

CAIDP-GDPP Hub 2026 Conference Program

Hosts: [Canadian Association of International Development Professionals \(CAIDP\)](#) and [Global Development Policy and Practice Hub \(GDPP Hub\)](#), School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS), uOttawa

Venue: GDPP Hub, Social Sciences Building, 120 University Private, University of Ottawa

Date and Time: Monday May 4th, 8:00 AM - 5:20 PM

Monday, May 4 th , 2026			
8:00 am – 9:00am	Registration and Coffee Mingle (Common Space)		
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Room FSS 4007 : Welcome and Opening Remarks:		
9:15 am – 9:20 am	Introduction of Keynote Speaker by CAIDP Sponsor		
9:20 am – 10:00 am	Remarks by Keynote Speaker Speaker: Ambassador Rosemary McCarney Rosemary has had a distinguished career related to foreign service as an Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and to the UN Conference on Disarmament She is an award-winning humanitarian and business leader, a recognized public speaker and author and an expert on international economic development. Prior to her Ambassadorial appointment, Rosemary successfully led Plan International Canada. Rosemary has actively led executive management teams with a clear and pragmatic approach to driving business results, creating stakeholder value and achieving sustainable growth and impact. An experienced senior executive and academic, she has developed strong business management and organizational leadership skills over 30+ years of global executive, legal and academic experience.		
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break		
Breakout Sessions Theme: Strategy & Policy: The New Canadian Direction			
	Breakout Session 1: Room FSS 4007	Breakout Session 2: Room FSS 4004	Breakout Session 3: Room FSS 4006
10:15 am –	Title: Trade & Development: What It	Title: Securing peace, operating in conflict-	Title: Pursuing biodiversity conservation

11:45 pm	<p><u>Means for Development Actors Today</u></p> <p>Moderator: John Karalis Project Director, Cowater International</p> <p>Panelists: Alan Bowman Director General, Global Affairs Canada, Southeast Asia and Oceania Bureau Patricia Fuller President and CEO, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) Wilson Pearce Senior Director: International Trade Strategy and Operations, Canadian Commercial Corporation Steve Tipman Executive Director, TFO Canada</p>	<p><u>affected areas and addressing humanitarian needs</u></p> <p>Moderator: Alan Quinn Director, International Programs and Partnerships, Humanity & Inclusion</p> <p>Panelists: Nilofar Kayhan, Lead Technical Advisor, Humanitarian and Resilience Programming, CARE Canada Yiagadeesen “Teddy” Samy Director, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs Dalia Al-Awqati Deputy Director, Humanitarian Affairs, Oxfam Canada Jon Unruh Professor of Geography, McGill University</p>	<p><u>and climate action through a gender-transformative approach</u></p> <p>Moderator: Chris Huggins Associate Professor, International Development and Global Studies, uOttawa</p> <p>Panelists: Eddy Pérez Founder, Pérez Strategic Partnerships Laura Parisi Associate Professor, Gender Studies University of Victoria and former President, CASID Marco Heredia Project Manager, Alinea Olivia Nasewicz Program Manager, Environmental Advisor, WUSC</p>
11:45 pm – 12:15 pm	Lunch		
12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	<p>Room FSS 4007 : Keynote Address: Speaker: Celina Ceasar-Chavannes</p> <p>Celina Caisar-Chavannes (she/her) is a globally respected leader and humanitarian who, for over 25 years, has been dedicated to helping individuals awaken their innate potential and live in alignment with their unique gifts. Her insights inspire individuals to achieve their highest potential, empower teams to thrive, and guide organizations toward sustainable, transformative change.</p>		
Practitioner Workshops			
1:15 pm – 1:45 pm	Networking	<p>Title: <u>AI-Powered Consulting</u></p> <p>Facilitator:</p>	<p>Title: <u>Strategic Planning & Governance</u></p> <p>Facilitator:</p>

