACA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- easily access conference information from your device and connect with other delegates through our conference mobile app
- time to explore downtown Ottawa for dining options on Monday night
- Tuesday night banquet and entertainment with a chance to win the grand prize draw of a two-night weekend stay at the Ottawa Marriott **NEW!**

Check out the feedback we've received from previous year's conference participants:

Of all the conferences I have attended, OACA was the most relevant and had great topics. Best conference I have been to!

The app was great! Very easy to use and helpful having all the information readily available.

I like the fact that the structure of the day is simple. It's always a challenge to choose which workshops to attend when there are such varied and interesting choices.

Keynote speaker was engaging, lively and funny... a great kickoff to the conference!



INFORMATION

Registration

To take advantage of reduced member rates, please login to the OACA website prior to completing your registration. Please use the link below or scan the QR code to go directly to the registration page.

Registration closes on **April 24, 2026** (this date is subject to change based on availability). No late registrations or waitlists will be available.



SCAN ME

[REGISTER
ONLINE](#)

Conference Registration Fees

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Full Conference Package BEST VALUE! includes welcome reception, workshops, breakfasts, breaks, lunches, and Monday night Capital City Mixer and Tuesday Night Banquet	\$895 + HST	\$1095 + HST
One Day Conference Pass includes workshops, breakfast, breaks, and lunch for one day only (Monday or Tuesday)	\$550 + HST	\$550 + HST
Tuesday Night Banquet Allows individuals purchasing a One Day Conference Pass to attend the Tuesday Night Banquet	\$130 + HST	\$130 + HST

Refunds

Electronic refunds requested on or before April 24, 2026 will be processed subject to an administrative fee of \$30.00. Refunds are not available after April 24, 2026.

REGISTRATION INQUIRIES:
CONTACTUS@OACA.INFO

INFORMATION

Companion Meal Program

NEW! Separate companion registration form this year so you can easily register your companion:

**COMPANION
REGISTRATION**

- **Companion Daytime Meals:** \$230+HST (includes Monday and Tuesday breakfast and lunch, and Wednesday breakfast)
- **Companion Tuesday Night Banquet:** \$130+HST

Digital Workshop Materials

All registered delegates will receive an email with a link to workshop materials before the conference. Materials will also be available through the conference app.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Monday, May 11: 12:30-1:30pm (Victoria Ballroom)

OACA members will receive an update from the OACA Board, including an introduction to the 2026-2027 Board of Directors, approval of the 2025 AGM Minutes and the 2025-2026 Annual Report, and a question and answer session.

2025-2026 Annual Report

This report will be available in April 2026. This report provides a year-in-review summary of Board activities and accomplishments, including updates on administration, education, communications, conference and educational opportunities, legislation, finance, governance and more.

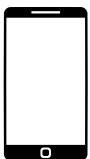
Door Prizes and Volunteers

Door prizes are appreciated and add to some lunch time fun! Please drop off them off at the registration desk. Interested in helping with the conference? Email contactus@oaca.info.



Door Prize Draws at the 2025 OACA Conference

Conference App



OACA is going mobile again! The Whova conference app will be available for registered delegates to have convenient access to the conference schedule, maps, download presentations, access speaker information, connect with delegates, and much more! Access instructions will be shared with registered delegates.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

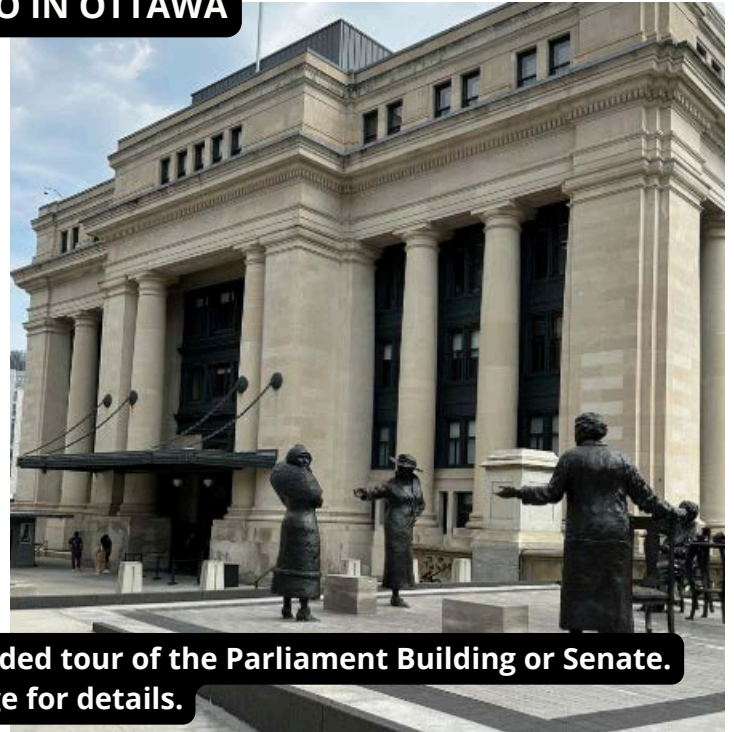
We encourage attendees and their companions to explore Ottawa's many sights and attractions!

