

PAW 2026

People Around the World International Congress

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

**October 20-22, 2026
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

The Congress theme of *"Critical connections: The path to responsible minerals, sustainable energy and thriving communities"* will bring together thought leaders of government, academia, industry, civil society, Indigenous groups, innovators and community organizations. The Congress will inform, educate and support an environment of interactive dialogue and discussion to stimulate further partnership and collaboration and will include fireside chats, student and postdoctoral fellow poster presentations, and a mix of keynote and panel presentations centered on critical global and national themes, including responsible minerals, sustainable energy, energy security, and community-driven engagement.

Hosted by the University of Saskatchewan (USask) International Office and the Office of the Vice-President Research, the People Around the World Congress is an important initiative of the university's internationalisation strategy.

<https://internationaloffice.usask.ca/paw/paw-2026.php>



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Welcome to PAW 2026

Greetings from the Office of the Vice-President of Research

Welcome to USask's People Around the World (PAW) International Congress!

At a time of great geopolitical change, universities are needed now more than ever to provide spaces where people can gather, learn and debate the questions that matter most to us as a society.

USask's PAW Congress does just that. It allows us to bring together researchers, scholars, government representatives, industry partners, and community members to discuss some of the most pressing challenges of our times.

During past PAW Congresses, we've examined issues from every angle. We've tackled issues such as water security, food security, health care and AI. I have found that it is only when we approach these conversations with curiosity and a willingness to listen that we can learn from one another and discover possibilities that can help us all.

The theme of the PAW 2026 Congress is "Critical connections: The path to responsible minerals, sustainable energy, and thriving communities." At USask, we have a rich history in these areas. Through our unique research infrastructure and global partnerships, we are advancing

the discoveries and innovations required to support a sustainable future, here at home and around the world.

This year, I'm excited to learn from experts in areas of critical minerals, emerging technologies, national security, energy transition, and more.

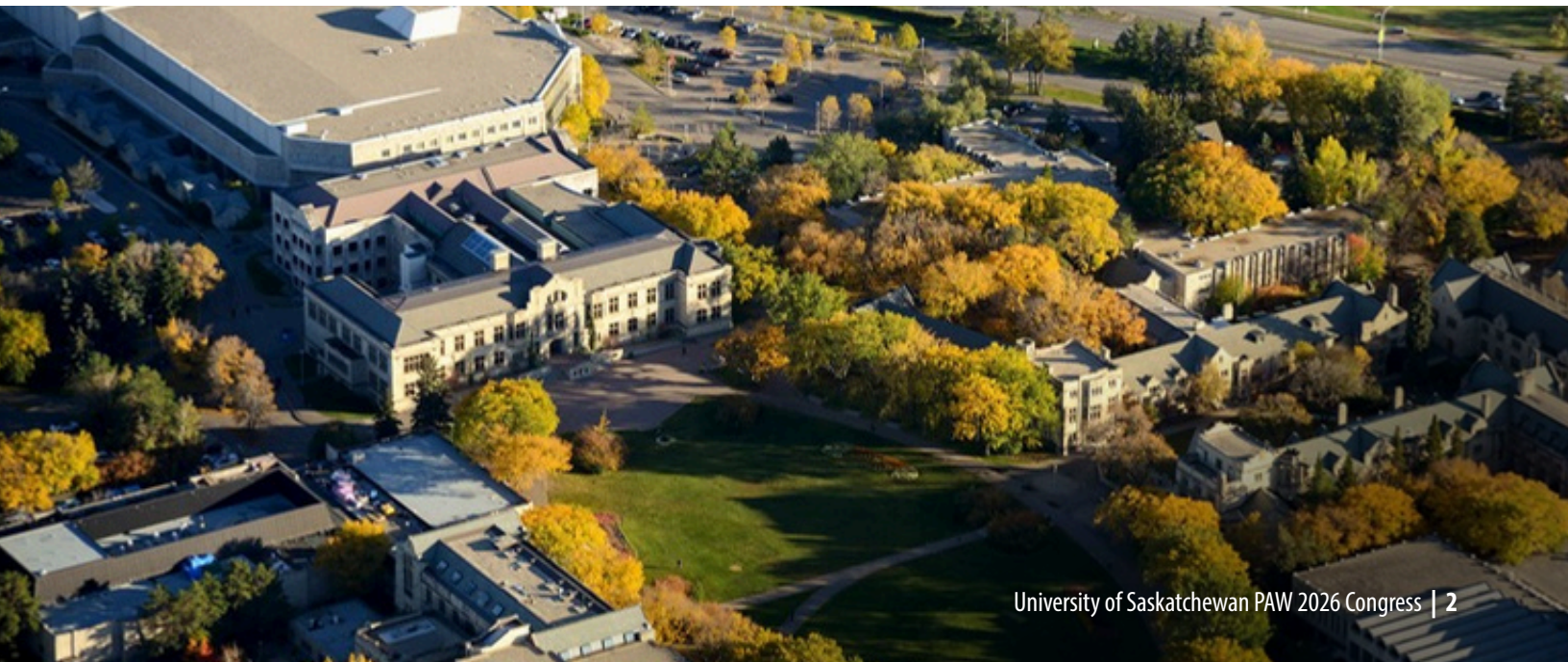
It truly takes a village to plan an event of this scope and size. I would sincerely like to thank the PAW's executive committee and the scientific committee. This group has been essential in planning this world-class Congress. I appreciate all their hard work leading up to this week.

For those visiting Saskatoon for the first time, I welcome you to our beautiful city! I hope you enjoy your visit and participate in the campus tours and program offerings.

And to all those participating in the week's events, I encourage you to listen, learn and be inspired.



Dr. Baljit Singh
Vice-President Research,
University of Saskatchewan



Welcome to PAW 2026

Greetings from the PAW 2026 Congress Co-Chairs

On behalf of the scientific committee, we welcome you to this year's People Around the World Congress!

This year's theme resonates greatly with the issues we're dealing with today, both locally and globally.

As global demand for critical materials and sustainable energy increases, USask is leading the way in research and development.

Locally, USask is a crucial hub in Saskatchewan where we can prepare local, up-and-coming scholars to tackle the energy questions of tomorrow.

This Congress is designed to ensure no stone is left unturned when discussing the path to a responsible energy future. It's a week that truly has something for everyone. Whether you're a scholar, industry leader, member of the community or government – this Congress is built to bring voices together from all areas of our lives.

This week is packed with events, from thought-provoking keynote speakers to informative sessions. We have student and postdoctoral fellow poster competitions to check out and will once again host a Congress reception. The breadth and depth of knowledge represented at this

Congress is outstanding. Some of the world's foremost thinkers in these areas will be on our campus to discuss their research, and we're honoured to have them.

We encourage PAW participants to stay up to date with the Congress happenings by downloading the Congress app and checking out our website regularly for updates.

It's been an honour to chair this Congress together, and we do hope that you enjoy your time at PAW 2026!



Dr. Michael Bradley
Dean, College of Engineering
Professor of Physics and
Engineering Physics



Dr. Solina Richter
Dean, College of Nursing
Professor of Nursing



PAW 2026 Co-Chairs

Meet the Congress Co-Chairs



Dr. Michael Bradley
Dean, College of Engineering
Professor of Physics and
Engineering Physics

Dr. Michael Bradley earned an Honours BSc in Applied Physics from the University of New Brunswick and a PhD in Physics from MIT, with a thesis entitled “A sub-ppb measurement of the mass of ^{133}Cs for a new determination of the fine-structure constant.” Following his PhD he spent three years working in the R&D labs of Axcelis Technologies (formerly the Eaton Semiconductor Equipment Corp.) developing new plasma ion implantation systems for silicon chip processing. In 2003 he joined the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics at USask, where he set up a CFI and NSERC-funded semiconductor plasma processing research lab. He also spent two years working at the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) in Sèvres, France where he built the first prototype for a proposed new superconducting Watt Balance. Dr. Bradley is the current dean of Engineering and a professor of Physics and Engineering Physics at USask, where he runs an active lab in the USask Plasma Physics Laboratory. His research interests focus on developing new plasma techniques and diagnostics for nuclear fusion, semiconductor materials, and quantum devices, including the development of a compact diamond-NV centre magnetometer.



Dr. Solina Richter
Dean, College of Nursing
Professor of Nursing

Dr. Solina Richter is dean of the College of Nursing at USask and a globally recognized nurse, midwife, and academic leader. Her work spans continents, driven by a commitment to global health, equity, and community-based care. Guided by the principle “Learn Where You Live,” she champions nursing education rooted in local communities—urban, rural, and remote—strengthening healthcare systems across Saskatchewan and beyond. Her research focuses on social determinants of health, global health equity, and empowering underserved populations, supported by extensive international collaborations and mentorship of future nursing leaders. As dean, Dr. Richter advances a vision for the college rooted in inclusivity, innovation, and meaningful impact, shaping the future of nursing education while reinforcing the vital connection between people, place, and practice.



