

# 51st Annual IAEA Conference

Trust, Transparency and  
Technology in Educational  
Assessment

September 27 to October 2, 2026



Host Organization



Supporting Partner







Toronto Skyline

# Table of Contents

Welcome to Canada	3
Call for Abstracts	5
Conference Venue and Accommodations	7
Important Dates and Conference Fees	11
Excursion	13
Host Organization and Supporting Partner	19





# Welcome to Canada!

Canada is a land of sweeping contrasts, where vibrant cities meet untamed wilderness. Stretching from the rugged Pacific coast of British Columbia in the west to the iconic Atlantic shores of Newfoundland and Labrador in the east is an awe-inspiring expanse that makes Canada the second-largest country in the world.

Canada is a land of dramatic landscapes: soaring Rocky Mountains, vast prairies, Arctic tundra, lush forests and over 2.5 million lakes, more than any other country on earth. Its natural beauty is matched by a rich cultural mosaic and warm, welcoming people who embody diversity, innovation and hospitality.

From coast to coast, Canada offers unforgettable experiences for visitors seeking adventure, culture and tranquility all in one place.

## Welcome to Ontario and Toronto

Ontario, Canada’s most populous province, is the economic and cultural heart of the country. It blends natural wonders with world-class cities, historic sites, galleries and culinary excellence. At its centre is Toronto, the host city for the 2026 IAEA conference. Toronto is a dynamic multicultural metropolis, home to over 200 nationalities and known for its iconic skyline, lively neighbourhoods, arts, sports and innovation. Whether it’s exploring museums, waterfront trails, theatres or cuisine from around the globe, Toronto offers something for everyone.

As a special highlight of the conference, delegates will enjoy an excursion to Niagara-on-the-Lake and the magnificent **Niagara Falls**, one of the most famous natural wonders of the world. Just about a 90-minute drive from Toronto, Niagara Falls captivates with its breathtaking power and beauty, an unforgettable experience and a must-see for every visitor.

### Climatic Conditions

The conference will take place from September 27 to October 2, 2026, when Toronto transitions into early autumn. During this period, the weather is generally mild and pleasant.

- Average high: 18 to 20 °C
- Average low: 9 to 11 °C

Evenings can be cool, so we recommend dressing in layers, including a light jacket or sweater. Comfortable walking shoes are also ideal for outdoor excursions such as the one to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

### Official Languages

Canada has two official languages: English and French. For the conference, English will be used as the language of communication.



Gooderham Building



# Call for Abstracts

The 51st Annual IAEA Conference, hosted in Toronto, Canada, from Sunday, September 27, to Friday, October 2, 2026, will bring together global leaders, researchers, practitioners and policy-makers to explore the theme **Trust, Transparency and Technology in Educational Assessment**.

We invite submissions of abstracts that explore the conference theme through the following subthemes:

## Trust

### 1. Culturally Responsive Assessment Practices

Designing assessments that reflect diverse cultural contexts and promote inclusion

### 2. Student and Educator Voice in Assessment Design

Prioritizing collaborative approaches that engage learners and educators in the assessment process

### 3. Accountability vs. Support: Balancing Stakeholder Expectations

Exploring how assessment systems can ensure quality while also supporting growth and development

## Transparency

### 1. Data Sharing and Reporting in Educational Assessments

Promoting clarity, accessibility, and responsible communication of assessment results

### 2. Transparency in Assessment Design and Scoring

Making assessment methods, criteria, and scoring processes open and understandable

### 3. Equity and Fairness in Assessment

Ensuring impartiality and fairness across diverse student populations and contexts

## Technology

### 1. AI and Machine Learning in Assessment Design and Scoring

Harnessing intelligent systems to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and personalization

### 2. Digital Assessments: Opportunities and Challenges

Examining innovation, accessibility and practical implementation in digital environments

### 3. Privacy and Security in Technology-Enabled Assessment

Safeguarding data and maintaining ethical standards in technology-driven assessment systems

This conference will serve as a powerful platform for dialogue, research sharing and collaboration as we collectively shape the future of assessment worldwide. We welcome submissions from researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and industry experts that align with the conference theme and subthemes. Join us in Canada as we explore how, through transparency and technology, to build assessment systems that learners, educators and societies can trust.

## Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts

- All conference abstract submissions should include the following:

  - Maximum 350-word abstract
  - Name, organization and e-mail address for each author
  - Title of the presentation
  - Conference subtheme (select one of Trust, Transparency or Technology)
  - Keywords (3–5)
- Accepted authors will be required to submit full papers and presentations in the following format:

  - Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt.
  - Line spacing: 1.5
  - Referencing style: APA 7th Edition
  - Name of the main presenter
  - Selected subtheme
- Abstracts should state the purpose, methodology, key findings or insights, and implications for educational assessment in relation to the conference theme. Notification of acceptance will be provided to authors.
- Full papers should reflect original work and align with the conference theme: Trust, Transparency and Technology in Educational Assessment.
- **Submission of Abstracts**

Abstracts can be uploaded at [www.iaea2026.org](http://www.iaea2026.org).
- **Poster Presentations**

In-person poster presentations will take place during the conference. Each presenter will be allotted five minutes for an oral summary of the poster. If a poster has multiple presenters, they will each be allotted five minutes for their individual summary. Posters must present original research or projects conducted by the presenters and may include ongoing work. All poster content must be in English.
- Poster proposal submissions should include the following:

  - 200-word abstract
  - title and authors
  - introduction
  - methodology
  - results
  - discussion and conclusions
- The conference organizers will provide a standardized poster template to maintain a uniform display.

  - Maximum poster text: 500 words
  - Images/figures: up to three
  - Presenter photo (a colour portrait photo of each presenter must be included)





# Conference Venue and Accommodations

## Conference Venue and Hotel

Venue:	Marriott Downtown at CF Toronto Eaton Centre
Address:	525 Bay St., Toronto, ON M5G 2L2 Canada
Phone:	+1-416-597-9200
Booking:	<a href="#">Reserve your room</a>

Located in the vibrant heart of Toronto, the Marriott Downtown at CF Toronto Eaton Centre offers the perfect blend of convenience, comfort and sophistication, making it the ideal venue for the 51st Annual IAEA Conference.

Just steps from premier shopping, dining and cultural attractions, the hotel provides access to the best of Toronto. Delegates can easily explore iconic landmarks such as Nathan Phillips Square, the CN Tower, Rogers Centre, St. Lawrence Market, Scotiabank Arena, the Hockey Hall of Fame, Ripley’s Aquarium and Union Station, which are all within walking distance. For international and domestic travellers, the hotel’s central location ensures stress-free transportation options. Union Station is just minutes away and offers the UP Express train to Toronto Pearson International Airport in approximately 25 minutes. Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport is also conveniently located only two miles away.

Inside, the Marriott delivers modern accommodations with premium amenities, including plush bedding, spacious work and seating areas and deluxe in-room comforts. Attendees can stay energized in the 24-hour fitness centre, unwind in the rooftop indoor pool, enjoy the PAR BAR Topgolf Swing Suite or dine at the acclaimed Trios Bistro.



## Hotel Features

- Professional meeting and event spaces designed for large conferences
- Flexible rooms for plenaries, paper sessions, workshops and networking
- State-of-the-art AV and hybrid technology support
- Exceptional onsite catering with international options
- Central downtown location near educational, cultural and governmental hubs
- Renowned Marriott service and event management expertise

The official conference full-day trip to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake will have pickup and drop-off directly from the hotel entrance.





## Exclusive Discounted Room Block

A block of rooms has been reserved exclusively for conference delegates at a deeply discounted rate, significantly lower than regular prices during Toronto’s busy autumn season.

Rooms are limited and in high demand. We strongly encourage delegates to register early (at [www.iaea2026.org](http://www.iaea2026.org)) and secure their accommodations ([room booking](#)) as soon as possible.