- [Ottawa Tourism - What to see and do](#)
- [Downtown Ottawa Map](#)

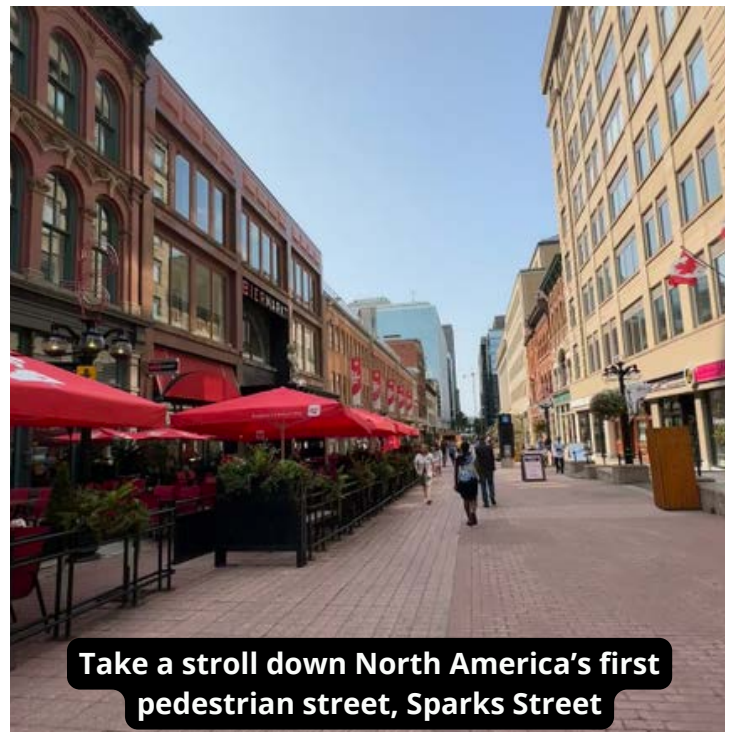
THINGS TO DO IN OTTAWA



Join us on Sunday afternoon (May 10) for a guided tour of the Parliament Building or Senate. See next page for details.



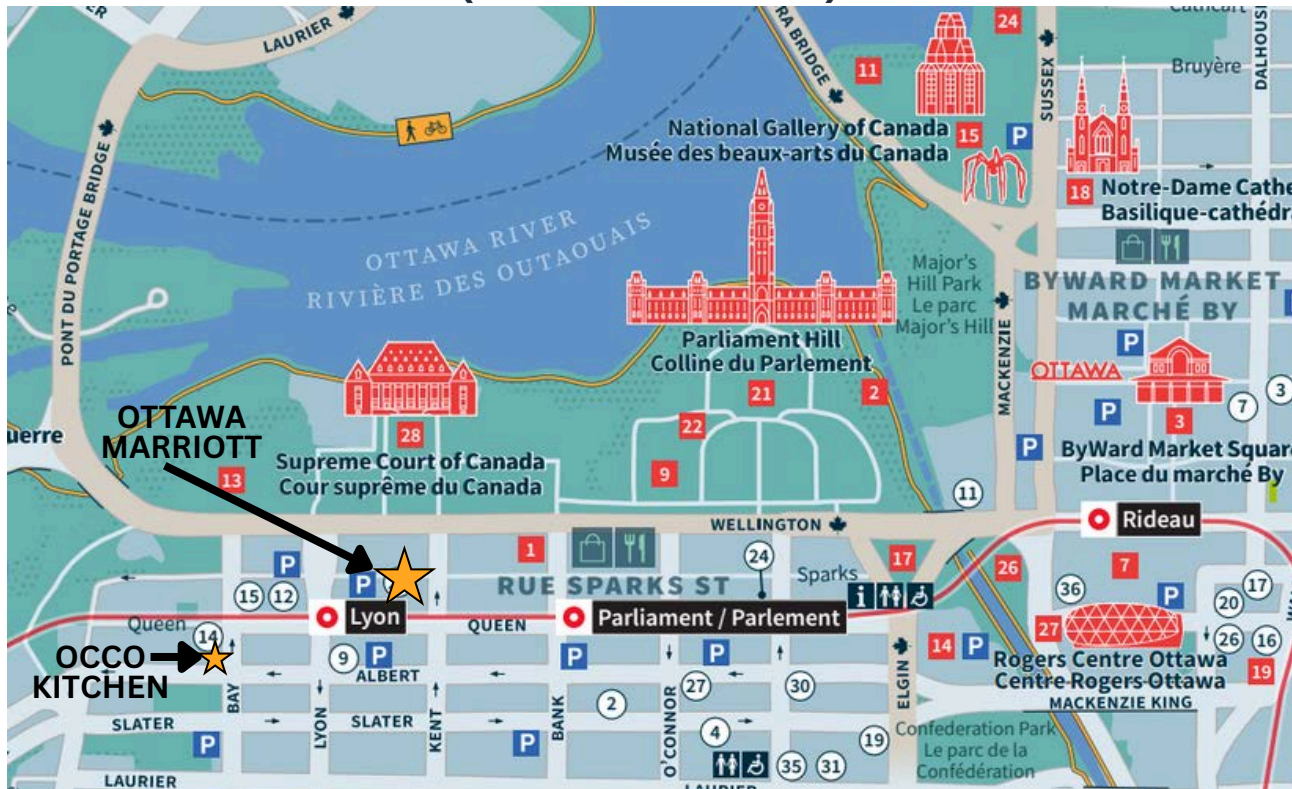
The Canadian Tulip Festival is being held in Ottawa from May 8 to 18, 2026



Take a stroll down North America's first pedestrian street, Sparks Street

INFORMATION

Downtown Map (click to zoom in)



Complimentary Parliament/Senate Tour

Enjoy a free guided tour on Sunday afternoon with fellow attendees and companions. The tour will involve a short walk from the conference venue to the tour location. As space is limited, please indicate your interest on the registration form. Final details will be shared with those who indicated interest.