PAW 2026 Emcee

Meet the master of ceremony



Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy
Director of the International
Office at USask

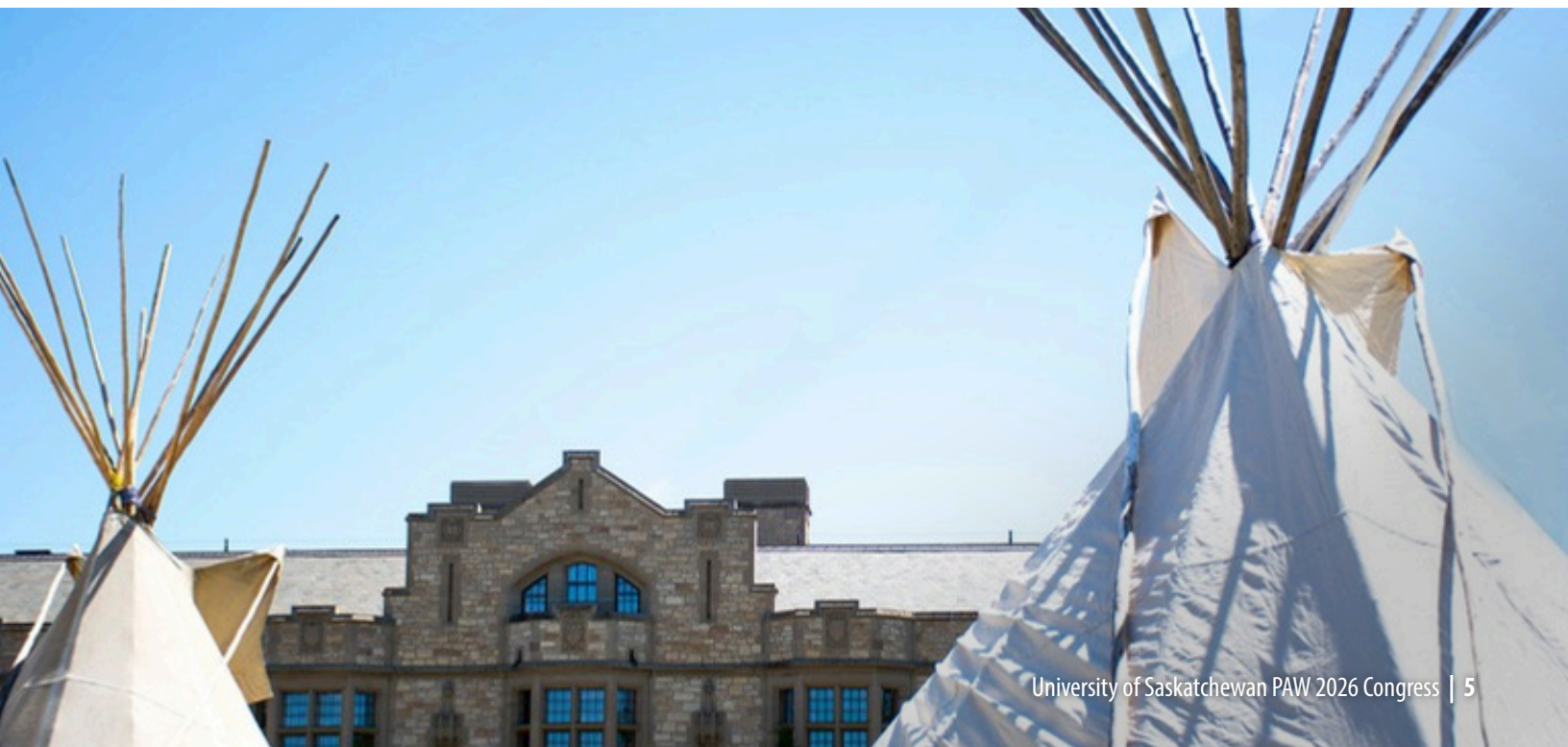
Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy is the director of the International Office at USask, where she provides strategic leadership for the university's global research, partnership, and internationalization agenda. She leads a team of specialists who advance international collaborations, foster research partnerships, and strengthen USask's global engagement.

A scientist by training, Dr. Ramaswamy holds a PhD in Clinical Infection from University College London, a MSc in Virology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a BSc in Microbiology from King's College London. Prior to joining USask, she held leadership roles

at the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) in the United Kingdom.

An internationally recognized leader in higher education, she champions the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through research, internationalization, and partnership development. Her leadership contributions include serving on the Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation, the supporting research community steering committee of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), the Advisory Board of the Global Research Action Network for Discovery (GRAND), and as an Expert Evaluator for the European Commission's Horizon Europe program.

Dr. Ramaswamy has been recognized with Saskatchewan's Outstanding Leadership Award for International Education and was named one of the Top 50 Voices in International Education in the Americas by *The PIE News*. She is also a published author on transformative leadership, internationalization, and global partnerships.



PAW 2026 Pre-Congress Events

Monday, October 19, 2026

1:00 PM–4:00 PM ASSOCIATION OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES (ACU) INFORMATION SESSION

PMB 120, Convocation Hall

Join the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) for an interactive pre-congress session exploring the benefits of ACU membership, international funding opportunities, and the organization's policy and advocacy work. Attendees will learn about ACU funding programs, strategies for developing successful applications, how they curate programs and secure funding through Horizon Europe, and how the ACU engages with governments and High Commissioners to advance international higher education and research collaboration.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy – Director, International Office – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Presentation and Q&A

Fariba Soetan – Head of Policy and Research – Association of Commonwealth Universities, United Kingdom

Pre-Congress Tours: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

9:00 AM–10:30 AM USASK CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY TOUR

The USask campus is full of sustainability features both obvious and hidden for the eager explorer to discover. By taking the Campus Sustainability Tour, you can experience all of the ways that the university is making itself more sustainable across a variety of areas.

9:30 AM–10:30 AM CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (PHYTOTRON)

The Controlled Environment Facility, also known as the Phytotron, consists of 183 environmentally controlled reach-in cabinets and walk-in rooms that can be programmed to produce various environmental conditions, such as qualities and intensities of light, ranges of temperature and humidity. The cabinets and rooms are available on a rental basis to clients within USask. The CEF is approximately 30,000 sq ft with approximately 8,300 sq ft being chamber space used for growing. The rest of the space is general workspace and labs. The chambers range in size from 7 sq ft to 178 square ft. There are 150 controlled chambers located in the main area and another 33 controlled chambers located throughout the agriculture building. The CEF recently concluded a \$12.5-million major upgrade with the addition of energy efficient lighting as well as updated chilling units.

11:00 AM–12:00 PM CANADIAN LIGHT SOURCE (CLS)

See inside Canada's only synchrotron. The CLS is one of the largest science projects in Canada's history. This facility speeds up electrons to produce intensely bright synchrotron light that allows scientists to study materials at a molecular level. Over 1,000 researchers from around the world use the CLS every year. On your tour, you'll learn about CLS' history, how the machine works, and examples of how researchers have used the facility to conduct ground-breaking research in the fields of health, agriculture, the environment, and advanced materials

PAW 2026 Pre-Congress Events

Pre-Congress Tours: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (cont'd)

1:00 PM–2:00 PM SASKATCHEWAN CYCLOTRON FACILITY

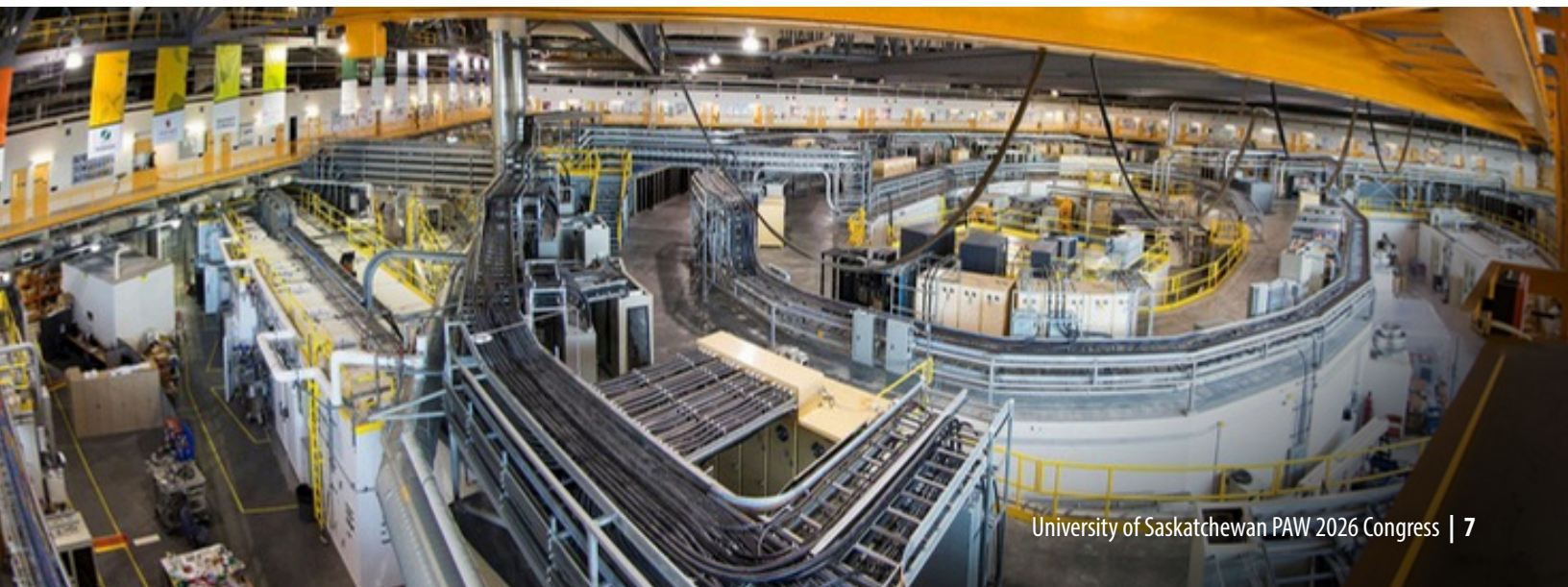
The Saskatchewan Cyclotron Facility is owned by USask and operated by the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation. The Facility is home to a 24 MeV cyclotron, used by Fedoruk Centre staff to support research and produce a wide range of isotopes. The facility also manufactures the nuclear imaging agent fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), which is needed for PET-CT scans to diagnose cancer in patients at the Royal University Hospital and other regional hospitals. During your tour, the Fedoruk Centre qualified technical staff will guide you through the facility, including the adjacent research labs and pre-clinical imaging suite. You'll learn about the facility's history, hear about research conducted by users, and can safely handle some of our specialized radiochemical and radioanalytical equipment.