### Nearby Accommodation Options (10- to 20-minute walk from the venue)

For delegates who prefer alternative lodging, there are numerous high-quality hotels within walking distance of the conference venue:

<b>Holiday Inn Express Toronto Downtown</b>	<b>DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Toronto Downtown</b>
111 Lombard St., Toronto, ON M5C 2T9	108 Chestnut St., Toronto, ON M5G 1R3
+1-416-367-5555	+1-416-977-5000
<a href="#">Website</a>	<a href="#">Website</a>
<b>Pantages Hotel Downtown Toronto</b>	<b>Yonge Suites</b>
200 Victoria St., Toronto, ON M5B 2R3	209 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M5B 2R5
+1-416-362-1777	+1-416-477-7000
<a href="#">Website</a>	<a href="#">Website</a>



Roy Thomson Hall



# Important Dates and Conference Fees

## Important Dates

### Registration

Early-Bird Registration Opens	Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Early-Bird Registration Closes	Monday, June 15, 2026
Late Registration Closes	Tuesday, September 15, 2026

### Presentation Call for Abstracts

Abstracts Submission Opens	Monday, December 8, 2025
Abstracts Submission Due Date	Tuesday, March 31, 2026
Abstracts Notification of Acceptance	Thursday, April 30, 2026
Papers and Presentations Submission Due Date	Tuesday, June 30, 2026

### Conference

Pre-Conference Workshops	Sunday, September 27, 2026
Conference Presentations	Monday, September 28, 2026 Tuesday, September 29, 2026 Thursday, October 1, 2026 Friday, October 2, 2026

Excursion	Wednesday, September 30, 2026
-----------	-------------------------------

## Conference Fees

Type	Registration By	Amount
IAEA Member: Early-Bird Registration	June 15, 2026	\$650 USD
IAEA Member: Late Registration	September 15, 2026	\$700 USD
Non-IAEA Member: Early-Bird Registration	June 15, 2026	\$700 USD
Non-IAEA Member: Late Registration	September 15, 2026	\$750 USD

### Register here

You will be able to include accessibility requirements in the designated section on the registration page.

The participation fee includes the following:

- conference materials
- refreshments and lunch during conference days
- access to all workshops, keynote sessions, paper presentations and poster presentations

## Excursion Fee

The \$200 USD excursion fee includes a full-day guided excursion to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The fee covers transportation and the guided tour provided by a licensed tour guide. Pickup and drop-off will take place directly at the conference hotel.

## Currency

The official currency of Canada is the Canadian Dollar (CAD). Major credit cards are widely accepted. ATMs, banks and currency exchange services are easily accessible throughout downtown Toronto, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

## Visa Information

International delegates travelling to Canada may require a visitor visa or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), depending on their nationality. We strongly encourage participants to begin the visa application process as early as possible to avoid delays. Detailed visa information can be found on the Government of Canada Immigration [website](#). If you require an official invitation letter for the visa application, please e-mail us at [info@iaea2026.org](mailto:info@iaea2026.org).



Toronto Streetcar



## Excursion

As part of the conference experience, delegates will enjoy a full-day excursion on Wednesday to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake. This excursion departs and returns directly from the conference hotel for maximum convenience.



Maid of the Mist

## Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake Experience

Discover one of the most breathtaking natural wonders of the world!

### Highlights:

- **Pickup from the conference hotel:** Delegates will conveniently board the coach directly at the Marriott, with no additional transportation required.
- **Scenic bus ride to Niagara Falls:** Enjoy a comfortable ride with beautiful views of southern Ontario on the way to one of the world's most famous natural landmarks.
- **Voyage to the Falls boat ride:** Experience the power of Niagara Falls up close on the iconic boat tour that takes you into the mist of the Horseshoe Falls.
- **Walk along Clifton Hill:** Explore the lively entertainment district near the Falls, filled with attractions, shops and great photo opportunities.
- **Lunch and relaxation at a winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake:** Savour a delicious meal and unwind at a scenic local winery in one of Canada's most picturesque towns.
- **Shopping and exploring Niagara-on-the-Lake:** Stroll through charming streets, boutique shops and historic sites in this beautifully preserved 19th-century town.
- **Drop-off at the conference hotel at approximately 5:00 p.m.:** Return directly to the hotel for a seamless and relaxing end to the day.

This excursion combines natural beauty, iconic attractions, fine food and local culture for an unforgettable Canadian experience.