Capital City Mixer

Unwind after the first day of workshops by joining fellow conference delegates on Monday, May 11 from 7:30-10:30pm at OCCO Kitchen (160 Bay Street) for complimentary beverages and casual social time. OCCO Kitchen is a 6 minute walk from the Ottawa Marriott.

Tuesday Night Banquet Tickets **NEW!**

Banquet tickets will be provided at the registration desk based on the selection made on your registration form. This ticket system helps us provide an accurate attendance count to the venue. Don't miss the grand prize draw during dinner: a two-night weekend stay at the Ottawa Marriott!



2025 OACA Conference Tuesday Night Banquet

TRAVEL

Parking

We encourage delegates to carpool where possible. Parking at the Ottawa Marriott is managed by [Impark](#) and not the hotel, and rates are effective March 1, 2026 and prices are subject to change without notice:

Self Parking (Pay in Garage)	Self Parking (Charge to Room)	Valet Parking (Underground)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$23 per 24 hours with <u>no</u> in-and-out privileges• \$5 flat rate for evenings from 6pm to 6am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$35 + tax per night with unlimited in-and-out privileges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$49 + tax per vehicle• No valet service or parking spots available for vehicles taller than 6 feet.

- Access parking from both Kent Street and Queen Street (Place De Ville Public Parking)
- Maximum vehicle height permitted is 6 feet, oversized parking is not available.
- EV charging fee is \$1.50 per hour.
- Best to park in the green area to have easier access to the Ottawa Marriott.
- Parking on Level 1 is exclusively reserved for hotel guests, visitors and meeting attendees are welcome to park on Levels 2, 3, and 4 (green section).
- Off-site parking is also available nearby at [272 Queen Street \(Impark Lot 160\)](#).

Alternative Transportation Options

- [Ottawa VIA rail station](#) (200 Tremblay Rd): approx. 6 km or 15 minute drive to the Ottawa Marriott
- [Ottawa International Airport \(YOW\)](#): approx. 13 km or 25 minute drive to the Ottawa Marriott

VIA Rail is offering OACA conference delegates 10% off the best available fare in Economy, Economy Plus, Business, Business Plus, or Sleeper class. Enter corporate code **15944** when booking on [viarail.ca](#) to receive the discount for travel between May 7, 2026 and May 16, 2026 from all stations throughout the VIA system to Ottawa and return. Fare applies to a maximum of two passengers per booking, and does not apply to Escape fares and Prestige class.



NEW! Air Canada is offering OACA conference delegates 5% off on standard fares, 10% discount on flex fares and higher, and 12% discount on Business Class fares (exception: 5% discount on the lowest Business Class). Enter promotional code **PFQHRF61** when booking on [aircanada.com](#) to receive the discount for travel to/from Ottawa International Airport (YOW) between May 3, 2026 and May 20, 2026.



TRAVEL

O-Train (underground light rail)

The Ottawa Marriott is a 2 minute walk from Lyon station. Lyon station is on Line 1 of the O-Train.

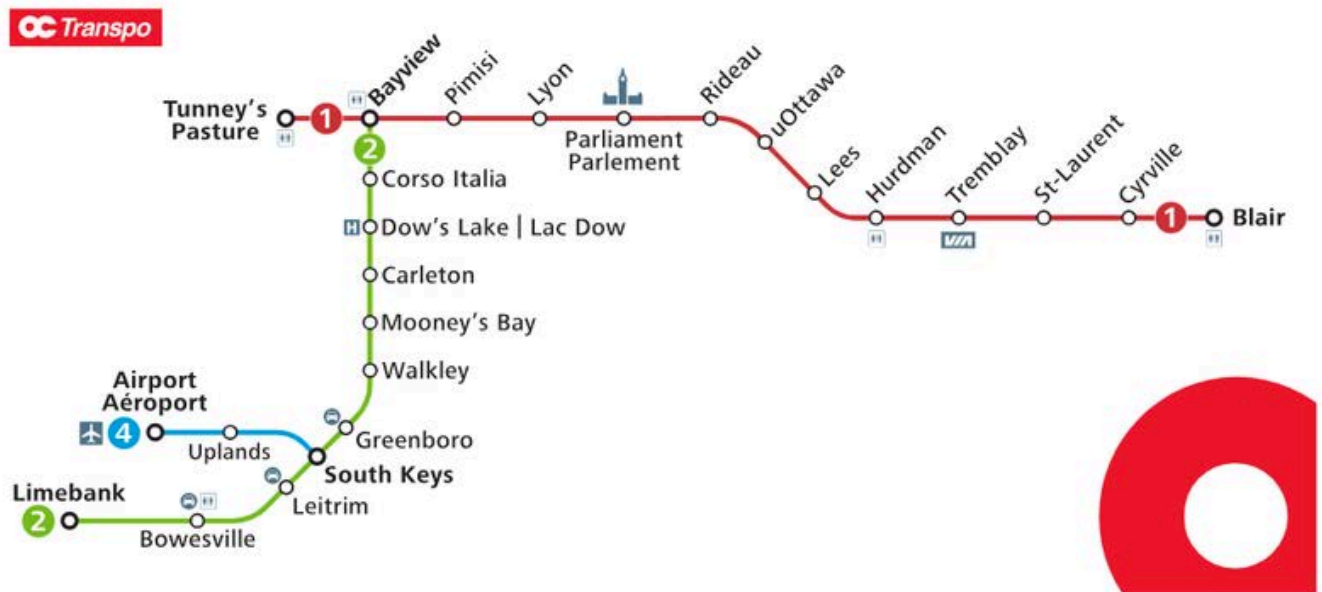
✈️ From Ottawa International Airport (YOW):

- Proceed to the Airport O-Train Station on Level 3 at the north end of the terminal.
- Take O-Train Line 4 to South Keys Station.
- Transfer to O-Train Line 2 and travel to Bayview Station.
- Transfer to O-Train Line 1 and continue to Lyon Station.

