2026 CAFE Convention Schedule

November 10–13, 2026
Halifax Marriott Harbourfront
1919 Upper Water Street, Halifax, NS B3J 3J5

All times are local to Halifax. Concurrent sessions are listed separately. Descriptions and times follow the supplied schedule export.

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Time	Session and details	Location
8:00 AM– 12:00 PM	**C.A.F.E. Board Meeting** Meeting of the C.A.F.E. Board of Directors.	Acadia A
1:00 PM– 7:00 PM	**Convention Registration & Information Desk** Check in, collect your delegate bag, and pick up event information.	Coat Check

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Time	Session and details	Location
7:00 AM– 9:00 PM	**Convention Registration & Information Desk** Check in, collect your delegate bag, and pick up event information.	Coat Check
7:30 AM– 9:00 AM	**Breakfast in Plenary** Breakfast served in the plenary room.	Nova Scotia BCD
9:00 AM– 10:00 AM	**Opening Keynote - Dr. Sylvain Charlebois** Canada's Food and Agriculture Outlook: Trends Shaping Fairs, Communities and Consumers.	Nova Scotia BCD
10:00 AM– 6:00 PM	**Off-Site Tour** Full-day off-site tour departing from the hotel. Final itinerary to be confirmed.	Off-Site
6:30 PM onward	**Silent Auction** Silent Auction is open at intervals throughout the Convention. Stop in to place your bid! Silent Auction will be closed to bids on Friday at 12:00 pm!	Atlantic Suite
7:00 PM– 10:00 PM	**Dinner & Showcases** Dinner served in the plenary room with live showcase performances.	Nova Scotia BCD
10:00 PM– 11:59 PM	**Hospitality Suite** Informal networking and refreshments.	Hospitality Suite

Thursday, November 12, 2026

Time	Session and details	Location
7:30 AM– 8:30 AM	**Breakfast in Plenary** Breakfast served in the plenary room.	Nova Scotia BCD
8:00 AM– 7:00 PM	**Convention Registration & Information Desk** Check in and pick up event information.	Coat Check
8:00 AM– 8:00 PM	**Quiet Room**	Oxford Room
8:30 AM– 9:50 AM	**Keynote in Plenary - Youth Voices in Agriculture** Youth Voices in Agriculture: A 4-H Leadership Showcase. Presented by 4-H student presenters.	Nova Scotia BCD
9:50 AM– 10:20 AM	**Coffee Break** Refreshment break.	Nova Scotia BCD
10:00 AM– 4:30 PM	**Tradeshow** Tradeshow booths open in the hall.	Nova Scotia Foyer
10:20 AM– 11:30 AM	**From Community Tradition to Tourism Infrastructure: Positioning Fairs as Destination Drivers** Topic: Fairs as tourism infrastructure.	Halifax A
10:20 AM– 11:30 AM	**Strengthening Governance in Volunteer-Led Fairs and Exhibitions** Topic: Governance in volunteer-based fairs.	Halifax B
10:20 AM– 11:30 AM	**Turning Economic Impact Data into Policy, Funding and Advocacy** Topic: Economic data for the fairs industry to influence policy and funding. Also featuring a representative from the winning economic impact study firm (TBD).	Halifax C
11:30 AM– 1:00 PM	**Lunch & Showcases** Lunch served in the plenary room with live showcase performances. Quiet room open.	Nova Scotia BCD
1:00 PM– 2:00 PM	**Beyond Fair Week: Maximizing Year-Round Fairground Use and Community Value** Topic: 365-day fairground utilization and community relevance.	Halifax A
1:00 PM– 2:00 PM	**The Future of Fairs: Using Technology to Enhance Operations and Guest Experience** Topic: Technology adoption across fairs services / fairs of the future.	Halifax B

Time	Session and details	Location
1:00 PM– 2:00 PM	**Beyond the Gates: Growing Your Fair Through Tourism Partnerships** Topic: Tourism partnerships.	Halifax C
2:00 PM– 2:30 PM	**Coffee Break** Refreshment break. Quiet room available.	Nova Scotia BCD
2:30 PM– 3:30 PM	**Growing the Next Generation: Youth Leadership and Engagement Through Fairs** Topic: How youth benefits from fair involvement - boards and other programs.	Halifax A
2:30 PM– 3:30 PM	**Building Sustainable Revenue: Fundraising, Partnerships and Proven Ideas** Topic: Fundraising ideas - avenues, success stories, partnerships. Speaker: TBD.	Halifax B
2:30 PM– 3:30 PM	**Live Entertainment at Your Fair: Strategy, Programming and Return on Investment** Topic: Live entertainment - the how's and why's at your fair or exhibition.	Halifax C
3:30 PM– 4:00 PM	**Coffee Break** Refreshment break. Quiet room available.	Nova Scotia BCD
4:00 PM– 5:00 PM	**Reimagining Agricultural Identity: Agritourism, Local Food and New Audience Connections** Topic: Repositioning agricultural identity / food & wine / agritourism.	Halifax A
4:00 PM– 5:00 PM	**Beyond Admission: Curating Memorable Guest Experiences** Topic: Curating guest experiences - behind the scenes tours, etc.	Halifax B
4:00 PM– 5:00 PM	**Building the Fair Workforce: Recruitment, Retention and Skills** Topic: Recruiting staff for fairs and vendors.	Halifax C
5:15 PM– 6:15 AM	**Service Member Meeting**	Oxford Room
6:30 PM– 10:00 PM	**National Awards Dinner with Live Auction & 50/50** National Awards Dinner featuring the silent auction, live auction, 50/50 draw and live showcase performances. Cocktails from 6:00 PM.	Nova Scotia BCD
10:00 PM– 11:59 PM	**Hospitality Suite** Informal networking and refreshments.	Hospitality Suite