Niagara-on-the-Lake





Royal Ontario Museum

## Discover Toronto

Experience the vibrant culture, iconic landmarks and world-class neighbourhoods of Canada’s largest and most diverse city at your own pace.

The conference has been intentionally designed to end early each day, giving delegates ample time to discover Toronto on their own on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, keeping Wednesday for the conference-planned excursion to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

To support your exploration, we will be sharing a detailed plan of recommended attractions,

experiences and neighbourhood highlights to help delegates make the most of their visit. Developed in close collaboration with Destination Toronto, the city’s official tourism organization, this itinerary has been created with support from the City of Toronto and partners across the tourism and hospitality community.

### Highlights:

- **Toronto Waterfront:** Take a relaxing stroll along Lake Ontario, enjoy outdoor patios, or take the ferry to Centre Island for scenic trails and skyline views.
- **St. Lawrence Market:** Visit one of the world’s premier food markets, offering a wide selection of local specialties and international cuisine, ideal for a memorable lunch or snack.



St. Lawrence Market



- **Distillery Historic District:** Explore beautifully preserved Victorian-era architecture, boutique shops, art galleries and charming cafes in one of Toronto's most picturesque pedestrian areas.
- **Kensington Market and Chinatown:** Wander through two of the city's most eclectic and colourful neighbourhoods, filled with global flavours, independent shops, street art and cultural character.



View from CN Tower



Distillery District

- **CN Tower:** Enjoy breathtaking panoramic views from one of the tallest freestanding structures in the world, offering a spectacular look at Toronto's skyline and lakefront.
- **Casa Loma:** Step inside Toronto's iconic castle, complete with grand historic rooms, stunning gardens, hidden passages and impressive city views.

This flexible exploration time allows delegates to enjoy Toronto's culture, cuisine and attractions at their own leisure, creating a uniquely personal and enriching urban experience.



Casa Loma



# Host Organization and Supporting Partner



## Host Organization

EQAO is a board-governed agency of the Ministry of Education of Ontario that supports student learning in the province. The agency offers independent data at key stages in students’ kindergarten to Grade 12 education by administering large-scale digital assessments that contribute to education research. In recent years, the agency’s mandate was broadened by the government to include the development and administration of the Mathematics Proficiency Test (MPT) as a certification requirement for teachers in Ontario. EQAO’s data, research and resources empower parents and guardians, educators, policy-makers and other partners with the information needed to determine how best to strengthen student outcomes. Throughout its work, the agency is committed to anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion.

In 2024, EQAO was honoured with the Best Practitioner of the Year (Team) Award at the 2024 International e-Assessment Association (eAA) Awards. This prestigious recognition acknowledges the vision, purpose, innovation and inclusivity of the agency and the difference EQAO is making through its digital assessments. Additionally, EQAO received the Best Research Award for mathematics insights at the 2025 International eAA Awards, recognizing its groundbreaking study on leveraging distractor analysis in large-scale e-assessment to develop instructional supports.

EQAO’s belief is that learning never ends—and so neither does the agency’s mission to contribute to improving outcomes for all students across Ontario.

Find out more at [eqao.com](https://eqao.com).



## Supporting Partner

Vretta is an award-winning global leader in digital assessment and learning solutions that partners with ministries of education, assessment agencies and examination boards across North America, Europe and beyond. As a research-informed organization, Vretta is focused on designing assessment experiences that are fair, transparent, accessible and engaging for every learner, and on empowering educators and administrators with the tools and insights needed to improve student learning outcomes.

As a contributor to global innovation in assessment through the integration of research-based practices

and cutting-edge technology, Vretta is proud to serve as the Supporting Partner of the 51st Annual IAEA Conference. Vretta’s work spans large-scale national and provincial assessment modernization solutions and implementations with a strong focus on equity, trust and inclusivity in education systems.

Vretta is committed to advancing the accessibility and effectiveness of assessments worldwide to create meaningful learning experiences for all students. Please visit Vretta’s website to learn more: [www.vretta.com](https://www.vretta.com).



Hart House, University of Toronto Campus



# Conference Contact

For questions about the conference, please e-mail  
[info@iea2026.org](mailto:info@iea2026.org).

