17th Canadian EdTech AI Leadership Summit Confronts the Defining Education Challenges of Our Time

National and global leaders will explore AI, screen time, student wellbeing and EdTech efficacy, October 28–29 at the University of Toronto Mississauga

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MISSISSAUGA, ON — September 23, 2026 — As educators, families and policymakers grapple with growing concerns about artificial intelligence, screen time, student wellbeing and the effectiveness of educational technology, the **17th Canadian EdTech AI Leadership Summit** will convene leading experts to help chart a responsible, human-centred path forward.

Presented by MindShare Learning Media, the Summit takes place **October 28–29, 2026, at the University of Toronto Mississauga** under the timely theme:

"Leading with AI for Good: Advancing Human Flourishing."

"This year's Summit is especially important," said **Robert Martellacci, Founder and Summit Chair**. "*Education is experiencing a pivotal moment. The public is asking difficult but necessary questions about screen time, AI, wellbeing and whether technology is genuinely improving learning. We are bringing together the people, research and real-world evidence needed to move beyond the hype and ensure that innovation serves students, educators and society.*"

Distinguished speakers and national leaders

The Summit will feature an opening keynote by **the Honourable Evan Solomon, Canada's Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation**, who is leading the country's emerging AI and digital innovation agenda.

Featured experts include:

- **Dr. Michael Fullan**, internationally recognized authority on education transformation
- **Dr. Gina Cherkowski**, learning scientist and expert in STEM, mental health, belonging and wellbeing
- **Dr. Lev Gonick**, Enterprise Chief Information Officer, Arizona State University

- **Dr. Tom D'Amico**, former Director of Education, Ottawa Catholic School Board, and nationally recognized AI and education leader
- **Dr. Chris Kennedy**, Superintendent and CEO, West Vancouver Schools, and Chair, C21 Canada
- **Katina Papulkas**, Senior Education Strategist, Dell Technologies
- **Dr. Steve Joordens**, Professor of Psychology, University of Toronto Scarborough
- Education, government, research and EdTech leaders from across Canada and internationally

A special fireside conversation, **"Charting the Course on AI and Humanity,"** will explore how education systems can embrace innovation without losing sight of human connection, creativity, agency and purpose.

Expanded pre-conference program

For the first time, the Summit experience will include an expanded series of pre-conference activities designed to address the pressures facing both education and the EdTech sector.

The Wellbeing and Human Flourishing Symposium, led by Dr. Gina Cherkowski, will examine the relationship between technology, mental health, belonging and learner wellbeing. The symposium will help participants move beyond the polarized "technology versus no technology" debate and focus instead on intentional, evidence-informed use.

The **EdTech Industry Institute**, sponsored by **EdTech Canada**, will bring together company leaders, entrepreneurs and ecosystem partners to address the challenges facing the Canadian EdTech sector—from procurement and investment to market access, efficacy and responsible AI adoption.

Wilfrid Laurier University will also host a follow-up **AIME Research and Policy Think Tank**, advancing collaboration among education leaders, researchers and policymakers around the future of AI in education.

From AI theory to evidence and action

The Summit's **Cross-Canada Check-Up Panel**, presented with **C21 Canada and Dell Technologies**, will showcase practical AI use cases from K–12 and post-secondary education. The initiative represents an emerging national public-private collaboration focused on learning directly from responsible AI implementation.

Delegates will also experience:

- The C21 Canada National AI Collective briefing
- International and cross-sector leadership panels
- The 11th Dragon's Den EdTech Startup Challenge
- Interactive STEM, AI and esports discovery experiences
- Campus innovation and design-thinking tours
- The 11th Canadian EdTech Awards

- MindShare Learning Media's 25th Anniversary Gala
- High-value networking with education decision-makers, researchers, policymakers and industry leaders

The Summit is designed for senior K–12 and post-secondary leaders, educators, policymakers, researchers, EdTech executives, entrepreneurs, investors, students and community partners committed to shaping a more equitable and human-centred future for learning.

"*AI is changing the skills students need, the way they learn, and the opportunities available to them. Universities have an important role to play in helping students not only understand and use emerging technologies, but also develop the confidence and entrepreneurial mindset to create with them. This Summit brings together educators, researchers, entrepreneurs and industry leaders to explore how we can embrace AI while keeping creativity, inclusion, human connection and student wellbeing at the centre of innovation*," said **Summit Co-chair**, **Ignacio Mongrell, Assistant Director, ICUBE UTM** - Entrepreneurship in Action, University of Toronto - Mississauga.

Limited opportunities remain

With interest building across Canada and internationally, a limited number of delegate registrations, sponsorships, exhibitor opportunities and strategic partnerships remain available.

Register and explore the developing program:
https://summit.canamedtechalliance.com/

About the Canadian EdTech AI Leadership Summit

Founded by MindShare Learning Media, the Canadian EdTech AI Leadership Summit is a national gathering of education, technology, government, research and industry leaders. Now in its 17th year, the Summit connects ideas, evidence and partnerships to advance innovation and student success across Canada's K–20 education ecosystem.

Media and partnership inquiries

Robert Martellacci, M.A. EdTech
Founder and Summit Chair
President and Founder, MindShare Learning Media
Co-Founder and CEO, C21 Canada, robert@mindsharelearning.com

M: 416-569-2106

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