2:30 PM–3:30 PM VACCINE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE ORGANIZATION (VIDO)

Discover the science behind global health at VIDO. Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of VIDO, celebrating over 50 years of world-leading research. Learn about our vital role in protecting human and animal health through a short presentation, get a rare look at the nerve centre of our high containment operations—and see cutting-edge research in action in one of our labs.

4:00 PM–5:00 PM CAMPUS WALKING TOUR: STRETCH YOUR LEGS AND EXPLORE USASK

New to USask? Join us for a fun and informative walking tour that's all about discovering the charm, history and hidden gems of the USask campus, one of the most beautiful in Canada! As we stroll through campus, you'll see why USask is known for its stunning Collegiate Gothic architecture and iconic greystone buildings. You'll visit the college building – the very first building on campus and now a National Historic Site, and the Thorvaldson building, named after a chemist whose work changed the world of construction. Along the way, you'll hear quirky stories and learn how USask grew from its agricultural roots into a globally respected research university. One of the highlights of the tour is the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre, a striking circular building designed by Indigenous architect Douglas Cardinal. The Centre serves as a hub for Indigenous student support and intercultural engagement, and its design reflects Indigenous worldviews and connections to the land. Whether you're here to admire the architecture, soak up the history or just enjoy a walk with fellow congress-goers, this tour is a great way to get to know the campus and feel right at home.



PAW 2026 Pre-Congress Events

Self-Guided Tours

The following tours are also available to you on an individual self-guided basis and do not require your registration:

The [Museum of Natural Science](#) is designed to outline evolution throughout geological time, providing an integrated learning environment, with displays of living plants, animals and fossils.

The [Museum of Antiquities](#) hosts a collection of ancient Greek, Roman, Egyptian and Near Eastern sculpture in full scale replica, as well as original pottery, glass and ancient coinage.

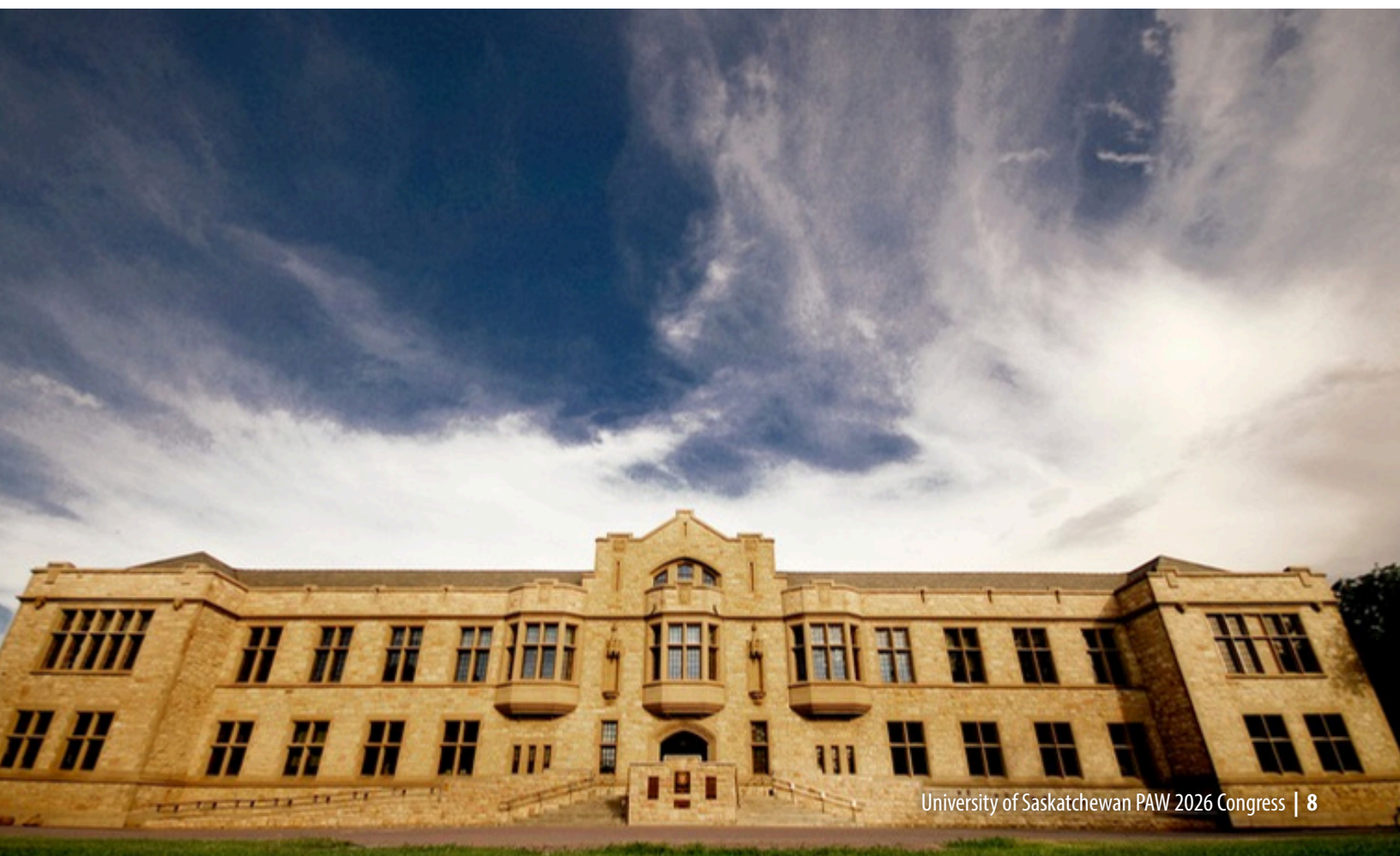
The Kenderdine, College, and Snelgrove [Art Galleries](#) showcase work by artists and curators from the university and from the wider local, national, and international community.

In addition to preserving the core collection of John G. Diefenbaker's personal artifacts, the [Diefenbaker Canada Centre](#) hosts exhibits and programs that explore citizenship, leadership, and Canada's role in the international community.

The [USask Computer Museum](#) is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and celebration of yesterday's computing artifacts.

 [INTERACTIVE MAP](#)

 [PRINTABLE PDF](#)



PAW 2026 Program

Day One: Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Emcee: Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy | Director, International Office, University of Saskatchewan

8:00 AM–9:00 AM REGISTRATION, LIGHT BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

9:00 AM–10:00 AM DAY ONE OPENING REMARKS

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Introductory remarks and land acknowledgement

Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy – Director, International Office – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Welcome Song

Buffalo Boy

Welcome remarks

Various Speakers

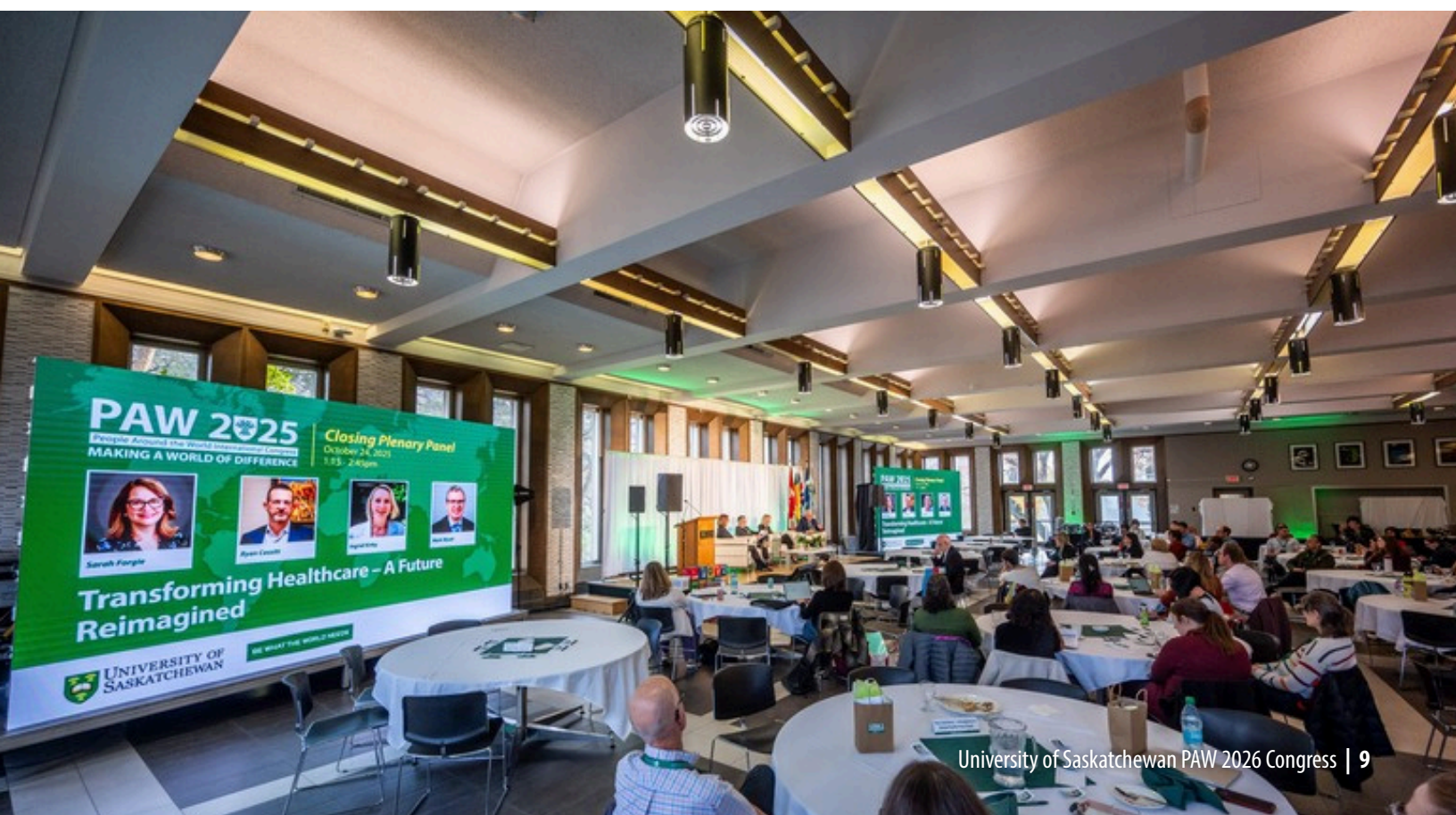
Closing Song

Buffalo Boy

10:00 AM–10:45 AM OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Dr. Grant Isaac – President and Chief Operating Officer - Cameco Corporation, Canada



