Leveraging Data and AI to Drive Canada's Enterprise Innovation

CDAO Canada 2026 brings together Canada's top data and AI leaders, innovators, and strategists for two days of insight, inspiration, and collaboration. Explore how enterprises, public sector, and healthcare organizations are using data and AI to drive transformation, create measurable impact, and unlock new opportunities. Learn practical strategies for scaling AI responsibly, embedding analytics into decision-making, and fostering a data-driven culture that supports organizational agility and resilience.

What to Expect:

- *Visionary Keynotes: Hear from Canadian and global leaders on emerging trends, policy, and future directions in data, AI, and analytics.*

- *Panels & Fireside Chats: Explore cross-industry perspectives on responsible AI, governance, and building data-driven organizations.*

- *Interactive Sessions & Discussion Groups: Collaborate with peers on real-world challenges, problem-solving, and innovative frameworks.*

- *Spotlight Case Studies: Discover how organizations are turning data and AI insights into actionable outcomes.*

- *Networking Opportunities: Connect with peers, industry experts, and solution providers during structured networking sessions and roundtables.*

Confirmed:

Ziv Deutsch, Chief Growth Officer, **KOHO**

Stefany Singh, Global Director, Digital & Data Strategy, **RWDI**

Dr. Bishoy Sawiris, Chief Data Officer, **GB CORP**

Milind Joshi, Chief Technology Officer, **FOXQUILT**

Paul Twigg, Chief Technology Officer, **DIGITAL COMMERCE BANK**

Jamie Kruspel, Chief Transformation Officer, **MAINSTREET CREDIT UNION LIMITED**

Christina Hoy, Christina Hoy, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer **LUMENUS COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Scott Mckenzie, Chief Data Officer, **FORT VERMILION SCHOOL DIVISION**

Brandon Milner, Chief Information Officer & Senior Vice President, Digital & Data Engineering, **ELLISDON**

Jay Malepati, Global Director of Data Science, Customer & Marketing Strategy, **ALIMENTATION COUCHE-TARD**

Celio Oliveira, Chief Data Officer, **MINISTRY OF FINANCE, CANADA**

Rahul Chopra, Senior Director, Business Management, Strategy & Transformation, **CIBC**

Fannie Cai, Director of Machine Learning and AI Engineering, **LIFELABS MEDICAL LABORATORY SERVICES**

Qahir Rajwani, Vice President, Client Experience & Analytics, **CIBC MELLON**

Mitu Mann, Assistant Vice President, Leader Data & AI/ML Governance, **INTERAC CORP.**

Michael Page, Director, AI Commercialization, **UNITY HEALTH TORONTO**

Celia Bru, Director Data & Analytics, **KOHO**

Rahul Gupta, Senior Manager, Data & Analytics, **AIR CANADA**

Daneyal Anis, Assistant Vice President, Data Science, COE, Head of AI, **SUN LIFE**

Sofia Gomez de Silva, Director Data Governance & Culture, **MERIDIAN CREDIT UNION**

Michael Morris, Director, Data & Analytics, **GLOBAL FURNITURE GROUP**

Efe Ogolo, Director, Analytics & Data Products – Digital Games, **SPIN MASTER**

Fahad Shaikh, Assistant Vice President, Data & Analytics Strategy & Delivery, **INTERAC CORP.**

Kimberly Hill, Director, Data Governance & Enterprise Analytics, **NORTH YORK GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Angel Pelletier, Head of Data Management Solutions, Financial Crimes Data Analytics, **TD BANK**

Laurence Audrey Vincent, Senior Director, Strategy, Performance & AI Enablement, **ALDO GROUP**

Rugveda Gawade, Director of Data and AI Strategy, **INTERAC.CORP**

Olivia Anderson, Director of Administration & Analytics, **SIX SHOOTER RECORDS**

Shashin Pandya, Senior Manager, Data Science, **TD BANK**

Nipun Sharma, Lead, Product Risk, **INTERAC**

Ramila Peiris, Global Head, Data Management, ML & AI Platform, MSAT, **SANOFI**

Supriya Kumari, Director of Data Strategy, **SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT INSURANCE**

