

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
- 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
- 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 3rd 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

7:30AM – 8:00AM BREAKFAST

8:00AM – 8:05AM CFGI Chair Brian Bradley – Welcome & Remarks

8:05AM – 8:50AM Grocers at Your Service: Customer Experience in Grocery Panel

8:55AM – 9:35AM AI and the Future of Retail Innovation
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.

9:35AM – 9:45AM NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK 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