🚆 From VIA Rail Ottawa Station:

- Walk less than 5 minutes to Tremblay O-Train Station (just south of Tremblay Road, west of the VIA Rail station).
- Board O-Train Line 1 westbound toward Tunney's Pasture.
- Exit at Lyon Station.

O-Train network



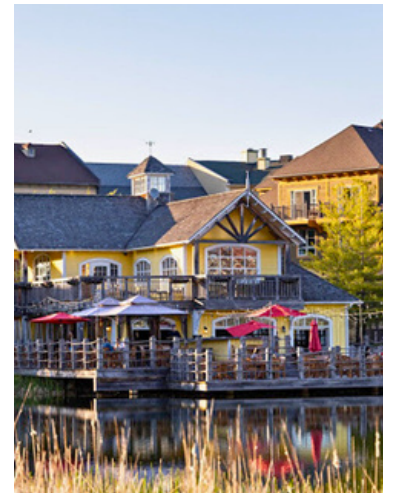
PHOTOS

We enjoy seeing our members learn and have fun during the conference!
Share your photos in the mobile app or tag your posts and photos
on social media using the hashtag

#OACA2026

 **Facebook**

 **LinkedIn**



**2025 OACA Conference & AGM
May 2025 in Blue Mountains**



VENUE

Ottawa Marriott

100 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario
Phone: 1-833-583-2583

Located in the heart of downtown Ottawa, the Marriott is just steps from Lyon Station and within proximity to key landmarks such as Parliament Hill, the Rideau Canal, and Byward Market. There is a health club with an indoor pool, as well as a family-friendly Kids Club and Games Room, and an onsite Starbucks.



Check-in Time: 3:00 p.m.
Check-out Time: 12:00 p.m.

Rates

- Traditional King - \$249.00
- Traditional 2 Double - \$249.00

13% HST and 6% municipal accommodation tax applies to all reservations.

Rates are per night and will also apply to pre and post event dates and are based on availability.



BOOK YOUR STAY



Don't wait to make your reservations, book our OACA group rate by April 17, 2026 for exclusive hotel room pricing.

**BOOK YOUR
ROOM ONLINE**

To ensure you receive the best rate, please avoid booking using third-party sites and book directly with the hotel using the contact information listed below to get the reduced OACA rate (subject to availability).



If booking by phone, please call toll-free 1-888-236-2427 and advise you are with OACA or mention group code OCSOCSA at the time of booking to receive the group rate.

Please note: All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. Ensure you see the group name before confirming your rate, once your reservations are confirmed, rates will not be changed. All accommodations are subject to applicable taxes and fees (13% HST and a 6% municipal accommodation tax) and are based on occupancy. Pre and post event dates may be available based on availability, please phone the resort directly to inquire.

