

AfriCanada Economic Summit 2026 – Day 2 (March 27, 2026)

09:00 – 10:00 AM – Accreditation, Coffee & Networking

10:00 – 10:30 AM – Opening Session

- **Land Acknowledgement:** Dr. Rosemary Sadlier, Black History Champion; Bestselling Author; DEI Consultant

Opening Remarks: Elemi Opara

10:30 – 11:15 AM – Keynote Addresses

- **Kristina Tesser Derksen, MP** – Member of Parliament, Milton East—Halton Hills South
 - **David Smith, MPP** – Member of Provincial Parliament, Scarborough Centre; Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines
 - **Mohamed Firin, MPP** – Member of Provincial Parliament, York South—Weston; Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming; Member, Standing Committees on Government Agencies & Public Accounts
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11:15 – 11:45 AM – Special Remarks

- **David Katz** – Board Chair, Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA)
 - **Leon Wasser** – Vice Chair, OSEA
 - **Yusha E. Duarte** – CEO & Founder, Next Generation Roads Africa; Deputy Country Director – Canada, GCATRED
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11:45 AM – 12:15 PM – Featured Presentation: Women in Nation-Building

Presenter: Meseret Haileyesus (Mesi) – Global Executive, World Executive Council for Economic and Financial Inclusion (CCFWE); Founder & Executive Director, Canadian Center for Women’s Empowerment (CCFWE)

Discussant: Mariline Gheda – President, Triton Events

Overview: Role of women in economic participation, financial inclusion, and nation-building.

12:15 – 12:45 PM – AI & Industrial Innovation Block

- **Launch:** Canada–Africa Artificial Intelligence Consortium (CAAIC) – Dr. Farid Bensebaa
 - **Technical Presentation:** Physical AI and Sustainable Bioproducts for Forest Sector Retooling – Prof. Fred Schwartz
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12:45 – 01:30 PM – Lunch Break

01:30 – 02:20 PM – Business Immigration & Investment in Canada

- **Foreign Investors & Canada’s Immigration Pathways** – Stephen Green, Managing Partner, Green and Spiegel LLP; Certified Specialist in Immigration Law (Law Society of Ontario); Past Chair, Canadian Bar Association – National Section, Citizenship and Immigration
 - **Setting Up a Business in Canada** – Isabella Bertani, BBA, FCPA, FCA, MBA; Founder & Chief Client Strategist, BERTANI
 - **Economic Immigration & Talent Pathways (IRCC)** – Samir Yassin, Senior Program and Policy Advisor, IRCC
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02:20 – 03:10 PM – Green Transition: Clean Tech, Off-grid Solutions & Renewable Energy Panel

Hosted by **Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA)**

Moderator: Christian Zeyen

Speakers: R. Antony Warner, Nani Pradeepan

03:10 – 03:40 PM – Canada–Africa TV & Film Co-Production Framework

Moderator: Engr. Alexander Von Rugen, Political Analyst and Commentator

Speakers: Byron A. Martin – President, Byron A. Martin Productions Inc.; Ouarme Habibata

03:40 – 04:10 PM – AI & Agri-Food Innovation

Speaker: Dr. Rozita Dara – Director, AI4Food Institute, University of Guelph

Overview: AI-driven transformation in agriculture and food systems.

04:10 – 04:40 PM – Education, Skills Training & Inclusive Rural Economic Empowerment

Anchor: Norman Musengimana – Architect of Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation | Global Ecosystem Builder

Overview: Advancing human capital, workforce training, and inclusive economic development through social entrepreneurship and innovation.

04:40 – 05:00 PM – Closing Remarks & Networking