Denise Mak, Director, Data Management, **BIOSCRIPT SOLUTIONS**

Saurabh Ingale, Manager, Data Governance & Quality, **CANADIAN NATIONAL RAIL**

Jill Delgado, Head of Data, Analytics & AI Governance & Program Management, Marketing Comms & Social Impact, **BMO**

Shefali Bharti, Senior Manager – Digital Payments, **SCOTIABANK**

Jonathan Wiersma, Director, Data & Analytics, **JOHNSON & JOHNSON**

Albert Murdani, Director, Global Banking & Markets Data, **SCOTIABANK**

Yusuf Ganiyu, Senior Data Engineer, **ASTRAZENECA**

Dimirty Sapon, Head of Data Science, **IA GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENTf**

Lin Liu, Director, Data Science, **WEALTHSIMPLE**

Linda Hermer, Chief Executive Officer, **VANTAGE PRECISION HEALTH**

Stephen Lee, Head of Data Engineering & Metadata Management, **TELUS**

Alexander Chan, Senior Director, Head of Analytics, **RBC**

Rishi Midha, Head of AI Research, **ELLISDON**

Linda Kaleis, Director, RBCx Analytics, **RBC**

Arundati Dandapani, Founder & CEO, **GENERATION1.CA**

Or Zabludowski, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, **FLEXOR.AI**

Heather Harris, Chief Data & Analytics Officer, **ALTERYX**

Lawerence Smith, Solutions Engineer, **INFORMATICA**

Terry Doresy, Senior Data & AI Evangelist **DENODO**

AGENDA

8:00	**Registration**
8:45	**Opening Remarks**
	Speed Networking & Burning Questions
8:55	**Opening Panel: The State of Data & AI in Canada: Building Trust, Scale, and Impact** • Insights into Canada's evolving data and AI landscape, including adoption trends, regulation, and areas of innovation • How to scale AI responsibly while maintaining ethical integrity, transparency, and public trust • Exploring real-world examples of data-driven initiatives delivering measurable impact across Canadian enterprises and organizations Fannie Cai, Director of Machine Learning and AI Engineering, **LIFELABS MEDICAL LABORATORY SERVICES** Jamie Kruspel, Chief Transformation Officer, **MAINSTREET CREDIT UNION LIMITED** Ziv Deutsch, Chief Growth Officer, **KOHO** Brandon Milner, Chief Information Officer & Senior Vice President, Digital & Data Engineering, **ELLISDON** **Moderator:** Brian McConnell
9:35	**Keynote: What makes enterprise data ready for AI agents** *As AI agents take on more responsibility in your enterprise, many teams confront a hard truth: AI is only as reliable as the data behind it. In large organizations, data is typically distributed, inconsistently governed, and difficult to interpret, making it risky for AI agents to operate with confidence.* *This session looks at what it truly means to make your data ready for AI agents, beyond simple access or scale. We'll explore how context, lineage, and governance help agents discover, understand, and safely use enterprise data. Join our industry experts as they outline a practical approach to building data foundations your AI agents can rely on for trustworthy, auditable outcomes.* Dima Spivak, Vice President of Product Management, **IBM**
10:05	**Keynote: Canada's AI & Data Leadership for a Trusted Digital Future** • Insights into how Canada is shaping its AI and data strategy to drive innovation and competitiveness. • How to ensure AI and data initiatives are ethical, transparent, and secure. • How can leadership in data and AI create measurable benefits for businesses and society. Celio Oliveira, Chief Data Officer, **GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**
10:30	**Keynote: The AI Governance Imperative: Balancing Innovation, Compliance, and Business Value**

