



Conference Agenda

ONTARIO FOOD PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

69th Annual Food Safety

CONFERENCE & SOCIAL MIXER

Millennium Gardens, Brampton, ON

September 29-30, 2026



EVENT SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 7:30 AM -7:00 PM

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

Registration and Breakfast

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Welcome Address

Tanya Waraich, OFPA Vice President

Membership Information

Morning Moderator: Tanya Waraich, OFPA BOD

8:45 AM - 9:45 AM

Opening Keynote: How to Be the Most Influential Person in Your Company

Lone Jespersen, Cultivate SA

Food safety challenges aren't always technical, they're often about influence. This interactive keynote will provide practical strategies for gaining leadership support, changing behaviors, securing resources, and creating change without formal authority. Through real-world scenarios, case studies, and leadership insights, attendees will learn to communicate effectively, build stronger partnerships, and advocate for food safety, leaving with actionable tools to strengthen influence, improve decision-making, and drive meaningful food safety improvements. Because the future of food safety will be shaped not only by technical expertise, but by the people who can inspire others to act.

9:45AM - 10:30AM

One Goal, Different Roles: Understanding CFIA's Role Beyond Enforcement and Building Effective Regulatory Relationships

Kevin Urbanic, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Food safety is a shared responsibility. This session explores the CFIA's role beyond enforcement, dispels common misconceptions about the regulator-regulated relationship, and shares practical strategies for building professional, transparent, and effective relationships that support compliance and strengthen Canada's food safety system.

10:30AM - 10:50AM

Nutrition Break, Networking & Exhibits

10:50AM - 11:00AM

Elite Sponsor Presentation: Sanitation PROS

September 29, 2026

11:00AM - 12:00PM

Rapid Fire Q&A **(Sanitation, Pest Control, Auditing)**

Moderator: **Ellen Gravi**, OFPA BOD

Nathan Persaud, Sani Marc

Siarl Dixon, Auditor

Bruno Levesque, Orkin

What is new in Sanitation, Pest Control and Auditing? This is an AMA (Ask Me Anything) Session.

12:00PM - 1:00PM

Lunch, Networking & Exhibits

Afternoon Moderator: **Stephen**, OFPA BOD

1:00PM - 1:30PM

Clive Kingsbury Competition

Dharamdeo Singh, University of Guelph

1:30PM - 1:40PM

Platinum Sponsor Presentation: Sani Marc

1:40PM - 1:45PM

Results of Clive Kingsbury Competition

Dharamdeo Singh, University of Guelph

1:45PM - 2:35PM

Government, Industry and Academia: Collaborating for Optimum Food Safety

Amy Proulx, Niagara College

Effective food safety depends on strong partnerships between regulators, food businesses, and academic researchers. With transformation of the regulatory space through the National Food Security Strategy, and the One Canadian Economy Act, there is time for innovation that will benefit Canadian food businesses. Through a series of practical case studies, we will explore how collaboration fosters innovation and consumer protection, and empowers small businesses.

2:35PM - 2:55PM

Afternoon Nutrition Break, Networking & Exhibits

2:55PM - 3:45PM

Food Equipment and Vending Technologies - Innovations and Foods Safety Impact

Christopher Rupert, Director of Quality Assurance & Supplier Risk, Compass Group North America

Foodservice equipment and vending machines have rapidly evolved in recent years, handling and automating increasingly complex processes. This presentation will explore how these developments may impact food safety and how such technologies can be successfully evaluated.

3:45PM - 3:55PM

Premier Sponsor Presentation: AIB

3:55PM - 4:45PM

Raising the Bar on Food Safety in Meal Kits

Sanja Ilic, Ohio State University

Over the last decade and a half, meal kits transitioned from a niche market to mainstream, raising unique food safety challenges. This talk will review domestic and industry food safety practices and assembly of safe recipes for Food is Medicine approaches in high-risk population.

4:45PM - 5:00PM

From Surplus to Service: Transforming Food Waste into Community Nourishment

Samantha Cooke and **Ian MacGillivray**, Daily Bread Food Bank

Exploring how safe surplus food can be redirected from waste streams to nourish communities and help address food insecurity.

5:00PM - 5:05PM

Closing Comments for Day 1

Tanya Waraich, OFPA Vice President

5:05PM - 7:00PM

Networking Mixer

EVENT SCHEDULE

DAY 2

Wednesday, September 30, 2026 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

Registration and Breakfast

8:30 AM - 8:40 AM

Day 2 Welcome Address**KJ Kunarajasingam**, OFPA President

8:40 AM - 9:25 AM

OFPA Annual General Meeting

- New Business & President's Address
- 2025 AGM Minutes Approval & OFPA Constitution
- OFPA 2026 & 2027 Board of Directors
- OFPA Financial Review

Moderator: Ellen Gravi, OFPA BOD

9:25 AM - 9:35 AM

Platinum Sponsor Presentation: LuminUltra

9:35 AM - 10:20 AM

Why Community Still Matters in Food Safety.**IAFP Executive Board Speaker Program Presents: Manan Sharma**, Research Microbiologist, USDA - IAFP President 2026-2027.

In an age of large language learning models and AI, how food safety knowledge is communicated and used is changing. The food safety community – made up of individuals from research, industry, and government sectors, all still have roles to play to improve these tools. The role of the human community is still essential in improving food safety to decrease the burden of foodborne illness.

10:20AM - 10:50AM

Nutrition Break, Networking & Exhibits

10:50AM - 11:50AM

Being a Food Safety Leader - Translating Food Safety to Business Impact**Moderator: John Boyce**, Cultivate SA**Lone Jespersen**, Cultivate SA**Frank Yiannas**, Smarter FY Solutions**Chris Rupert**, Director of Quality Assurance & Supplier Risk for Compass Group North America

Building a strong food safety culture requires more than process controls—it requires

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more than process controls—it requires leadership commitment, cross-functional collaboration, and employee engagement.

This discussion will explore how organizations can demonstrate the business value of food safety, strengthen partnerships with key risk leaders, and leverage workplace improvements to reduce risk.

Panelists will share practical strategies and their top advice for organizations looking to mature and sustain a proactive food safety culture.

11:50AM - 12:05PM

Premier Sponsor Presentation: Flexxray

12:05PM - 1:15PM

Lunch, Networking & Exhibits

1:15PM - 2:15PM

GFSI Panel Discussion

Moderator: **Gwynne Stisker**, Embassy Ingredients

Stephanie Sonneveld, SQF

Gary Wills, FSSC22000

Jessica Burke, BRCGS

This panel will discuss the latest updates in standards and will answer questions from the attendees.

2:15PM - 2:35PM

OFPA Awards Committee, OFPA Awards Presentation

2:35PM - 3:35PM

Keynote: Beyond Dollars: The Invaluable Currency of Food Safety and Consumer Trust

Frank Yiannas, Smarter FY Solutions

Food safety is often measured in dollars—costs of recalls, litigation, lost sales, and regulatory compliance. Yet the most valuable asset a food company possesses cannot be found on its balance sheet: consumer trust.

This presentation explores why trust is the true currency of the food system and how it is earned, protected, and, when lost, can be extraordinarily difficult to regain. Drawing on decades of leadership experience across government, retail, and the food industry, Frank Yiannas will challenge the audience to rethink many of their food safety approaches with a call to action to strengthen food safety prevention and maintain consumer trust.

3:35PM - 3:50PM

Raffle Draw

3:50PM - 4:00PM

Closing Comments for Day 2

KJ Kunarajasingam, OFPA President