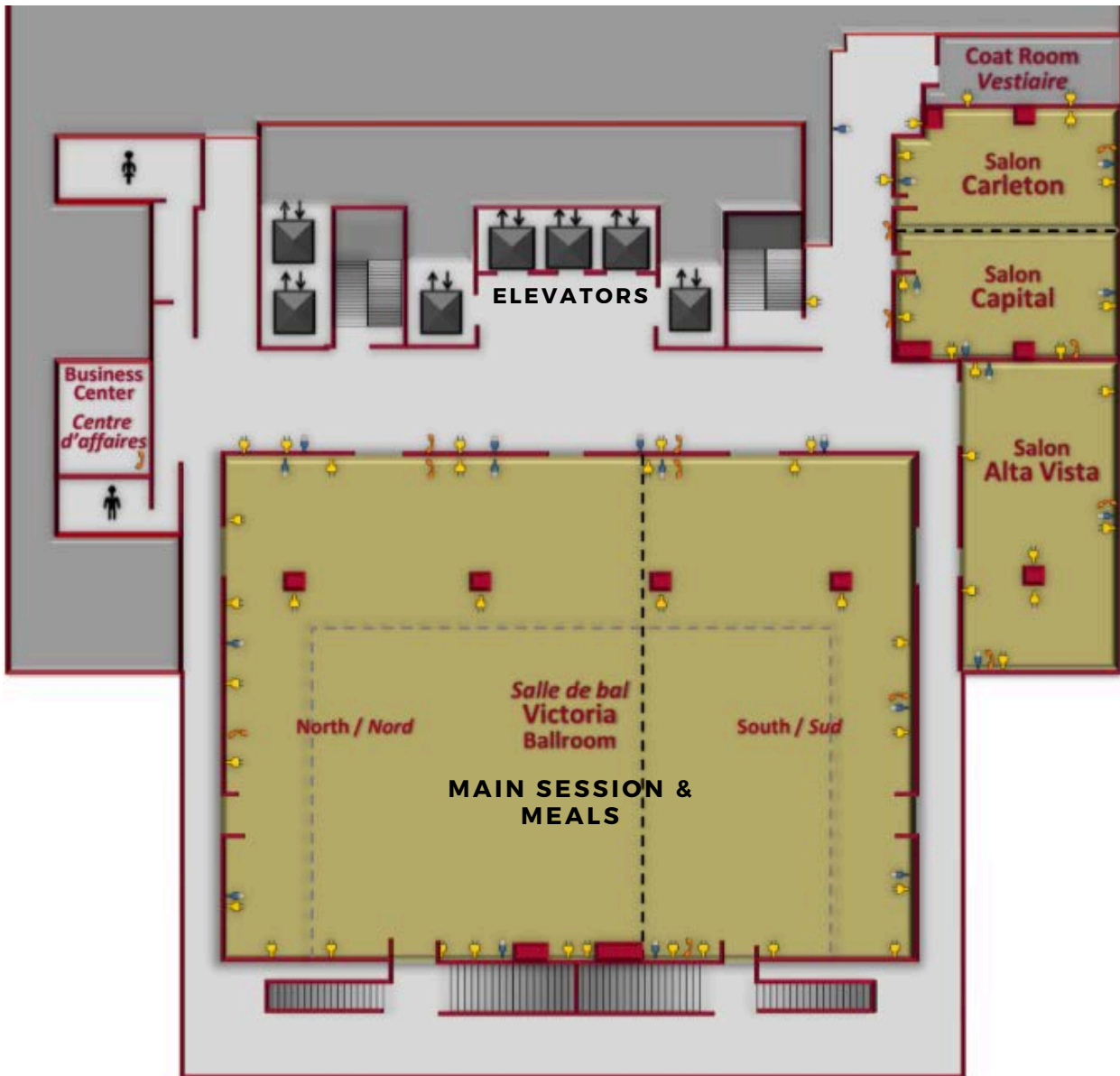


Cancellation & Changes Policy: Any cancellations or changes must be made **48 hours** prior to the scheduled date of arrival, otherwise the individual booking the room will be responsible to assume charges and applicable taxes and fees for one night's stay.

Any changes to the departure date must be made at least 48 hours before scheduled departure, otherwise an early departure fee equal to one night's stay plus applicable taxes and fees will apply.

MAPS

Victoria Ballroom (Main Session and Meals)



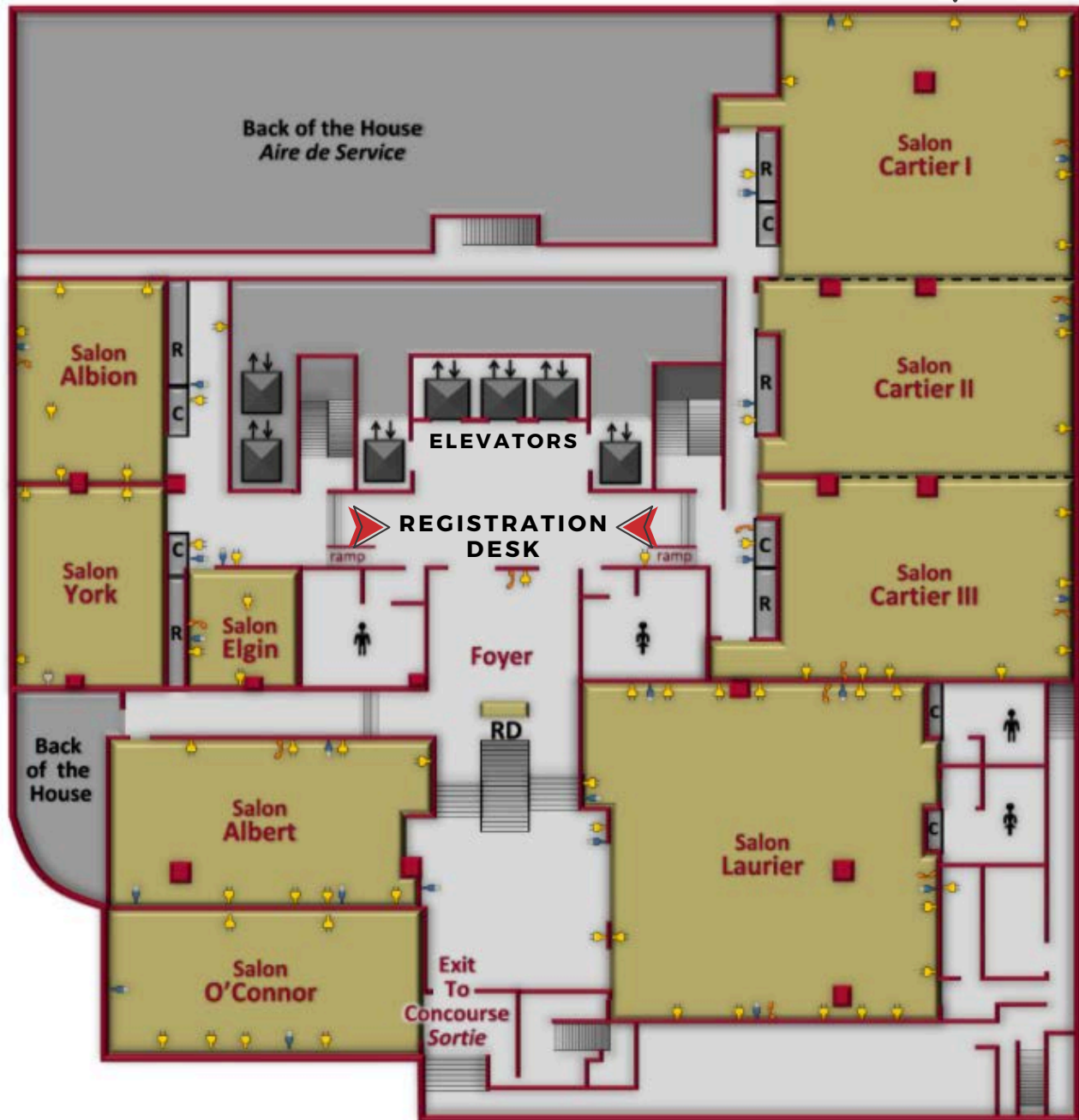
MAPS

Cartier Rooms and Laurier Salon (Workshop Rooms)



LOWER LEVEL

WORKSHOP ROOMS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Special
Feature



Jen Grant

Award Winning Comedian,
Humourist and Keynote Speaker

Jen Grant is an entertaining keynote speaker, a comedian and a self help book junkie.