	• Navigating the GenAI Risk/Reward Curve: How executives are moving from experimentation to operationalizing GenAI, and the new governance models required to do it securely. • Breaking the Data Impasse: Practical strategies for aligning data governance and data science teams to accelerate AI projects without compromising security. • Quantifying the Governance Advantage: How to move beyond compliance as a cost center and demonstrate the measurable impact of a robust governance framework on the speed and success of AI initiative Terry Doresy, Senior Data & AI Evangelist, **DENODO**	
11:00	**Morning Tea Break**	
	Track A - Strategy, Governance & Leadership	**Track B - AI, Analytics & Architecture**
11:30	**Keynote: The Data Trifecta - Governance, Delivery, and Innovation at Meridian** • Insights into how Governance is embedded in data processes and solution design • Understanding how to build trusted, fit-for-purpose data products and services on scalable and resilient architecture • Exploring pathways to AI implementation Sofia Gomez de Silva, Director Data Governance & Culture, **MERIDIAN CREDIT UNION**	**Keynote: AI Governance Opportunities & Guardrails for Create Economies** Arundati Dandapani, Founder & CEO, **GENERATION1.CA**
11:50	**Panel: Strategic Prioritization: Choosing the Right Data & AI Initiatives** • How to evaluate and prioritize AI and data projects for maximum business impact • Understanding trade-offs between risk, ROI, and resource allocation • Exploring practical frameworks for aligning initiatives with strategic enterprise goals Michael Morris, Director, Data & Analytics, **GLOBAL FURNITURE GROUP** Supriya Kumari, Director of Data Strategy, **SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT INSURANCE**	**Panel: Generative AI in Action – From Chatbots to Customer Intelligence** • Insights into how generative AI can enhance customer experience and business decision-making • Understanding how to apply generative AI beyond chatbots for practical enterprise applications • How to deploy generative AI responsibly while maximizing impact Fahad Shaikh, Assistant Vice President, Data & Analytics Strategy & Delivery, **INTERAC CORP.**

	Christina Hoy, Christina Hoy, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, **LUMENUS COMMUNITY SERVICES** **Moderator:** Lawerence Smith, Solutions Engineer, **INFORMATICA**	Ramila Peiris, Global Head, Data Management, ML & AI Platform, MSAT, **SANOFI** Shefali Bharti, Senior Manager – Digital Payments, **SCOTIABANK** **Moderator:** Arundati Dandapani, Founder & CEO, **GENERATION1.CA**
12:20	**Keynote: Measuring Data Value and ROI for the C-Suite** • Understanding how executives can quantify the impact of data and analytics on business performance • Exploring practical frameworks to measure ROI from data initiatives • What are the best practices for translating data outcomes into executive-level decision-making Heather Harris, Chief Data & Analytics Officer, **ALTERYX**	**Keynote: From Research to Real-World: Operationalizing ML & AI in Regulated Healthcare Environments** • Insights into how predictive models progress from research to clinical and operational deployment within highly regulated healthcare settings. • What organizations must establish to manage model quality, monitor drift, and mitigate risk when AI directly impacts patient outcomes or care operations. • How synthetic data can accelerate development and safely support productionisation without compromising privacy or regulatory compliance. Fannie Cai, Director of Machine Learning and AI Engineering, **LIFELABS MEDICAL LABORATORY SERVICES**
12:40	**Fireside Chat: Building a Data-Driven Culture Across Canada's Enterprise Landscape** • Insights into how organizations can foster a culture where data guides decisions at every level • Understanding the role of leadership in driving adoption and accountability for data-driven practices • Exploring strategies for overcoming cultural and organizational barriers to embedding data across teams	**Keynote: What actually changes: Why AI breaks traditional data and platform assumptions** • What actually changes when machines, not humans, consume data • Why AI hallucinates when it can't verify context • How to design data and platform foundations for reliable, scalable AI Rugveda Gawade, Director of Data and AI Strategy, **INTERAC.CORP**