		Jim Delaney Executive Director of the Global Development Policy and Practice Hub	Ryan Rowe International Development Consultant and Business Coach, Socieau Advisory
Breakout Sessions Theme: Finance & Delivery: Innovative Modalities			
	Breakout Session 4: Room FSS 4007	Breakout Session 5: Room FSS 4004	Breakout Session 6: Room FSS 4006
1:50 pm – 3:15 pm	<p>Title: <i>Innovative Finance for Development Outcomes</i></p> <p>Moderator: Lindsay Wallace Executive Director, FINCA Canada & Chair of the Board, CAFIID</p> <p>Panelists: Krishna Malhotra Associate Director Blended Finance Accelerator, Convergence Blended Finance Genevieve Brown Executive Director of the Innovative Finance program Pranay Samson Director, Innovative Finance, Plan International Nadia Guerch Head of Programs, Cowater International</p>	<p>Title: <i>New Partnership Models for a Changing Development Landscape.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Tanya Salewski Vice-President Program Delivery, ALINEA</p> <p>Panelists: Michael Wodzicki Co-founder and Partner, Nexus Cooperation Abbas Sumar Principal, Sumar + Associates Ltd Yvette Macabuag Head of Program Quality and Impact, Cuso International Hind Sourat Partnership officer, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</p>	<p>Title: <i>The Expanding Role of AI in Canada's International Development Sector</i></p> <p>Moderator: Bart Édes Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University</p> <p>Panelists: Thomas Hervé Mboa Nkoudou Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Communications, uOttawa Dr. Mandana Arabi Vice President, Research and Development and Chief Technical Advisor, Nutrition International Maggie Gorman Vélez Vice President, IDRC</p>
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Break		
Breakout Sessions Theme: Sector Sustainability & Career Shifts			
	Breakout Session 7: Room FSS 4007	Breakout Session 8: Room FSS 4004	Breakout Session 9: Room FSS 4006
3:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<p>Title: <i>How Canadian Development Actors Can Diversify Funding Sources</i></p>	<p>Title: <i>Sharpening the skills needed to prosper in the new era of overseas development assistance.</i></p>	<p>Title: <i>The Role of Philanthropy in Sustaining Development Practice</i></p>

	<p>Moderator: David Comerford Vice-President of Global Programmes at Canadian Leaders in International Consulting (CLIC)</p> <p>Panelists: Nicolas Rougy Executive Director, LEADEUR Consulting, Brussels Belgium</p> <p>Natasha Mooney is the Unit Head, External Relations of the North American Representative Office Strategy, Policy, and Partnerships Department ADB.</p> <p>Isa Topbas is a former senior advisor to Canada's Minister of International Development</p>	<p>Moderator: Michelle Brown Ochaita, Environment and Peacebuilding Evaluation Intern, Universalia</p> <p>Panelists: Jim Delaney, Executive Director of the Global Development Policy and Practice Hub, UOttawa</p> <p>Sarah Schattmann Program Director, Alinea International</p> <p>Evelyne Guindon, Senior Advisor for Leadership Search for the Social Impact Sector, Oxford HR.</p>	<p>Moderator: Victoria Campbell, Project Director, Cowater International</p> <p>Panelists: Joanne Kviring, Managing Director, Charities Aid Foundation Canada</p> <p>Marina Nuri, Director of Strategy and Programs – WES Fund</p> <p>Mohini Bhavsar, Director of Government Relations and Multilateral Partnerships</p>
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Room FSS 4007: Conference summary and recap		
5:00 pm – 5:10 pm	Closing Remarks and Thanks		

POST CONFERENCE DISCUSSION WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS and RECEPTION

Host: CAIDP in partnership with the Parliamentary Centre

Venue: Valour Building, 151 Sparks Street, Ottawa,

Date and Time: Monday May 4, 2026, 6-8 PM ET

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Arrival
6:00 pm – 6:05 pm	Call to attention, Welcome, Housekeeping, Hand-Over of agenda to moderator
6:05 pm – 7:00 pm	<i>Title: Canada's Official Development Assistance in a Changing World: Perspectives from Parliament</i>
7:00 pm	Reception

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