Named one of 25 most influential people in the capital by Ottawa Life Magazine, Jen is a dynamic speaker with an infectious energy and a “sky is the limit” attitude that uplifts and inspires those around her.

As a child Jen discovered that laughter has the power to reframe even the most stressful situations. She has turned this “humour coping mechanism” into a successful career by sharing with audiences how laughter can enrich lives both professionally and personally.

After watching Jen speak, you will be equipped with tools to reduce stress, add levity and to “find the funny” even in the most challenging times. Oh, and you will laugh!



Don't miss out!

The keynote will be held on Monday, May 11 at 9am
in the Victoria Ballroom

WORKSHOPS



BLG

Minor Variance Conditions: Limits and Best Practices

Lee English, Lawyer, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

This session will explore the powers of a Committee of Adjustment to impose conditions on minor variance approvals.

We will explore:

- The legal limits on imposing conditions under the Planning Act
- Practical guidance for Committees of Adjustment on drafting conditions that withstand scrutiny
- Lessons from recent case law and strategies to avoid common pitfalls
- How these decisions impact local planning and development approvals



WeirFoulds^{LLP}

Judicial Review of Committee of Adjustment Decisions: What This Is, and Why It Matters

Nikolas Koschany, Lawyer & Associate at WeirFoulds LLP

Following Bill 23's limits on third-party appeals of Committee of Adjustment decisions to the Ontario Land Tribunal, many assumed the review of minor variances and consent applications were objects of the past.

These assumptions were not entirely correct.

Recent decisions from the Ontario Divisional Court show that judicial review remains a viable, if complicated, pathway for some appellants. This presentation explores why neighbouring owners may still have standing before the courts, how courts are evaluating the adequacy of Committee reasons, and what conflicting case law means for municipalities, applicants, and affected residents.

WORKSHOPS

Privacy and Committee of Adjustment Information



David Goodis, Partner, INQ Law

In this session we will explain whether and how the privacy rules under MFIPPA apply to information held by municipal committees of adjustment in Ontario.

Do the rules even apply? If they do, what does the case law from Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner say about what can and cannot be disclosed? We will also describe some best practices for how committees should handle personal information of the public.



Ask an Expert: Lawyer Edition



Laura Dean, Partner, Aird & Berlis LLP

Laura Dean is ready to answer your hot municipal law questions, focusing on Committee of Adjustment and Land Division Committee questions. This workshop will be moderated by an OACA Board Member and will attempt to cover all of the questions delegates submit prior to the conference. Please submit your questions by April 24, 2026 to contactus@oaca.info. Questions from the floor will be taken during the remaining time.



Legal Non-Conforming Uses



Eric Davis, Partner, SV Law

This session will delve into the exciting area of legal non-conforming uses, including what is a legal non-conforming use, key statutory provisions, powers of a Committee of Adjustment in relation to legal non-conforming uses, key questions in relation to legal non-conforming uses, a review of some general common law principles and a review of the relevant case law. This session will review subsection 45(2) of the Planning Act in detail.

WORKSHOPS

The Changing Landscape of Species at Risk in Ontario



Jessica Wright, Senior Environmental Scientist, Consor Canada

With the passing of Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 Ontario's species at risk framework is undergoing significant change, creating new considerations for municipal decision makers.



This session explores recent amendments to the Endangered Species Act and the imminent transition toward a Species Conservation Act, with a focus on how this evolving landscape affects minor variances, consents, and supporting environmental studies.

Using practical examples relevant to Committees of Adjustment, participants will gain insight into managing uncertainty and making decisions during a period of legislative transition.



What Happens After the Decision: Development Agreements for Severances and Minor Variances



Jenna Morley, City Solicitor, City of Kingston

Committees of Adjustment rarely see what happens once a consent or minor variance is approved. This session pulls back the curtain on how Committee-imposed conditions are carried forward into development agreements.



This session explains the legal authority for development agreements under the Planning Act, when they are appropriately used for severances and minor variances, and how registration makes them binding on future owners. The session also explores the limits of that authority, common areas of overreach, and how clear, restrained conditions at the Committee stage support enforceable agreements and timely implementation.

WORKSHOPS



Mastering Committee Training: A Workshop for Secretary-Treasurers

Christine Vigneault, Manager of Development Services and Secretary-Treasurer, City of Vaughan and Board Director, Ontario Association of Committees of Adjustment & Consent Authorities (OACA)

and



Trista Di Lullo, Secretary-Treasurer and Council and Committee Coordinator, City of Guelph and Board Director and President, Ontario Association of Committees of Adjustment & Consent Authorities (OACA)



This workshop is tailored to assist Secretary-Treasurers, aiming to provide them with the essential skills required to train newly appointed Committee Members. The session will include a detailed presentation that outlines the hearing process, defines roles and responsibilities, reviews relevant legislation, and offers advice to ensure the integrity of a fair hearing process.



To Prepare for the Future We Need to Understand the Past

Glenn Miller, Senior Associate, Canadian Urban Institute

"Each generation is entitled to the interest on the natural capital, but the principal should be handed on unimpaired..." This bold statement by Canada's Commission of Conservation in 1915 is still relevant today, as our communities face unprecedented threats to quality of life.



Whether it's dealing with demographic change, threats to our economy, the impacts of climate change or housing affordability, how we explore options for a more sustainable future must be different from how we did so in the past. But to get different results, we need to better understand that past.