	Sofia Gomez de Silva, Director Data Governance & Culture, **MERIDIAN CREDIT UNION** Qahir Rajwani, Vice President, Client Experience & Analytics, **CIBC MELLON** **Moderator:** Tom Lifshitz	
1:00	**Keynote: Building High-Performing Data Teams: Culture, Trust, and Scalable Execution** • How to build and sustain a high-performing data team through strong culture, clear roles, and shared purpose • What it takes to learn trust and alignment from executives and the board to accelerate data initiatives • Choosing the right technology stack and operating model to drive team efficiency, engagement, and scalable delivery Celia Bru, Director Data & Analytics, **KOHO**	**Keynote: From Learning to Doing: How Canadian Enterprises Move Beyond AI Infancy and Into Scalable Action** • How enterprises can progress beyond AI infancy by strengthening foundations and shifting from exploration to readiness. • How to build a practical, prioritized action plan that aligns business value, governance, and cross-functional execution. Michael Page, Director, AI Commercialization, **UNITY HEALTH TORONTO**
1:20	**Lunch Break & Private Lunch with IBM**	
	Track A	**Track B**
2:30	**Discussion Group: Governance in the AI Era: Balancing Speed and Compliance** • Exploring how organizations can implement AI governance without slowing innovation • Understanding the trade-offs between compliance, risk management, and rapid deployment • How to build frameworks that maintain trust while enabling agile decision-making Kimberly Hill, Director, Data Governance & Enterprise Analytics, **NORTH YORK GENERAL HOSPITAL** Laurence Audrey Vincent, Senior Director, Strategy, Performance & AI Enablement, **ALDO GROUP** Nipun Sharma, Lead, Product Risk, **INTERAC** Saurabh Ingale, Manager, Data Governance & Quality, **CANADIAN NATIONAL RAIL** Denise Mak, Director, Data Management, **BIOSCRIPT SOLUTIONS** **Moderator:** Brian McConnell	
3:00	**Discussion Group: AI in Media: Protecting Creativity, IP and Content in the Age of Automation** • Insights into how AI is reshaping the media landscape, from content creation to distribution, and the implications for rights holders, artists, and platforms.	

	- What organizations need to consider to protect intellectual property, including how AI impacts ownership, licensing, and the safeguarding of original work. - How to put practical precautions and safeguards in place to ensure responsible use of AI while mitigating risks such as misinformation, deepfakes, and unauthorized replication of creative content. Olivia Anderson, Director of Administration & Analytics, **SIX SHOOTER RECORDS** Efe Ogolo, Director, Analytics & Data Products – Digital Games, **SPIN MASTER** **Moderator:** Amanda Cassidy & Stella Cabrera, **EDM**
3:30	**Afternoon Tea Break**
4:00	**Interactive Afternoon Session** *The session will begin with a revisit of the morning's Slido questions, giving participants the opportunity to re-engage, reflect, and deepen the discussion. Attendees will be encouraged to build on earlier insights and contribute new perspectives.* *The conversation will then shift to a new interactive Slido prompt: "Anything is possible with AI." Participants will be invited to imagine an ideal scenario where there are no limitations, data is flawless and deployment is effortless, and explore how they would use AI and what it could enable.* *The session will conclude with a broader discussion on the feasibility of such a scenario, opening the floor to debate how close we can realistically get to this vision and what challenges remain.* **Moderator:** Amanda Cassidy & Stella Cabrera, **EDM**
5:00	**Chair's Closing Remarks**
5:05	**Networking Reception**
6:00	**End of Day One**

	Registration & Breakfast
8:45	**Chair's Opening Remarks**
8:55	**Day 2 Remarks from Minister Stephen Crawford**
9:00	**Keynote: Leading Global Data & Technology Transformation: Teams, Tools, and the AI Roadmap** • How to build and scale high-performing global teams focusing on creating collaborative, cross-functional, and culturally aligned teams that drive global data and technology initiatives effectively • Exploring technology selection and governance understanding how to choose the right tools, manage a cohesive technology stack, and implement governance frameworks for consistency, security, and scalability • Insights into advancing an enterprise AI roadmap learning how to integrate AI into existing data strategies, accelerate innovation, and deliver measurable business value Stefany Singh, Global Director, Digital & Data Strategy, **RWDI**
9:30	**Keynote: Human-AI Co-Adaptation: A Core Driver of Sustained AI Adoption** • Why most AI deployments get stuck in pilot purgatory • How AI's speed is breaking traditional change management • What successful human-AI co-adaptation entails, with a real-world case study • How to build trust, uptake, and performance in tandem • How to make AI scale for sustained impact Linda Hermer, Chief Executive Officer, **VANTAGE PRECISION HEALTH**
10:00	**Panel: My story – The journey of the Chief Data Officer** *In this session, you will hear from some of the sector's highest leaders, hear how they started in the sector and made their way up to be a Chief Data Officer. You'll have the opportunity to ask your burning questions, have robust discussions and gain insights into what makes a great leader and what the future of the CDO looks like.* Stefany Singh, Global Director, Digital & Data Strategy, **RWDI** Linda Hermer, Chief Executive Officer, **VANTAGE PRECISION HEALTH** Dr. Bishoy Sawiris, Chief Data Officer, **GB CORP** **Moderator**: Paul Childerhose, **EDM**
10:45	**Why Gen AI Fails in FSI without an Action Ready Data Architecture** Ronen Schwartz, CEO, **K2VIEW**
11:00	**Morning Tea Break**