PAW 2026 Program

Day One: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (cont'd)

10:45 AM–11:00 AM BREAK / MOVEMENT

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

11:00 AM–12:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Global Minerals and Energy: Strategic Partnerships, Security, and the Future of Supply

International partnerships are becoming central to supply chain security and sustainable development as the global demand for critical minerals and energy accelerates. This session will examine how countries and established energy markets are navigating resource development, geopolitical pressures and investment dynamics. Panelists will share perspectives on collaborations, policies and innovations that are shaping the future of minerals and energy systems.

Moderator

Chris Riviere – Director, International Office, Trade and Export Development (TED) – Government of Saskatchewan, Canada

Speakers

Mike Crabtree – President and CEO – Saskatchewan Research Council, Canada

Chris Lane – President and CEO – Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership, Canada

Dr. Kali Sanjay – Scientist G and Head, Hydro, Bio & Electrometallurgy Department – CSIR Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, India

PMB 120, Convocation Hall

Energy and Technology: New Pressures and Innovations

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool that can advance many areas of our daily lives. However, AI's immense energy needs and environmental impacts, such as heat emissions, are affecting communities around the world that are hosts to AI data centres. How will we meet the energy needs and solve the environmental impacts required to develop this powerful tool and make it available to everyone? What should change: our computers or the grid itself?

Moderator

Dr. Shelley Kirychuk – Director, Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health, Professor, College of Medicine – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Speakers

John Desjarlais – Executive Director, AISES / Chief Impact Officer, kihew Consulting – AISES / kihew Consulting, Canada

Tom Kishchuk – Executive Director – Global Institute of Energy, Minerals and Society (GIEMS), Canada

Dr. Steven Rayan – Director, Centre for Quantum Topology and Its Applications (quanTA) and Professor, Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts and Science – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

PAW 2026 Program

Day One: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (cont'd)

12:30 PM–1:30 PM LUNCH

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

1:00 PM–2:30 PM STUDENT POSTER SESSION

Upper Place Riel

During the poster session, we invite Congress attendees to select their top three posters based on the overall quality. Voting will take place through the Congress app. When making the selection, it is important to consider factors such as content clarity, visual design, innovation, relevance to the topic and graphic presentation skills.

Please see below for the list of posters that will be on display:

Abukari Kwame – *Exploring How Clinical Protocols and Guidelines Organize Care Work and Person-Centred Care Practices in Ghana Through the Lens of Institutional Ethnography* – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Amina Arif – *H-Start: An Inexpensive Bioinoculant that Increases Production in Pea (*Pisum sativum*)* – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Baptiste Rouquette – *Path Planner for a Foil Drone* – Sorbonne University, France

Barbara Araujo – *Nature as a Subject of Rights: A Legal Perspective Between the Anthropocene and the Ecocene* – Federal University of Uberlândia/University of Saskatchewan, Brazil/ Canada

Godfrey Stanley Namakhota – *An exploratory study of an Open Distance Learning University's Health and Wellness Policy towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Students* – University of South Africa, South Africa

Jasper Damaris Raja – *Exploring the Culture of Child Poverty in Armed Conflict-Affected Regions of South Sudan* – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

John Ackon – *Balancing Environmental Impact and Community Thriving in Responsible Mining* – University for Development Studies, Ghana

Junzhe Luo – *Concepts for integration and combined operation of vehicle charging, heatpumps, and batteries* – Technische Hochschule Luebeck, Germany

Lizette Villa Alcaraz – *Assessment of UV and UV/H₂O₂ Advanced Oxidation Processes for Pharmaceutical Removal as Potential Upgrades to the City of Saskatoon's Wastewater Treatment Plant* – University of Saskatchewan, Canada



PAW 2026 Program

Day One: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (cont'd)

1:00 PM–2:30 PM STUDENT POSTER SESSION (cont'd)

Lorena Giselle Rodríguez Beas – Removal of Pharmaceutical Pollutants from Water Using O₃ and UV/O₃ Treatment Processes – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Maharani Dean Pramudita – Unravelling Intersectional Stigma: Community-Based Responses to Disability and Gender in Central Java, Indonesia – Universitas Sebelas Maret /University of Saskatchewan, Indonesia/Canada

Majak Mapiour – A Predictive Model for Cooperative Membrane Fouling: Integrating Physicochemical and Molecular Interactions - University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Maya Ravan – Quality Education for All: Supporting Responsible, Creative, and Human-Centred Engagement with AI – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Md Faisal Kabir Rozars – Chronic Disease Burden and Cancer Among Indigenous Adults: A Survey-Weighted Logistic Regression Analysis – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Mingyan He – Synthesis of Nano-TS-1 Zeolites with Short b-Axis Thickness – China University of Petroleum, China

Narangerel Tseden-ish – Effects of Humic Fertilizer on Soil Fertility and Plant Productivity in Degraded Mountain Steppe Rangelands of Mongolia – University of Saskatchewan/ Mongolian University of Life Sciences, Canada/Mongolia

Ode Chloe Ferrao None Nyangui – Metal Enrichment and Trace Element Geochemistry in Seafloor Hydrothermal Systems: Gold Mineralization at Higashi Aogashima – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Oladimeji Azeez – Characterizing and Modeling the Intrinsic Dielectric Properties of Faba Beans for Radio-Frequency Processing Application – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Parnia Nikkhah – Critical Connections Between Renewable Electricity, Environmental Performance, and Economic Feasibility in HPP-Integrated Apple Smoothie Powder Production – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Prannav Jain – A Mixed Methods Impact Evaluation of Lung Sask Radon Health Promotion Resources - University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Rahul Kumar Yadav – Production of Carbon Black from the pyrolysis of soapstock and it's application as filler material in composites – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Roya Khoshnoodi – Voices of Whitecap Dakota Families: Building Relationships and Identifying Pediatric Health Care Needs to Inform Virtual Care – University of Saskatchewan, Canada (Display only)

Rutuja Kambale – Integrated Recovery and Circular Valorisation of Graphitic Carbon from Spent Lithium-Ion Batteries for Sustainable Environmental Remediation – CSIR- Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, India

PAW 2026 Program

Day One: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (cont'd)

1:00 PM–2:30 PM STUDENT POSTER SESSION (cont'd)

Sharon Jacob – Accuracy and Quality of AI-Generated Documentation in Gynecology: A Prospective Paired Comparison Using Standardized Patient Encounter - University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Sherzodbek Khamdamov – Extraction of Rare Earth Elements from Secondary Sources – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Srimani Rojitha Hettikankanama Hettikankanamage – A Transferable Multi-Scale Geospatial Framework for Neighborhood-Scale Surface Urban Heat Assessment – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Susana Thais Pedroza Rodrigues da Cunha – Geographic Remoteness and Gaps Between Prosthetic Treatment Need and Referral Across Indigenous Territories in Brazil – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Yash Srivastava – Recovery of lithium from spent lithium-ion batteries using carbothermal reduction with spent coffee grounds: a parametric optimization using a combined approach of response surface methodology and machine learning – Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, India

Yuguo Fu – Topology-Enabled Multi-Jet Flow Distribution for High-Performance Data Center Cooling – National University of Singapore, Singapore

2:30 PM–3:00 PM BREAK

Garry Room, Marquis Hall



PAW 2026 Program

Day One: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (cont'd)

3:00 PM–4:30 PM PANEL

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Indigenous Workforce Development: Governance and Economic Participation

This panel will examine Indigenous workforce development through the interconnected lenses of governance, jurisdiction and economic participation. It will explore how these three distinct groups support meaningful participation in resource development and related economic opportunities. The discussion will explore how workforce issues are shaped by broader questions of rights, self-determination and community benefit.