WORKSHOPS



Source Water Protection and Source Protection Plans: Key Considerations for Committees

Angela Coleman, Chief Administrative Officer, Conservation Ontario

This workshop provides a primer on Conservation Authorities in their role as Source Protection Authorities and how this work contributes to planning decisions at the Committee of Adjustment.



The Clean Water Act requires decisions under the Planning Act to conform with significant threat policies and have regard to other policies of the source protection plan. Get updates on the most recent amendments to legislation and regulations and learn through practical examples and case studies about key considerations. Come prepared with your specific questions to get the most out of this session.



From Assessment to Action: How EIS Recommendations Protect Natural Systems

Casey Little, Senior Terrestrial Ecologist, WSP

Environmental Impact Statements play a critical role in supporting responsible development by identifying potential impacts on natural features—such as wildlife, vegetation, and watercourses—before a project proceeds. The EIS process ensures that proposed developments are assessed for their potential effects on the Natural Heritage System, guiding planners and applicants to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental harm.



Through measures such as maintaining buffer zones, protecting species-at-risk habitat, or modifying site design, EIS-driven recommendations can significantly reduce or eliminate negative impacts, ensuring development proceeds in a way that balances growth with long-term ecological integrity.

WORKSHOPS



Certificates of Official 101

Spencer Putnam, Associate Lawyer, Cunningham Swan LLP

and

David Munday, Lawyer & Managing Partner, Cunningham Swan LLP

Back by popular demand from last Fall's Lunch and Learn Webinar Series!

Join us for an engaging session that demystifies Certificates of Official: when and how to use them, and what they mean in the broader context of conveyancing.

We'll also explore practical strategies for navigating the Planning Act and consent process, with ample time for discussion and questions and answers.



How to Address Public Concerns: What Is and Isn't Relevant?

Denitza Koev, Partner, Thomson Rogers LLP

This workshop will review the relevance of various issues and concerns raised by objectors during the hearing of minor variance applications. We will look at cases where public concerns have been determinative of applications and cases where certain concerns have been deemed irrelevant.

Member participation will be encouraged during a group discussion format.



WORKSHOPS



Ask an Expert: Secretary-Treasurer Edition

Jennifer Stong, Planner/Assistant Secretary Treasurer,
Township of Ramara

and

Christine Vigneault, Manager of Development Services and
Secretary-Treasurer, City of Vaughan and Board Director, Ontario
Association of Committees of Adjustment & Consent Authorities
(OACA)



Get ready to unleash your inner planning nerd! This workshop brings together seasoned Secretary-Treasurers to answer the questions you've always wanted to ask—yes, even the ultra-specific procedural ones. Our duo will tackle them live and, if time allows, dive into ad-hoc questions that pop up faster than a last-minute appeal.

Whether you're new to the Committee of Adjustment world or a long-time minor variance aficionado, this session promises clarity, insights, and plenty of planning geekery. Please submit your questions by April 24, 2026 to contactus@oaca.info.



Forecasting the Future: Data-Driven Insights on Neighborhood Intensification in Toronto

Kara Naklicki, Senior Planner, City of Toronto

Canadian cities are facing a housing crisis. Employing new tools and research methodologies, Toronto's Neighbourhood Intensification analysis estimates how much housing can and will likely be built in low-rise neighbourhoods as a result of expanded 'missing middle' housing permissions, and models the location of future change.



WORKSHOPS



A New Zoning By-law for the City of Ottawa: Managing Significant Policy and Regulatory Change to Implementation

Carol Ruddy, Program Manager, Zoning Unit, City of Ottawa

and

Robert Sandercott, Planner, City of Ottawa



This workshop will examine the Ottawa approach to managing significant regulatory change focusing on the new Zoning By-law.

The project process, form-based zoning in the context of Bill 23, as well as impacts on applications to the Committee of Adjustment and delegated authority for minor zoning by-law amendment will also be discussed.



Making Sense of Stratified Severances

Andrew Shelp, President/CEO, Annis O'Sullivan Vollebek Ltd.

In this world of affordability and densification, understanding stratified ownership and rights are becoming vital albeit confusing.

This workshop will look at a couple of stratified ownership examples: one very simple, and the other much more complicated. We will dissect the reference plans required to create various interests in land and their implications and ramifications.



WORKSHOPS



Ontario's Archaeological Assessment Process: An Overview, Key Requirements, and Best Practices

Mike Teal, Archaeology Practice Leader, Consor Canada

and

Lafe Meicenheimer, Senior Archaeologist, Consor Canada



Understanding Ontario's archaeological assessment process, and its implications for municipal projects, can feel overwhelming. This presentation is designed to bring clarity by providing an overview of the four stages of the assessment process, what often triggers the need for an archaeological assessment, key requirements to be aware of, and what are some best practices to consider for municipalities and project teams.



We will also discuss how engagement with Indigenous communities is incorporated into the archaeological assessment process, how these approaches have adapted over time, and why meaningful engagement matters.



When Do Municipalities Owe Developers a Duty of Care?

Anne Tardif, Partner, Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP



What happens when a person suffers a financial loss or hardship because of a municipal development application? There is no general right that protects from the negligent infliction of pure economic loss. A person can only recover such losses if they can establish that the municipality owes them a private law duty of care.



In general, municipalities exercise statutory authority in the public interest, which is inconsistent with owing individuals a private duty of care. This workshop will explore when such private duties of care may arise and help municipalities identify and better appreciate risk.

