

# INNOVATE RURAL 2026

## PROGRAM



**May 25th to May 26th, 2026**  
**Southeast College**  
**532 Bourquin Road**  
**Estevan, Saskatchewan**



2:30 PM

6:30 | 9:00 PM

8:00 AM

8:45 | 9:05 AM

9:05 | 9:20 AM

9:20 | 9:35 AM

9:35 | 10:20 AM

10:20 | 11:00 AM

11:00 | 11:15 AM

11:15 AM | 12:15 PM

12:15 | 1:15 PM

1:15 | 2:15 PM

## SUNDAY MAY 24, 2026

### BUS FROM REGINA AIRPORT TO ESTEVAN

Get tickets: [www.innovaterural.ca/bus/](http://www.innovaterural.ca/bus/)

### DELEGATE SOCIAL (SOUTHEAST TECHHUB OFFICE)

## MONDAY MAY 25, 2026

### REGISTRATION OPENS

### MORNING WELCOME AND PRAYER

### PROVINCIAL WELCOME

**Minister Lori Carr**, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health and MLA for Estevan-Big Muddy

### FEDERAL WELCOME

**Alastair MacFadden**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Region, Prairies Economic Development Canada

### RURAL INNOVATION

#### *WHY WE ARE HERE*

**Gordon More**, Executive Director, Southeast Techhub

### PLENARY PRESENTATION

#### *COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATIONS IN A CHANGING WORLD*

**Rachel Samson**, Vice-President of Research, Institute for Research on Public Policy

### BREAK AND NETWORKING

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS A

The Grid Room

***Misinformation, Polarization, and Anti-Social Media***

The Table Room

***Fixing Canada's Broken AgTech Innovation System***

The Workshop Room

***Beading and Tech***

### LUNCH AND AFTERNOON ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS B

The Grid Room

***Supporting Communities and Workers Through Change***

The Table Room

***Cultural Asset Mapping***

The Workshop Room

***From Wood Stoves to WIFI***

The Frontier Hall

***Rural Innovation from Oil to Wind***

2:15 | 2:30 PM

2:30 | 3:30 PM

6:00 | 6:30 PM

6:30 | 7:30 PM

7:30 | 8:30 PM

8:30 | 10:00 PM

8:00 AM

8:50 | 9:00 AM

9:00 | 9:30 AM

9:30 | 9:45 AM

9:45 | 10:45 AM

10:45 | 11:00 AM

11:00 AM | 12:00 PM

## BREAK AND NETWORKING

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS C

The Grid Room  
***From Trails to Data Infrastructure***

The Table Room  
***Social Enterprise as a Vehicle for Rural Innovation***

The Workshop Room  
***Beyond the Craftmanship: Online Ordering and AI marketing in an Artisan Bakery***

The Frontier Hall  
***Investing in Resilience: Community Wellbeing as Economic Infrastructure***

### COCKTAIL RECEPTION

### DINNER

### PRESENTATION

**Zita Cobb**, Founder and CEO, Shorefast

### AN EVENING OF MUSIC BY ELIZA DOYLE

## TUESDAY MAY 26, 2026

### REGISTRATION OPENS

### MORNING WELCOME

The Frontier Hall  
**RURAL CANADA & FIRST NATIONS  
THE BACKBONE OF CANADA'S ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY**  
**Theo Argitis**, Senior Vice-President, Business Council of Canada

## BREAK AND NETWORKING

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS D

The Grid Room  
***Building a Rural Tech Hub***

The Table Room  
***Drayton Valley's TAB Program***

The Workshop Room  
***Remote Art and Marketing***

## BREAK AND NETWORKING

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS E

The Grid Room  
***Understanding Barriers and Opportunities in Trade Diversification***

**12:00 | 1:00 PM**

**1:00 | 2:00 PM**

**2:00 | 2:15 PM**

**2:15 | 3:15 PM**

**3:15 | 3:45 PM**

**3:45 | 5:00 PM**

**5:00 PM**

The Table Room  
***From Classroom to Community: Real-World Innovation in Rural Saskatchewan***

The Workshop Room  
***AI-Powered Grain Grading***

### **LUNCH AND AFTERNOON ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Frontier Hall  
***HOW RURAL AND INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES REACH DECISION-MAKERS***

**Fireside chat Dr. Merelda Fiddler-Potter**, Assistant Professor, First Nations University of Canada  
**Les Perreaux**, Editor-in-Chief, *Policy Options*

### **BREAK AND NETWORKING**

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS F**

The Grid Room  
***Lights, Camera, Saskatchewan!***

The Table Room  
***From Data to Development: Mapping Rural Opportunity***

The Workshop Room  
***The Rural Art Studio as an Innovation Lab***

The Frontier Hall  
**CLOSING REMARKS**

### ***WHAT'S NEXT?***

**Gordon More**, Executive Director, Southeast Techhub

### **NETWORKING**

### **BUS FROM ESTEVAN TO REGINA AIRPORT**

Buy tickets: [www.innovaterural.ca/bus/](http://www.innovaterural.ca/bus/)