	Track A – Enterprise Innovation & Transformation	**Track B – AI, Data & Technology for Future Readiness**
11:30	**Discussion Group: Embedding Decision Intelligence into Daily Operations** • How to integrate decision intelligence into everyday business workflows for faster, smarter outcomes	**Discussion Group: Next-Gen Data Platforms: Hybrid, Cloud, and Sovereign Architectures**

	- Exploring approaches to align AI-driven insights with operational priorities - Insights into overcoming challenges in adoption and driving enterprise-wide consistency Efe Ogolo, Director, Analytics & Data Products – Digital Games, **SPIN MASTER** Kimberly Hill, Director, Data Governance & Enterprise Analytics, **NORTH YORK GENERAL HOSPITAL** Scott Mckenzie, Chief Data Officer, **FORT VERMILION SCHOOL DIVISION** Dimirty Sapon, Head of Data Science, **IA GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT**	- How to design hybrid, cloud, and sovereign architectures that balance scalability, security, and compliance - Exploring approaches to integrate emerging platforms seamlessly into existing enterprise systems - Insights into best practices for optimizing performance, governance, and operational efficiency Rahul Gupta, Senior Manager, Data & Analytics, **AIR CANADA** Yusuf Ganiyu, Senior Data Engineer, **ASTRAZENECA** Jay Malepati, Global Director of Data Science, Customer & Marketing Strategy, **ALIMENTATION COUCHE-TARD** Alexander Chan, Senior Director, Head of Analytics, **RBC** Linda Kaleis, Director, RBCx Analytics, **RBC** **Moderator:** Arundati Dandapani, Founder & CEO, **GENERATION1.CA**
12:00	**Keynote: Modernizing IT and Engineering to Drive Innovation in Banking and Payments** - How to modernize IT and engineering to support enterprise data, AI, and innovation across banking and fintech platforms - Exploring real-time payments (RTR) implementation and the challenges of being a first mover in Canada's payment infrastructure - Insights into building scalable, secure, and high-performing financial systems across multi-cloud and on-premise environments, enabling billions of transactions with zero downtime Paul Twigg, Chief Technology Officer, **DIGITAL COMMERCE BANK**	**Keynote: AI Agents at Scale and Governance Best Practices** - Insights into how AI agents can be deployed and orchestrated at scale to automate complex workflows and deliver measurable enterprise outcomes - What organizations need to establish to govern AI agents responsibly, including guardrails, monitoring, oversight, and alignment with existing risk frameworks - How to ensure safety, reliability, and human accountability as AI agents take on greater autonomy across business processes Daneyal Anis, Assistant Vice President, Data Science, COE, Head of AI, **SUN LIFE**