WORKSHOPS



AIRD BERLIS

Committee of Adjustment Decision-Writing in Ontario

Laura Dean, Partner, Aird & Berlis LLP

This workshop will explore why Committees of Adjustment must move beyond boilerplate decision writing and provide clear, application specific reasons. With increasing scrutiny and the revocation of most third party appeal rights, well written reasons are essential for transparency, fairness, and defending applications for judicial review.

The session will provide a review of important legal cases concerning Committee of Adjustment decisions including the 2025 Ontario Divisional Court's decision in NOVA Chemicals Corp. v. Dow Chemical Canada ULC.

Attendees will hear practical advice for crafting concise, meaningful and legally sound reasons.



Difficult Customers & Situations in the Public Sector

Jamie Boyle, Public Sector Trainer, Public Sector Ready

Participants will learn to navigate challenging customer types that public sector staff face. Through real-world examples and de-escalation techniques, attendees will practice handling difficult situations with confidence and professionalism. The program covers psychological drivers of customer frustration and teaches how to turn negativity into collaborative problem-solving.

Key focus areas include self-awareness, resilience, and emotional intelligence as essential tools for managing public tensions. Participants will gain strategies for staying calm under pressure, setting healthy boundaries, and maintaining control of interactions while ensuring service quality. Every challenging moment will be viewed as an opportunity to strengthen public confidence and demonstrate leadership.

DELEGATE AGENDA

Agenda subject to change

Sunday, May 10, 2026

REGISTRATION 3:00pm - 7:00pm
Lower Level Foyer

WELCOME RECEPTION 7:00pm - 10:00pm
Summit Room (29th floor)

OPTIONAL GUIDED PARLIAMENT/SENATE TOUR Sunday Afternoon
Details to follow



Space is limited—please sign up for the tour on the registration form

Monday, May 11, 2026

BREAKFAST 7:00am - 8:30am
Victoria Ballroom
2nd Floor

REGISTRATION 7:00am - 9:30am
Lower Level Foyer

CONFERENCE OPENING 8:30am - 8:45am
Victoria Ballroom

KEYNOTE SPEAKER 9:00am - 10:15am
Victoria Ballroom



COMFORT BREAK 10:15am - 10:30am

WORKSHOPS 10:30am - 11:45am
Lower Level

LUNCH Noon - 1:00pm
Victoria Ballroom



12:30pm - 1:30pm
Victoria Ballroom

WORKSHOPS 1:45pm - 3:00pm
Lower Level

COMFORT BREAK 3:00pm - 3:15pm

WORKSHOPS 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Lower Level

Delegates can explore Ottawa to enjoy the many restaurants and amenities.

CAPITAL CITY MIXER 7:30pm - 10:30pm
OCCO Restaurant

DELEGATE AGENDA

Agenda subject to change

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

BREAKFAST 7:00am - 8:30am
Victoria Ballroom

REGISTRATION 7:00am - 9:30am
Lower Level Foyer

WORKSHOPS 9:00am - 10:15am
Lower Level

COMFORT BREAK 10:15am - 10:30am

WORKSHOPS 10:30am - 11:45am
Lower Level

LUNCH Noon - 1:00 pm
Victoria Ballroom

WORKSHOPS 1:15pm - 2:30pm
Lower Level

COMFORT BREAK 2:30pm - 2:45pm

WORKSHOPS 2:45pm - 4:00pm
Lower Level

BANQUET 6:00pm - Cash Bar
Victoria Ballroom Foyer
7:00pm - Dinner with
dancing to follow (DJ)
Victoria Ballroom



**Remember to bring your
banquet ticket with you!**

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

BREAKFAST 7:00am - 8:30am
Victoria Ballroom

**CLOSING
CEREMONIES** 8:30am
Victoria Ballroom

**Thank you for attending! Have a safe trip home, and hope to see you at the
2027 Conference at the Marriott on the Falls in Niagara Falls!**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q: How do I register?

Registration can be completed online only via our [website](#). Only payment via credit card is accepted (no cheques).

Q: I'm not able to attend the entire conference, can I attend for one day only?

Yes, there is a one day conference pass available for Monday or Tuesday. If you are an OACA member, please note that there is no member discount for the one day conference pass. As delegates cannot purchase a one day conference pass for multiple days, the full conference package provides you with the best value!

Q: Does the one day conference pass include any evening events?

No, the one day conference pass does not include any admission to the Monday and Tuesday evening events. If you're interested in the one day conference pass and you'd also like to attend the Tuesday Gala Banquet Dinner, you can purchase a ticket on the registration form.

Q: Do I need to register for workshops in advance?

No pre-registration is necessary! Workshops sessions are held on a first come, first serve basis, subject to room capacity. We recommend you head to the room early to secure your spot.

Q: Are workshop sessions held concurrently?

Yes, there are blocks of 3 workshop sessions being held concurrently during Monday and Tuesday. During those days delegates can pick up to 4 workshop sessions.

Q: Are workshop sessions being recorded? Is there an option to attend virtually?

Workshop sessions are not being recorded and the conference is being held in-person only.

Q: When is the next OACA event?

Future events are listed on our [Upcoming Events page](#). We will be offering some virtual lunch and learn opportunities in Fall 2026. The 2027 Conference will be held May 9-12, 2027 at the Marriott on the Falls in Niagara Falls.

Q: How do I access the conference app?

Registered delegates will be provided with details on how to download the free app. Stay tuned for more information!

Q: How do I get a ticket for the Tuesday Night Banquet? **NEW!**

Tuesday Night Banquet tickets will be distributed at the registration desk based on your registration form selection. No additional tickets will be available on-site, and no refunds will be available. If you've changed your mind or don't have a ticket, you will need to obtain one from another attendee. If you no longer need your ticket, please post a message in the conference app so others can claim it.