

In partnership with Food Banks Canada

November 3-5, 2026

The Westin Harbour Castle Hotel

Toronto, Canada

Conference Agenda

All agenda content and timing are subject to change.

The GFN Global Summit 2026 brings together more than 400 thought leaders, experts and practitioners from across the global food system in Toronto, Canada, from November 3-5, 2026. Through lively discussions and experiential field visits, the Summit provides a platform to foster connections, spark ideas and inspire action to address food security, reduce waste and strengthen communities.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

6:00 – 7:30 PM | Food Banker Welcome Reception

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

7:30 AM – 7:30 PM | Registration Open

8:00 – 9:00 AM | Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 AM | Opening Plenary

- Food Banking: Perspectives and Priorities for a New Era
- Strength & Resilience: How Food Banks Are Responding to Multiple Challenges
- Evolving & Adapting: The Rise of Localized Models Powering Food Bank Growth

10:30 – 11:00 AM | Networking Break

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM | Concurrent Breakouts

- Innovation & Growth: Scaling Through Connection
- Partnering with Business for More Product and Resources
- Challenging Times: Sustaining Food Banking in Adverse Conditions
- Successful Disaster Response Programs: Lessons from the Field

12:15 – 1:30 PM | Lunch Break

1:30 – 2:45 PM | Concurrent Breakouts

- Product Sourcing: Creating Lasting Partnerships to Distribute More Food
- How Better Policy Can Boost Agricultural Recovery and Reduce Food Loss and Waste
- Food Sovereignty: Connecting Food, History and Culture (presented by Food Banks Canada)
- Communications as a Lever for Change

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2:45 – 3:15 PM | Networking Break

3:15 – 4:45 PM | GFN Food Bank Network Town Hall: Creating a Shared Vision for the Future

Closed session for GFN member food banks only.

5:30 – 7:30 PM | GFN Global Summit 2026 Opening Reception

Open to all Summit participants.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM | Registration Open

7:45 – 8:45 AM | Breakfast

8:45 – 10:45 AM | Plenary

- Land Acknowledgement, Cultural Ceremony & Host Country Welcome
- Why We Are Here: Transforming our Food System for a Brighter Future
- Global Challenges and the Impact on Food

10:45 – 11:15 AM | Networking Break

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM | Concurrent Breakouts

- Food Loss and Waste: Seizing the Momentum
- Agricultural Recovery: Partnering for Scale
- Creating Circular Food Systems: How Food Banks and Business Can Prevent Waste
- Beyond Silos: How Multisector Partnerships Strengthen Disaster Response
- The Great Opportunity: Leveraging Technology for Food Security

12:30 – 1:30 PM | Lunch

1:30 – 2:45 PM | Concurrent Breakouts

- Mobilizing Resources: Fundraising Trends and Strategies
- Getting the Numbers Right: Data Collection and Analysis
- Better Nutrition, Stronger Communities
- Carbon Markets: Can Climate Finance Deliver for Food Systems?
- Supply Chains: Cold Storage and Last Mile Delivery
- The Urban Dilemma: Food Waste and Redistribution in Cities & Markets

2:45 – 3:15 PM | Networking Break

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3:15 – 5:00 PM | Plenary

- Policy Tools to Unlock Action on Food Loss and Waste
- Keynote Address
- GFN Global Summit Trivia!

5:00 PM | Evening Open

- Self-guided activities: dinner, tours or outings.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

6:00 – 7:45 AM | Breakfast

Earlier breakfast option for off-site field visit participants.

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM | Registration Open

6:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Field Visits

Off-site tours of food banks and distribution sites in and around Toronto.

- Food Bank Tours: Daily Bread and North York Harvest
- Tour of Walmart Distribution Center

8:30 – 10:00 AM | Breakfast

Buffet breakfast for guests staying on property and not attending field visits.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Knowledge Sharing Sessions

12:00 – 1:00 PM | Networking Lunch

1:00 – 3:25 PM | Plenary

- Visioning the Future of Food Banking: A Global Perspective
- GFN's Excellence and Innovation in Food Banking Awards
- The Path Forward
- Closing Ceremony

5:30 – 9:00 PM | Closing Dinner: Celebrating 20 Years of GFN

- 5:30 – 6:30 PM Reception
- 6:30 – 9:00 PM Anniversary Dinner

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Morning | Additional Field Visits Around Toronto

- Daily Bread Food Bank
- The Food Bank of Waterloo Region and Agricultural Partner

Participant Departure | Conclusion Of Summit

Additional Field Visits will be offered beyond Toronto, outside of the official Summit agenda the following week. Check your email for more details.

QUESTIONS?

Contact events@foodbanking.org.