Moderator

Dawn Pratt – Founder, askenootow STEM / Science Lead, Musqua Environmental LP – askenootow STEM / Musqua Environmental LP, Canada

Panelists

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson – Chief, Lac La Ronge Indian Band / President, Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership – Lac La Ronge Indian Band / Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership, Canada

John Desjarlais – Executive Director – AISES / Chief Impact Officer – kihew Consulting, Canada

Reagan Harding – Director of Economic Development and Major Projects – Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Canada

4:30 PM–6:00 PM BREAK

6:00 PM–8:00 PM CONGRESS RECEPTION

University Club



PAW 2026 Program

Day Two: Thursday, October 22, 2026

Emcee: Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy | Director, International Office, University of Saskatchewan

7:45 AM–8:40 AM REGISTRATION AND LIGHT BREAKFAST

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

8:40 AM–9:00 AM WELCOME AND SHORT PRESENTATIONS FROM TOP THREE POSTERS FROM THE STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS POSTER SESSION

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Introductory remarks and land acknowledgement

Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy – Director, International Office, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Presentation of the top three voted posters

Poster Award Presentation

Dr. Debby Burshtyn – Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

9:00 AM–10:30 AM PANEL

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Critical Resources, Critical Choices: Energy Security in Transition

As the world transitions to cleaner sources of energy, including renewables and nuclear, countries around the globe are seeking stable partners to strengthen their energy security. Canada and Saskatchewan are emerging as leaders in energy and mineral resources that are essential to this transition. This panel addresses both the challenges and enormous opportunities that Saskatchewan can play in the global energy system of the future.

Moderator

Mike Marsh – Board Member, University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors, Former President and Chief Executive Officer SaskPower – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Panelists

Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot – Senior Fellow and Director of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment – The Macdonald-Laurier Institute, Canada

Torsten Geissler – Science Counsellor, Head of Science – Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ottawa, Canada

Dr. Scott Hunter – Director, Nuclear Business & Governance – SaskPower, Canada

Chris Riviere – Director, International Office, Trade and Export Development (TED) – Government of Saskatchewan, Canada

10:30 AM–11:00 AM BREAK/MOVEMENT

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

PAW 2026 Program

Day Two: Thursday, October 22, 2026 (cont'd)

11:00 AM–12:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Biomining and Bioremediation: Biological Solutions for Sustainable Resource Development

Biomining and bioremediation are enduring practical approaches that are part of the solution to reduce the environmental footprint of resource extraction while improving recovery of critical minerals. This session will examine how biological processes are being applied in mining operations and site remediation, with examples from industry and research. Panelists will discuss scalability, regulatory considerations, contributions to responsible resource development and the role of innovation in advancing more sustainable mining practices.

Moderator

Dr. Karsten Liber – Executive Director and Professor, School of Environment and Sustainability – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Speakers

Dr. Wonjae Chang – Professor of Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Dr. Joyce McBeth – Associate Professor of Earth Sciences – University of Regina, Canada

Dr. Katherine Stewart – Associate Professor of Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

PMB 120, Convocation Hall

Supporting Thriving Communities: Working Together to Steward Resources for a Sustainable Future

As the global demand for critical minerals accelerates the clean energy transition, communities sit at the center of opportunity. But with any opportunity comes risk. This session examines how sustainable energy pathways can—and must—support human health, social equity and long-term community wellbeing and environmental protection, ensuring that the transition creates truly thriving communities.

Moderator

Dr. Vicki Squires – Professor, Education Administration, College of Education – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Speakers

Dr. Lori Bradford – Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair (CRC) Tier 2 in Social and Cultural Decision Making in Engineering Design, Ron and Jane Graham School of Professional Development, College of Engineering – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Dr. Doug Clark – Professor, School of Environment and Sustainability – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Dr. Marc-André Pigeon – Assistant Professor, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy / Director, Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

PAW 2026 Program

Day Two: Thursday, October 22, 2026 (cont'd)

12:30 PM–1:30 PM LUNCH

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

1:30 PM–3:00 PM PANEL

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Health and Sustainable Development: Lessons from the Well-being Economy

In resource rich countries, developing sustainable methods for optimal natural resource use is a challenge. To do so, a balance between short, medium and long-term community and regional impacts must be considered. This panel will explore how to incorporate a well-being economy approach to help guide sustainable development in Canada and beyond. Using findings from global case studies, the panel will explore ways to advance this challenge at local, regional, national and international levels.

Moderator

Dr. Cory Neudorf – Professor, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Panelists

Sandrine Dixon-Declève – Honorary President, the Club of Rome / Executive Chair, Earth4All – The Club of Rome / Earth4All, Italy

Dr. Dina von Heimburg – Head, WHO Collaborating Centre on Well-being and Social Sustainability – Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed – Associate Dean, Serving and Engaging Society & Interim Division Head, Division of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Community Health and Epidemiology – Dalhousie University, Canada

3:00 PM–3:45 PM CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Dr. Jaspinder Komal – Assistant Deputy Minister – Defence Research and Development Canada, Canada

3:45 PM–4:00 PM CONGRESS CLOSING

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

Drs. Michael Bradley and Solina Richter – PAW 2026 Co-Chairs – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

PAW 2026 Program

Day Two: Thursday, October 22, 2026 (cont'd)

4:00PM - 5:00 PM BREAK

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

5:00 PM–6:30 PM PUBLIC LECTURE

Garry Room, Marquis Hall

The Turmoil of our Times: Reflections on Canadian Resources and Values

Ralph Goodale – *Canada's former High Commissioner in the United Kingdom and previously a senior Minister in the Government of Canada*



Keynote Speakers

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026



Dr. Grant Isaac
Opening Keynote

With 16 years of experience in executive roles at Cameco, Grant's responsibilities have spanned almost the entire scope of the business. Grant joined Cameco as senior vice-president, corporate services in July 2009, was appointed to senior vice-president and CFO in July 2011, followed by the appointment to executive vice-president and CFO in February 2023.

In September 2025, Grant was appointed to president and chief operating officer.

As president and chief operating officer, Grant will provide executive oversight for all Cameco operations, exploration and corporate development. Grant also continues to provide executive oversight for Cameco's commercial and financial strategy including global marketing, corporate strategy and effectiveness and sustainability and stakeholder relations.

Prior to joining Cameco, he was a professor at USask's Edwards School of Business, beginning in 2000 and was appointed as the dean of the Edwards School of Business in 2006.

Grant received a BA (economics) and an MA (economics) from USask and a PhD from the London School of Economics.



Dr. Jaspinder Komal
Closing Keynote

Dr. Jaspinder Komal became the assistant deputy minister, Defence Research and Development Canada in 2022. He is responsible for ensuring national leadership in defence science and technology through the development and delivery of new solutions and advice to National Defence, the Canadian Armed Forces and various partners.

Before his appointment, Dr. Komal served as the vice president of Science Branch at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) from 2018–2022.

Dr. Komal graduated from the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire at the Université de Montréal in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, with a degree in veterinary medicine and a post-graduate degree in veterinary microbiology.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Komal has gained extensive and diversified experience as a senior scientific leader, having advanced key government of Canada (GoC) priorities and building collaborative partnerships within government, academia and industry.



Keynote Speakers (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026



Ralph Goodale
Public Lecture Speaker

Raised on a family farm near Wilcox, Ralph Goodale is a graduate of USask in both Arts and Law. He has practical experience in agriculture, business, law and broadcasting, as well as more than 40 years in federal and provincial politics.

He served in the Cabinets of three different Prime Ministers with portfolio responsibilities for agriculture, natural resources, public works, finance and public safety. In 2021, Mr. Goodale joined the diplomatic corps as Canadian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, leading Canada's oldest and second-largest foreign mission during a period of extraordinary geo-political turbulence. In the spring of 2026, he became a member of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Canada-US economic relations.

A green poster for the PAW 2026 Public Lecture. It features a circular portrait of Ralph Goodale in the top right corner. The text on the poster includes: "PAW 2026" with a small crest icon, "People Around the World International Congress", "MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE", "Public Lecture", "The Turmoil of our Times: Reflections on Canadian resources and values", "Ralph Goodale", "Canada's former High Commissioner in the United Kingdom and previously a senior Minister in the Government of Canada", "Thursday, October 22, 2026 | 5:00 pm", "University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Campus", and "Register at internationaloffice.usask.ca/paw/paw-2026.php". At the bottom is the University of Saskatchewan logo and name.

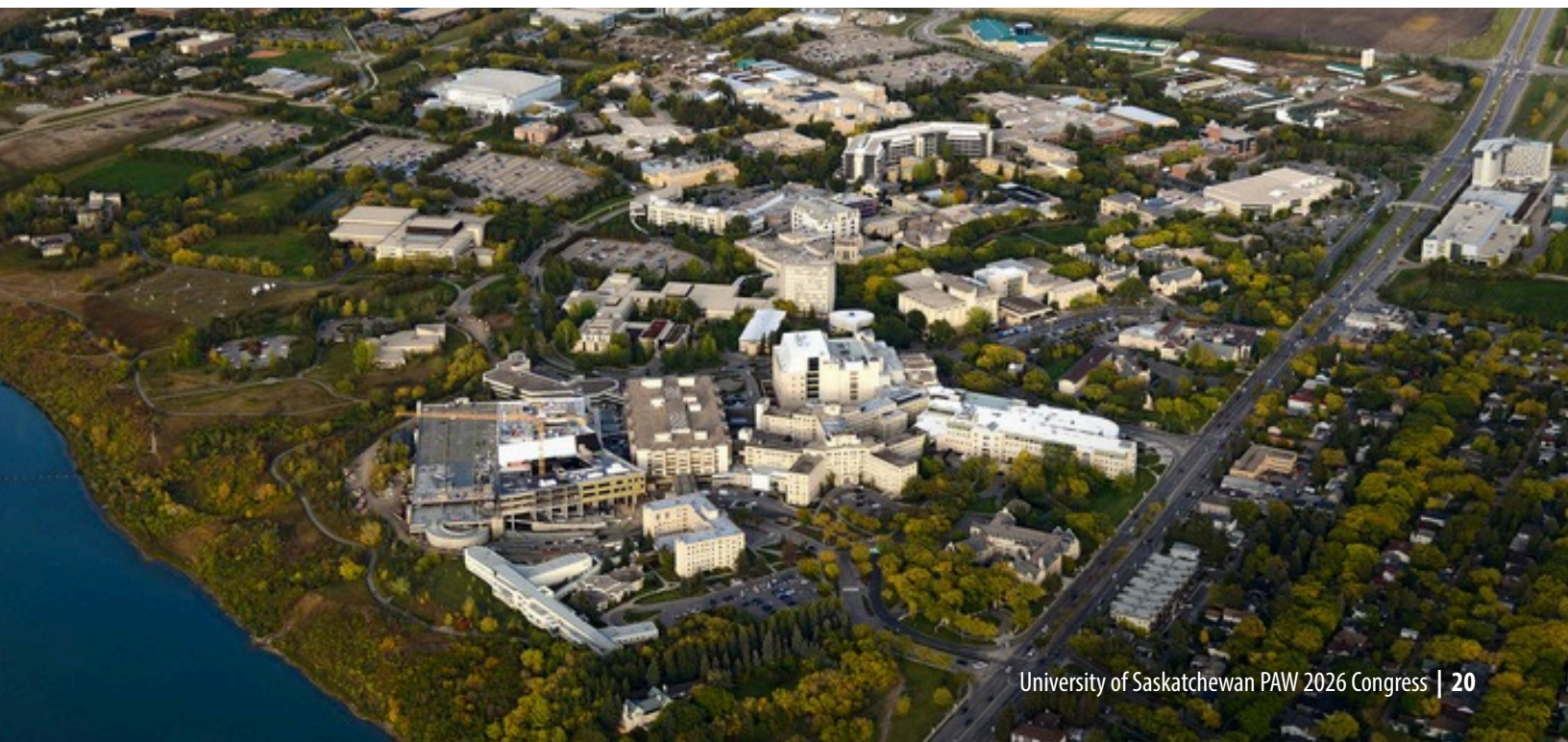
PAW 2026
People Around the World International Congress
MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Public Lecture
**The Turmoil of our Times:
Reflections on Canadian resources and
values**

