

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/

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/