

**GROCERY & SPECIALTY FOOD WEST 2026 – CONFERENCE OVERVIEW**  
**APRIL 21-22, 2026 | Vancouver Convention Centre EAST Bldg. (999 Canada Place)**

**MONDAY, APRIL 20**

**8:30AM - 12:00PM** INDUSTRY TOUR **CFIG Retailers Only** (*Preregistration required*)  
*To register, must have GSF ticket and be a CFIG retailer member. Contact [cfig@microspec.com](mailto:cfig@microspec.com)*

**12:15PM – 3:15PM** CATEGORY CONNECT Business Meetings – Spots Limited!  
Ballrooms B, C – Vancouver Convention Centre East Bldg.  
**Retailers and Suppliers Register:** [Marketing@cfig.ca](mailto:Marketing@cfig.ca)

**5:00PM – 7:00PM** OPENING RECEPTION – All Welcome  
Ballrooms B,C - Vancouver Convention Centre East Bldg.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21**

**\*MORNING CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP SESSIONS** (*\*Pre-registration required*)  
**VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE EAST BUILDING**  
**MAIN STAGE – BALLROOMS B, C**

**8:15AM – 8:45AM** BREAKFAST

**8:45AM – 9:15AM** CFIG President & CEO Ron Welke – Welcome & Remarks & Highlights of Openings, Store Tour

**9:15AM – 9:55AM** Carman Allison, NielsenIQ will give an industry update on the everchanging retail and consumer environment in Western Canada.

**10:00AM – 10:45AM** IGD Stewart Samuel – Retail Innovations in Tech and HMR Impacting Grocery

**10:55AM – 11:00AM** RIBBON CUTTING - Trade Show Entrance - Halls A, B, C

**11:00AM – 4:30PM TRADE SHOW EXHIBITION - VCC EAST - HALLS A, B, C**

**TUESDAY INSIGHTS & INNOVATIONS TRADE FLOOR STAGE SESSIONS**

**Sponsor: Federated Insurance**

**12:00PM – 12:30PM** Progressive Grocer Emily Crowe presents latest consumer insights

**NETWORKING EVENTS**

**4:15PM – 5:00PM** INSIGHTS & INNOVATIONS STAGE – All Welcome  
MIX AND MINGLE Networking Reception

**4:15pm Presentations:** Top 10 in Grocery Winners and Best Booth Winners

**6:00PM – 9:00PM** **\*TUESDAY EVENING EVENT** (*\*Preregistration required*)  
VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE **WEST BUILDING** - Summit Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (1055 Canada Pl., Vancouver, BC)

**6:00PM** RECEPTION

**6:30PM** DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT  
Life Member Awards: Doug Lovsin (Freson Bros) & Jamie Nelson (Pattison Food Group); Brooke & Linda Kynoch (Scotch Creek Market)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

**\*MORNING CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP SESSIONS (\*Pre-registration required)**  
**VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE EAST BUILDING**  
**MAIN STAGE – BALLROOMS B, C**

<b>7:30AM – 8:00AM</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
<b>8:00AM – 8:05AM</b>	CFIG Chair Brian Bradley – Welcome & Remarks
<b>8:05AM – 8:50AM</b>	<b>Grocers at Your Service: Customer Experience in Grocery Panel</b>
<b>8:55AM – 9:35AM</b>	<b>AI and the Future of Retail Innovation</b> Dan Chuparkoff - Technology Executive, AI Expert, former technology leader at Google, McKinsey and more breaks down the mystery shrouding AI. He reinvents the way teams think about Artificial Intelligence. He invites teams to unlock their curiosity and optimism to get excited about AI's potential. Dan shows teams how to make sense of AI, how to harness the Power of Technology, and how to combine that with the Power of Human Expertise to thrive in the exponential future ahead.
<b>9:35AM – 9:45AM</b>	<b>NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK</b> Sponsor: Kraft Heinz

**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS 9:45AM – 10:50AM**  
**VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE EAST BUILDING**  
**Exhibit Hall A (Main Stage) & Ballroom C**

**9:45AM – 10:15AM CHOOSE ONE**

MAIN STAGE- Exhibit Hall A

**Spotlight on Retailers:** TBC Moderator Ron Welke

BALLROOM C

**Retail marketing guru Patrick Rodmell on Changing Store Design**

**10:20AM – 10:50AM CHOOSE ONE**

MAIN STAGE- Exhibit Hall A

**HR / Workforce Specialist Eric Teremuende**

BALLROOM C

**IDDBA President David Haff presents bakery, dairy, deli opportunities**

**11:00AM – 4:00PM TRADE SHOW EXHIBITION - VCC EAST - HALLS A, B, C**

**WEDNESDAY INSIGHTS & INNOVATIONS TRADE FLOOR STAGE SESSIONS**  
**Sponsor: Federated Insurance**

**12:00PM – 12:30PM**

Eric Termuende, Workforce Development

**1:00PM – 1:30PM**

IGD Stewart Samuel