Ralph Goodale
Canada's former High Commissioner in the
United Kingdom and previously a senior Minister
in the Government of Canada

Thursday, October 22, 2026 | 5:00 pm
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Campus
[Register at internationaloffice.usask.ca/paw/paw-2026.php](https://internationaloffice.usask.ca/paw/paw-2026.php)

 UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN



Plenary Panelists

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Panel | Critical Resources, Critical Choices: Energy Security in Transition



Mike Marsh
Panel Moderator

Mike Marsh is the former president and CEO of SaskPower and spent 30 years of a 42-year working career with the corporation before retiring at the end of 2021. He joined the executive leadership team beginning in 2008 as vice president of Transmission & Distribution, became chief operations officer in 2012, and then president and CEO in 2015.

During his time at SaskPower, he helped lead the company through an extensive period of growth including the build out of generation, distribution and transmission infrastructure over that period. The company and province also moved forward with an expanded sustainability program including renewables, gas generation, and the integrated carbon capture facility.

Mike has served on several boards including the Canadian Electricity Association, STARS Air Ambulance, and is currently on the USask Board of Governors.

He lives in Saskatoon with his wife, Maureen, and family.



Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot
Panel Speaker

Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot is a senior fellow and director of Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute. She serves as a special advisor to the Business Council of Canada, and managing editor of the Arctic Yearbook. She is an internationally recognized scholar and policy expert whose work focuses on natural resource development, energy security, critical minerals, Arctic governance, Indigenous economic participation, and Canadian competitiveness.

Dr. Exner-Pirot has held board and fellowship appointments with Indigenous, Canadian and international institutions and is a frequent contributor to public policy discussions on resource development, trade, energy, and northern affairs. Her research emphasizes practical approaches to strengthening Canada's economic prosperity, resilience, and strategic position through responsible development of its natural resources.

Plenary Panelists (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Panel | Critical Resources, Critical Choices: Energy Security in Transition



Torsten Geissler
Panel Speaker

Torsten Geissler works as the science counsellor at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Canada in Ottawa, ON. With a doctoral degree in Economics (labor market analysis), he has over two decades of work experience at his home ministry, the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, where he held multiple roles in different policy areas (education, strategy, innovation). He also built up an internal audit unit in the ministry, before he moved to the department of life sciences during the pandemic. Being head of science at the German Embassy, he focusses on cooperation in research priorities like quantum and AI, fusion energy, ocean and arctic research, space research and life sciences, as well as the cross-sectional issues research security, open science, Horizon Europe and science diplomacy in general.



Scott Hunter
Panel Speaker

Dr. Scott Hunter is new to the nuclear world, having started his role with SaskPower as the Director, Nuclear Business & Governance, in March 2026. He is a seasoned public administrator with extensive experience in trade and export development, and international relations. His current work focuses on nuclear business and governance for the development of nuclear power in Saskatchewan, which includes non-technical areas such as planning, legal, external engagement, indigenous relations, governance, finance, and human resources. Scott holds a PhD in Public Affairs from the University of Colorado, Denver.

Plenary Panelists (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Panel | Critical Resources, Critical Choices: Energy Security in Transition (cont'd)



Chris Riviere
Panel Speaker

Chris Riviere is a Saskatchewan public-sector leader specializing in international trade, investment attraction, and economic engagement. Based in Regina, he serves as director, International Engagement with the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Trade and Export Development, with responsibility for Saskatchewan's engagement in key international markets including India, China and Vietnam. His work focuses on strengthening Saskatchewan's international relationships, advancing trade and investment opportunities, and connecting Saskatchewan businesses and industries with global partners. His professional experience includes extensive

engagement with business, government and international stakeholders, with a particular focus on Saskatchewan's competitive strengths in areas such as agri-food, energy, critical minerals, investment and international commerce.

Chris brings a broad sectoral perspective to his work, supporting Saskatchewan's international trade and investment objectives across energy, agriculture and agri-food, manufacturing, mining and critical minerals. His work involves leading teams international that are engaging with companies, investors, industry organizations and government partners to identify opportunities, promote Saskatchewan's capabilities and strengthen commercial relationships in international markets. He completed his Master of Business Administration in 2023, complementing his experience in economic development, international business and government relations. Through his work, Chris is focused on positioning Saskatchewan as a competitive destination for investment and a reliable global supplier of high-quality products, resources and expertise.



Plenary Panelists (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Panel | Health and Sustainable Development: Lessons from the Well-being Economy



Dr. Cory Neudorf
Panel Moderator

Dr. Cory Neudorf is a professor in the department of Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine, USask. He is the former senior medical health officer of the Saskatchewan Health Authority and former chief medical health officer with the Saskatoon Health Region. He received his medical degree from USask, a Master of Health Science degree (Community Health and Epidemiology) from the University of Toronto, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada with Certification in the specialty of Public Health & Preventive Medicine. He has held various leadership roles in Public Health at the national level in Canada, including:

- chair of the Canadian Population Health Initiative Council,
- president of the Canadian Public Health Association and
- president of the Public Health Physicians of Canada.

In 2020, he was awarded the R.D. Defries medal by the Canadian Public Health Association for outstanding contributions in the broad field of public health. He is currently serving on the editorial board of the Canadian Journal of Public Health and the Strategic Analytic Advisory Committee of the Canadian Institutes for Health Information. He is co-founder and president of the Urban Public Health Network of Canada and is a liaison member with the Regions for Health Network (WHO Europe).

His research interests include intervention research to improve health equity; public health systems and services research; health status indicators and surveys; and integrating population health into health system performance improvement and strategic planning. He is the co-lead of the Health and Wellness signature area for USask.



Sandrine Dixon-Declève
Panel Speaker

Sandrine Dixon-Declève served as co-president of the Club of Rome from 2018–2024 and now acts as its honorary president while leading as the executive chair of Earth4All and the Brussels-based Systems Transformation Hub, both promoting economic, financial and governance systems change for a sustainable future enhancing well-being. She sits on the Climate Governance Commission and the newly formed WHO Pan European Climate & Health Commission. She has advised governments, businesses, and international organizations, chaired the European Commission's Expert Group on Economic and Societal Impact of Research & Innovation (ESIR), and serves or has served on boards and advisory boards of Climate KIC, Laudes Foundation, Imperial College London, UCL, BMW, UCB and EDP. A TED speaker and author, she co-wrote *Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity* and advocates for bold climate action, economic reform, and social equity to address global challenges. Sandrine currently teaches at the College of Europe.

Plenary Panelists (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Panel | Health and Sustainable Development: Lessons from the Well-being Economy (cont'd)



Dr. Dina von Heimburg
Panel Speaker

Dr. Dina von Heimburg, PhD, is associate professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), where she heads the WHO Collaborating Centre on Well-being and Social Sustainability and co-leads NTNU WellFare, the Nordic Research Center for Wellbeing and Social Sustainability. Her work asks how societies can be organised so that wellbeing, dignity and fairness are produced for all, spanning relational welfare, co-creation of public value, social participation and the wellbeing economy. She sits on the New Economics Expert Group of WHO/Europe's Universal Wellbeing Economy Initiative and contributed to WHO country deep dives on the wellbeing economy in Finland, Iceland, Scotland and Wales, and to policy briefs on institutionalising social participation in health system governance. She led the Norwegian team on the Marmot review of health inequalities, the first to recommend a wellbeing economy for health equity, and brings over a decade of experience in public health planning and policy.



Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed
Panel Speaker

Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed is the associate dean of Serving and Engaging Society for Dalhousie University's Faculty of Medicine, interim division head for the Division of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, and chair of the Board of Engage Nova Scotia. She is a public health specialist physician with over 20 years' experience, having served as the former medical officer of health for the Halifax area and deputy chief medical officer of Health for Nova Scotia. She served as a member of the One Nova Scotia Coalition economic strategy table in Nova Scotia and in 2023 served on the federal Task Force on Women in the Economy. She also served on the Province of Nova Scotia's Environmental Racism Panel, which was created by the provincial government in 2023. Dr. Watson-Creed has an MD from Dalhousie University, an MSc from the University of Guelph, a BSc from the University of Prince Edward Island, and honorary doctorates from Acadia University and the University of Prince Edward Island. She sits as chair or member of several national population health councils and boards, including being appointed to the advisory board for the Institute of Population and Public Health of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She is a passionate advocate for high-quality public health services and anti-oppressive health care in Canada.



Plenary Panelists (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Panel | Indigenous Workforce Development: Governance and Economic Participation



Dawn Pratt
Panel Moderator

Dawn Pratt is a member of the Muscowpetung Anihšīnāpēk Nation. With varied experience in science education and an indomitable spirit, she has forged a professional consultancy company, askenootow STEM, as an Indigenous STEM Educational expert for the past 20 years (STEM = science, technology, engineering, and math). Dawn earned a Master of Science degree with a specialization in the design of organic adsorbent materials directed toward the removal of arsenic from contaminated water (USask 2011).

Dawn is fundamentally driven to reinstate Indigenous Elder and Knowledge Keeper teachings into STEM education for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples' futures. She seeks to amplify Indigenous STEM role models and Indigenous STEM content by transforming instructional practices and curricula in ways that embrace Indigenous cultural, linguistic, and land-based traditions and resources.

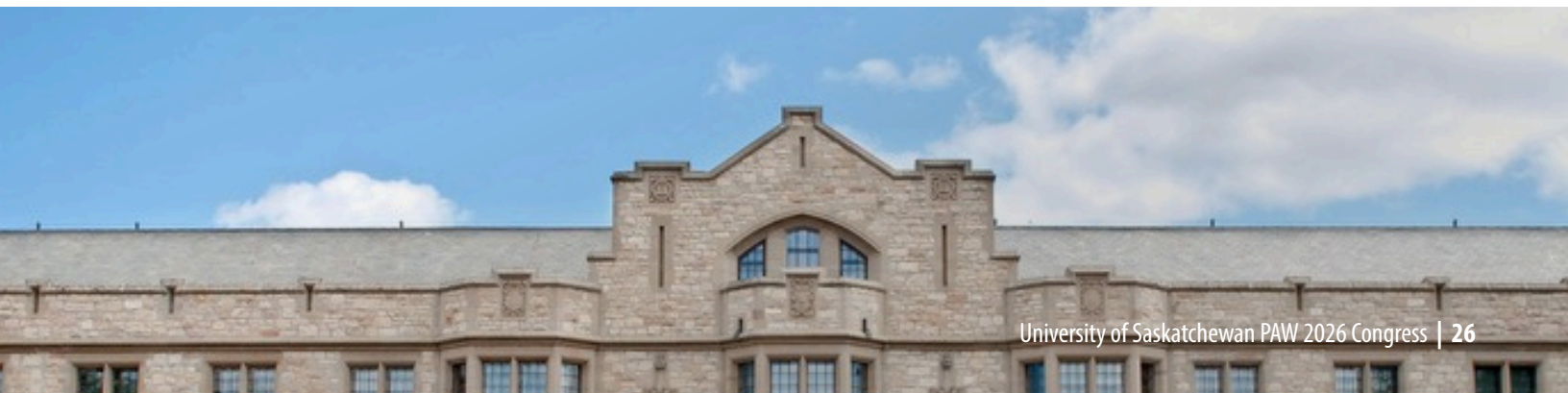
She remembers the moment her career calling took shape; in grade four, her parents bought her a chemistry kit. Since then, she has pursued her passion for

understanding the chemical world and sharing the joys of scientific discovery with children, youth, and adults. As part of realizing her passions, she is deeply dedicated to raising her two daughters to approach the world with a curiosity for STEM, replete with confidence in the Indigenous heritage she too derived from her family



Reagan Harding
Panel Speaker

Reagan Harding is a proud Métis citizen and the Director of Economic Development and Major Projects at Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. In this role, he is helping lead the Nation's transition from accommodation agreements toward direct ownership and long-term participation in major projects. His work advances Indigenous equity and co-ownership in renewable energy, oil and gas, and mining, supported by the corporate structures and governance needed to make ownership financeable and sustainable. Reagan is a Certified Financial Modeling and Valuation Analyst and holds an MSc in Business Management from Durham University in the United Kingdom and a BSc from Lake Erie College in the United States.



Plenary Panelists (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Panel | Indigenous Workforce Development: Governance and Economic Participation



John Desjarlais
Panel Speaker

John Desjarlais, P.Eng., MBA, PsGov, is the CIO at Kihew Consulting and Research, an Indigenous-owned and managed consulting firm focused on creating sustainable and generational impact for all clients including Indigenous organizations and communities. He is Nehinaw (Cree)–Métis from Kaministikominahikoscak (Cumberland House), Saskatchewan.

John holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and MBA from USask. Since beginning his career in the mining industry in 2001, he has held a range of technical and leadership positions spanning

environment and sustainability, maintenance and reliability engineering, economic development, construction, and executive management.

John brings extensive experience in regulatory affairs, governance, civil society, and community leadership. He has contributed to numerous boards, committees, and initiatives and is a past president of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan. Throughout his career, John has received several awards recognizing his public service, professional contributions, and commitment to servant leadership.

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson
Panel Speaker



Concurrent Sessions

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Concurrent Session | Biomining and Bioremediation: Biological Solutions for Sustainable Resource Development



Dr. Karsten Liber
Moderator

Karsten Liber is the executive director of the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) at USask. Professor Liber was also the inaugural executive director of SENS, leading its development from an approved concept to full implementation (2009–2012). He received the title of distinguished professor at the USask in 2014, was given a national award for Outstanding Contributions to Canadian Ecotoxicology in 2018, and was made a Fellow of the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in 2019. Dr. Liber obtained his PhD from the University of Guelph in Ontario in 1990. Dr. Liber is a widely recognized aquatic ecotoxicologist who is actively engaged in research related to metal accumulation in aquatic life and food crops, and in the environmental impacts of the mining and metals industry, specifically with respect to metal bioavailability, speciation and toxicity in aquatic ecosystems.



Dr. Wonjae Chang
Speaker

Dr. Wonjae Chang, PhD (McGill), P.Eng., is a professor of Environmental Engineering at USask. He is a researcher, educator, and innovator dedicated to advancing

technologies for environmental remediation, reclamation, and redevelopment. He has collaborated with 15 industry partners across Canada's energy, potash mining, and agricultural sectors on the development and application of innovative remediation technologies for contaminated soil, groundwater, and agricultural water resources. Dr. Chang has also contributed to the development of waste-to-value processes using potash mining byproducts (tailings) and indigenous microorganisms. In addition, he has developed innovative engineered minerals for the cost-effective passive treatment of brine-impacted soil and water resources. Currently, he is developing a hybrid technology that synergistically integrates salinity remediation and bioremediation in collaboration with Canada's energy industry.



Dr. Joyce McBeth
Speaker

Dr. Joyce McBeth is an associate professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Regina. Her expertise is in microbial interactions with the geosphere including metal(loid) transformations mediated by microbes in mine wastes. Her current research includes studies of microbes in mine tailings and wastewater treatment systems and synchrotron approaches applied to mine-related remediation. Prior to joining the University of Regina, Dr. McBeth was an assistant professor at the University of Saskatchewan (2015-2020) and a research scientist at the Canadian Light Source synchrotron (2012-2015).

Concurrent Sessions

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Concurrent Session | Biomining and Bioremediation: Biological Solutions for Sustainable Resource Development (cont'd)



Dr. Katherine Stewart
Speaker

Dr. Katherine Stewart is an associate professor in the Department of Soil Science at the USask. Her research

and teaching focusses on remediation and restoration of arctic, alpine and boreal terrestrial environments. Her research group works with belowground soil systems, early successional soil surface communities and native vascular plants allowing for an integrated approach to examining both the impact and remediation of contaminants in the environment. As part of the restorative process, she works with industry partners and Indigenous communities to find new ways to build relationships that promote collaborative environmental decision making and community-based restoration.



Concurrent Sessions

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Concurrent Session | Energy and Technology: New Pressures and Innovations



Dr. Shelley Kirychuk
Moderator

Dr. Kirychuk is director of the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health (CCRAH) and professor in the Department of Medicine at USask. CCRAH supports farmers and rural people to live and work healthy and safe by developing and offering programs, resources, and services for rural communities, that are informed by the research evidence of the Centre. The Centre has an almost 40-year history of working with Saskatchewan's rural municipalities, with 207 of Saskatchewan's rural municipalities participating in our programming for farmers and rural schools. The Centre actively supports farmer and rural health and safety across Canada, including partnering in the establishment of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance program, the Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Health, and the Canadian Rural Health Research Society.



John Desjarlais
Speaker

John Desjarlais, P.Eng., MBA, PsGov, is the CIO at Kihew Consulting and Research, an Indigenous-owned and managed consulting firm focused on creating sustainable and generational impact for all clients including Indigenous organizations and communities. He is Nehinaw (Cree)–Métis from Kaministikominahikoscak (Cumberland House), Saskatchewan.

Since beginning his career in the mining industry in 2001, he has held a range of technical and leadership positions and brings extensive experience in a variety of areas. He has contributed to numerous boards, committees, and initiatives and is a Past President of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan. Throughout his career, John has received several awards recognizing his public service, professional contributions, and commitment to servant leadership.

To read John Desjarlais' full bio please see page 27 under the Panel | Indigenous Workforce Development: Governance and Economic Participation.