12:20	**Keynote: Before AI: Why Data Quality Matters for Enterprises** • Why enterprise innovation stalls despite new technology • What accuracy, shared definitions, and context mean across the enterprise • Setting organizations up to innovate with confidence and speed Supriya Kumari, Director of Data Strategy, **SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT INSURANCE**	**Keynote: AI-Powered Decision Support Systems: Driving Smarter Business in the Age of AI** • How to use Governed AI to make smarter, faster decisions: They'll see how AI can transform raw data into actionable insights that enable leaders to respond quickly to market changes. • How to measure impact: We'll cover ways to track results and ROI so organizations can recognize the real value of their AI initiatives. • How to create an AI-ready culture: They'll learn how to blend human judgment with AI, build capable teams, and establish systems and processes that make AI adoption practical, ethical, and sustainable. Dr. Bishoy Sawiris, Chief Data Officer, **GB CORP**
12:40	**Panel: Data Ethics & Trust – Embedding Responsible AI in Large Organizations** • Exploring how organizations can build trust in AI through ethical practices and transparent processes • Understanding the challenges of embedding responsible AI at scale across complex enterprises • What are the strategies for balancing innovation, compliance, and accountability in AI initiatives Supriya Kumari, Director of Data Strategy, **SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT INSURANCE** Saurabh Ingale, Manager, Data Governance & Quality, **CANADIAN NATIONAL RAIL** Jill Delgado, Head of Data, Analytics & AI Governance & Program Management, Marketing Comms & Social Impact, **BMO** Mitu Mann, Assistant Vice President, Leader Data & AI/ML Governance, **INTERAC CORP.**	**Panel: AI-Driven Operational Resilience: Preparing for Disruption** • How to leverage AI and analytics to anticipate and respond to business disruptions • Understanding methods for building resilient systems and processes powered by AI • Exploring practical strategies for maintaining operational continuity in dynamic environments Milind Joshi, Chief Technology Officer, **FOXQUILT** Ramila Peiris, Global Head, Data Management, ML & AI Platform, MSAT, **SANOFI** Albert Murdani, Director, Global Banking & Markets Data, **SCOTIABANK** Jay Malepati, Global Director of Data Science, Customer & Marketing Strategy, **ALIMENTATION COUCHE-TARD**

Moderator: Brian McConnell	Lin Liu, Director, Data Science, **WEALTHSIMPLE** **Moderator:** Arundati Dandapani, Founder & CEO, **GENERATION1.CA**

1:10	**Lunch Break & Private Lunch with Dedicatted**
2:10	**Keynote: Where to Begin: A Practical Framework for Starting Your Enterprise AI Journey** • Insights into creating principle-based AI policies that set clear expectations for safety, ethics, and responsible innovation. • What organizations need to define and prioritize AI use cases that align with real business value. • How to build a practical framework to identify, evaluate, and launch early AI initiatives with confidence. Christina Hoy, Christina Hoy, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer **LUMENUS COMMUNITY SERVICES**
2:40	**Fireside Chat: Human-Centric AI: Building Trust and Transparency Across the Enterprise** • Insights into designing AI systems that prioritize user trust and transparency • How to embed ethical practices and accountability throughout AI deployment • Exploring strategies for fostering human-centric AI adoption across teams and processes Laurence Audrey Vincent, Senior Director, Strategy, Performance & AI Enablement, **ALDO GROUP** Scott Mckenzie, Chief Data Officer, **FORT VERMILION SCHOOL DIVISION** **Moderator:** Linda Hermer, Chief Executive Officer, **VANTAGE PRECISION HEALTH**
3:00	**Building a Data-Driven Platform: A Case Study in Meeting Real Business Needs** • How automation and modern AI-driven development workflows have changed the equation on build vs. buy • Building your data platform to fit your business vs. trying to fit your business to your data platform • How to design and build a platform that solves real business problems by addressing critical gaps and applying clear architectural principles. • Exploring practical tools and products that enable day-to-day decision-making through effective analytics, dashboards, and data products. • Insights into data sharing, governance, and trust to ensure secure, compliant, and accessible data across teams and partners. Milind Joshi, Chief Technology Officer, **FOXQUILT**
3:30	**Afternoon Tea Break**

4:00	**EXPERT ASK ME ANYTHING: The Next Frontier: AI, Edge, and Quantum in the Enterprise** • Exploring how emerging technologies like AI, edge computing, and quantum are transforming enterprise capabilities • Understanding the practical implications of integrating these technologies into existing systems • How to identify opportunities and overcome challenges when adopting next-generation platforms Rishi Midha, Head of AI Research, **ELLISDON**
4:30	**Fireside Chat: AI Observability and Reliability: Monitoring Models in Production** • Insights into ensuring AI models perform reliably and as intended once deployed at scale • How to implement monitoring, alerting, and governance frameworks for model lifecycle management • Exploring best practices for maintaining trust, accountability, and transparency in production AI systems Yusuf Ganiyu, Senior Data Engineer, **ASTRAZENECA** Jonathan Wiersma, Director, Data & Analytics, **JOHNSON & JOHNSON** **Moderator:** Brian McConnell
5:00	**Chair's Closing Remarks**
5:10	**End of Conference**