Friday, November 13, 2026

Time	Session and details	Location
7:30 AM– 8:30 AM	**AGM Sign In** Sign in for the Annual General Meeting and collect voting cards.	Nova Scotia Foyer
7:30 AM– 8:30 AM	**Breakfast in Plenary** Breakfast served in the plenary room.	Nova Scotia BCD
7:30 AM– 2:00 PM	**Convention Registration & Information Desk** Check in and pick up event information.	Registration Desk
8:00 AM– 4:00 PM	**Quiet Room**	Oxford Room
8:30 AM– 9:30 AM	**C.A.F.E. Annual General Meeting** C.A.F.E. Annual General Meeting.	Nova Scotia BCD
9:30 AM– 10:00 AM	**C.A.F.E. Board Meeting** Meeting of the C.A.F.E. Board of Directors.	Nova Scotia BCD
10:00 AM– 10:30 AM	**Coffee Break** Refreshment break. Quiet room available.	Nova Scotia BCD
10:30 AM– 11:30 AM	**Event Marketing in 2026: Trends, Tools and Audience Growth** Topic: Event marketing trends.	Halifax A
10:30 AM– 11:30 AM	**CAFE Leadership Forum: Open Q&A** Topic: Open Q&A with CAFE leadership.	Halifax B
10:30 AM– 11:30 AM	**Beyond Government Funding: Building Corporate Sponsorships That Drive Revenue and Impact** Topic: Sponsorships.	Halifax C
11:30 AM– 12:30 PM	**Leading Across Generations: Mentorship, Technology and Team Success** Topic: Managing intergenerational teams - mentorship, tech support.	Halifax A
11:30 AM– 12:30 PM	**Navigating the Regulatory Landscape: Compliance, Accessibility, Safety and Vendor Operations** Topic: Regulatory environments for vendors - food/health, safety, accessibility, waste. Speaker: TBD.	Halifax B

Time	Session and details	Location
11:30 AM– 12:30 PM	**Peer Exchange Roundtables: Challenges, Solutions and Shared Learning** Topic: Round tables. Facilitators: TBD.	Halifax C
12:30 PM– 2:00 PM	**Lunch & Showcases** Lunch served in the plenary room with live showcase performances.	Nova Scotia BCD
1:00 PM– 2:00 PM	**Fair Managers Meeting: An Open Peer Discussion for Fair Managers and Staff.** Fairs across Canada hold monthly meetings to support the planning and execution of fairs. Grab your lunch and join us for an open discussion on a variety of topics. This meeting is for Fair Management only. If you would like to join future meetings online, please email mquan@exploredmonton.com with your name, company, title, and email address.	Oxford Room
2:00 PM– 3:00 PM	**Ready for the Unexpected: Emergency Response, Climate Resilience and Business Continuity** Topic: Emergency response - wildfires, climate adaptation, floods. Also featuring an ESA Canada representative (TBD).	Halifax A
2:00 PM– 3:00 PM	**Tradition, Relevance and the Modern Fair** Topic: Success story from a fair with a unique offering.	Halifax B
2:00 PM– 3:00 PM	**Peer Exchange Roundtables: Challenges, Solutions and Shared Learning** Topic: Round tables. Facilitators: TBD.	Halifax C
3:00 PM– 3:30 PM	**Coffee Break** Refreshment break.	Nova Scotia BCD
3:30 PM– 4:30 PM	**Closing Keynote "The Journey" - Morgan Toney** “The Journey” keynote will be focused on the unexpected musical journey of Morgan Toney. After picking up the Fiddle 7 years ago, Morgan has travelled the World with his music, and he has won awards including a 2026 Juno Award. His accolades have inspired the Youth in his community to follow their dreams. Experience the musical journey of a Mi’kmaq Youth, as he revisits every step of his musical path.	Nova Scotia BCD

Time	Session and details	Location
4:30 PM– 5:00 PM	**Convention Closes** Formal close of the 2026 convention.	Nova Scotia BCD