Concurrent Sessions

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Concurrent Session | Energy and Technology: New Pressures and Innovations (cont'd)



Tom Kishchuk
Speaker

Tom started his career in the field of heavy industrial manufacturing for power generation equipment in 1989 at a then brand-new company, Hitachi Canadian Industries Ltd. Over the next 26 years he worked in many roles to support the needs of a growing business and in 2006 was appointed the first Canadian president and CEO of the Canadian operations. Tom started his consulting business, TPK Management Consulting Inc., in 2020 to continue supporting organizations in their development journeys. He is currently serving as the founding executive director of the Global Institute for Energy, Minerals and Society (GIEMS) and is a Director of Max Power Mining Corp. and Rivercity Innovations Inc. Tom is also chair of the USask College of Engineering dean's advisory board. He has a BSc and MSc in Mechanical Engineering from USask.



Dr. Steven Rayan
Speaker

Dr. Steven Rayan is a quantum scientist based at USask since 2016. He specializes in quantum computing, quantum artificial intelligence, and quantum matter. He earned his doctorate from the University of Oxford in 2011 research fellowship at the University of Toronto. In addition to his role as full professor of mathematics at USask, Dr. Rayan leads the Quantum Innovation Signature Area of Research and is the founding director of the Centre for Quantum Topology and Its Applications (quanTA). His work in quantum materials has been highlighted in Scientific American twice in the past three years, and one of his recent papers in the area was the first runner-up for the prestigious Cozzarelli Prize of the US National Academy of Sciences. In November 2025, Dr. Rayan was inducted into the College of the Royal Society of Canada for his work at the interface of mathematics and quantum science.

Concurrent Session | Global Minerals and Energy: Strategic Partnerships, Security and the Future of Supply



Chris Riviere
Moderator

Chris Riviere is a Saskatchewan public-sector leader specializing in international trade, investment attraction,

and economic engagement. He completed his Master of Business Administration in 2023. Based in Regina, he serves as director, International Engagement with the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Trade and Export Development, with responsibility for Saskatchewan's engagement in key international markets including India, China and Vietnam.

To read Chris Riviere's full bio please see page 23 under the Panel | Critical Resources, Critical Choices: Energy Security in Transition.

Concurrent Sessions

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Concurrent Session | Global Minerals and Energy: Strategic Partnerships, Security and the Future of Supply (cont'd)



Mike Crabtree
Speaker

Mike Crabtree is president and CEO of the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), Canada's second-largest research and technology organization, where he leads efforts to advance innovation, including the development of North America's first fully integrated rare earth element (REE) processing facility. With more than 30 years of international experience across oil and gas, renewable energy and critical minerals, Mike has held senior executive roles with Schlumberger and Carbon Engineering. He also founded his own technology company, growing it from startup through to its successful sale in 2011. Mike serves as a director and board chair for several private companies and works with private equity firms and investors to evaluate opportunities and support company growth. His expertise spans operations, R&D, technology commercialization and strategic leadership. His contributions have been recognized through numerous honours, including the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal and the Premier's Award for Excellence in Public Service. He holds a master's degree in petroleum engineering and a degree in chemistry.



Chris Lane
Speaker

Chris Lane is the president and CEO of Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP), a member-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing Saskatchewan's export economy. STEP works in partnership with provincial exporters and emerging exporters to help Saskatchewan businesses access global markets, diversify customer bases, and grow international sales. Through market intelligence, trade missions, and business development programming, STEP connects Saskatchewan suppliers with opportunities around the world.

Chris joined STEP in September 2025 following his tenure as president and CEO of Economic Development Regina (EDR), where he led the organization responsible for investment attraction, sector growth, and promoting Regina as a destination for business and talent. Prior to EDR, he served as CEO of Canadian Western Agribition, one of North America's premier agricultural events and international marketplaces.

Chris graduated from the University of Regina in 2002 with a degree in journalism and spent 15 years working in local and national news across Canada. He is an active community leader, serving on multiple boards, and holds an ICD.D designation for expertise in governance and board dynamics.

Concurrent Sessions (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Concurrent Session | Global Minerals and Energy: Strategic Partnerships, Security and the Future of Supply (cont'd)



Dr. Kali Sanjay
Speaker

Dr. Kali Sanjay, chief scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar, India, leads the Hydro, Bio & Electrometallurgy Department, Business Development, and the Centre of Excellence on Critical

Minerals under the National Critical Mineral Mission of the Ministry of Mines. With over three decades of experience, he specialises in developing technologies for recovering critical metals from ores, wastes and secondary resources. He has authored 60+ research publications, holds seven patents, and contributed to 100 research and technology projects, resulting in 17 technologies and processes. He serves on Indian national bodies, including committees on Critical and Strategic Minerals and Nickel and Cobalt, and chairs a Bureau of Indian Standards committee on aluminum–industry feedstocks. His international engagements span Australia, Canada, South Korea and Europe. He is a professor at the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research, advancing sustainable resource security.

Concurrent Session | Supporting Thriving Communities: Working Together to Steward Resources for a Sustainable Future



Dr. Vicki Squires
Moderator

Dr. Vicki Squires recently completed her term as the associate dean, Research, Graduate Support and International Initiatives and is a Professor in the Department of Educational Administration in the College

of Education at USask. Her areas of research are post-secondary education and student well-being; supporting mental health and wellbeing requires collaboration among units and a systems approach. Dr. Squires has been the lead of multiple grants exploring the implementation of the Okanagan Charter on campuses in Canada and globally. She has published and presented on the work of health promoting universities and the Okanagan Charter; she is also the lead editor on a co-edited book that includes international co-authored chapters written by researchers involved in health promotion efforts on their campuses.

Concurrent Sessions (cont'd)

Learn more about the distinguished experts at PAW 2026

Concurrent Session | Supporting Thriving Communities: Working Together to Steward Resources for a Sustainable Future



Dr. Lori Bradford
Speaker

Dr. Lori Bradford is an associate professor in the Ron and Jane Graham School of Professional Development in the College of Engineering at USask, where she holds a Canada Research Chair in Incorporating Social and Cultural Sciences into Engineering Design. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on how communities, institutions, and decision-makers understand and respond to complex environmental, technological, and public-policy challenges. Her work draws on social psychology, participatory research, co-design, and community-engaged methods, with particular attention to accessibility, equity, Indigenous engagement, and the ways that knowledge is translated into decisions. Lori works across engineering, health, environmental science, and community-based research, and is committed to making research and decision-making processes more inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the people most affected by them.



Dr. Doug Clark
Speaker

Dr. Douglas Clark is a professor at USask's School of Environment and Sustainability, which he joined in 2009 as the Centennial Chair in Human Dimensions of Environment

and Sustainability. Dr. Clark's research focuses on human-wildlife interactions, often integrating traditional and local knowledge with scientific approaches to identify and secure common interests. Since 2011 he has studied polar bear-human interactions on the west coast of Hudson Bay. Before his academic career he served in six different Canadian national parks, including as the first Chief Warden of Wapusk National Park, Manitoba, where at the time human visitors were outnumbered by polar bears twenty to one. Doug's commitment to respectful engagement and long-term partnerships has made him a trusted contributor to research initiatives across Canada's north, a strong advocate for community-led solutions, and a dedicated mentor for helping his students learn how to conduct knowledge co-production research.



Dr. Marc-André Pigeon
Speaker

Dr. Marc-André Pigeon is the director of the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and an assistant professor in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS). His research centers around the study of co-operatives, governance, and money and banking. Before joining JSGS, Dr. Pigeon worked as vice president, advocacy (interim) and assistant vice president of financial sector policy at the Canadian Credit Union Association, as an advisor at the Department of Finance, a lead analyst for two Parliamentary committees (Senate Banking, Trade and Commerce; House of Commons Finance), an economist at the Levy Economics Institute, and a business reporter for Bloomberg Business News.

Thank you!

Special thanks to our PAW 2026 organizers

The PAW committees are comprised of volunteers from diverse backgrounds, disciplines and units to spur dialogue and mobilize multidisciplinary partnerships from different sectors, communities and countries.

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Dean, College of Nursing and Professor of Nursing

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Senior Medical Expert, Public Health Agency of Canada, and Professor, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine

Dr. Greg Poelzer

Professor, School of Environment and Sustainability

Dr. Steven Rayan

Director, Centre for Quantum Topology and Its Applications (quanTA) / Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts and Science

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Associate Dean, Research and Partnerships and Professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering, College of Engineering

Dr. Vicki Squires

Professor, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education

With special thanks to the OVPR Research Profile and Impact team for their support of PAW 2026.

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CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD

Global problems cannot be solved by only thinking and acting locally. Moreover, the world is evolving, and so is USask. USask is well-positioned to contribute to the global needs of our society, and we will prepare our students, faculty and staff to appreciate, ask and then address society's most important challenges. Our academic excellence, partnered with international engagement and activity, will secure our global presence and enhance the university's impact in the world in which we live and share.

USask understands the importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to discovery, Indigenization, teaching and learning, and community engagement and this shows in how we approach our internationalisation efforts across campus.

The Sustainable Development Goals

Supporting implementation of the goals

The PAW Congress aims to provide a space for the exchange of innovative ideas, strategies and collaborative efforts focused on re-examining the solutions required to address the United Nation's Decade of Action and implementation of the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**¹. As we examine the benefits of shared perspectives and highlight solutions to support local and global communities to achieve critical connections during the 2026 congress, these guiding goals remain front of mind.

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



¹ **THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development (un.org)**

PAW 2026

People Around the World International Congress

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



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The University of Saskatchewan's main campus is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.